

# Sevenoaks District Council's May 2023 CCTV

## Privacy Impact Assessments

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All Local Authorities that have Public Space CCTV for whatever purpose must comply with all statutory regulations covering its use, as enshrined in the Data Protection Act 1998, the new General Data Protection Regulations May 2018, the Human Rights Act 1998 and in certain circumstances, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. There are specific requirements that refer chiefly, but not exhaustively, to the installation of CCTV equipment and its employment, as well to the collection, analysis, dissemination and storage of data collected, that the Local Authority must address and be seen to be implementing actively.

The CCTV control room is required to have a detailed policy covering every aspect of the use of the Public Space CCTV and the data collected within its control room and must have an appointed data controlling officer, preferably from the senior management team, to oversee and control all aspects of the use of surveillance CCTV and data collected from it. Registration for the use of CCTV surveillance must be maintained with the Office of the Information Commissioner, from where a suitable code of practice on its use can also be obtained.

An impact assessment can be a very useful method of detailing important aspects of the use of Public Space CCTV and how it will affect others.

The impact assessment needs to address the following requirements.

1. The exact purpose and objectives for the use of public space CCTV camera.
2. Suitability and advantages of use of CCTV over other possible methods, including regular reviews.
3. Assessment of proportionality of the level of coverage employed, equipment used and time equipment is active.
4. Specific ways in which data collected will be used.
5. For stored data, the method used, the length of time of storage, and how the data might be used for.
6. For each and every area of coverage, where data may be stored, how and by whom the data will be processed in any manner, and for what purpose.
7. Methods of notification of the presence of surveillance CCTV and other information channels.
8. Details of all methods by which images, or collected data, from CCTV may be streamed to any outside agency or other parties, if relevant.
9. Assessment of any possible impact of CCTV surveillance on the right to privacy, performance or general well-being of any individuals.
10. Other relevant information.

It is further considered desirable that for every instance where the public could possibly be captured on surveillance CCTV cameras, a report will be made concerning the individual's right to privacy, limited or otherwise and the impact on their ability to go about their everyday life in a comfortable relax and calm way. All this information is found in the Sevenoaks District Council's CCTV Code of Practice available on our website.

**Sevenoaks District Council's CCTV Privacy Impact Assessment for use  
of Public Space CCTV Surveillance Cameras  
May 2023**

**This is an impact assessment statement for the use of Public Space  
CCTV Surveillance Cameras at:**  
Sevenoaks District Council

**This assessment has been carried out by:**  
Sharon Wright  
Partnership CCTV Manager

The assessment is effective from May 2023 until review on May 2024

**The Data Controlling officer for Sevenoaks District Council is:**  
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This CCTV System is registration with the Office of the Information Commissioner.

**Areas within Sevenoaks District Council covered by CCTV are:**  
Sevenoaks Town Centre, Hollybush Sevenoaks, Swanley Town Centre, White Oak  
Swanley, Westerham, Edenbridge, New Ash Green

# Privacy Impact assessment for use of Public Space CCTV cameras in the above areas within Sevenoaks District Council

## **1. Purpose and objectives for use of surveillance CCTV:**

To help reduce the fear of crime.

To help deter crime.

To help detect crime and provide evidential material for court proceedings.

To provide assistance in the overall management of public health and safety.

To enhance community safety, assist in developing the economic wellbeing in the Sevenoaks District and to encourage greater use of the town centres, shopping areas, car parks, and similar locations within our areas.

## **2. Suitability and advantages of use of CCTV over other possible methods, including regular reviews:**

CCTV cameras record 24/7 within our areas, show exact date and time of any recorded incidents. This is especially advantageous when police resources are not available.

Cameras are monitored, maintained and serviced regularly to ensure they are working to their full potential at all times.

Our CCTV promotes community safety and helps reduce the fear of crime, including community confidence and reassurance.

The CCTV system helps with the prevention and detection of crime and disorder.

When a crime occurs, CCTV is a vital element of any investigation. CCTV has proved invaluable to the police and security services in the aftermath of major incidents, obtaining vital information and intelligence.

