

# Sinister-Looking, Facial-Recognition CCTV Cameras Quietly Installed Across Britain in Recent Months

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[It looks like a street lamp in a leafy London road.. but this is actually a Chinese-made facial recognition camera – one of millions of sinister-looking CCTV cameras quietly installed across Britain in recent months](#)

- **Cameras made by a chinese-state affiliated company have been installed**
- They are equipped with facial recognition and are used in totalitarian regimes
- The company, Dahua, has a track record of severe cybersecurity vulnerabilities

by [Sian Boyle, The Daily Mail Investigations Unit](#)

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With its imposing red brick houses, neat gardens and red postbox, Baskerville Road in the borough of Wandsworth is a classic example of family residences in the more affluent areas of [London](#).

But something is amiss. Just outside a house on the corner, which happens to be the former home of World War I-era prime minister David Lloyd George, is a new piece of infrastructure

that would seem more suited to the perimeter of a maximum security prison or a detention camp.

It is a disturbingly anthropomorphic CCTV camera, with two lenses that resemble eyes and two other indeterminate features that serve as the nose and mouth; and it hangs from a pole ringed with spikes to protect its hardware from would-be thieves or vandals.

Indeed, two of these rather sinister-looking structures – which appear to double as street lamps – have been installed on Baskerville Road, where homes fetch up to £10 million.



A CCTV camera which hangs from a pole ringed with spikes to protect its hardware from would-be thieves or vandals has been installed on Baskerville Road, where homes fetch up to £10 million

A sign beneath them says that they are there 'to prevent crime and promote public safety'.

This will no doubt reassure those who live on the street, who have experienced a spate of burglaries in recent years.

But the extra security comes at a high cost, to which most Wandsworth residents – and the rest of the nation – are utterly oblivious.

For the strange white cameras are just two of millions which have quietly been installed throughout Britain in recent months.

Made by Dahua, a Chinese state-affiliated company, they are equipped with controversial facial recognition software – a means of monitoring and controlling populations much favoured by Beijing and other totalitarian regimes around the world.

There are other causes for concern: Dahua has a track record of severe cybersecurity vulnerabilities that have already led to mass hacks of its cameras, and the company itself admitted last year that there is ‘very high potential’ for other such incidents.

The company has also been implicated in human rights abuses conducted by the Chinese government, with the facial recognition capabilities of its cameras used to pick out in crowds anyone with the distinctive features of a Uyghur Muslim – a persecuted ethnic minority in China – to alert police so the individuals can be rounded up.

This is a feature that Dahua calls, rather chillingly, ‘Real Time Uyghur Warnings’. Only last week, the extent of China’s human rights atrocities against Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang Province were laid bare in a UN report, which found that there was ‘credible evidence’ of torture, possibly amounting to ‘crimes against humanity’.

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