



# Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

## 2012 CHAPTER 9

### PART 2

#### REGULATION OF SURVEILLANCE

#### CHAPTER 1

##### REGULATION OF CCTV AND OTHER SURVEILLANCE CAMERA TECHNOLOGY

##### *Code of practice*

### **29 Code of practice for surveillance camera systems**

- (1) The Secretary of State must prepare a code of practice containing guidance about surveillance camera systems.
- (2) Such a code must contain guidance about one or more of the following—
  - (a) the development or use of surveillance camera systems,
  - (b) the use or processing of images or other information obtained by virtue of such systems.
- (3) Such a code may, in particular, include provision about—
  - (a) considerations as to whether to use surveillance camera systems,
  - (b) types of systems or apparatus,
  - (c) technical standards for systems or apparatus,
  - (d) locations for systems or apparatus,
  - (e) the publication of information about systems or apparatus,
  - (f) standards applicable to persons using or maintaining systems or apparatus,
  - (g) standards applicable to persons using or processing information obtained by virtue of systems,
  - (h) access to, or disclosure of, information so obtained,

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- (i) procedures for complaints or consultation.
- (4) Such a code—
- (a) need not contain provision about every type of surveillance camera system,
  - (b) may make different provision for different purposes.
- (5) In the course of preparing such a code, the Secretary of State must consult—
- (a) such persons appearing to the Secretary of State to be representative of the views of persons who are, or are likely to be, subject to the duty under section 33(1) (duty to have regard to the code) as the Secretary of State considers appropriate,
  - (b) [<sup>F1</sup>the National Police Chiefs’ Council] ,
  - (c) the Information Commissioner,
  - (d) [<sup>F2</sup>the Investigatory Powers Commissioner] ,
  - (e) the Surveillance Camera Commissioner,
  - (f) the Welsh Ministers, and
  - (g) such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (6) In this Chapter “surveillance camera systems” means—
- (a) closed circuit television or automatic number plate recognition systems,
  - (b) any other systems for recording or viewing visual images for surveillance purposes,
  - (c) any systems for storing, receiving, transmitting, processing or checking images or information obtained by systems falling within paragraph (a) or (b), or
  - (d) any other systems associated with, or otherwise connected with, systems falling within paragraph (a), (b) or (c).
- (7) In this section—
- <sup>F3</sup>...
- [<sup>F4</sup>“processing” has the same meaning as in Parts 5 to 7 of the Data Protection Act 2018 (see section 3(4) and (14) of that Act);]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 29(5)(b) substituted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 3.4.2017 in so far as not already in force) by [Policing and Crime Act 2017 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 183(1)(5)(e), Sch. 14 paras. 6, **7(h)**; S.I. 2017/399, reg. 2, Sch. para. 41
- F2** Words in s. 29(5)(d) substituted (1.9.2017) by [Investigatory Powers Act 2016 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 272(1), **Sch. 10 para. 97(2)** (with Sch. 9 paras. 7, 8, 10); S.I. 2017/859, reg. 2(j)
- F3** Words in s. 29(7) omitted (1.9.2017) by virtue of [Investigatory Powers Act 2016 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 272(1), **Sch. 10 para. 97(3)** (with Sch. 9 paras. 7, 8, 10); S.I. 2017/859, reg. 2(j)
- F4** Words in s. 29(7) substituted (25.5.2018) by [Data Protection Act 2018 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 212(1), **Sch. 19 para. 178** (with ss. 117, 209, 210); S.I. 2018/625, reg. 2(1)(g)

#### Commencement Information

- I1** S. 29 in force at 1.7.2012 by S.I. 2012/1205, **art. 3(a)**

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### *Procedural requirements*

#### **30 Issuing of code**

- (1) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament—
  - (a) a code of practice prepared under section 29, and
  - (b) a draft of an order providing for the code to come into force.
- (2) The Secretary of State must make the order and issue the code if the draft of the order is approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (3) The Secretary of State must not make the order or issue the code unless the draft of the order is so approved.
- (4) The Secretary of State must prepare another code of practice under section 29 if—
  - (a) the draft of the order is not so approved, and
  - (b) the Secretary of State considers that there is no realistic prospect that it will be so approved.
- (5) A code comes into force in accordance with an order under this section.
- (6) Such an order—
  - (a) is to be a statutory instrument, and
  - (b) may contain transitional, transitory or saving provision.
- (7) If a draft of an instrument containing an order under this section would, apart from this subsection, be treated as a hybrid instrument for the purposes of the standing orders of either House of Parliament, it is to proceed in that House as if it were not a hybrid instrument.

