



BIG BROTHER WATCH



ABOUT BIG BROTHER WATCH



As Big Brother Watch enters its fifth year, I am extremely proud of how the organisation has grown in stature and influence into one of Britain's leading privacy and civil liberties campaign groups.

This review allows us to take stock of the breadth of issues that the team has worked on in the recent past, but also the real achievements.

From the Snooper's Charter to CCTV cameras in Oxford taxis, patient medical data to recent revelations about GCHQ, Big Brother Watch has set the agenda more than any other campaign organisation and established a profile far beyond the reach of many similar sized groups.

It has also been heartening to see the team bringing together coalitions of campaign groups on a variety of issues, punching far above its weight by working strategically, with discipline and focus.

It is of course easy to point to the vast array of media coverage and say that success is self evident, but the detailed policy work evident in submissions to Parliamentary committees and public consultations should not be underestimated.

The team's speaking engagements, including the ACPO conference and the European Parliament's LIBE Committee, as well as hosting events at all three main party conferences for the past two years, have seen the team speak alongside a calibre of individuals that is true testament to the professionalism and quality of Big Brother Watch's work.

I can say with real confidence that the best is yet to come and I hope that if you, like me, care about civil liberties and privacy in the UK, you'll continue to give Big Brother Watch your support.

MATTHEW ELLIOTT, FOUNDER
JANUARY 2014

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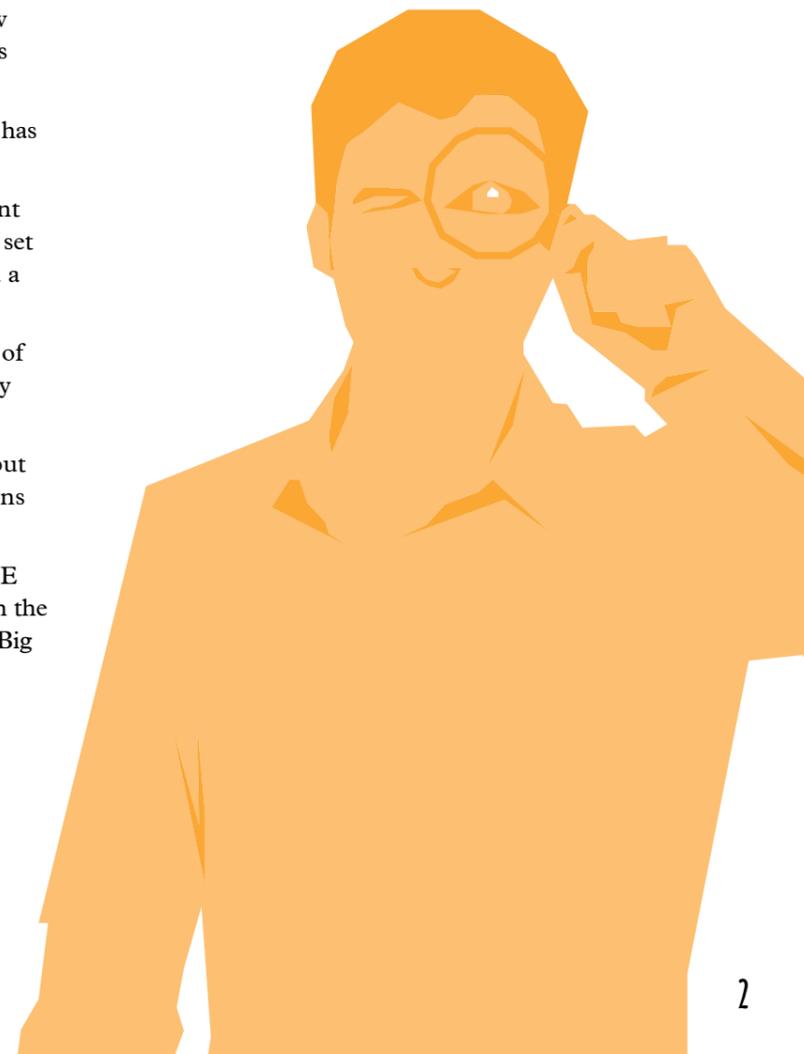
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INTRODUCTION



When I first joined Big Brother Watch as director in September 2011, I felt that the time was ripe for the organisation to bring together the long-standing concerns about CCTV, public authority surveillance and curtailments on our liberties with the emerging issues of digital privacy and freedom.

