

Appendix 5 - New Information on Security of Data Pipeline

Very late in the process of putting together this report we were able to confirm that, for the last month or so⁴¹, the cupboard housing the CCTV computer in New Ash Green has been left with the door open (i.e. unlocked and somewhat ajar).

This means that any member of the public, with no expertise, could have walked in and turned off the New Ash Green CCTV (for example, by switching off the power to the computers). To be clear, these are the computers which sit in the data transmission chain between the New Ash Green cameras themselves, and the link to Argyle Road.

The group does not have sufficient expertise to determine whether, in addition to being able to turn the NAG system off/on, someone who knew what they were doing could either:

- A. Exfiltrate data from the systems
- OR
- B. Infiltrate false data into the system (such as a loop of “nothing to see here” footage).

When alerted to this the CCTV manager seemed to be inclined to blame the owner of the shopping centre and/or his staff.

While the owner of the shopping centre had put some of his own possessions at risk of theft (the cupboard also contained various tools etc.) there was no indication that any items had, in fact, been taken.

Although we do not, at this stage, wish to open up the whole report we do, nonetheless, think it is worth reporting the existence of a de facto policy delegating the data security of the council’s CCTV systems, to the owner of the New Ash Green Shopping centre.

⁴¹ This was probably from at least mid-January until the 9th of March 2021, at which point Cllr. Pender was able to confirm the facts, and alert the CCTV manager.