

Self assessment tool

How well does your organisation comply with the 12 guiding principles of the surveillance camera code of practice? Complete this easy to use self assessment tool to find out if you do.

Using this tool

This self assessment tool will help you and your organisation identify if you're complying with the principles in the code. It should be completed in conjunction with the [surveillance camera code of practice](#). The tool will help you show how well you comply with each principle. It is possible to be largely compliant with some principles and to fall short against others. As a result you will note that at the end of the questions against each principle there is a space to include an action plan. This is to enable you to put actions in place over the next year to improve your compliance to that principle. These boxes can also be used to make a note of what evidence you could produce if required to show your compliance to that principle.

The document contains a combination of open and closed questions. For the open questions there is a limit on how much you can write, so please feel free to include any additional notes as an annex to the document – there are additional blank pages at the end of the tool.

We do not want you to send the self assessment response to us. However, in the interest of transparency we encourage you to publish the self assessment on your website.

The self assessment is for you to satisfy yourself and those that you surveille that you meet the principles and identify any additional work to show compliance.

We would like you to let us know that you have completed this document as this will enable us to understand the level of uptake. Also please let us know if you will be interested in working towards certification against the surveillance camera code of practice in the near future or just be added to our mailing list.

This is the first edition of the self assessment tool which will evolve over time. Please forward any feedback to scc@sccommissioner.gsi.gov.uk

Principle 1

Use of a surveillance camera system must always be for a specified purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need.

1. Have you translated principle 1 into clear objectives? Yes No
If so what are they?

To assist in the prevention, investigation and for detection of crime and disorder.

To facilitate the apprehension and/or prosecution of offenders in relation to crime and public order by using images being entered as evidence in criminal proceedings.

To assist in ensuring public safety and the safety of property.

2. Do you regularly review the system and assess against the objectives? Yes No

3. Have you considered the requirement of the end user? Yes No

4. Is the system being used for any other purpose other than those specified? Yes No
If so please explain

N/A

5. Have you identified any areas where further action is required more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 1?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 2

The use of a surveillance camera system must take into account its effect on individuals and their privacy, with regular reviews to ensure its use remains justified.

1. Do you review your system annually? Yes No
2. Have you conducted a privacy impact assessment?
(The ICO has produced a PIA code of practice and the SCC has a template you can use if required) Yes No
3. Do you publish your privacy impact assessment and annual review? Yes No
4. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 2?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 3

There must be as much transparency in the use of a surveillance camera system as possible, including a published contact point for access to information and complaints.

1. Does signage exist highlighting the use of surveillance cameras? Yes No
2. Does the signage highlight the point of contact? Yes No
3. Has there been proportionate consultation and engagement with the public and partners to establish that there is a legitimate aim and a pressing need for the surveillance camera system? Yes No
4. Is the surveillance system a proportionate response? Yes No

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5. Does your publication of information include the procedures and safeguards that are in place, impact assessments undertaken, performance statistics and other management information? Yes No
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6. Do you have a complaints procedure in place? Yes No
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7. Do you make the public aware of how to escalate complaints? Yes No
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8. Is there a defined time scale for acknowledging and responding to complaints and is this conveyed to the complainant at the outset? Yes No
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9. Do you publish the number and nature of complains received? Yes No
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10. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 3?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 4

There must be clear responsibility and accountability for all surveillance camera system activities including images and information collected, held and used.

1. What arrangements are in place to provide clear responsibility and accountability?

In conjunction with the CCTV Code of Practice, Ribble Valley Borough Council produced a CCTV Operational Procedures Manual as guidance on the operation of the system based upon the principles contained within the Code, including roles and responsibilities for the system.

2. Are all staff aware of their responsibilities? Yes No

3. Please explain how you ensure the lines of responsibility are adhered to.

Designated job roles and responsibilities as set out in staff job descriptions, with relevant instruction and training provided where necessary.

Contractual agreements between the Council and contractors who provide maintenance and monitoring for the Council, with designated responsibilities set out in written specifications.

4. If jointly owned, is it clear what each partner organisation is responsible for and what the individual obligations are? Yes No

5. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 4?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 5

Clear rules, policies and procedures must be in place before a surveillance camera system is used, and these must be communicated to all who need to comply with them.

1. Do you have clear policies and procedures which help ensure that any legal obligations affecting the use of such a system are addressed? Yes No

If so please specify.

Ribble Valley Borough Council adheres to the Information Commissioner's CCTV Code of Practice and has its own CCTV Operational Procedures Manual to act as guidance on the operation of the system based upon the principles contained within the Code.

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2. Do you follow a quality management system? Yes No
If so please specify.

The company who are contracted to carry out CCTV monitoring for the Council are accredited with the BS EN ISO 14001:2004 quality award for their Quality Management System.

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3. Are the rules, policies and procedures part of an induction process for all staff? Yes No

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4. How do you ensure that all system users remain up to date and efficient with relevant operational, technical, privacy considerations, policies and procedures?

Information is circulated to relevant in-house staff. Specific training is be provided by the installer or maintenance contractor on the use of individual pieces of equipment. This compliments the overall operational training and guidance given to CCTV staff.

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5. Have you considered qualifications relevant to the role of the system users, such as the National Occupational Standard for CCTV operations or other similar? Yes No

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6. If so, have any of your system users undertaken any occupational standards to date? Yes No

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7. Do your system users require SIA licenses?
(Please see SIA website: www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk) Yes No

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8. If staff do not need a license, how do you ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge to use or manage the surveillance system?

N/A

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9. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 5?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 6

No more images and information should be stored than that which is strictly required for the stated purpose of a surveillance camera system, and such images and information should be deleted once their purposes have been discharged.

