

政府總部
香港下亞厘畢道



GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
LOWER ALBERT ROAD
HONG KONG

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(Total : 4 pages)

24 February 2009

Mr Raymond Lam
Clerk to Panel on Security
Legislative Council
3rd Floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lam,

Installation of Closed-Circuit Television Cameras in Public Places

Thank you for your letter of 5 February 2009, relaying the request made by Members of the Panel on Security at the meeting held on 3 February 2009 for information on various issues regarding the Administration's installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) in public places and the installation of CCTV system in the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct. We have collated a consolidated response as set out below based on the contributions from relevant departments.

CCTV systems installed by Government departments

2. As we understand it, various Government departments install CCTV systems in public places (such as strategic locations in the transport infrastructure, entrances to public facilities and lift cabins, etc.) for traffic monitoring, facility management and other lawful purposes.
3. Insofar as the Police are concerned, they have installed CCTV systems along the land boundary to facilitate a timely response to activities that may pose a threat to the integrity of our boundary, e.g. smuggling and illegal immigrant activities. The Police intend to install CCTV systems to monitor the sea boundary for similar reasons. The


Police assess each proposal for the installation of CCTVs at public locations on a case-by-case basis having regard to the legitimate purpose that such facility will serve, necessity and protection of privacy.

4. On a need basis during the festive days, the Police may employ temporary CCTV systems at specific public locations where huge crowd movements are anticipated, e.g. Tsim Sha Tsui, Lan Kwai Fong, etc. The temporary CCTV systems are installed purely for monitoring crowd movement and facilitating the Police's direction of tidal flow for public safety purpose. The Police consider every proposal of this nature on its merits and ensure that privacy concerns are duly taken into account, e.g. the CCTV cameras will be located strictly for the purpose of monitoring the crowd movement whilst participating in the event at large, and in no circumstances would the CCTV cameras be directed at private premises.

Proposed installation of CCTV system in the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct

5. According to the Home Affairs Department, following an incident on 13 December 2008 in which more than 40 persons suffered injuries as a result of an acid attack from height in the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct, Yau Tsim Mong District Council is pursuing the installation of a CCTV system at the precinct to deter the occurrence of similar incidents and to assist police investigation should similar incidents occur again. Information on this project provided by the Yau Tsim Mong District Office is set out at the Annex.

Yours sincerely,


(Apollonia Liu)
for Secretary for Security

- c.c. Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
(Attn.: Miss Joanna Choi)
District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong) (Attn.: Mrs Vicki Kwok)
Commissioner of Police (Attn.: Mr Austin Kerrigan)
Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
(Attn.: Mr William Wong)

**Proposed installation of a CCTV system in
the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct**

Yau Tsim Mong District Council (YTM District Council) has set up a Working Group comprising District Councillors and relevant departments to take forward its project of installing a CCTV system in the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct.

2. The Working Group has identified two locations for the installation of the CCTV cameras, namely the rooftops of the Park-In Commercial Centre on Dundas Street and the Hollywood Plaza on Soy Street, with the support of the relevant property management company, to provide a panoramic view of most of the area along Sai Yeung Choi Street South.

3. The Working Group has formulated a set of operational guidelines for the CCTV system, specifying the purposes and major features of the system as well as the mode of operation. Taking account of the comments of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data and the Department of Justice on the project, the YTM District Council will put in place the following measures to address privacy concerns :

- (a) The recording function of the system will operate automatically. The hard disk containing the recorded images will be stored in a locked cabinet. Access to the system and images is limited to persons authorized by the YTM District Council and the Yau Tsim Mong District Office (YTM District Office) (e.g. maintenance staff);
- (b) Recorded images will only be retrieved, upon the approval of the YTM District Council and YTM District Office, to assist police investigation should an attack from height occur. The hard disk will store the recorded images for 14 days, which will be erased thereafter unless the images are required for crime investigation;
- (c) The CCTV cameras will not be directed at the windows of private residential flats in the area; and
- (d) The YTM District Council will post sufficient notices at the Mong Kok Pedestrian Precinct to inform the public that the area is under the surveillance of a CCTV system.

4. The YTM District Council held a forum on 23 February 2009 to present the background and the features of the proposed CCTV system to representatives of the owners' corporations, mutual aid committees, property management companies of buildings along Sai Yeung Choi Street South, as well as the Area Committees concerned. In addition, the YTM District Council will consider details of the proposed CCTV system and the proposed operational guidelines at its meeting to be held on 26 February 2009.

5. Subject to the YTM District Council's endorsement of the project details, the installation work will proceed for completion in around mid-2009.

Yau Tsim Mong District Office
February 2009