FROM: **NO CCTV**
Press Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attn: News Desks

-- BEGINS –

New report exposes the danger of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras

The anti-surveillance group No CCTV has today launched a report [1] that exposes the real story of police use of number plate recognition cameras as a mass surveillance tool in the UK.

The report, "What's Wrong With ANPR?", looks at the development of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras since they were first deployed in a secret experiment on the M1 in Hertfordshire in the 1980s, through to the still secretive modern network of cameras that is capable of storing the details of 50 million number plates per day.

The report follows the recent Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) decision [2] in response to a complaint [3] made by No CCTV, Privacy International and Big Brother Watch with regard to an ANPR "ring of steel" around the town of Royston in Hertfordshire. The ICO found these ANPR cameras to be unlawful and gave Hertfordshire police until 13th October to comply with an enforcement notice.

Charles Farrier of No CCTV said:

> *"Number plate recognition cameras have been mis-sold to the public. Back in the 1980s it was claimed that the cameras were developed only to find stolen vehicles. Then as a nationwide network of thousands of cameras was quietly constructed in the early 2000's it was said to be for finding incorrectly registered, untaxed or uninsured vehicles.*
>
> *However another little noticed use was stated in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) ANPR Strategy documents, that of tracking vehicle movements. Not just vehicles linked to ongoing criminal investigations but all vehicles, with the information to be stored in national and local databases for two years . This is a mass surveillance tool which was constructed without any public debate. Notions of "nothing to hide, nothing to fear" show a ludicrous degree of naïvety."*

The No CCTV report spells out that ANPR is primarily a mass surveillance tool and demonstrates this by showing that alternative models for number plate recognition systems exist that meet all of the objectives used to sell the cameras to the public without mass surveillance.

For media requests contact Charles Farrier at press@no-cctv.org.uk

-- ENDS –

References:

[1] The report can be downloaded at http://www.no-cctv.org.uk/whats_wrong_with_anpr.asp

[2] http://www.ico.org.uk/enforcement/~/media/documents/library/Data_Protection/Notices/hertfordshire-constabulary-enforcement-notice.pdf

[3] The full text of the No CCTV / Privacy International / Big Brother Watch complaint is available at:
http://www.no-cctv.org.uk/materials/docs/Royston_Ring_of_Steel_ANPR_Complaint.pdf

[4] ANPR cameras work alongside a variety of databases that can be used to identify cars and their occupants. The data collected from the cameras is stored in local force databases (Back Office Facility (BOF)) that may be used alongside querying or data mining tools, and in a centralised database (National ANPR Data Centre (NADC)). License plate photos are stored for two years and photographs of cars are stored for 90 days.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. No CCTV campaigns against the excessive use of surveillance cameras. Their homepage is at www.no-cctv.org.uk. For further information contact Charles Farrier at press@no-cctv.org.uk

2. This press release may be downloaded from http://www.no-cctv.org.uk/press/