



SLIGO
COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH

CCTV

Data Protection Policy

July 2025

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Revision History

Date of this revision: July 2025 Next review: July 2026

Version

2.0

Revision Date

July 2025

Summary of Changes

Complete revision of CCTV policy to include the establishment of the role of the CCTV Oversight Board and update other roles within the policy.

Consultation History

Revision Number	Consultation Date	Names of Parties in Consultation	Summary of Changes
2.0	July 2025	Senior Management, DPO & DPISSG	Update to signage and access requirements. CCTV Oversight Board
1.0	May 2019	Senior Management & DPO	

This document requires the following approvals:

Name	Title	Date
Marie Whelan	Senior Management Team & DPISSG	9 July 2025
	Senior Management	May 2019

1.0 Introduction

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is used by Sligo County Council for a number of purposes. This use may involve the recording of personal data of individuals including their recognisable images. Sligo County Council is obliged to protect such data in accordance with provisions contained in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into effect on 25th May 2018 and the Data Protection Act 2018.

2.0 Purpose of Policy

Sligo County Council has developed a number of general policies and procedures to protect personal data. Provisions contained in these documents apply to the operation by Sligo County Council of CCTV systems. The purpose of this policy is to support these documents by outlining specific provisions to assist Sligo County Council to fulfil its data protection obligations regarding the operation of CCTV systems including, but not limited to, arrangements relating to the location, control and security of CCTV systems, recording by CCTV systems and access to their recordings.

3.0 Definitions

For the purposes of this policy document the following definitions apply:

- **Controller:** means the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data; where the purposes and means of such processing are determined by Union or Member State law, the controller or the specific criteria for its nomination may be provided for by Union or Member State law.
- **Data Subject:** is an individual who is the subject of personal data.
- **Personal Data:** any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location

data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

- **Processing:** means any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data, whether or not by automated means such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.
- **Processor:** a natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which processes personal data on behalf of Sligo County Council.

4.0 Scope

The scope of this policy document applies to all:

- Sligo County Council uses of CCTV that involve the recording of personal data.
- Sligo County Council employees.
- CCTV service providers contracted by Sligo County Council.

5.0 Purpose of CCTV

5.1 CCTV is used by Sligo County Council for the following purposes.

- Safeguarding of persons and property located on Sligo County Council premises and its environs.
- Exercising its law enforcement powers e.g. the prevention, investigation and prosecution of offences under litter and waste management legislation.
- Securing public order and safety in public places by facilitating the deterrence, prevention, detection and prosecution of offences and anti-social behaviour e.g. community based CCTV schemes.

- Supporting An Garda Síochána to deter, prevent, detect and prosecute crime.

5.2 Data obtained through the use of CCTV systems shall be limited and proportionate to the purposes for which it was obtained.

5.3 CCTV will not be used by Sligo County Council for any other purposes other than those outlined in this policy document.

6.0 CCTV Locations

6.1 CCTV will be deployed, as appropriate, either permanently or from time to time, at various locations within the functional area of Sligo County Council for any of the purposes outlined in this policy document. These locations may include the following:

- Sligo County Council premises and property.
- Properties containing Sligo County Council plant, machinery and equipment
- Public areas.

6.2 CCTV will not be deployed where persons have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

6.3 Cameras shall be positioned in such a way as to prevent or minimise recordings of persons or property other than those that are intended to be covered by the CCTV system.

7.0 CCTV Signage

7.1 Overt CCTV surveillance requires signage, that is clearly visible and legible, to be placed so that persons are aware that they are entering an area that is covered by a CCTV system.

7.2 If the identity of the Controller (i.e. Sligo County Council) and the usual purpose for processing (i.e. security) is obvious the following is all that is required to be placed on the signage:

- Notice that CCTV is in operation.
- Details of who to contact regarding the CCTV system.

7.3 If the purpose for processing is not obvious the following is required to be placed on the signage:

- Notice that CCTV is in operation.
- The purpose of the CCTV system.
- Name of the organisation responsible for the CCTV system.
- Details of who to contact regarding the CCTV system.

7.4 Appropriate locations for signage include:

- Entrances to premises and property.
- Reception areas.
- At or close to the CCTV cameras.

8.0 Covert CCTV Surveillance

8.1 The use of CCTV to obtain data without an individual's knowledge is generally unlawful.

8.2 Covert CCTV surveillance is normally only permitted on a case by case basis where the data is necessary for the purposes of preventing, detecting or investigating offences or apprehending or prosecuting offenders.

