

CCTV Policy for Malmesbury Town Council

This policy aims to ensure that the Council's CCTV installations:

1. Are correctly and efficiently installed and operated.
2. The Town Council accepts the principles of the 1998 Act based on the Data Protection
3. The systems are not permanently or monitored on a regular basis.

Guiding Principles

System operators should adopt the following 12 guiding principles:

1. The use of surveillance camera system must always be used for a specific purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified 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.
10. That all systems and policies are reviewed annually to ensure they are being adhered to, remain relevant and required.
11. The quality of image should be of a quality to be effective in aiding civil and criminal law enforcement.
12. Databases and associated images used for matching and identification purposes should be accurate and up to date. Data will not be used for personal gain or interest

The project was put into motion due to high levels of vandalism and theft of council property. In addition, it is for security of people and property in the areas covered by cameras.

Malmesbury Town Council CCTV Policy

This policy is to control the management, operation, use and confidentiality of the CCTV system located around Malmesbury. The system and cameras are owned and managed by Malmesbury Town Council.

The policy was prepared after taking due account of the Code of Practice published by the Data Protection Commissioner (revised 2015) and the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. This policy will be subject to periodic review by Malmesbury Town Council to ensure that it continues to reflect the public interest and that it and the system meets all legislative requirements.

The CCTV Scheme is registered with the Information Commissioner under the Terms of the Data Protection Act 1998. Registration Reference: TBC.

Malmesbury Town Council accepts the twelve data protection principles based on the Data Protection Act 1998. In simple terms Data must be:

1. Fairly and lawfully processed
2. Processed for limited purposes and not in any manner incompatible with those purposes
3. Adequate, relevant and not excessive
4. Accurate and of good quality
5. Not kept for longer than is necessary
6. Processed in accordance with individuals' rights
7. Secure
8. Not used for individual or public entertainment

2. Statement of Purpose

To provide a safe and secure environment for the benefit of those who might visit, work or live in the area. The system will not be used to invade the privacy of any individual, except when carried out in accordance with the law. The scheme will be used for the following purposes:

- To reduce the fear of crime by persons using facilities at St Aldhelm's Mead, Cross Hayes, Cloister Gardens, Station Yard, Malmesbury Cemetery and town centre locations so they can freely move about and enter and leave buildings and facilities without fear of intimidation by individuals or groups.
- To reduce the vandalism of property and to prevent, deter and detect crime and disorder.
- To assist the police, Malmesbury Town Council and other Law Enforcement Agencies with identification, detection, apprehension and prosecution of offenders by examining and using retrievable evidence relating to crime, public order or contravention of byelaws.
- To deter potential offenders by publicly displaying the existence of CCTV, having cameras clearly sited that are not hidden and signs on display in areas being monitored.
- To assist all "emergency services" to carry out their lawful duties.
- To assist insurance companies in identification of individuals who damage another person's property and fail to comply with legal responsibility.

3. Changes to the Purpose or Policy

The CCTV Policy may be discussed at meetings of the Policy & Resources Committee of Malmesbury Town Council.

However, any major change that would have a significant impact on either the purpose or this policy of operation of the CCTV scheme will take place only after discussion and resolution at a full Malmesbury Town Council meeting.

4. Responsibilities of the Owner of the Scheme

Malmesbury Town Council retains overall responsibility for the scheme.

CCTV Code of Practice

1. Management of the System

Day to day operational responsibility rests with the Town Clerk to Malmesbury Town Council and Malmesbury Town Hall Administrator. The Mayor and Chair of Policy & Resources Committee are the councillors with responsibility for also overseeing operational responsibility. Breaches of this policy will be investigated by the Town Clerk and reported to The Full Malmesbury Town Council.

A CCTV system prevents crime largely by increasing the risk of detection and prosecution of an offender. Any relevant digital evidence must be in an acceptable format for use at Court hearings. This policy must be read and understood by all persons involved in this scheme and individual copies of this policy will therefore be issued for retention. A copy will also be available for reference in the secure recording areas.

2. Control and Operation of the Cameras, Monitors and Systems

The system is not monitored on a live basis. It is reviewed when needed or being tested to monitor cameras and system efficiency.

The following points must be understood and strictly observed by people reviewing activities:

a) Trained personnel must act with integrity and not abuse the equipment or change the pre-set criteria to compromise the privacy of an individual.

b) The position of cameras have been agreed following consultation with the installation company and Full Council. Emergency Service have also been consulted.

c) No public access will be allowed to the monitors except for lawful, proper and sufficient reason, with prior approval of the Town Clerk or Town Hall Administrator or Mayor or Chair of Policy and Resources. The Police are permitted access digital images and prints if they have reason to believe that such access is necessary to investigate, detect or prevent crime. The Police are able to visit the Town Hall to review and confirm the Town Council's operation of CCTV by arrangement. Any visit by the Police to view images will be logged by the operator and Town Clerk.

d) The Town Clerk should regularly check the accuracy of the date/time displayed.

e) Storage and Retention of Images

Digital records should be securely stored to comply with data protection and should only be handled

by the essentially minimum number of persons. Digital images will be overwritten or erased after a period of 31 days.

f) Images will not normally be supplied to the media, except on the advice of the police if it is deemed to be in the public interest. The Town Clerk or Town Hall Administrator would inform the Mayor and Chair of Policy and Resources of such a request and action followed.

g) As records may be required as evidence at Court, each person handling a digital record may be required to make a statement to a police officer and sign an exhibit label. Any images that are handed to a police officer should be signed for by the police officer and information logged to identify the recording, showing the officer's name and police station. The log should also show when such information is returned to Malmesbury Town Council by the police and the outcome of its use.

h) Any event that requires checking of recorded data should be clearly detailed in the logbook of incidents, including Crime Numbers. if appropriate, Malmesbury Town Councillors should be notified at the next available opportunity.

i) Any damage to equipment or malfunction discovered by The Town Clerk or Town Hall Administrator should be reported immediately to the Mayor and Chair of Policy and Resources and recorded in the log. When a repair has been made, this should also be logged showing the date and time of completion.

j) Subject Access Requests

Any request by an individual member of the public for access to their own recorded image must be made on an Access Request Form. Forms are available by contacting the Town Clerk or can be downloaded from the Malmesbury Town Council website and will be submitted to the next meeting of the Full Council or Policy & Resources Committee (whichever comes first) for consideration and reply, normally within one calendar month. Consideration of Subject Access Requests may be delayed during August as the full town council or Policy & Resources does not meet in that month. In such a case a temporary copy of the relevant recording may be retained by the Town Council to prevent its automatic erasure after a 31-day period. There are no fees or charges for the first request but additional requests for the same personal data or requests which are manifestly unfounded or excessive may be subject to an administrative fee.

k) Businesses or property subject to surveillance should immediately inform the Town Clerk of their need to access copies of recorded images following damage or theft from their premises. There will be no charge for this service. Access request form should be completed and recorded. The Mayor and Chair of Policy & Resources should be notified of the incident and full council be informed at the next meeting.

3. Accountability

Copies of the CCTV Policy are available in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, as will any reports that are submitted to Malmesbury Town Council providing it does not breach security needs.

The Police will be informed of the installation and provided with a copy of this CCTV Policy.

Any written concerns or complaints regarding the use of the system will be considered by Malmesbury Town Council, in line with the existing complaints policy.