

CCTV Half Yearly Report

Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford

1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information on how the district council's CCTV cameras¹ contribute to the deterrence of crime, help reduce the fear of crime and both increase crime detection and assist with the successful prosecution of offenders.

The report is produced using information provided by the CCTV monitoring suite based in Abingdon. It is based on information drawn from the record of occurrences. A record of occurrence is completed by the operator on duty, each time a CCTV camera is used proactively to monitor a specific incident.

The report covers the four towns that have had CCTV installed; Didcot, Henley-on-Thames, Thame and Wallingford. Reports are provided on a half yearly basis to each town council and other stakeholders in order to share information and help publicise the positive outcomes of CCTV to residents and businesses.

DATA SUMMARY

Across South Oxfordshire, CCTV operators supported 636 incidents during the second half of 2018-19.

The operators also produced 47 evidence packs for possible court proceedings, carried out 28 reviews of CCTV footage (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and supported 47 arrests.

¹ The report covers the district council cameras plus three which Henley Town Council installed in Mill Meadows as these are managed under the same scheme.

The following table displays the most common type of incident for each town during the second half of 2018-19, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

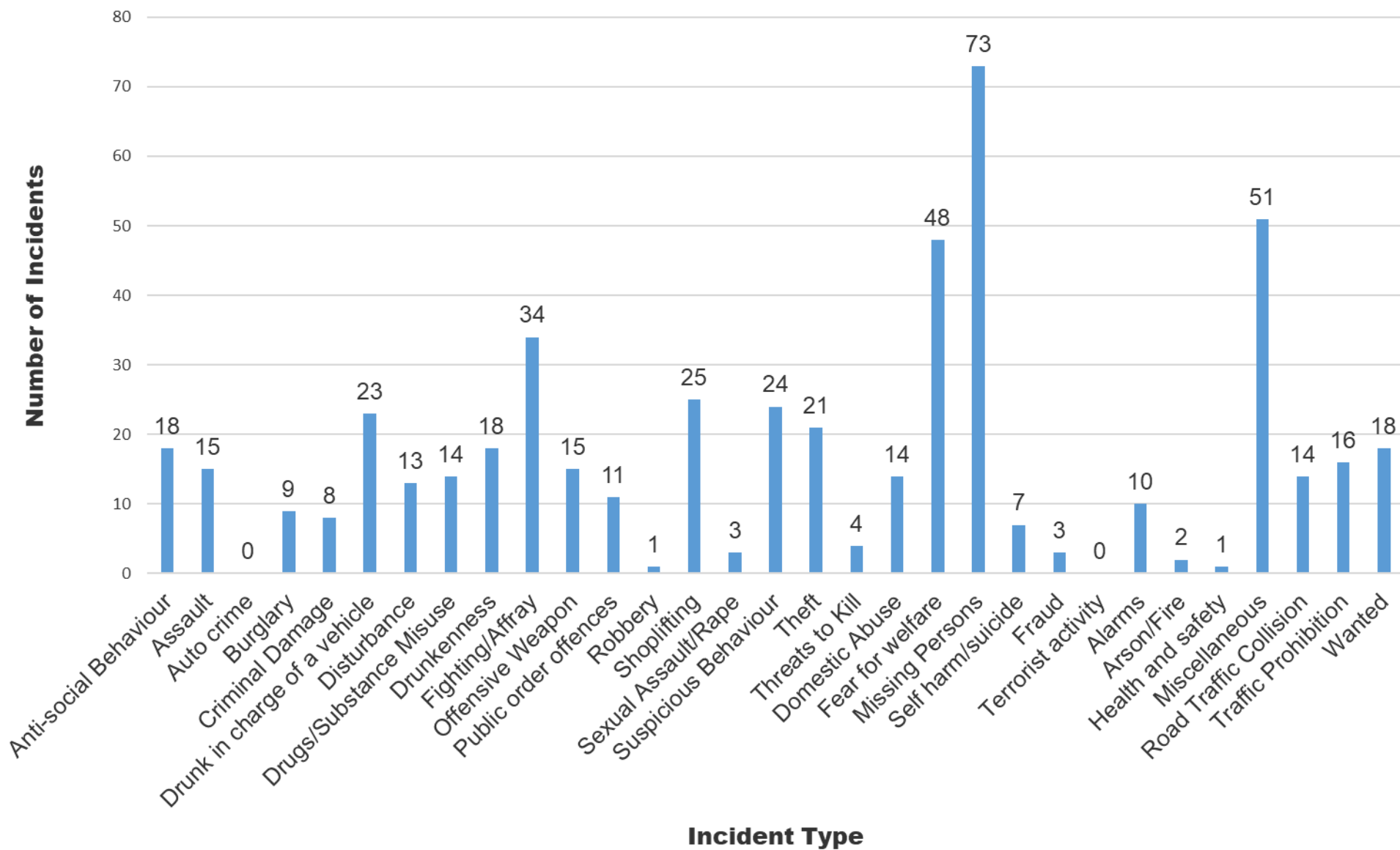
MOST COMMONLY MONITORED INCIDENTS				
	Didcot	Henley	Thame	Wallingford
1	Missing Persons (41)	Shoplifting (13)	Missing Persons (18)	Fear for Welfare (8) Fighting and Affray (8)
2	Miscellaneous* (26)	Fear for Welfare (12)	Miscellaneous* (8)	Missing Persons (6)
3	Fear for Welfare (21)	Drunk in Charge of a Vehicle (10)	Fear for Welfare (7) Fighting and Affray (7)	Shoplifting (5) Offensive Weapon (5)

* Miscellaneous refers to monitored incidents that don't fit easily into categories that are listed on page three e.g. A request from G4 security to monitor their staff attending a local bank.

