

New Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner appointed

News story

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The Home Secretary has appointed Fraser Sampson as the government's new independent Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner, replacing the two part time posts of the [Biometrics Commissioner](#) and [Surveillance Camera Commissioner](#).

The recruitment campaign was conducted in line with the Governance Code for Public Appointments. The statutory responsibilities and duties for both roles will remain the same.

Fraser Sampson, who took up his post on 1 March, will promote compliance with the Surveillance Camera Code and rules on police use of DNA and fingerprints.

The Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

I am pleased to appoint Fraser Sampson as the new Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner.

It is vital the government works to empower police to use technology to keep the public safe while maintaining their trust and Fraser Sampson's extensive experience in law and policing makes him the right person to take up this role.

Fraser Sampson said:

I'm delighted to have been appointed to cover these two distinct but increasingly overlapping roles. I look forward to working with all partners in what is a fast-moving and challenging area of

balancing the public interest considerations with the rights of individuals.

Fraser was formerly an Honorary Professor and Research Fellow at Sheffield Hallam University. He is a Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England & Wales. Between 2016 and 2019, he was Chief Executive of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner in North Yorkshire. Between 2006 and 2019, he was the Chief Executive and General Counsel for the Police & Crime Commissioner in West Yorkshire and the Executive Director of the Civil Nuclear Police Authority. He was also a police officer for West Yorkshire Police and the British Transport Police, between 1982 and 1996.

The Biometrics Commissioner and Surveillance Camera Commissioner roles were established by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 which introduced the regime to govern the retention and use by the police of DNA samples, profiles and fingerprints, and to promote appropriate overt use of surveillance camera systems by relevant authorities in England and Wales.

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