

22 November 2023

Case Reference IC-267138-J0G0

Request

The recent independent report by the Centre for Research into Information, Surveillance and Privacy (CRISP) highlights serious concerns surrounding your regulation of the use of surveillance camera systems and your lack of statutory functions concerning police use of biometric data:

INDEPENDENT REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BIOMETRICS AND SURVEILLANCE CAMERA COMMISSIONER ARISING FROM THE DATA PROTECTION AND DIGITAL INFORMATION (No.2) BILL

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2F653f7128e6c968000daa9cae%2FChanges%20to%20the%20functions%20of%20the%20BSCC.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cicoaccessinformation%40ico.org.uk%7Cc38672b5990b4278b64808dbd95daa41%7C501293238fab4000adc1c4cfefba21e6%7C0%7C0%7C638342769326728746%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEkaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vgK39eQTHGWDnHObvJalf2aPufUhe3s7p4081ONmow4%3D&reserved=0>

On page 58 of the report, Andy Read, South Wales Police, National Police Chiefs' Council National Capabilities Manager for CCTV is quoted as saying:

'We haven't had any good engagement with the Information Commissioner's Office for two years, they've essentially pulled out from any of our meetings. They said that we don't have the staff and a lot of the things that we're discussing isn't around data protection.'

Please provide all correspondence between yourselves and (i) South Wales Police and (ii) the NPCC relating to the meetings you are alleged to have pulled out of.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA). As you are probably aware, this legislation provides public access to recorded information held by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Our response

Given the context of your request, and the reference to the Centre for Research into Surveillance and Privacy report, we have interpreted your request to be a request for correspondence relating to CCTV meetings that the ICO have not attended about the impact of the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill on the Biometric and Surveillance Camera Commissioner.

Having conducted reasonable searches, we do not hold information relating to meetings with the National Police Crime Commissioner (NPCC) or South Wales Police about this specific issue.

Advice and Assistance

Historically, we have attended meetings with the NPCC about various issues relating to CCTV and received invitations to webinars, however, we ceased to attend such meetings several years ago following a strategic decision regarding the utilisation of our resources. Subsequently, we streamlined our engagement with the NPCC and have continued to engage with them. The NPCC are able to advise us of any data protection issues they may be affected by. We have therefore routinely declined invitations to meetings. We do not hold correspondence from the ICO to the NPCC or South Wales Police about why we have declined the invitations.

This concludes our response to your information request.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full review procedure [here](#).

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can [raise a complaint through our website](#).

Your information

Our [Privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and set out your rights. Our retention schedule can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely

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