

Top Facts About CCTV

- CCTV has not been shown to be effective in deterring crime. The money pumped into increasing numbers of cameras could be better spent on traditional policing.
- There is an absence of legislation governing where cameras can be erected or who can put them up and scant regulation covering the retention and use of images.
- Because of the lack of regulation it is difficult to know how many cameras are in operation in the UK. In 2009, BBC Newsnight submitted Freedom of Information requests to local authorities (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8159141.stm>), revealing that in London alone, councils operate 7431 cameras. However, this does not include cameras installed by private companies or individuals – meaning the true level of camera saturation must be significantly higher.
- Liberty has grave concerns about anything that tips towards realtime mass surveillance. The latest developments are a far cry from the original 'Closed Circuit Television Cameras' – we now have talking CCTV cameras, facial recognition technology, flying 'drone' CCTV planes and the ability to track individuals across a city.
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras have been used to monitor the movements of innocent individuals (such as peace protesters John and Linda Catt) and place an entire community under surveillance, as with Project Champion in Birmingham.
- Cameras are increasingly invading new areas of our lives, including:
 - Classrooms – research suggests that school children are more spied upon than prisoners <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1258259/Children-monitored-closely-inmates-CCTV-schools.html>
 - Changing rooms – a London leisure centre installed cameras in its female changing rooms http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/4778699.YouTube_fears_for_leisure_centre_changing_room_CCTV/
 - The air above us – militaristic spy drones are being developed in association with police forces <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jan/23/cctv-sky-police-plan-drones>
 - The seat in front of us – camera technology is being developed to monitor air passengers for 'suspicious' patterns of behaviour <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-435342/The-tiny-airline-spy-spots-bombers-blink-eye.html>
- The Government's coalition agreement states its intention to increase regulation in this area. Liberty looks forward to primary legislation to better regulate the use and retention of images from CCTV cameras and Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology.