

We're Watching You, Big Brother!

By **Alexander Baron** - Apr 11, 2015



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Long before the Snowden revelations, many people were expressing concerns about the level of surveillance in our so-called free Western societies. Back in the 1990s it was said that if you lived in Central London, you'd register on three hundred CCTV cameras a day. We haven't yet got to the stage where there is a camera and microphone in all our living rooms just in case any of us says a forbidden word, but it's getting close.

Having said that, there is a definite upside to total surveillance, because while Big Brother is watching us, we're watching him too. It would not be proper to comment further on the case of Officer Michael Slager and Walter Scott [reported here recently](#) except to say the

video speaks for itself, but this is by no means the first time a police officer has been caught on camera doing something he didn't ought to.

Four years ago, another man died at the hands of a police officer, albeit in much less sinister circumstances. An attempt was made to cover up the **death of Ian Tomlinson** by people higher up the chain of command, but ultimately it failed, and although PC Simon Harwood was eventually acquitted of manslaughter, he was sacked. Had someone not filmed the assault, that cover up would have been successful.



The video above has run up over three and a half million views since February 2012, and there are many more like it on YouTube. It has become clear over the past few years that the police don't like being recorded when they abuse citizens gratuitously or use excessive force. It has also become clear there is now nothing they can do to stop it. And why should they be able to, after all, if you've got nothing to hide, you've got nothing to fear, right boys and girls?