8.3 The use of covert CCTV surveillance will normally require the involvement of a law enforcement authority.

- 8.4** Covert CCTV surveillance must be focussed and of short duration.
- 8.5** Only specific and relevant individuals/locations should be recorded.
- 8.6** If no evidence is obtained that is relevant to the purpose of the covert CCTV surveillance within a reasonable period, the CCTV surveillance should cease.
- 8.7** If the CCTV surveillance is intended to prevent crime, overt CCTV surveillance may be considered to be a more appropriate measure and less invasive of individual privacy.

9.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- 9.1** Sligo County Council's CCTV systems shall be operated and maintained by:
- Sligo County Council employees.
 - CCTV service providers.
- 9.2** CCTV service providers must be licensed with the Private Security Authority (PSA) which is the statutory body with responsibility for licensing and regulating the private security industry in Ireland.
- 9.3** CCTV service providers are considered to be Processors and as such they are required to enter into a formal Data Processing Agreement with Sligo County Council to ensure that they, in addition to Sligo County Council discharge their obligations under data protection legislation.
- 9.4** The relevant Director of Services for each CCTV system shall assign responsibility for the operation of the CCTV system to a designated Sligo County Council employee. This responsibility will include ensuring that the CCTV system is being operated in a manner that is consistent with this policy and data protection legislation.

- 9.5** Only persons authorised by the relevant Director of Services for each CCTV system may have access to the CCTV system.
- 9.6** The relevant Director of Services for each CCTV system shall ensure that the Designated Employee and other persons that have authorised access to the system are appropriately trained.
- 9.7** The responsibility for CCTV oversight is delegated to:
- The CCTV Oversight Board - a cross-departmental working group established by the Council's Management Team to support the implementation of the CCTV Strategy. The CCTV Oversight board is a sub-group of the Data Protection & Information Security Steering Group. The Chair of the DPISSG reports to the Senior Management team. The DPISSG meet on a quarterly basis and decisions made are passed onto the Senior Management Team for approval.
 - Data Protection Officer - appointed by the Council, who will monitor compliance with the Council's data protection obligations concerning the operation of its CCTV Systems.

10.0 Retention of CCTV Recordings

- 10.1** Data recorded on CCTV systems shall be kept for no longer than is considered necessary.
- 10.2** Normally data recorded on CCTV systems will not be retained by Sligo County Council beyond a maximum of 28 days.
- 10.3** Data recorded on CCTV systems may however be retained by Sligo County Council beyond a maximum of 28 days in circumstances where the data is required for evidential purposes and/or legal proceedings.

11.0 Security Arrangements for CCTV

11.1 Access to each CCTV and its recordings shall be restricted to the Designated Employee and other persons that have authorised access to the system.

11.2 The storage medium used by the CCTV system should be kept in a secure location.

12.0 Garda Vetting

Garda vetting of persons involved in the management, operation or control of CCTV systems shall be carried out as necessary.

13.0 CCTV Register

A CCTV Register shall be maintained by Sligo County Council's Data Protection Officer. This register shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- Location of each CCTV system.
- Purpose of each CCTV system.
- CCTV service provider details.
- Type of signage at each CCTV location.
- Location of signage at each CCTV location.
- Details of Designated Employee having responsibility for each CCTV system.
- Details of personnel having authorised access to each CCTV system.
- Retention period for CCTV recordings.

14.0 Access to CCTV Recordings

Access to CCTV recordings may be provided to the following:

- Data Subjects.
- An Garda Síochána.
- Other Third Parties.

- Authorised Officers of the Council.

14.1 Access by Data Subjects

14.1.1 Data protection legislation provides data subjects with a right to access their personal data. This includes their recognisable images and other personal data captured by CCTV recordings. Access requests are required to be submitted in writing in physical or electronic format e.g. by letter or e-mail and will be processed in accordance with provisions contained in Sligo County Councils data Protection Policy <http://www.sligococo.ie/media/SligoCountyCouncil2015/Policies/Downloads/Sligo%20Co.%20Council%20-%20Data%20Protection%20Policy.pdf>

14.1.2 Where it is deemed necessary or appropriate Sligo County Council may request the provision of additional information to confirm the identity of person submitting a data subject access request.

14.1.3 It would not suffice for a data subject to make a general access request for a copy of CCTV recordings. Instead, it will be necessary that data subjects specify that they are seeking to access a copy of CCTV recordings that have captured their recognisable images and/or other personal data between specified dates, at certain times and at a named location.