TYPE AND NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

The chart on page three shows the amount and type of incidents the CCTV operators have monitored and supported across all four towns, between October 2018 and March 2019.

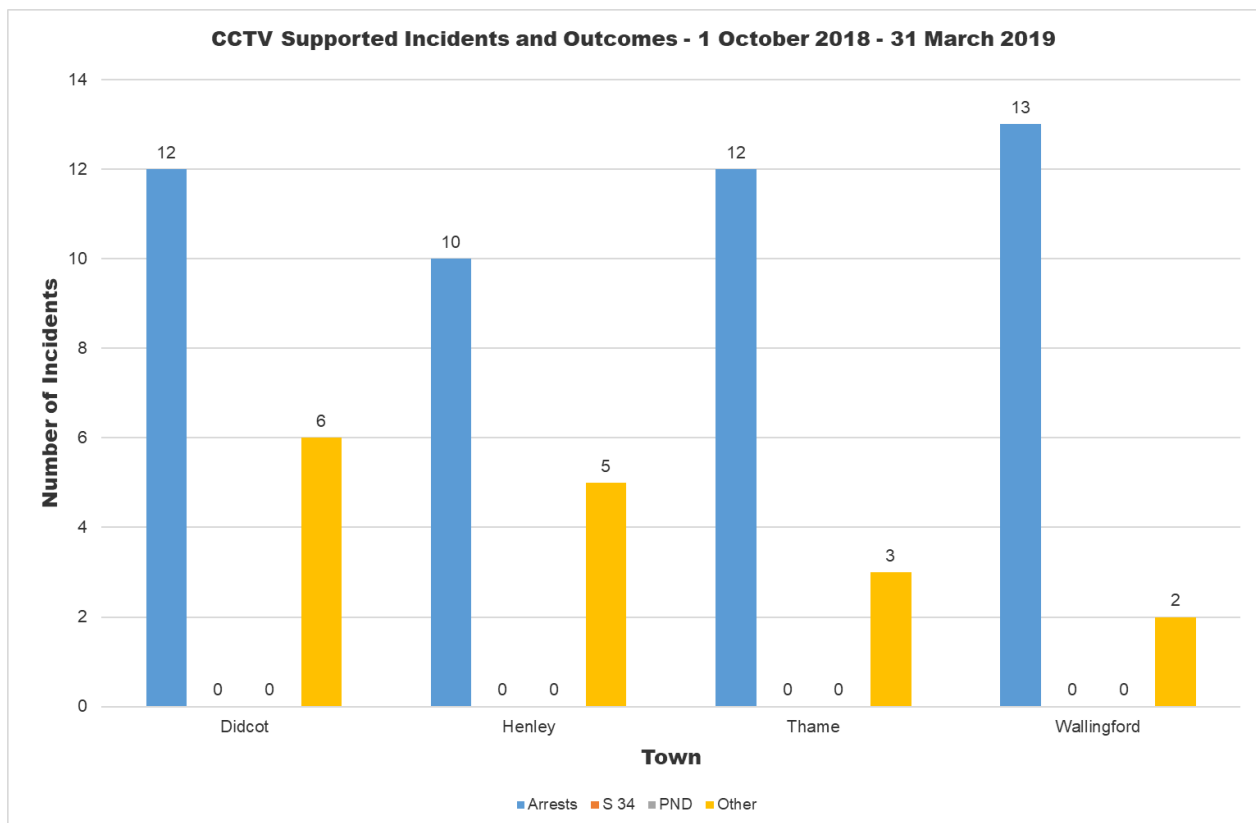
Incidents by Type - 1 October 2018 - 31 March 2019 (South)



ARRESTS, SECTION 34S AND OTHER OUTCOMES

The chart below shows the outcomes the CCTV operators supported while involved in monitoring an incident. The police use their discretion on how an incident is resolved based on experience, the gravity of the offence, the resources that are available to them at that time and so on. While we cannot always be certain whether CCTV was solely instrumental in an arrest or the serving of a Section 34² or a Penalty Notice for Disorder³ (PND), we do know the cameras alert police to incidents they may not have known about. CCTV also gives the police the ability to assess and allocate resources and prioritise in real time e.g. should the situation allow, leaving CCTV to monitor incidents or offenders while officers attend other incidents.

In the chart below, actions designated 'other' usually means that the police either gave verbal advice or a non-recordable sanction.



² A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social related disorder.