I was sure our existing profile, the product of much hard work by my predecessors, could be developed in a way that stayed true to our founding principles, but encompassed the clear challenges the internet poses.

I would however admit that I did not expect it to prove so timely so soon.

From the resurrection of Communications Data legislation to the Snowden revelations, Google's privacy policy to councils in Oxford and Southampton wanting to install audio CCTV in every taxi, our unique position has enabled us to campaign on local and international issues equally effectively.

Media coverage remains our forte, but we have developed our policy agenda, in some areas narrowing the scope of our activity, and have seen our influence rise accordingly. We have been cited in Parliamentary reports, by European Commissioners and in remarks by leading figures of academia, technology and policy.

More importantly perhaps, we have helped to shift the debate. Who would have thought two years ago that a company the size of Microsoft would be using privacy as a central marketing message. Ultimately I believe consumers will drive the greatest shift towards respecting privacy, so our work to both inform people and influence policy is more critical than ever.

Equally, as Governments acquire the capability to place their entire populations under indiscriminate surveillance, it is Big Brother Watch who is taking legal action against GCHQ, giving evidence to the European Parliament and commenting on the impact of the President of the United States' surveillance reforms for the UK.

We live in interesting times and it remains a huge privilege to lead Big Brother Watch. This review is a testimony to the immense efforts of the team I have been fortunate to work with, particularly Emma's resolute support but also the diligence and enthusiasm of Maria, Andrew, Ellie and Dan. I am sure that there are few other organisations with three full time staff that could boast such an impressive document as this. Nor can I ever fully express our appreciation to our donors, those in Parliament who share our concerns and the journalists who report on our campaigns. Our success is their success, our victories their victories to share and celebrate.

It would also be remiss of me not to thank Matthew, who has always been on hand to offer his guidance during these past two years and support our development, as well as my own as both a friend and mentor.

There remains a great deal to do. However, as we establish our Advisory Council, publish our first formal review and seek to widen our financial basis, I feel that our best days are ahead of us.

To those who continue to support us, thank you, we couldn't do it without you. To those who want to expand surveillance, intrude upon privacy and curtail civil liberties, you've been warned.

**NICK PICKLES, DIRECTOR
JANUARY 2014**

OUR WORK IN NUMBERS

	2013
NATIONAL PRESS HITS	396
NATIONAL BROADCAST HITS	39
REGIONAL PRESS HITS	1735
INTERNATIONAL HITS	1599
TOTAL PRESS HITS PER YEAR	4763

15 CONSULTATIONS AND ENQUIRY SUBMISSIONS

Police keep DNA from 70,000 kids in just 3 yrs

385,000 PEOPLE VISITED MORE THAN 2.1 MILLION TIMES IN 2013

12 NEWSPAPER FRONT PAGES

Scottish Daily Mail: **HOW BIG BROTHER SPIES ON SCOTTISH SCHOOLS**

METRO: **Jailed for putting the T in idiot**

WHO WE ARE



NICK PICKLES DIRECTOR

Nick joined Big Brother Watch as Director in September 2011, with a background in communications and technology. Before joining Big Brother Watch he worked with small SMEs and multi-national companies in corporate communications. Nick is also an internationally published music photographer, recently working with the likes of Coldplay, Fatboy Slim and Madness.



EMMA CARR DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Emma joined Big Brother Watch as Deputy Director in February 2012 having worked for political campaign and research groups. Emma recently completed studying towards a MSc in Public Services Policy and Management at King's College London, gaining a Merit. She has a particular interest in cyber security and cyber crime, which formed the topic of her dissertation.