CCTV has remained an essential component for protecting the public from terrorism, violence and criminality.

The National Threat Level for a terror attack in the UK has been moved to "Substantial" This indicate an attack is likely the UK.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCTV service demonstrated the resilience, flexibility, and resourcefulness of the service. Patrolling the towns and streets in a safe controlled environment. CCTV operators deemed essential workers who remained operational throughout all the lockdowns.

Annual reviews are carried out.

### **3. Assessment of proportionality of the level of coverage employed, equipment used and time equipment is active:**

The CCTV cameras within Sevenoaks District Council are assessed regularly to establish alternative methods, better and more cost effective ways to promote community safety.

CCTV coverage is only in town centres within Sevenoaks District, all our camera are overt camera.

All CCTV cameras and equipment are fit for purpose under appropriate standards used by professional trained CCTV maintenance contractors.

The Council has been installing new cameras into new multi storage car parks in Sevenoaks, for the purpose of crime detection and prevention. This is to promote community safety and to reduce the fear of crime in our areas.

All images are recorded on digital recorders.

The cameras are recorded 24/7.

### **4. Specific ways in which data collected will be used:**

The data is collected within a secured controlled environment.

A controlled audit trail is regularly monitored to ensure the data is protected.

Audits and inspections are carried out to ensure compliance.

Only authorised persons have access to the data.

Personal data will be used only for the purposes held with our CCTV Code of Practice.

Disclosed data is only to lawful organisations shown within our CCTV Code of Practice.

Data will be held for no longer than necessary.

The data will only be used legitimately.

Full details are available within our CCTV Code of Practice.

**5. For stored data, the method used, the length of time of storage, and how the data might be used:**

Recorded data is stored on hard drives for 31 days.

Full details of storage methods and how data might be used is within the CCTV Code of Practice, available to the public on the Sevenoaks District Council's website.

**6. For each and every area of coverage, where data may be stored, how and by whom the data will be processed in any manner, and for what purpose:**

All the data will be stored on hard drives within the CCTV control room.

The data will only be processed by council's trained, SIA Licensed and vetted CCTV Operators for the purpose of crime detection and prevention, to promote community safety and to reduce the fear of crime in our areas.

Full details are within the CCTV Code of Practice, available to the public on the Sevenoaks District Council's website.

Details of further personnel who may gain access to data as part of their duties are the CCTV Managers and Council Chief Officers.

**7. Methods of notification of the presence of surveillance CCTV and other information channels:**

Signs are placed in the local areas where CCTV cameras are in operation, the signs indicate:

- The presence of CCTV monitoring in this area.
- The reasons for the CCTV in this area.
- The owners of the system.
- The contact phone number.

The Annual CCTV report is published on the Sevenoaks District Council's website detailing presence of surveillance cameras.

**8. Details of all methods by which images, or collected data, from CCTV may be streamed to any outside agency or other parties, if relevant.**

All images are recorded onto a secured digital hard drive system at Sevenoaks District Council's CCTV control room.

Kent Police have controlled access to steamed images into their Kent Police Headquarters, Command and Control Centre in Maidstone. These images are only

for monitoring purposes, full operational control of the cameras remains with Sevenoaks District Council.

Full details are contained in the CCTV Code of Practice available on the Sevenoaks District Council's website.

**9. Assessment of any possible impact of CCTV surveillance on the right to privacy, performance or general well-being of any individuals:**

All cameras are monitored to ensure the right to general privacy is adhered to.

Regular inspections are carried out to ensure no breaches from staff or the system.

Daily camera patrol checks are carried out twice a day and recorded to ensure compliance.

Annual reviews are carried out to ensure full right to privacy of individuals.

Annual CCTV camera impact and privacy assessments are completed.

**10. Other relevant information**

All CCTV staff are regularly inspected, SIA trained, licensed and vetted to ensure operational competency and relevant standards are complied with.

The CCTV Maintenance Contractors have approved technical and competency standards relevant and necessary to the CCTV standards.