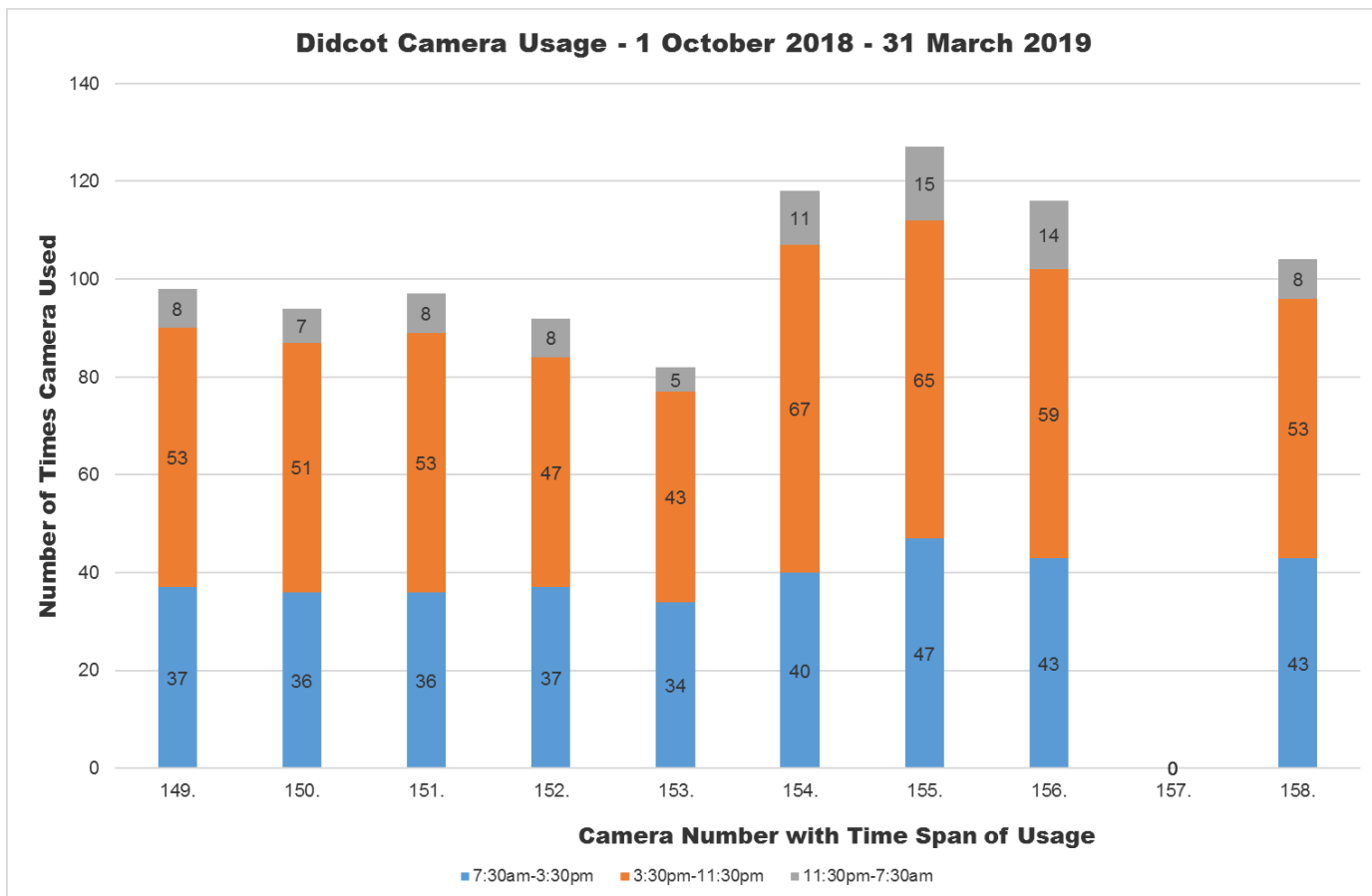
³ A PND is the 'on the spot fine'

CAMERA USAGE

The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras were deployed in recorded, monitored events.