DANIEL NESBITT RESEARCHER

Daniel joined Big Brother Watch as an intern in December 2012, he quickly became an essential part of the team and was promoted to Researcher in March 2013. Before working at Big Brother Watch he interned at Politics Home.



DOMINIQUE LAZANSKI SENIOR FELLOW

Dominique is a London-based digital policy and strategy consultant and works on cyber security policy and Internet governance for the GSM Association. She has degrees from Cornell University, the London School of Economics and the University of Bath. She currently sits on the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group on Internet Governance, the Open Data User Group and the Tax Transparency Board among various other appointments.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Heather Brooke: Freedom of information campaigner and Professor of Journalism at City University, London

Rt Hon David Davis MP: Member of Parliament for Haltemprice and Howden

Alex Deane: Former Director of Big Brother Watch

Matthew Elliott: Co-founder of Big Brother Watch, the TaxPayers' Alliance and former Campaign Director of NO2AV

Sir Chris Fox: Former president of the Association of Chief Police Officers

Mark Littlewood: Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs

Henry Porter: Author and journalist

Dominic Raab MP: Member of Parliament for Esher and Walton

Richard Smith: Co-founder of Big Brother Watch

Lord Strasburger: Peer and member of the Joint Committee on the draft Communications Data Bill

Lord Vinson LVO DL: Conservative peer

POLICY FOCUS

Over the past two years we have relentlessly focussed our activity on a core area of policy priorities. They continue to underpin our work and this discipline allows us to ensure we focus on those areas of absolute priority and maximise our impact on the public policy debate.

PRIVACY

In the digital age, privacy is under attack like never before. Too many people find their privacy being invaded, whether from state intrusion, corporate voyeurism or the sprawling databases that document our every interaction of our lives. The state seeks to share data like never before, while companies hide behind obscure privacy policies and regulators fail to properly protect our right to control who has access to our personal information.



Press regulation is not the solution to privacy breaches

CIVIL LIBERTIES

While the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 saw welcome progress on a range of issues, threats to liberty still remain. Further incursions on freedom of speech and information, intrusive state powers and the weakening of the rule of law all require us to be vigilant. We campaign to ensure that our personal liberties are maintained and that the balance between security and liberty does not move further in the wrong direction.

SURVEILLANCE

From CCTV and ANPR to biometric scanning, corporate behaviour monitoring and state surveillance, we work tirelessly to ensure that surveillance powers are only what are proportionate and necessary, that they are properly regulated and transparent to the public.

CAMPAIGN VICTORIES

MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD



Jimmy Wales, Wikipedia founder, spoke at our press conference on the Snoopers' Charter

Snoopers' Charter: We led the opposition to the draft Communications Data Bill which was then blocked by Nick Clegg.

Powers of Entry: The Coalition initiated a review of all powers of entry and abolished some of the most excessive.

CCTV Regulation: The first Surveillance Camera Commissioner was appointed and we led the calls for him to be given greater powers.

Audio recording in taxis: We ensured Oxford and Southampton councils were not able to require all taxis to record passenger's conversations.

NHS Patient data sharing: Patients were given guaranteed opt-outs and an information campaign will now take place before any new data sharing.

Private investigator regulation:

Following our report calling for the regulation of private investigators, the Home Office announced it will bring forward regulation.

Reform Section 5: We were part of the coalition that secured a change to the law to ensure it is not a crime to use insulting language.

Corporate privacy intrusion: We led the way on holding companies to account, commissioning a study across nine countries about online privacy, highlighting Google's privacy policy and the rise of user profiling on- and off-line.



To achieve campaign victories, our campaigning goes from our Westminster office, to building coalitions, briefing the media and finishes in the corridors of power. We use every avenue available to make our voices heard and influence policy.

We work with MPs of all parties, Ministers, special advisors, select committees and outside organisations to highlight our concerns and to apply pressure where it is needed most. In 2013 we attended meetings with the Home Secretary, Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Office ministers and the chairs of various select committees.

