

Participant Information Sheet

**Public Space CCTV: The Use, Impact and Future of CCTV Technologies in Scotland’s Urban and Rural Public Space**

Principal Investigator:  Dr Janos Mark Szakolczai (University of Glasgow)

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

*Thank you for reading this.*

**What is this study about?**

We are a team of researchers from the University of Glasgow and the University of Edinburgh. We are conducting research on the use of CCTV (closed circuit television) monitoring technologies in public spaces in Scotland, and particularly, its effectiveness and impact. We are interested in mapping the scale, costs, and impacts of CCTV provision across Scotland in order to understand where and how it can be effective, and the impacts CCTV provision can have on local communities to prevent crime and make communities feel safer.

**Why have we asked you to take part?**

We are interested in your experiences and understanding of public space CCTV in your community. In order to gain your perspective, we will ask you questions in relation to the following themes:

* The relationship between public places in the community and CCTV placement
* Local attitudes towards the distribution of monitoring technologies throughout the community
* The meaning of usefulness, effectiveness, and impact
* The role of CCTV in community safety

**What does taking part involve?**

If you agree to take part, a member of the research team will arrange to meet with you face-to-face for a group interview. The interview will last approximately 45 minutes. Please note that you can withdraw your participation at any point and end your involvement. Additionally:

* If you are not happy answering any of the questions asked you don’t have to answer them;
* You can stop the interview at any time without giving a reason;
* With your permission, we would like to audio record the discussion, but if you are unhappy with being recorded – that’s fine.

**Consent**

In the introduction section of the session, the researcher will explain to participants the types of questions that are likely to be asked and the way in which their contributions are likely to be used. The researcher will also warn participants that, whilst there is a plan for the session, the nature of group interviews means that there is a small chance that the discussion will take an unexpected route and, should this happen, the researcher will guide the discussion back to the research topics – namely the use and impact of public space CCTV.

**What will happen to your answers?**

The recordings of the group interviews will be transcribed. With your consent, transcripts will be stored on a secure password-protected site on the University of Glasgow system. Only members of the research team will have access to the information you provide. Please note that confidentiality will be maintained as far as it is possible, unless, during our conversation we hear anything which makes us worried that someone might be in danger of harm, we might have to inform relevant agencies of this. If we were going to do so, we would discuss this with you first.

At the end of the research, the research team will write a report. We may also write academic papers and give conference talks. What you tell the researcher may be referred to in these reports, papers, or talks, but it will be written in a way that tries to make sure that no one knows that it is about you or that you said it by anonymising the interview and giving you a pseudonym.

We expect that the research will be completed by April 2023. We would be happy to send you a summary if you are interested in seeing what conclusions we reach. If you would be interested in seeing this, please tick the appropriate box on the consent form. Given that this study may inform policy and practice in the future use of CCTV in public spaces in Scotland, the anonymised data will be stored for 10 years and made available for future research in the University of Glasgow’s data repository.

**Limited guarantee of anonymity**

In return for your participation, we would offer you a limited guarantee of anonymity. We cannot provide you with a full guarantee of anonymity because other people (e.g. colleagues, residents) reading the report may be able to identify you from the experiences and opinions you may share, the language that you use (i.e. particular phrases) or if you discuss your participation in the research with other people. Therefore, in order to try to ensure that you remain anonymous, we will not use participants’ names or identifying details in the final report. Participants will only be referred to by their pseudonyms.

As researchers, we reiterate the fact that the views and opinions shared in the course of the group interview are to be treated as confidential by all participants. We kindly ask you to keep in mind the limitations in being able to absolutely guarantee anonymity and confidentiality. We reiterate that if participants are not comfortable taking this risk then they are free to withdraw.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The study has been approved by the College of Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee at the University of Glasgow. This study is funded by the Scottish Government.

**Further questions or concerns**

If you have questions about the research you can contact the Principal Investigator:

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**Email:**

To pursue any complaint about the conduct of the research: contact the College of Social Sciences Lead for Ethical Review, Dr Susan Batchelor: email [socsci-ethics-lead@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:socsci-ethics-lead@glasgow.ac.uk).