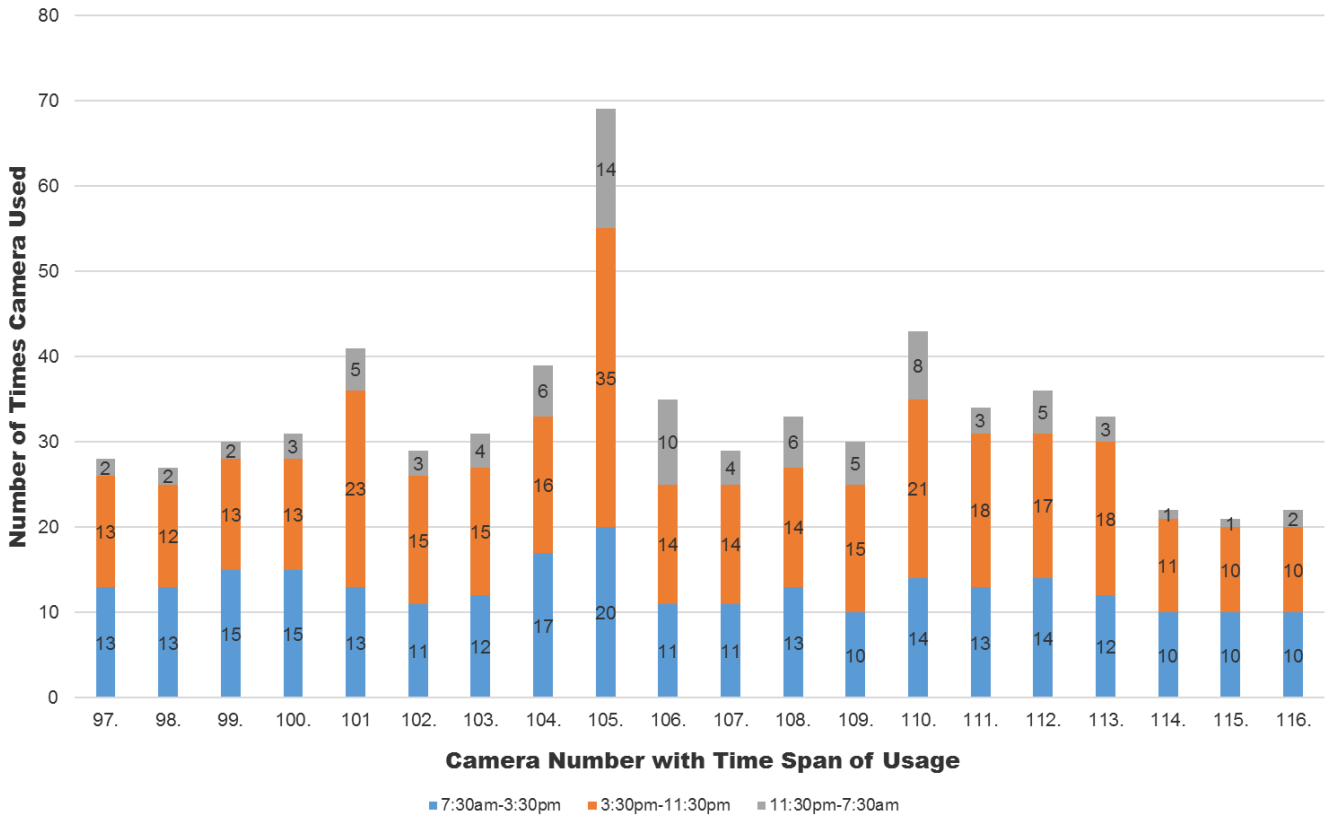
The number of times that each camera was used has been divided into three sections, covering a twenty-four-hour period.

It is worth noting that for the period 11.30pm-7.30am, the vast majority of camera usage occurred between 11.30pm and 3.30am.

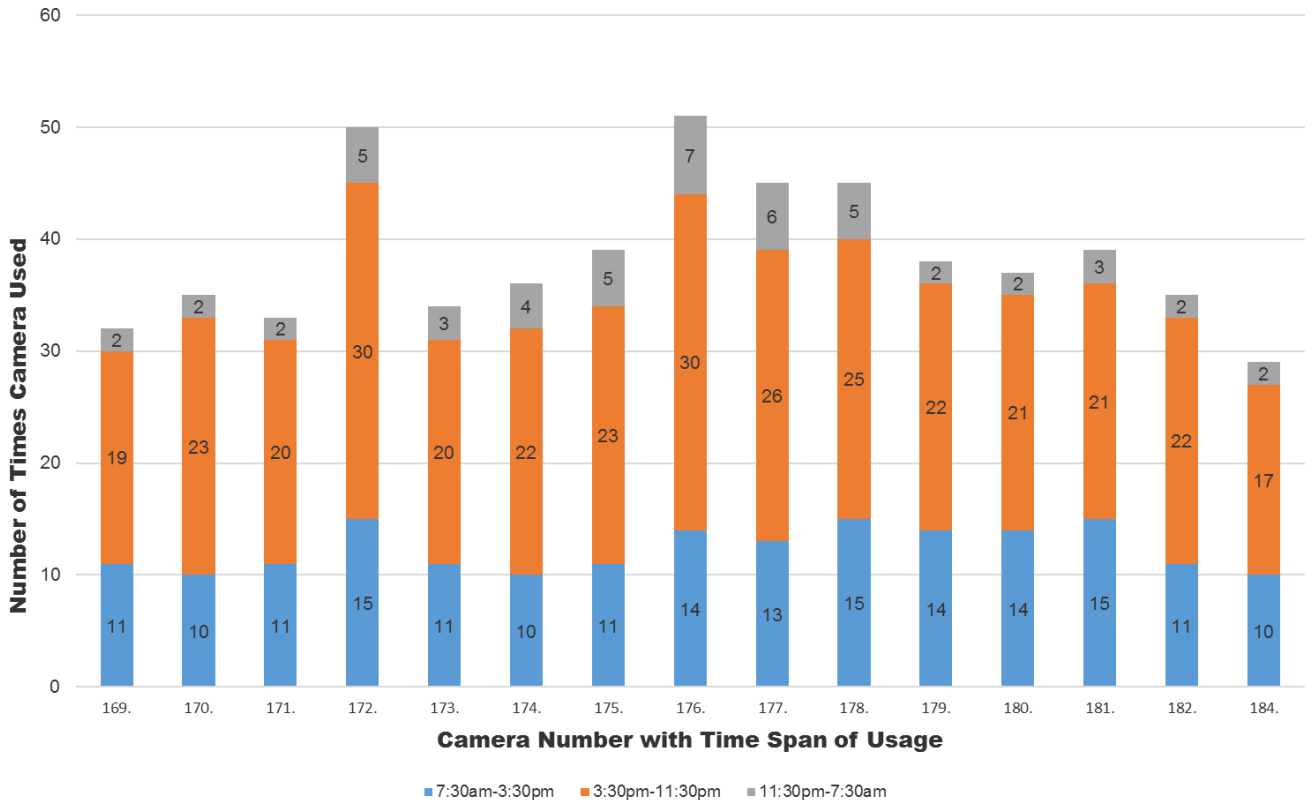


Camera 157 has now been decommissioned.

