



Boris Johnson - Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Cressida Dick
Assistant Commissioner
Specialist Crime and Operations
Room 1101
New Scotland Yard
10 Broadway
London
SW1H 0BG

Telephone: 020 7230 0341

12th November 2014

Our Ref:

Dear Mayor

I write to provide an update on the Mayoral 2012 crime manifesto pledge to give the Metropolitan Police Service access to Transport for London's ANPR cameras.

As you are aware the Greater London Authority completed a Public Consultation about the Metropolitan Police Service (Met) use of ANPR data from Transport for London (TfL) cameras earlier in 2014. The findings were extremely positive, showing that eight in ten respondents supported sharing ANPR data between public organisations to improve efficiency. It also identified that 83% of respondents agreed the Mayor should ensure that public organisations, such as TfL and the Met work together to share information to make them more effective and save money.

By using the TfL ANPR camera network the Met will gain access to substantially more ANPR data for Crime Fighting purposes, from a network that would require £32 million in new capital costs and £4.6 million in new annual revenue costs to replicate.

During the Public Consultation, Londoners and special interest groups raised concerns about the level of surveillance in the capital, data security and misuse.

Level of surveillance in the capital

The Met has examined the benefits of having access to TfL ANPR camera data and concluded that this proposal meets the requirements of a pressing social need that includes national security, public safety, the economic well-being of the country, the prevention of disorder or crime, the protection of health and morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. Having access to this data will help to solve crime and have a positive impact on Londoners' quality of life.

The Met is convinced that, through strict adherence to national Policing guidelines on the use of ANPR data, the majority of the public will remain satisfied that this does not represent undue or unnecessary surveillance.

How proper use and security of the data would be ensured and concerns that the data will be mislaid, misappropriated or misused

To maintain public confidence the Met will ensure that the principles set out in the Data Protection Act 1998 continue to be followed and that it abides by all relevant National ANPR guidance and policies. In addition, the Met will follow its ANPR Data Access Policy which sets out how data should be securely stored and used appropriately. These arrangements comprise very clear guidance, both in relation to how data is managed and the uses to which it may be put.

You will be aware that the recent MOPAC audit reported very positively about the way ANPR is used in the Met and we continue to invest in ensuring that standards of governance remain high.

I am therefore able to reassure you that the substantive concerns raised during the public consultation are all subject to effective management and have been addressed within the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA).

Please let me know should you require any further information from us.

*Yours sincerely
Cressida Dick*

Cressida Dick
Assistant Commissioner
Specialist Crime & Operations

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