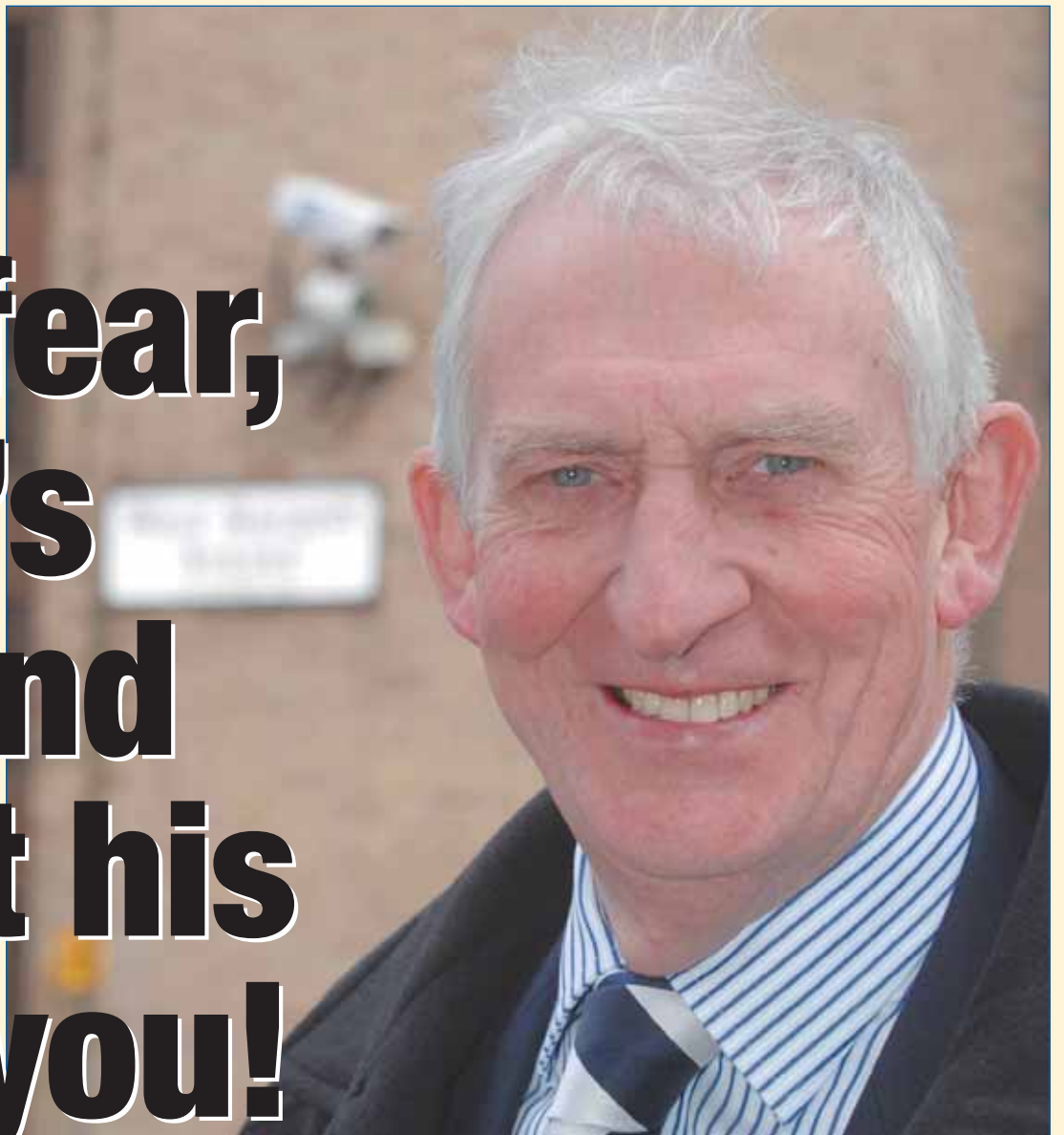




Gordon Ferrie: a long career in the police, then the Royal Bank and now he's working for a charity.

