

Harrietsham Parish Council

Close Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy

Aim:

This Policy is designed to regulate the management, operation, use and confidentiality of the CCTV systems at the Parish Office

Introduction

This Policy should be read with reference to the Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PFA), the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA), the Secretary of State's Surveillance Camera Code of Practice (SC code) and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) CCTV Code of Practice.

Under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and Data Protection Act 2018 the processing of personal data captured by CCTV systems is governed (including images identifying individuals). The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has issued a Code of Practice on compliance with legal obligations. The use of CCTV is covered by the Act, regardless of the number of cameras or how sophisticated the equipment is and Harrietsham Parish Council adheres to the ICO's Code of Practice.

Harrietsham Parish Council is committed to informing its staff, volunteers and service users about the presence of and operation of CCTV. This policy is available on the Harrietsham Parish Council's website so that all stakeholders are clear about how CCTV is utilised.

Access to personal information recorded through CCTV cameras is restricted solely to the Harrietsham Parish Council via the Clerk.

Objectives and targets

This CCTV Policy explains how Harrietsham Parish Council will operate its CCTV equipment and comply with the current legislation. The Parish Council uses this solely to help combat vandalism and theft.

Essentially it is used for:

- The prevention, investigation, and detection of crime.
- The apprehension and prosecution of offenders (including use of images as evidence in criminal proceedings).
- Safeguarding public, volunteers and staff
- Monitoring the security of the sites listed in this policy

Harrietsham Parish Council does not use the CCTV system for covert monitoring.

Location

Cameras are located at the Parish Council office.

The CCTV system is used solely for the purpose(s) identified and is not used to routinely monitor staff, volunteers, or service users' conduct. Cameras will not be used in areas subject to a heightened expectation of privacy e.g. toilets.

Signage alerts individuals to the use of CCTV at the Parish Office. The static cameras will not focus on private homes, gardens and other areas of private property. Materials or knowledge secured as a result of CCTV will not be used for any commercial purpose. Recordings will only be released to the media for use in the investigation of a specific crime and with the written authority of the Police. Tapes will never be released to the media for purposes of entertainment.

Maintenance

The CCTV system is maintained by Harrietsham Parish Council and includes periodic maintenance inspections. The Parish Council is responsible for:

- Ensuring that it complies with its responsibilities in relation to guidance on the location of the camera.
- Ensuring that the date and time reference are accurate.
- Ensuring that suitable maintenance and servicing is undertaken to ensure that clear images are recorded.
- Ensuring that the Data Protection Officer is trained in the use of the equipment.
- Ensuring that cameras are protected from vandalism in order to ensure that they remain in working order.

Identification

Harrietsham Parish Council will ensure prominent signs are in place. The signs will:

- Be clearly visible and legible.
- Contain details of the organisation operating the scheme, the purpose for using CCTV and who to contact about the scheme.
- Be an appropriate size depending on context.

Type of equipment

Harrietsham Parish Council's standard CCTV cameras record visual images only and do not record sound.

Administration

Harrietsham Parish Council is the Data Controller and the Parish Clerk has responsibility for the control of images and deciding how the CCTV system is used. Only the Clerk will have access to images and is aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing the recorded images and is aware of responsibilities under the CCTV Code of Practice. Access to recorded images is restricted to the Parish Clerk and recordings will be accessed as prescribed by the Police or Parish Council in the event of an incident. Access to the medium on which the images are recorded is documented. All Parish Councillors are aware of the restrictions in relation to access and security, and disclosure of recorded images.

Image storage, viewing and retention

Recorded images will be stored in a way that ensures the integrity of the image and in a way that allows specific times and dates to be identified. Harrietsham Parish Council reserves the right to use images captured on CCTV where there is activity that cannot be expected to be ignored, such as suspected criminal activity. The Parish Clerk will retain images for evidential purposes in a locked area. Where images are retained, the Clerk will ensure the reason for its

retention is recorded, where it is kept, any use made of the images and finally when it is destroyed.

Harrietsham Parish Council ensures that images are not retained for longer than is necessary. The retention period is approximately 5 weeks. Once the retention period has expired, images are overwritten, removed or erased.

Disclosure

Disclosure of the recorded images to third parties can only be authorised by the Parish Clerk.

Disclosure will only be granted:

- If its release is fair to all individuals concerned.
- If there is an overriding legal obligation (e.g. information access rights).
- If it is consistent with the purpose for which the system was established i.e. criminal activity.

All requests for access or for disclosure are recorded. If access or disclosure is denied, the reason is documented.

N.B Disclosure may be authorised to law enforcement agencies, even if a system was not established to prevent or detect crime, if withholding it would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

Recordings will only be released to the media for use in the investigation of a specific crime and with the written authority of the Police. Tapes will never be released to the media for purposes of entertainment. Materials or knowledge secured as a result of CCTV will not be used for any commercial purpose.

Subject Access Requests

Individuals whose images are recorded have a right to view images of themselves and, unless they agree otherwise, to be provided with a copy of the images. If Harrietsham Parish Council receives a Subject Access Request under the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 it will comply with requests within 1 month.

The Council may charge a fee for the provision of a copy of images. If the Council receives a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it will comply with requests within 20 working days of receiving the request.

As a general rule, if the viewer can identify any person other than, or in addition to, the person requesting access, it will be deemed personal data and its disclosure is unlikely as a Freedom of Information request.

Those requesting access must provide enough detail to allow the operator to identify that they are the subject of the images, and for the operator to locate the images on the system.

Requests for access should be addressed to the Data Controller.

Refusal to disclose images may be appropriate where its release is:

- Likely to cause substantial and unwarranted damage to that individual.
- To prevent automated decisions from being taken in relation to that individual.

Guiding Principles

System operators should adopt the following guiding principles from the Office of the ICO:

1. Use of a surveillance camera system must always be for a specified purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need.
2. The use of a surveillance camera system must take into account its effect on individuals and their privacy, with regular reviews to ensure its use remains justified.
3. There must be as much transparency in the use of a surveillance camera system as possible, including a published contact point for access to information and complaints.
4. There must be clear responsibility and accountability for all surveillance camera system activities including images and information collected, held and used.
5. Clear rules, policies and procedures must be in place before a surveillance camera system is used, and these must be communicated to all who need to comply with them.
6. No more images and information should be stored than that which is strictly required for the stated purpose of a surveillance camera system, and such images and information should be deleted once their purposes have been discharged.
7. Access to retained images and information should be restricted and there must be clearly defined rules on who can gain access and for what purpose such access is granted; the disclosure of images and information should only take place when it is necessary for such a purpose or for law enforcement purposes.
8. Surveillance camera system operators should consider any approved operational, technical and competency standards relevant to a system and its purpose and work to meet and maintain those standards.
9. Surveillance camera system images and information should be subject to appropriate security measures to safeguard against unauthorised access and use.

Data Controller: Harrietsham Parish Council

Address: Harrietsham Parish Council Office

4 Southfields Way

Harrietsham

Maidstone

Kent

ME17 1GE

ICO Registration: ZA049431