

CCTV

Driver – Technology

Related Drivers – Anti-Social Behaviour, Counter Terrorism, Collection and Storage of Personal Information, Neighbourhood Policing, Organised Crime, Collaborative Working Between Forces, Procurement, Facial Recognition, Information Sharing, Advances in Technology, 2012 Olympics, Public Confidence in the Police, Jean Charles de Menzes Shooting, Youth Crime

Background

Following a review of closed circuit television (CCTV) nationally by the Home Office and ACPO, a national strategy report was published. The report identified a large number of problems with the UK's CCTV systems including:

- effectiveness of CCTV systems
- variance in the terms of coverage, monitoring and quality of images
- differences in the way police forces use CCTV
- ways in which the output of surveillance cameras are integrated into policing functions.

Forty-four recommendations were made including:

- police services to develop an organisation model for managing the recovery, analysis and investigation of CCTV evidence
- the specialist nature of CCTV evidence recovery, analysis and investigations should be recognised and appropriate training developed
- the effectiveness of the CCTV image retrieval cadre should be further enhanced by the provision of regular training
- the development of standardised procedures and the identification of suitably qualified individuals who can provide the Senior Investigating Officer with expert advice relating to the management of large scale CCTV recovery operations
- a cadre of personnel, trained in the analysis and viewing of CCTV images, should be developed to assist forces with examination of large volumes of CCTV material recovered during major crime and terrorist operations.¹

In June 2008, a Detective Chief Inspector claimed that only 3% of London's street robberies are being solved using security cameras. The reason given for the lack of effectiveness included:

- criminals are not afraid of the cameras

- more training was needed for officers who often avoided trawling through CCTV images because it was seen as 'hard work'.²

In response, the Visual Images Identification and Detection Office is piloting a new database to track offenders using CCTV and looking at ways to improve the effectiveness of CCTV.

Potential Skills Needs

Data handling and analysis skills – to solve crime and handle intelligence from CCTV images

IT skills – in the use of software to analyse images collected from CCTV footage

¹ [Home Office & ACPO \(2007\) National CCTV Strategy'. London: Home Office.](#)

² [NPIA \(June 2008\) NPIA Digest. London: NPIA.](#)