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#### **Commencement Information**

**I2** S. 30 in force at 1.7.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1205](#), [art. 3\(b\)](#)

#### **31 Alteration or replacement of code**

- (1) The Secretary of State—
  - (a) must keep the surveillance camera code under review, and
  - (b) may prepare an alteration to the code or a replacement code.
- (2) Before preparing an alteration or a replacement code, the Secretary of State must consult the persons mentioned in section 29(5).
- (3) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament an alteration or a replacement code prepared under this section.
- (4) If, within the 40-day period, either House of Parliament resolves not to approve the alteration or the replacement code, the Secretary of State must not issue the alteration or code.
- (5) If no such resolution is made within that period, the Secretary of State must issue the alteration or replacement code.
- (6) The alteration or replacement code—

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- (a) comes into force when issued, and
  - (b) may include transitional, transitory or saving provision.
- (7) Subsection (4) does not prevent the Secretary of State from laying a new alteration or replacement code before Parliament.
- (8) In this section “the 40-day period” means the period of 40 days beginning with the day on which the alteration or replacement code is laid before Parliament (or, if it is not laid before each House of Parliament on the same day, the later of the two days on which it is laid).
- (9) In calculating the 40-day period, no account is to be taken of any period during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which both Houses are adjourned for more than four days.
- (10) In this Chapter “the surveillance camera code” means the code of practice issued under section 30(2) (as altered or replaced from time to time).

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**Commencement Information**

**I3** S. 31 in force at 1.7.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1205](#), [art. 3\(c\)](#)

### **32 Publication of code**

- (1) The Secretary of State must publish the code issued under section 30(2).
- (2) The Secretary of State must publish any replacement code issued under section 31(5).
- (3) The Secretary of State must publish—
  - (a) any alteration issued under section 31(5), or
  - (b) the code or replacement code as altered by it.

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**Commencement Information**

**I4** S. 32 in force at 1.7.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1205](#), [art. 3\(d\)](#)

### *Enforcement and Commissioner*

### **33 Effect of code**

- (1) A relevant authority must have regard to the surveillance camera code when exercising any functions to which the code relates.
- (2) A failure on the part of any person to act in accordance with any provision of the surveillance camera code does not of itself make that person liable to criminal or civil proceedings.
- (3) The surveillance camera code is admissible in evidence in any such proceedings.
- (4) A court or tribunal may, in particular, take into account a failure by a relevant authority to have regard to the surveillance camera code in determining a question in any such proceedings.

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- (5) In this section “relevant authority” means—
- (a) a local authority within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972,
  - (b) the Greater London Authority,
  - (c) the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a local authority,
  - (d) the Sub-Treasurer of the Inner Temple or the Under-Treasurer of the Middle Temple, in their capacity as a local authority,
  - (e) the Council of the Isles of Scilly,
  - (f) a parish meeting constituted under section 13 of the Local Government Act 1972,
  - (g) a police and crime commissioner,
  - (h) the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime,
  - (i) the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a police authority,
  - (j) any chief officer of a police force in England and Wales,
  - (k) any person specified or described by the Secretary of State in an order made by statutory instrument.
- (6) An order under subsection (5) may, in particular—
- (a) restrict the specification or description of a person to that of the person when acting in a specified capacity or exercising specified or described functions,
  - (b) contain transitional, transitory or saving provision.
- (7) So far as an order under subsection (5) contains a restriction of the kind mentioned in subsection (6)(a) in relation to a person, the duty in subsection (1) applies only to the person in that capacity or (as the case may be) only in relation to those functions.
- (8) Before making an order under subsection (5) in relation to any person or description of persons, the Secretary of State must consult—
- (a) such persons appearing to the Secretary of State to be representative of the views of the person or persons in relation to whom the order may be made as the Secretary of State considers appropriate,
  - (b) [<sup>F5</sup>the National Police Chiefs' Council] ,
  - (c) the Information Commissioner,
  - (d) [<sup>F6</sup>the Investigatory Powers Commissioner] ,
  - (e) the Surveillance Camera Commissioner,
  - (f) the Welsh Ministers, and
  - (g) such other persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (9) No instrument containing an order under subsection (5) is to be made unless a draft of it has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.
- (10) If a draft of an instrument containing an order under subsection (5) would, apart from this subsection, be treated as a hybrid instrument for the purposes of the standing orders of either House of Parliament, it is to proceed in that House as if it were not a hybrid instrument.

