

## TENDRING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

AFFILIATED TO ESSEX COUNTY NHW CHARITY NO 1168988

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SUPPORTING ESSEX POLICE

Week Ending 28th January 2018



## CCTV on your Property

I am often asked about a person's responsibilities around installing CCTV on their property. I know a few of you who have CCTV installed and if you consider installing here is some advice from the Information Commissioners Office (ICO)

### Using CCTV on your property

CCTV used on your property will be exempt from the Data Protection Act unless you are capturing footage of individuals outside your property.

However, regardless of whether your CCTV system is exempt, the ICO recommends that you use CCTV in a responsible way to protect the privacy of others.

### How can I use CCTV on my property responsibly?

The guiding principle throughout the deployment of your CCTV equipment should be checking at each stage that its use is necessary and not disproportionate. For example – ask yourself:

- Do I really need a camera to address my security concerns?
- Would extra lighting or sensor lighting be as effective?
- Is there an alternative to a camera?
- Is there anyone who could advise me about alternatives?
- What is the most privacy friendly way to set it up?
- Can I avoid intruding into my neighbours' property?



- What if my camera captures footage of individuals beyond the boundaries of my property?
- You must consider whether it is necessary for your camera to operate beyond the boundary of your property.
- If your camera covers, even partially, any areas beyond the boundaries of your property, such as neighbouring gardens or the street, then it will no longer be exempt from the Data Protection Act (DPA) under the domestic purposes exemption. This does not mean that you are breaching the DPA but it does mean that you might need to take some steps to comply with it.

### **What can I do to make sure that what I'm doing complies with the DPA?**

First, think about the problem you are trying to address and the best solution to it. This will usually be to safeguard you and your property against crime. Check your local police advice about crime prevention. Better locks or security lighting may be a more effective and less expensive way of securing your property. First, think about the problem you are trying to address and the best solution to it. This will usually be to safeguard you and your property against crime. Check your local police advice about crime prevention. Better locks or security lighting may be a more effective and less expensive way of securing your property.

### **If you decide to use CCTV cameras, you should:**

- consider what areas would need to be covered by it, will the camera capture images you actually need and how you will safeguard any recorded images so they can be used by the police to investigate crimes affecting you;
- consider whether you can put up signs clearly explaining that recording is taking place and take steps to do so if it is practical;
- have appropriate safeguards in place to ensure that the equipment is only operated in the ways you intend and can't be misused. At its simplest, this means that anyone you share your property with, such as family members who could use the equipment, need to know how important it is not to misuse it;
- ensure you have activated settings to enable the security of footage captured by the CCTV system and that any recordings of individuals are held securely. Make sure that you only allow access to people who need it; consider speaking to your neighbours and explain what you are doing and any objections or suggestions they have. (It may be useful to invite your neighbours to view the footage that you capture, this may allay any concerns they may have about your use of a CCTV system.); and
  - consider purchasing equipment that enables you to control what you can record. This will enable you to keep privacy intrusion to a minimum.

You should remember that your use of a CCTV system may be appropriate but publicly uploading or streaming footage of individuals will require further justification and in most cases will not be justifiable.

As the data controller for this footage, individuals do have the right to request a copy of it from you under the DPA, if you collect their personal data.

## What other considerations are there?

If you cannot rely on the domestic purposes exemption, you will need to [register with the Information Commissioners Office as a data controller](#).

This link will take you there: <https://goo.gl/4Lmgvg>

Many CCTV systems now come with audio recording facilities. Audio recording is particularly privacy intrusive and in the vast majority of cases where CCTV is being used on domestic properties it should be disabled



No matter how good you think you are when online, there is always that moment where your attention is taken elsewhere and you do something you may well regret.

This website is full of great advice on how to stay safe on line and is well worth looking at as it contains up to date advice on items such as “Open Banking” which no doubt the fraudsters are already planning to hit hard.

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

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## Signal blockers to prevent car thefts

People who own cars with locks that depend on RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology are concerned about the risk of thieves using their own RFID boxes to steal their cars.

I thought it would be helpful for you to see this video from West Midlands Police showing two car thieves taking a car using a device available on the internet.

<https://goo.gl/dJ2h6S>

There are pouches, also available from the internet, which are meant for phones but they are signal blockers – you cannot unlock the car whilst pressing the fob when it is inside the pouch! Here is an example (not an endorsement of these particular ones, but just an example):

<https://goo.gl/qBuLmE>

All shortened URLs in the newsletter are safe to use

## Good Work by Harwich Police

So far, this week (as I write) in the Harwich area six vehicles have been seized and the drivers reported for having No Insurance. In some cases, other offences came to light such as being Wanted by police and No Driving Licence etc.

The owners of these vehicles seized under Sec 165 of the RTA have to jump through hoops to get them back and have only a certain time period to do this before the vehicle is disposed of. Driving without no insurance cover is a very irresponsible thing to do and can cause untold misery to anyone involved in an accident with such a vehicle.



Please be assured that Tendring Police are seizing uninsured vehicles all over the district, the photo above, courtesy of Essex Police is a vehicle seized in Jaywick on Wednesday.

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## Your Newsletter

From today I intend to publish the newsletter fortnightly instead of weekly, but will always inform you of anything urgent either by email, phone or our Facebook page.

The crime reports and burglary dwelling hot spots will be sent out as usual.

The next newsletter will be 11<sup>th</sup> February.

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In emergency call 999 for Police Fire Ambulance or The Coast Guard  
In a non-emergency use the 101-phone number, calls cost 15p no matter how long you are on the phone.

Report it on line at <https://www.essex.police.uk/>

Please join us on Facebook  
Where you will receive info  
As it comes in.  
Find us at Neighbourhood Watch Tendring  
And ask to join.

There is a lot of current up to date information posted on our Facebook page, a lot more than I could possibly include in a newsletter, so if you are on Facebook please join us, we are a Closed Group.

When a person asks to join, if I do not know them or they are not nominated by a known member I will message them and ask a few simple questions to verify that they are who they say they are and then simply add them. I have had to adopt these criteria as in the past I have had people asking to join who were not in Tendring and wanted to join for spurious reasons.

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Chairman/District Coordinator

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