

Britain adds voices to security cameras

by UPI

LONDON - The British government has set aside nearly \$1 billion to expand its security camera systems to include loudspeakers to confront offenders.

The decision was based on success reported in a pilot project in Middlesbrough, where workers in a control center monitor 12 cameras and communicate directly with people on the street, the BBC reported.

British Home Secretary John Reid said he planned to add the speakers to closed circuit TV systems in 20 locations, the report said.

"The new funding for talking CCTV is aimed at the small minority who think it is acceptable to litter our streets, vandalize our communities and damage our properties," Reid said. "Local communities are rightly fed up with littering and anti-social behavior -- they want to remind people about what is and is not respectful behavior."

Britain has 4.2 million security cameras, which represents one for every 14 people. The report said it was determined each person is recorded on camera an average of 300 times daily.

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