- CCTV - an old concept, yes, but one that's on the way out?
- Definitely not.
- In fact, this crime-busting technology is becoming more popular all the time, with some people even having it installed at home.
- Despite this, though, an estimated 90 per cent of all CCTV systems are not compliant with the Data Protection Act, so businesses could find themselves in hot water...
- But do not fear - Gordon Ferrie and CameraWatch are here!
- The retired police officer has worked hard since this UK-wide organisation's launch around a year ago, and he popped into FHQ to give *Upbeat* the lowdown on where he is now.

Do not fear, Gordon's here...and he's got his eye on you!



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CAN you set the scene by giving us a whistle-stop tour of your police career?

I joined the City of Glasgow Police, in the Gallowgate, in 1967 when I was 23. I later moved to CID. I became a uniform sergeant and then a detective sergeant at Shettleston.

I became deputy director of detective training at Tulliallan, which is when I got really into the use of CCTV in facial identification.

Other jobs include: being a detective chief inspector with the Serious Crime Squad; being involved in Lockerbie for two years as detective superintendent for CID; dealing with the Chinook incident in Mull of Kintyre; being detective superintendent in charge of the Fraud Squad.

Sounds exhausting! So what did you do after you left the police?

I chose to go and be group head of security with the Royal Bank of Scotland (from 1995 to 2005) because I had 27 years' police experience by then.

I was involved in multi-million pound security budgets and headed a team of 70 across the globe. I helped advise at the time of the Twin Towers (9/11).

And another 10 years down the line, it still wasn't time to hang up the work boots and call it a day?

I set up my own business, then called COMSEC (Community Security), for banks. The main purpose was supplying security advice and publications for example, material on personal safety for employees.

I did that from 2006 until 2007 before I started at CameraWatch, following a chance meeting in Glasgow. I'm now its chairman - and it's a really rewarding job.

How would you sum up CameraWatch?

CameraWatch is an independent, not-for-profit, self-funding advisory body. It is here to help CCTV users' understanding of and compliance with current policy and legislation.

It has the support of industry regulator, the Information Commissioner's Office. Images captured on CCTV are people's personal data - the same as personal information held on paper

or electronic files - and, as such, must be held securely.

In short, organisations could be liable to legal action by an individual captured on their CCTV system if it is not operated under the Data Protection Act.

What's it like working for CameraWatch?

It's an unpaid post that I do, but I love my work! It's a serious message that we carry and we want to help anyone and everyone involved in CCTV - a lot of which can be banks and security firms.

We also work with the police and ACPOS (Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland). We began CameraWatch a year ago and problems and issues will not be resolved overnight.

The message we want to get out is for people to put a third 'C' into CCTV - and that stands for compliance. We want to increase compliance, reduce crime and protect human rights.

So with things looking promising, are you glad that this is how you're spending your retirement?

It has been exciting, rewarding and a fresh challenge. I have pals who have retired and have not taken on a new career - and they are enjoying it - but that's not for Gordon Ferrie!

I love the challenge of working and meeting new people, and I'm still learning. I get to work from home and there's actually a huge demand for ex-cops to do such jobs.

I still keep up with my golf, but I intend to carry on with this work for a while. I like to feel that I'm still contributing and I'm needed.

Is there anything specific in the pipeline for the organisation while you're chairman?

We're going to introduce an education programme and supply users with a one-stop guide on CCTV and their responsibilities. CameraWatch has gathered nearly 1,000 members, and this year it continues to grow with good sponsors on board.

In 2009, we're hoping to expand into Europe and work with the European Parliament. Our work is all about re-educating people in relation to CCTV. By becoming commonplace, it is the third forensic science - so we must make sure it's right.

To find out more about CameraWatch, visit www.camerawatch.org.uk