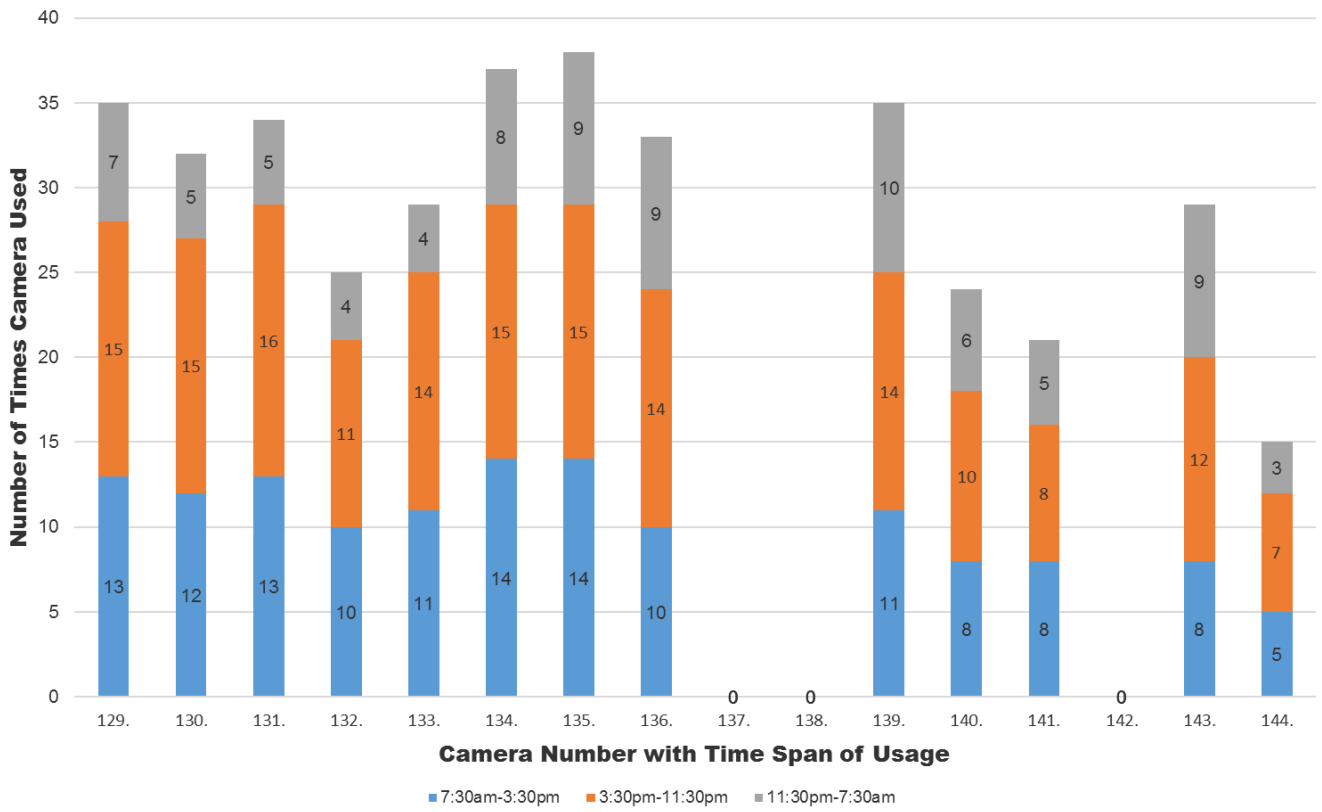
Henley Camera Usage - 1 October 2018 - 31 March 2019



