History of Surveillance in the UK

1942
CCTV invented in Germany to monitor V-2 rocket launches
Made by: Siemens

1946
UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ)
Conducts extensive surveillance of liberal or left-wing groups and individuals.

10/1968
Metropolitan Police use fixed video cameras to record anti-Vietnam War demonstrators

1960s
Night vision and helicopter surveillance first used in Vietnam War

1970s
Night vision and helicopter surveillance adopted for use in Northern Ireland

1971
Project ECHELON
GCHQ monitors all phone, fax and other communications by UK population.

1974
CCTV monitors traffic on all major London roads

1975
CCTV introduced at football stadiums and four London underground stations
In response to moral panic around 'black violence' and 'hooliganism.'

1978
Police helicopter CCTV first used on Notting Hill Carnival

1979
Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) developed
No laws govern who it targets or how data is used.
Made by: Police Scientific Branch, IBM, Vysionics

1984
CCTV installed at major London protest rallying points, and around homes of striking miners
ANPR used to track their movements.

1989
'Crimestoppers' and 'Benefit Fraud' hotlines launched
People encouraged to incriminate their neighbours.

1990s
UK Police 'Forward Intelligence Teams' (FIT) founded
Created to film and "disrupt" protests and 'anti-social' youth via "relentless filming of them and their associates day and night."

1992
CCTV becomes ¾ of UK crime prevention budget

1993
CCTV footage of 3 year old Jamie Bulger abduction plays across news media
Opposing CCTV compared by some to supporting child killers.

1994
Planning permission requirement abolished for CCTV cameras

1994–8
'CCTV Challenge Competition' allocates £34m funding for CCTV

1995
Local council ASBO bylaws invent new crimes for CCTV to catch people committing

1991
Drone surveillance takes a central role for UK/US during war on Iraq

2007
Police trial drone surveillance over Liverpool

2010
UK Police 'South Coast Partnership' develops drone surveillance against migrants
Made by: BAE Systems

01/2010
Leaks reveal ANPR is widely used to 'engineer' arrests to meet targets and generate fines

2014
Most major roads covered by ANPR
100m number plates recorded daily. Profile of any car's movements is available for 2 years.

1997
Facial recognition introduced on public CCTV

2001
Government commits a further £79m to CCTV
Private and council CCTV use explodes, from 10 cities to every city.

2004
UK Police National Extremism Tactical Co-ordination Unit (NECTU) created
Produces secret database of 'domestic extremists': The database includes journalists, MPs and people with no convictions who attended peaceful protests.

01/2006
Two Liverpool CCTV operators jailed for spying on women through windows

2007
'Talking CCTV' adds speakers to selected CCTV across the UK
Operators can warn or reprimand people. Made by: Complus Teltronic, Synectic Systems

10/2009
Internet Eyes launched
Streams live CCTV online and offers cash prizes for spotting 'suspicious behaviour.'

2011
'Eye See' shop mannequins with cameras in their eyes deployed in UK stores to gather marketing data
Made by: Almax SpA / IBM

2010–11
New markets emerge for UK and EU surveillance designs in Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, Iran, Bahrain and China
Exported to foreign dictatorships to catch 'arab spring' and other protestors for imprisonment, torture and death.

Made by: Motorola, Nokia, Siemens, Hewlett Packard, Ericsson, Boeing, McAfee, Cisco, Trovicor, Creativity Software Ltd and others

2004
CCTV 'spy cars' introduced by local councils for parking enforcement
Parking fines generate record profits.

2014
CCTV spy cars banned for "clear abuse"
Overzealous stealth parking fines used as a 'cash cow.'

2012–14
Edward Snowden leaks existence of multiple secret GCHQ surveillance programs
GCHQ conducts blanket surveillance and storage of UK communications. Data is collected for neutralising dissent, targeted propaganda and blackmail. All Yahoo! users' webcam images are recorded; spyware is produced to turn iPhones into listening devices.

2012
100,000 cameras now installed in UK schools
Teachers' union reports widespread abuse of CCTV to control teachers, not protect them.

2013
OptimEyes and FaceDeals uses facial recognition to target video adverts at you
Used by Tesco. Software searches Facebook photos to identify shoppers.
Made by: AmScreen, FaceDeals

04/2014
Leicestershire Police begin trialling NeoFaceWatch facial recognition
Made by: NEC

07/2014
Guildford council prosecuted after discovery of secret CCTV inside council homes

2015
20 fake mobile phone towers uncovered in London for monitoring mobile phone communications
Police decline to comment.