

This is a summary of the decision of the Commissioner.

IN THE MATTER OF:-

Complainant {A worshipper}

VERSUS

Respondent {A mosque}

A complaint was lodged at the Data Protection Office whereby Complainant claimed that by having recordings of the CCTV cameras inside the prayer area broadcasted live on the web, Respondent was violating his privacy and spiritual life.

This office initiated an enquiry. In its statement, Respondent declared that since May 2017, it started live broadcasting the Friday mid-day prayers, Ramadhan evening prayers and Eid prayers twice a year. Notice of the decisions to broadcast specific prayers were given in writing on the blackboard of the mosque and verbally after the evening prayer. The purpose of the broadcast was for the propagation of Islam since it allowed those who could not physically attend the mosque to benefit from teachings. Respondent averred that its Managing Committee was willing to re-assess the location of the cameras and to give notice, through distinctive signs inside the mosque with regard to live broadcasting of the prayers. Respondent also informed that people on the first two rows may be caught by the cameras and as such proposed Complainant to stand in prayers at the far right or left of the first two rows or at the back rows, not under the scope of the cameras.

Subsequently, Complainant was requested to attend a meeting at Data Protection Office to give his views on Respondent's statement, but the latter did not call at the office. An extract of Respondent's statement was thus sent to him by email and he was requested to provide his views before a said deadline, otherwise the enquiry will be closed.

**The Data Protection Commissioner decided as follows:-**

In view of the above, this office is satisfied that appropriate measures have been taken to protect the personal spiritual life of the people attending the mosque for their prayers by Respondent, to the satisfaction of every party concerned. The enquiry is closed and no breach of the Data Protection Act is found committed.