Thame Camera Usage - 1 October 2018 - 31 March 2019



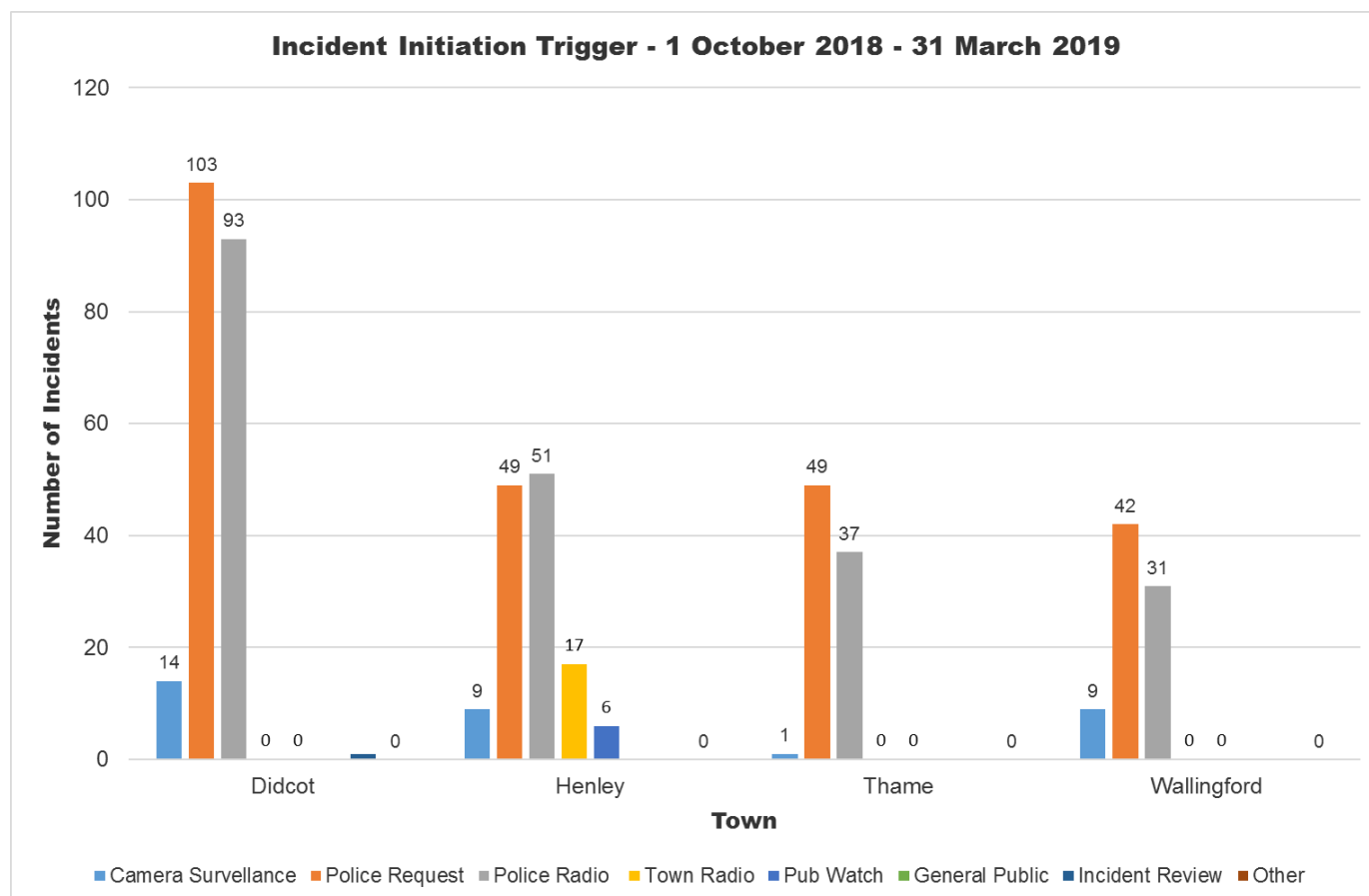
Wallingford Camera Usage - 1 October 2018 - 31 March 2019



Cameras 137, 138 and 142 have been decommissioned.

HOW CCTV MONITORING WAS INITIATED

The chart below shows how many of the incidents monitored were as a result of the following: a direct request from the police (police requests); the CCTV operator hearing about an incident on a police radio (police radio); or initiated by the operator proactively patrolling the cameras (camera surveillance); request to review footage at the time of an incident (incident review). Only Henley-on-Thames has a shop radio scheme.



REVIEWS AND EVIDENCE PACKS

When not tasked by police, the operators patrol all the cameras and focus on 'hotspot' areas. All cameras are recording 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are set in 'default' positions which are agreed with the police as the area most likely to experience problems.

