

## SCENARIO

China is developing a system whereby AI-based facial recognition software embedded in nationwide public video surveillance, will potentially allow the State to identify and monitor the behaviour of its citizens in public, on transportation, on the road and on the streets. China has over 170 million CCTV cameras with a further 400 million being installed. The Chinese 'Social Credit System' will also monitor people's behaviour online.

In regional pilots, this monitoring links to a social credit system which rewards or punishes each person's adherence to the State's morals and laws as measured by their monitored and recorded behaviour. If you have a low social credit score, you could lose access to international travel, for example, while those with a high score could get access to lower interest rates and faster security inspection at rail stations.

Proponents say that law-abiding citizens have nothing to fear about such a system, and that it will stop others from littering, speeding and carrying out crime. In short, the new system will make others behave better and won't affect responsible people.

Opponents, however, argue that using technology in this way is unethical as it represents a gross invasion of privacy and civil liberties.

## DISCUSS

- Within months of early trials of this system being launched in 2014, more than 14 million people opted in. Why do you think this is??
- How would you feel about such a system being introduced in Ireland? Would you opt in?
- To what extent is privacy a right that the government can have access to and what options should you have to opt out?
- Should researchers (in academia or in companies) have to consider the potential uses for which the innovations they develop might be put? Should they be held accountable?