



Vincent Devine
Government Chief Security Officer
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1 August 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter concerns the Government policy announced by the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) on 24 November 2022 concerning the use of visual surveillance equipment on the Government estate (the "policy"). The statement is appended to this letter for convenience.

Hikvision UK wishes to understand the policy in order to explain the position of the Government to its customers. I am able to confirm the position accordingly.

I can confirm that:

1. The policy responds to an internal assessment about emerging threats, arising from the increased sophistication and connectivity of visual surveillance equipment.
2. This policy applies to sensitive sites on the central government estate where security considerations are always paramount - for example, defence and intelligence facilities.
3. The rationale for this policy is set out in the attached WMS.
4. The term 'sensitive sites' is defined within Government and well-understood by those working within the relevant parts of the Government. The definition is not public.

5. The policy represents instruction and advice to central Government departments. It does not apply to private individuals or businesses or other public authorities (outside the central government estate) and was not intended to be relied upon by such persons in relation to their own use of visual surveillance equipment. The policy did not respond to any specific request for a "ban" on the use of Hikvision products.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vincent Devine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'V' and a long, sweeping underline.

VINCENT DEVINE
GOVERNMENT CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER

ANNEX A:

Security Update on Surveillance Equipment: Statement made on 24 November 2022 by Oliver Dowden, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

The Government keeps the security of our personnel, information, assets, and estate under constant review. In this context, the Government Security Group has undertaken a review of the current and future possible security risks associated with the installation of visual surveillance systems on the government estate. The review has concluded that, in light of the threat to the UK and the increasing capability and connectivity of these systems, additional controls are required.

Departments have therefore been instructed to cease deployment of such equipment onto sensitive sites, where it is produced by companies subject to the National Intelligence Law of the People's Republic of China. Since security considerations are always paramount around these sites, we are taking action now to prevent any security risks materialising.

Additionally, departments have been advised that no such equipment should be connected to departmental core networks and that they should consider whether they should remove and replace such equipment where it is deployed on sensitive sites rather than awaiting any scheduled upgrades. Departments have also been advised to consider whether there are sites outside the definition of sensitive sites to which they would wish to extend the same risk mitigation.

Government will continue to keep this risk under review and will take further steps if and when they become necessary.