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#### Textual Amendments

- F5** Words in s. 33(8)(b) substituted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 3.4.2017 in so far as not already in force) by [Policing and Crime Act 2017 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 183(1)(5)(e), [Sch. 14 paras. 6, 7\(h\)](#); [S.I. 2017/399](#), [reg. 2](#), [Sch. para. 41](#)
- F6** Words in s. 33(8)(d) substituted (1.9.2017) by [Investigatory Powers Act 2016 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 272(1), [Sch. 10 para. 98](#) (with [Sch. 9 paras. 7, 8, 10](#)); [S.I. 2017/859](#), [reg. 2\(j\)](#)

#### Commencement Information

- I5** S. 33 in force at 1.7.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1205](#), [art. 3\(e\)](#)

### 34 Commissioner in relation to code

- (1) The Secretary of State must appoint a person as the Surveillance Camera Commissioner (in this Chapter “the Commissioner”).
- (2) The Commissioner is to have the following functions—
  - (a) encouraging compliance with the surveillance camera code,
  - (b) reviewing the operation of the code, and
  - (c) providing advice about the code (including changes to it or breaches of it).
- (3) The Commissioner is to hold office in accordance with the terms of the Commissioner's appointment; and the Secretary of State may pay in respect of the Commissioner any expenses, remuneration or allowances that the Secretary of State may determine.
- (4) The Secretary of State may, after consultation with the Commissioner, provide the Commissioner with—
  - (a) such staff, and
  - (b) such accommodation, equipment and other facilities,
 as the Secretary of State considers necessary for the carrying out of the Commissioner's functions.

#### Commencement Information

- I6** S. 34 in force at 1.7.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1205](#), [art. 3\(f\)](#)

### 35 Reports by Commissioner

- (1) As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each reporting period—
  - (a) the Commissioner must—
    - (i) prepare a report about the exercise by the Commissioner during that period of the functions of the Commissioner, and
    - (ii) give a copy of the report to the Secretary of State,
  - (b) the Secretary of State must lay a copy of the report before Parliament, and
  - (c) the Commissioner must publish the report.
- (2) The reporting periods are—
  - (a) the period—

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- (i) beginning with the surveillance camera code first coming into force or the making of the first appointment as Commissioner (whichever is the later), and
  - (ii) ending with the next 31 March or, if the period ending with that date is 6 months or less, ending with the next 31 March after that date, and
- (b) each succeeding period of 12 months.

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**Commencement Information**

**17** S. 35 in force at 1.7.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1205](#), [art. 3\(g\)](#)

*Interpretation*

**36 Interpretation: Chapter 1**

In this Chapter—

- “the Commissioner” has the meaning given by section 34(1),
- “surveillance camera code” has the meaning given by section 31(10),
- “surveillance camera systems” has the meaning given by section 29(6).

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**Commencement Information**

**18** S. 36 in force at 1.7.2012 by [S.I. 2012/1205](#), [art. 3\(h\)](#)

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2012/2234 art. 13 by [S.I. 2014/831 art. 2\(2\)](#)
- specified provision(s) transitional provisions and savings for commencing S.I. 2013/1814 by [S.I. 2013/1813 art. 2-9](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 1 para. 7A inserted by [2019 c. 3 Sch. 2 para. 20](#)