14.1.4 The provision of access to a data subject to CCTV recordings of his/her recognisable images and/or other personal data will normally involve providing a copy of the recording in video format. In circumstances where the recording is technically incapable of being copied, or in other exceptional circumstances, stills may be provided as alternative to video footage. Where stills are provided Sligo County Council will aim to supply a still for every second of the recording in which the data subject's recognisable images and/or other personal data appears.

14.1.5 Where recognisable images and/or other personal data of other parties other than the data subject appear on the CCTV recordings these will be pixelated or otherwise

redacted on any copies or stills provided to the data subject. Alternatively, unedited copies of the CCTV recordings may be released provided consent is obtained from those other parties whose recognisable images and/or other personal data appear on the CCTV recordings.

14.1.6 If the CCTV recording is of such poor quality as to not clearly identify recognisable images and/or other personal data relating to the data subject then the recording will not be considered as personal data and may not be released by Sligo County Council.

14.1.7 If the CCTV recording no longer exists on the date that Sligo County Council receives an access request it will not be possible to provide access to a data subject. CCTV recordings are usually deleted in accordance with provisions contained in this policy.

14.2 Access by An Garda Síochána

14.2.1 Requests from An Garda Síochána to view footage or for copies of CCTV recordings are required to be submitted in writing on An Garda Síochána headed paper and signed by an appropriate ranking member of An Garda Síochána. The request should specify the details of the CCTV recordings required and cite the legal basis for the request being made.

14.2.2 In order to expedite a request in urgent situations, a verbal request from An Garda Síochána for copies of CCTV recordings will suffice. However, such a verbal request must be followed up with a formal written request from An Garda Síochána.

14.3 Access by Other Third Parties

Access by third parties such as public bodies, private organisations and individuals other than the data subject to CCTV recordings will only be provided in circumstances that are permitted by data protection legislation.

14.4 Authorised Officers of the Council

Certain authorised officers have access to CCTV recordings for viewing and download purposes. Each officer has an individual password to access the data. A manual register of access and a log of all downloads is kept and is audited against the system log attained from the processor showing who accessed the system and any downloads done. These audits will be carried out bi-annually.

15.0 Access Log

15.1 An Access Log shall be maintained by the Designated Employee that has responsibility for each CCTV system.

15.2 This log shall maintain a record of all requests made by the following to view/obtain copies of CCTV recordings and the outcome of such requests:

- Data Subjects,
- An Garda Síochána and
- Other Third Parties

16.0 Privacy Impact Assessment

A Privacy Impact Assessment shall be carried out, in accordance with data protection legislative requirements, before any installation of a new CCTV system or upgrade to an existing CCTV system if in the opinion of Sligo County Council, the installation or upgrade is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

17.0 Guidelines/Codes of Practice

Sligo county Council shall adhere to all relevant CCTV Guidelines/Codes of Practice issued by the Data Protection Commission and/or other statutory bodies.

18.0 Complaints to the Data Protection Commission

18.1 Data subjects may make a complaint to the Data Protection Commissioner in the following circumstances:

- If they experience a delay outside of the prescribed timeframe for making a decision on an access request or if they are dissatisfied with a decision by Sligo County Council on their access request;
- If they consider that Sligo County Council's processing of their personal data is contrary to their data protection rights. Detailed information on the rights of a data subject is contained in Sligo County Council's <http://www.sligococo.ie/media/SligoCountyCouncil2015/Policies/Downloads/Sligo%20Co.%20Council%20-%20Data%20Protection%20Policy.pdf>

18.2 Contact details for the Data Protection Commission are as follows:

Phone Number: 0761 104 800 or Local 1890 252 231
E-mail: info@dataprotection.ie
Website: www.dataprotection.ie
Postal Address: Data Protection Commission
Canal House
Station Road
Portarlinton
Co. Laois
R32 AP23.

19.0 Further Information

Further information on the operation of this policy document is available from the Data Protection Officer, Sligo County Council. Contact details for the Data Protection Officer are as follows:

Phone Number: 071 9111301
E-mail: dpofficer@sligococo.ie
Website: www.sligococo.ie
Postal Address: County Hall
Riverside
Sligo
F91 Y763

20.0 Awareness

20.1 Sligo County Council shall implement appropriate measures to makes its employees and other relevant parties aware of the content of this policy document.

20.2 All persons involved in the planning and operation of Sligo County Council CCTV systems should familiarise themselves with the content of this policy document.

21.0 Monitoring and Review

Provisions contained in this policy document shall be subject to on-going monitoring and review.