We strive to offer robust policy scrutiny and this credibility has been recognised with our invitations to give oral evidence to the Draft Communications Data Bill Joint Select committee and the European Parliament's LIBE committee.

We also contributed written evidence to a range of enquiries and consultations, from the Leveson inquiry to the CPS's proposals for new guidance around speech on social media. Our evidence was cited by the Home Affairs committee as well as the Joint committee on the Draft Communications Data Bill. The European Commissioner responsible for data protection also cited our research into Google's new privacy policy, amongst others.

We also launched our first legal case before the European Court of Human Rights, taking action against GCHQ following the revelations from

whistleblower Edward Snowden about the mass collection of internet data under project Tempora.

We helped to establish MedConfidential, a public campaign to fight for confidentiality and consent in health and social care, with Privacy International, NO2ID, FIPR and TheBigOptOut. Coalition campaigning is an essential part of our work and enables all the groups to campaign, including international coalitions.

We also contributed to events at all three major party conferences discussing critical surveillance issues, speaking alongside leading political figures. The team have attended countless events at universities around the country, including the Cambridge Union, and hosted a film

screening of 'Terms and Conditions May Apply' for supporters and wider stakeholders.



100,000 cameras are spying on our schools

MEDIA COVERAGE AND ONLINE PRESENCE

The media play a crucial role in our campaigning, by helping to publicise our work and spread the policy message to the wider public. Our effective research catches the attention of journalists, meaning that we help to set the news agenda.

Our focus on proactively briefing journalists and circulating our message means the international and domestic media turn to Big Brother Watch for incisive comments on a range of issues.

The combination of our campaigning, policy focus and focussed research means we are one of the most high-profile groups in British politics, from securing more front pages than any other privacy or civil liberties groups to thousands of regional media appearances.

Police may be forced to axe Big Brother road cameras
Victory over number-plate 'spies'

Families' details sold to junk-mail firms by hundreds of councils



£515m CCTV bill 'would pay for 4,000 police'



ONLINE (2013)

✓ 385,000 PEOPLE VISITED
MORE THAN 2.1 MILLION TIMES

MEDIA HITS (2013)

✓ 4763 MEDIA HITS IN 2013
✓ 1735 REGIONAL PRESS HITS

✓ 218 REGIONAL RADIO HITS
✓ 29 REGIONAL TV HITS
✓ 39 NATIONAL TV HITS
✓ 33 NATIONAL RADIO HITS
✓ 1599 INTERNATIONAL HITS

FRONT PAGES (2013)

✓ 12 NEWSPAPER FRONT PAGES

RESEARCH AND REPORTS

Our research and reports draw on a range of Freedom of Information Act requests, Big Brother Watch commissioned polling and other sources, including open data and alternative primary sources.

In 2012 and 2013 we produced more than 10 unique pieces of research and commissioned five independent polls, including a study based on the views of more than 10,500 people on online privacy.

'SOME OF OUR RECENT REPORTS HAVE BEEN TRULY GROUNDBREAKING.'

All our work is focused on informing the policy

debate, increasing public awareness and highlighting intrusion on our privacy and liberties. As well as being widely covered in the media, from the Today programme to the front pages of the Daily Mail, Metro and Sunday Times, our research and reports underpin our campaigning efforts and allow us to provide an evidence base alongside policy work.

Some of our recent reports have been truly groundbreaking. Our report on school CCTV, *Class of 1984*, was the first study of its kind, exploring the scale of CCTV use in schools and revealing how more than 200 schools had cameras in toilets and bathrooms.

Equally, our written submission to the Joint Committee on the Draft Communications Data Bill included data from nearly every police force on their use of existing communications data powers – far more detail than the Home Office were able to provide. We also published polling showing the public didn't trust that their data would be kept secure under the scheme and saw legislation as a waste of money.

