

Mass Surveillance
breach of privacy
or keeping us
Safe?

What is mass surveillance?

Mass surveillance is the surveillance of the entire population or a substantial proportion of the population.

Before I get started, discussing this topic I'd like to make you aware that I'm not being bias to one or the other subject I'm using stats and facts which I have researched myself from reliable and trust worthy sources.

Now that the formalities are out of the way I'd like to discuss whether mass surveillance is a breach of privacy or if it is keeping us safe.

This may not come to a surprise to you but mass surveillance is the new 'norm' for us in our daily lives. In 2020 the British security industry association (BSIA) estimated that the total number of CCTV cameras stands at somewhere between 11 million and 6 million. That's around 7.5 cameras for every 100 people, that's the third highest in the world behind China and the US. I mean this statistic says it all with the third highest total in the world in regards to CCTV cameras. We have half the population of the US and far less than China and yet for me it's concerning as it says in laymen's terms that as a smaller country we need to be survey from leaving our house in the morning to returning home from work at night knowing that someone somewhere has watched you all day.

However, it can be argued that it can prevent innocent people from being harmed. A study from Cardiff university which asked a variety of people from young to old asked them their feelings on mass surveillance and privacy as well found that out of 86 people surveyed 45 people said it is uncomfortable for them to all the time and 41 people said that it makes them feel safe.

Now of course that's only from 86 people but having mass surveillance has prevented incidents from happening as well as helped solve crimes. What's surprising is that the 41 people who said it made them feel safe were aged 16 to 60 years old suggesting that the older generations don't feel safe in today's society. Compared to the 'google' generation (18-30) year olds who feel uneasy being watched.

In conclusion whilst
our society continues to
advance forward mass
surveillance will become
more and more normal
to the point that we will
not care about being
watched and tracked from
government.