

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



Attn: News Desks

-- BEGINS --

FANS OF ROYSTON MASS SURVEILLANCE MASSAGE STATISTICS TO FURTHER THEIR ORWELLIAN AIMS

A recent article in the Royston Crow [1] suggests that police and selected fans of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras, who were invited to a private meeting, want to reverse the ICO's decision to scale back number plate mass surveillance in Royston. In 2013, when the then operational Royston ANPR cameras were regularly in local and national media, crime statistics show that burglaries did not stop. From October to December 2013 there were 18 reported burglaries in Royston [2] despite the "ring of steel", this is comparable with the 19 burglaries since October this year that the Crow article cites to instil panic.

Charles Farrier of No CCTV said:

"This is cheap grandstanding from the proponents of mass car surveillance. In 2014 it was ruled unlawful for the police to monitor and store in a database for two years the details of every car as it passed the Royston cameras, so now we see a childish attempt to over-hype crime statistics, create fear and offer a snake oil in the form of more mass surveillance. Members of the community suspected of no wrong doing whatsoever should not be placed under constant surveillance by spy cameras. This is an issue of liberty. The police and their ANPR camera fan club friends should stop massaging statistics to further their own Orwellian aims."

-- ENDS --

References:

[1] 'Chief inspector will present a case for more ANPR cameras in a bid to tackle Royston burglary hike', Roston Crow, 17th December 2015
http://www.royston-crow.co.uk/news/chief_inspector_will_present_a_case_for_more_anpr_cameras_in_a_bid_to_tackle_royston_burglary_hike_1_4350932

[2] Royston Crime Maps
<https://www.police.uk/hertfordshire/G01/crime/2013-12/burglary/>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. No CCTV is a UK group campaigning against the excessive use of surveillance cameras and other surveillance issues. Their homepage is at www.no-cctv.org.uk
2. For further information contact Charles Farrier at press@no-cctv.org.uk
3. In 2011 No CCTV along with Privacy International and Big Brother Watch raised a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) into the Royston "ring of steel". 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