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I would like to know if this is lawful to act on a request from the UK Gov Cyber Coordination Centre's request to restrict access to the data?

I would appreciate if you can advise me of any law change and who exactly has made the decision to remove this from the public domain.

Although the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) adheres to the Open Data Strategy in Scotland and 2009's INSPIRE (Scotland) Regulations, both of which encourage authorities to make spatial data open by default, the INSPIRE Regulations also state: "A Scottish public authority or a third party may, [...] limit public access to that data set or data service through a discovery service if such access would adversely affect international relations, public security or national defence." The decision to remove the data was made by the Council after contact from the UK Government Cyber Coordination Centre (UKGCC), but the UKGCC 'raised concerns,' in the light of the international situation rather than making a formal request for removal of the data.

Does this contravene the existing laws allowing people being filmed from various unknown locations throughout the City without their knowledge.

No; see above for the particular exemption which applies to this decision. The Public Space CCTV Section is currently engaged on a programme of upgrading existing public space CCTV signage, with contractors installing new signs at CCTV camera sites throughout the city on scheduled bi-annual maintenance visits.

Why we have so many surveillance cameras in Edinburgh

The Public Space CCTV network is in place for the prevention and detection of crime and to help ensure public safety.

What the data received from them is used for.

See above. The Public Space CCTV network is used to support the emergency services with live feeds to the Police Scotland Area Control Room and the Scottish Fire Service. The section also liaises with the 'Shopwatch' retail crime initiative in the city centre and with the Street Pastors and Street Assist voluntary groups. The network is vital to the safe management of crowds at events such as rugby matches and concerts at Murrayfield Stadium, the International Festival and Hogmanay celebrations. Operators, who achieve Security Industry Accreditation upon starting in the role, work 24/7, helping to trace missing persons, proactively directing police officers to ongoing incidents, gathering best evidence to progress investigation/prosecution of crime throughout the city and contributing to retrospective enquiries. The multi-agency response to disorder on Bonfire Night over the past few years has been coordinated using the city's CCTV network and subsequent investigation and prosecution in relation to the disorder was conducted using the footage captured. Throughout the day, every day, operators are in direct radio communication with

police officers on the street and controllers at the ACR, playing a huge part in keeping Edinburgh safe for residents and visitors.