Following the Guardian's reporting of the Edward Snowden leaks, a Big Brother Watch commissioned poll highlighted how the public backed a

debate on surveillance law and said that the Government needed to be more transparent about how powers are used.

Our Legacy of Surveillance report highlighted how in recent years the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act has been used by local authorities and public bodies, while we also investigated the growing number of cases where private investigators are used by public bodies.

Our research highlighted how the National DNA Database had grown and how many innocent people continued to be affected, while Conor Burns MP authored a paper on reform of the European Arrest Warrant.

In *The Price of Privacy* we exposed how local authorities spent £515m on CCTV in four years and we drew attention to the scale of biometrics in schools, publishing data that showed 1.2m children had been fingerprinted, and in hundreds of thousands of cases without parental consent.

'ALL OUR WORK IS FOCUSED ON INFORMING THE POLICY DEBATE, INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND HIGHLIGHTING INTRUSION ON OUR PRIVACY AND LIBERTIES.'

We drew attention to how thousands of organisations were purchasing the edited Electoral Roll and reinforced calls for it to be abolished, along with how the public backed action on Google for its privacy policy change.

The ongoing problems in the CRB check system were exposed by our research into how thousands of people had wrongly been branded criminals, while we also uncovered how hundreds of public authorities had their access to the DVLA database revoked or suspended.



KEY ISSUES FOR 2014

CHALLENGING ONLINE SURVEILLANCE

From our legal challenge against GCHQ to any legislation on communications data, we will be at the forefront of campaigning to protect privacy online. We will continue to campaign for better protection for privacy online from businesses who seek to profit from monitoring our web use and deny consumers proper choice about how their data is collected and used.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND OF THE PRESS

As the Leveson fallout continues, along with proposed legislation to outlaw 'annoying' behaviour and a continued growth in police prosecuting social media users, we will be exposing how freedom of speech and the press is under threat in Britain.

PROTECTING MEDICAL DATA

While we have already won opt-outs and an information campaign, the NHS must do more to properly inform people about changes to how their medical data will be used and allow people to easily register their objections.

LIMITING THE LOBBYING BILL

The lobbying bill remains a key issue affecting civil society, from local campaigns to national organisations. As it currently stands it would significantly reduce the ability of people to contribute to the democratic process.



JAIL FOR DATA CRIMINALS

We will continue to campaign relentlessly for proper punishments for those who steal, abuse or lose our private information, including custodial sentences for Section 55 of the Data Protection Act offences.



Nick Pickles alongside MP Hazel Blears on BBC One's Sunday Politics

CHALLENGING THE DATABASE STATE

From new proposals to allow data-sharing across Government, along with corporate and state efforts to gather new data on us, and the growth in biometric tracking, the growth in the database state will remain a constant battle.

THE EXPANSION OF CCTV AND ANPR

As new HD cameras and facial recognition become more common, as well as increasing use of body-worn cameras and audio recording, we will keep the pressure up on those who seek to increase CCTV and ANPR surveillance.

KEEPING OUR INFORMATION PRIVATE IN THE CLOUD

Whether school children or medical data, the threats to privacy from both companies and governments when data is uploaded to the Cloud will continue to grow in 2014 as Cloud services expand.

SUPPORT US

We are entirely dependent on our supporters to fund our work and every donation goes into making sure Big Brother Watch's work can continue and grow.

We keep in close touch with all of our donors, providing them with up-to-date information on our campaign and inviting them to our events.

You can visit www.bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/donate to make a one-off donation or you can send a cheque by post to **55 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3QL.**

If you would like to make a donation by credit card, set up a Direct Debit or would like to discuss how you could support our work, please call us on **020 7340 6030.**

Once completed please send this form to **Big Brother Watch, 55 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL** or simply email your details to info@bigbrotherwatch.org.uk

Name

Address

Telephone

Postcode

Email

I would like to donate: £20 £50 £100 Other: (Please write amount in box) £ to help Big Brother Watch (please make cheques payable to Big Brother Watch).