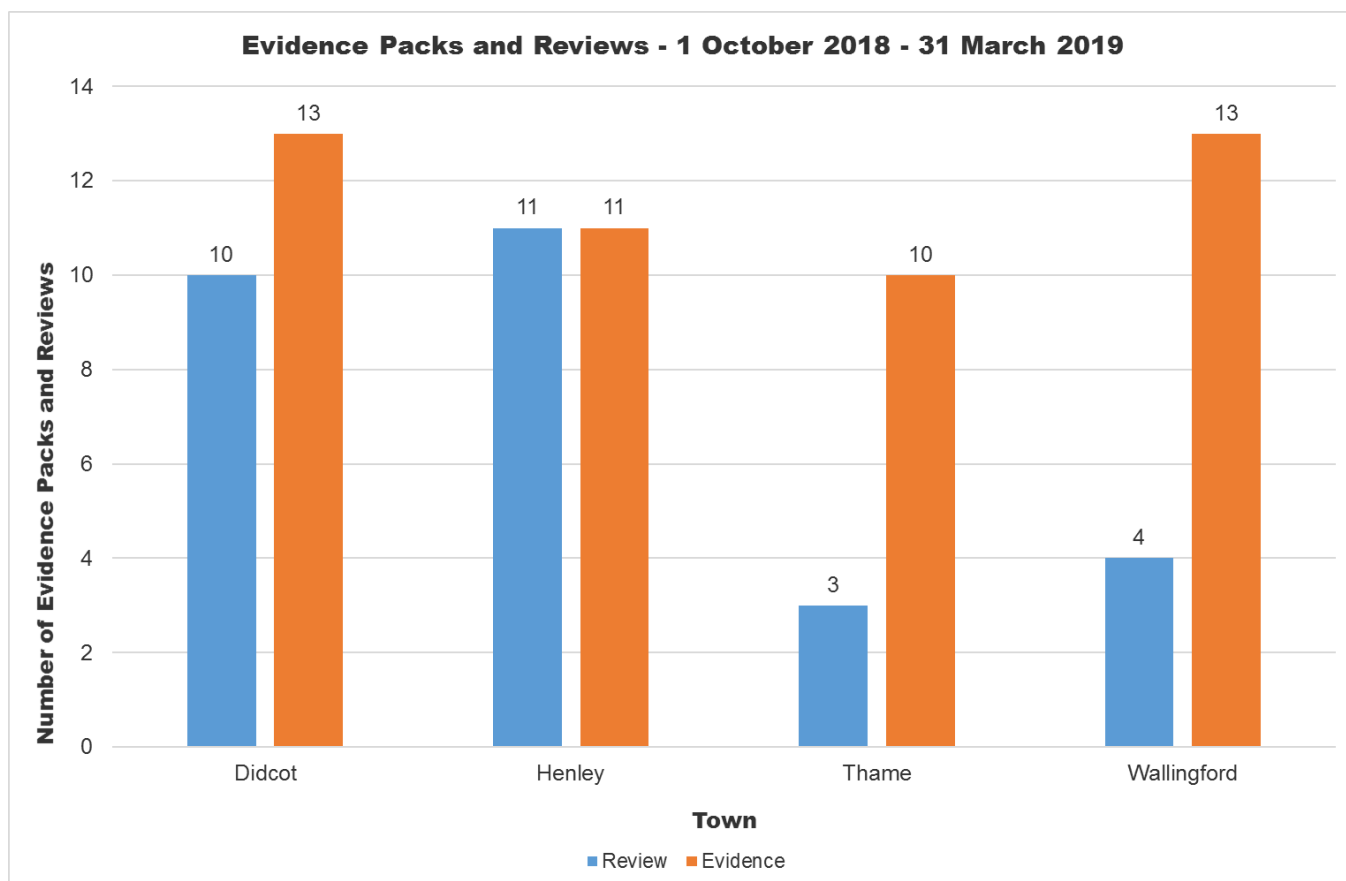
CCTV operators and the CCTV supervisor also respond to requests from members of the public and third parties under data protection legislation and subject access requests. The most common request is to examine car park or road cameras for evidence of 'non-stop road traffic collisions' in which the complainant's car has been damaged. All such requests are actioned and replies given. These are not included in the data below.

The chart below shows the number of evidence packs the CCTV operators put together and the number of evidence reviews they undertook, as a result of formal written requests.

The evidence packs are the recordings and statements which the CCTV operators produce for police, solicitors and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Activity that monitors past footage, but does not result in an evidence pack being produced, is termed 'a review'. This may be, for example, that the footage does not show an event clearly enough to warrant making a permanent DVD copy for evidential use.

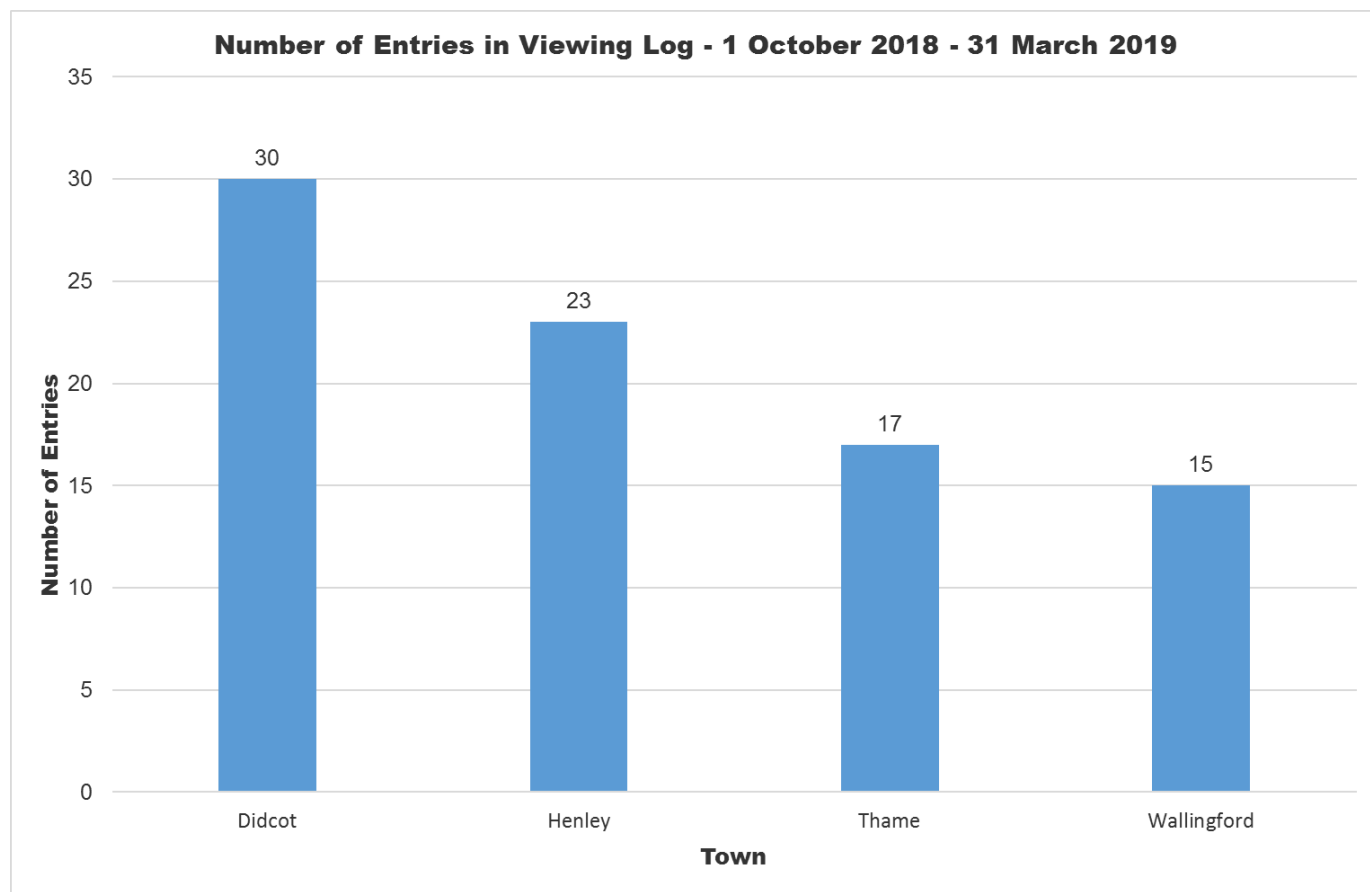
One of the greatest advantages of CCTV footage is in obtaining a guilty plea at the early interview stage. For many offences this early admission is due to the offence being captured clearly on camera and saves the expense of full trial at either magistrates or crown court.