1. On what basis are images retained and for how long?

The system is monitored from a manned control room and the CCTV images are continuously recorded. The recorded images are kept for a period of 30 days unless the data is required for evidential purposes.

2. Do you have an auditable process for reviewing images and managing their retention? Yes No
3. Are there any time constraints in the event of the enforcement agency not taking advantage of the opportunity to view the retained images? Yes No
4. Are there any time constraints which might affect external parties from viewing the images? Yes No
5. Do you quarantine all relevant information and images relating to a reported incident until such time as the incident is resolved and/or all the information and images have been passed on to official third parties? Yes No
6. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 6?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 7

Access to retained images and information should be restricted and there must be clearly defined rules on who can gain access and for what purpose such access is granted; the disclosure of images and information should only take place when it is necessary for such a purpose or for law enforcement purposes.

1. Do you have a policy on who has access to the stored information? Yes No
2. Do you have a policy on disclosure of information? Yes No
3. What checks do you have in place to ensure that the disclosure policy is followed?

Section 5 of the Council's Procedures Manual covers Access to Security of the Monitoring Office. The Monitoring Office is located within a secure environment and it is recognised that the processing of personal data requires a level of protection commensurate with the principles of the DPA. The Procedures Manual contains a list of key personnel who are allowed access into the control room.

4. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 7?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 8

Surveillance camera system operators should consider any approved operational, technical and competency standards relevant to a system and its purpose and work to meet and maintain those standards.

1. What approved operational, technical and competency standards relevant to a surveillance system and its purpose does your system meet?

Access to and the use of, recorded material is strictly for the objectives as defined in the System Codes. All recorded material obtained by virtue of this CCTV system is regarded as data for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998.

In respect of images created from the CCTV system, the Council's Operational Procedures Manual refers to the Fifth Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and

2. How do you ensure that these standards are followed appropriately?

Compliance with Council's Codes of Practice and Operational Procedures Manual. Appointment of contractors who meet the standards as set out in the Council's specification.

3. What steps are in place to secure certification against the approved standards?

The company contracted for monitoring are ISO 9001:2008 compliant, accredited with the BS EN ISO 14001:2004 quality award for their Quality Management Systems (QMS), certificated to BS7499, the Code of Practice for Security Guarding Companies, through the National Security Inspectorate (NSI). They also comply with BS 7858 for Screening & Vetting, with BS 7984 for Key Holding & Alarm Response and have SIA Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS) status for the provision of Door Supervision, Security Guarding, Key Holding and Public Space CCTV.

4. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 8?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 9

Surveillance camera system images and information should be subject to appropriate security measures to safeguard against unauthorised access and use.

1. What security safeguards do you have in place to ensure the integrity of images and information?

Access to and the use of, recorded material is strictly for the objectives as defined in the System Codes. All recorded material obtained by virtue of this CCTV system is regarded as data for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998.

In respect of images created from the CCTV system, the Council's Operational Procedures Manual refers to the Fifth Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and

2. If the system is connected across an organizational network or intranet, do sufficient controls and safeguards exist? Yes No

3. What is the specified purpose for which the information are being used and accessed and is this consistent with the stated purposes?

As per stated purposes but images accessed principally as part of investigation by Police to facilitate the prosecution of offenders in relation to crime and public order and to assist Ribble Valley Borough Council and the Police in investigating incidents relating to breaches of the licensing regulations, depositing of litter/refuse and incidents of graffiti and dog fouling.

To assist Ribble Valley Borough Council in monitoring unauthorised depositing of litter or refuse

4. Do you have preventative measures in place to guard against misuse of information and images? Yes No

5. Are your procedures and instructions and/or guidelines regarding the storage, use and access of surveillance system information documented? Yes No

6. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 9?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 10

There should be effective review and audit mechanisms to ensure legal requirements, policies and standards are complied with in practice, and regular reports should be published.

1. Does your system have a review process that shows it still addresses the needs and delivers the benefits that justify its use? Yes No

2. Have you identified any cameras that do not remain justified in meeting the stated purpose(s)? Yes No

3. Have you conducted an evaluation in order to compare alternative interventions to surveillance cameras? Yes No

If so please provide brief details.

4. Is it cost effective to continue running your surveillance camera system? Yes No

5. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 10?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 11

When the use of a surveillance camera system is in pursuit of a legitimate aim, and there is a pressing need for its use, it should then be used in the most effective way to support public safety and law enforcement with the aim of processing images and information of evidential value.

1. Are the images and information produced by your system of a suitable quality for the criminal justice system to use without enhancement? Yes No
2. During the production of the operational requirement for your system, what stakeholder engagement was carried out or guidance followed to ensure exported data would meet the quality required for it to be used for evidential purposes?

Consultation with the Police.

3. Do you have safeguards in place to ensure the forensic integrity of the images and information including a complete audit trail? Yes No
4. Do you have a policy on data storage, security and deletion? Yes No
5. Is the information stored in a format that is easily exportable? Yes No
6. Does the storage ensure the integrity and quality of original recording and the meta data? Yes No
7. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 11?

Action plan

N/A

Principle 12

Any information used to support a surveillance camera system which compares against a reference database for matching purposes should be accurate and kept up to date.

1. Do you use any specialist technology such as ANPR, facial recognition, Body Worn Video (BWW) or remotely operated vehicles (Drones)? Yes No

If so, please specify.

N/A

2. Do you have a policy in place to ensure that the information contained on your database is accurate and up to date? Yes No

3. Do you have a procedure for deciding when and whether an individual or vehicle should be included in a reference database? Yes No

4. What policies are in place to determine how long information remains in the reference database?

N/A

5. Are all staff aware of when surveillance becomes covert surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000? Yes No

6. Have you identified any areas where further action is required to more fully conform with the requirements of Principle 12?

Action plan

N/A

Additional Information

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