VIEWING LOG

When authorised personnel (mainly police officers) visit the CCTV control room to view footage, the details are entered into a viewing log. The following chart reflects the number of times this occurred between October 2018 and March 2019 across the four towns.

N.B. These visits may or may not be followed by a formal written request for footage.



CASE STUDIES

The following examples show incidents dealt with by CCTV operators from October 2018 to March 2019. They were initiated by police requests, police radio monitoring, shop/pub radio watch reports and operator surveillance.

Didcot

Our operator was monitoring the vicinity of a town centre pub at closing time in the early hours of the morning. Having noted some pushing and shoving and that the situation was becoming more volatile, the police control centre was made aware. As a group made their way home, a fight broke out which our operator monitored and relayed to the police control centre. Officers, already on route, were quickly on scene and intervened. As no complaints were made, the group were allowed to disperse gradually, having been given advice regarding their future conduct.

The police control centre requested our CCTV operator to monitor an area of the town centre for a man who had approached several members of the public in a confrontational manner. Our operator was able to locate the man from the description given and streamed images to the police control room so that their operator could make an assessment for resourcing purposes. Fortunately, the man calmed down sufficiently enough to board a local bus and leave the area, having been given advice by attending police officers.

Henley-on-Thames

Our operator was given a description of a vulnerable missing person by the police control centre. Using the relevant town centre cameras, our operator located a teenage girl matching the description given and alerted the police control centre. They were then able to guide officers to her exact location where it was established that this was the missing girl and she was returned safely home.

Our operator was alerted to a group of men who had become aggressive and were causing issues for the public and staff at local pubs. Police attended and spoke to the men, issuing them with notice to leave the town. Our operator then monitored the group walking through the town and to the station, making sure that they didn't return. They then confirmed this with the police control centre.

A PCSO had been stopped by a distraught member of the public who had been parted from her dog while walking it near the river. She relayed this to our operator via the police radio, with a description and the last location of owner and dog together. Using the cameras in Mill Meadows our operator was able to locate the dog who was quickly reunited with a relieved owner.

Thame

A member of the public had called the police with information that an elderly driver had collided with another car while parking and seemed to be unaware of this when he got out. Although the car wasn't at the given location, our operator was able to locate the driver who was now on foot from the description relayed via police radio. His location was updated to the police control centre and officers searching the area were able to stop the man and resolve the situation before he got into his car.

A local hotel had contacted the police with concerns for a woman who had left the hotel without taking any of her belongings at the end of her stay and appeared to be in a distressed state. Our operator was able to locate the woman from the description across the police air waves and confirmed with the police control centre that she was looking unwell and seemed very confused. Having observed the woman getting into a taxi, our operator updated the police control centre with the taxi's registration, description and route. Officers in the area were able to stop the taxi and ensure that the woman was taken to a place of safety.

A report came in that there was an altercation in progress between a taxi driver and his passenger and officers were dispatched by the police control centre. When they arrived on scene our operator was able to review the footage from the relevant camera and advise the officers of exactly what had been captured. This being

clarified, neither party wished to make a complaint and both went on their way, having been given advice.

Wallingford

The police control centre requested that our operator monitor the High Street in the vicinity of the town centre supermarket. Staff there had apprehended two men who had attempted to steal several hundred pounds worth of alcohol and were waiting for police to arrive. Our operator was able to monitor the situation as an officer arrived and detained both males while awaiting further support. Both males were later arrested and transported to the police station.

There was a report of a male lying unconscious on the Market Place in the early hours of the morning. Our operator monitored the man while emergency services were on route. Having completed a review of camera footage, our operator was able to advise officers on the scene of the circumstances leading up to the man's collapse. As a result, having searched the local area, two men were arrested on suspicion of assault.

During the course of routine monitoring, our operator recognised a man who was wanted by the police in relation to previous offences. The police control centre was alerted and officers were dispatched to a town centre car park where the man's car was identified by our operator. The man was arrested and detained before he had a chance to drive away.

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