CCTV Half Yearly Report

Didcot, Henley, Thame, and Wallingford

1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information on how the district council's CCTV cameras[1] contribute towards deterring crime, reducing the fear of crime, increasing crime detection, and protecting vulnerable people in the district.

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 (nine cameras), Henley-on-Thames (20 cameras), Thame (15 cameras) and Wallingford (13 cameras). Reports are provided on a half yearly basis to each town council and other stakeholders to share information and help publicise the positive outcomes of CCTV to residents and businesses.
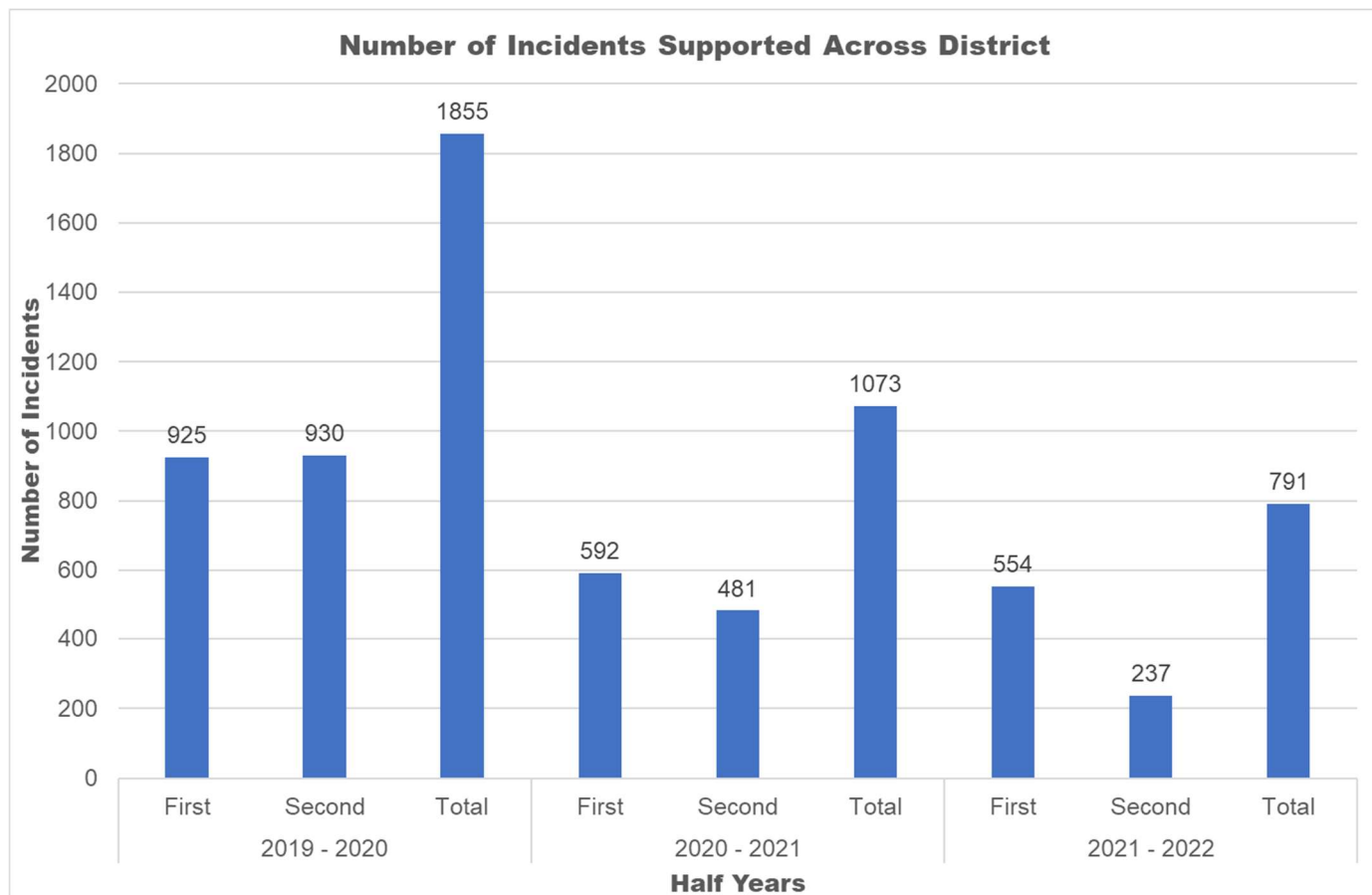
DATA SUMMARY

In South Oxfordshire, CCTV operators supported 237 incidents during the second half of 2021-2022. The operators also produced 24 evidence packs for possible court proceedings, carried out 40 reviews of CCTV footage (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and supported 17 arrests.

The following table displays the most common type of incident monitored for each town during the second half of 2021-2022, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

MOST COMMONLY MONITORED INCIDENTS				
	Didcot	**Henley**	**Thame**	**Wallingford**
1	Missing persons (47)	Missing person (13)	Missing person (11)	Missing person (9)
2	Fear for welfare (21)	Shoplifting (12)	Fear for welfare (8)	Fear for welfare (7)
3	Anti-social behaviour (8) Traffic offences (8)	Fighting/affray (7) Burglary (7)	Anti-social behaviour (6)	Fighting/affray (5)

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[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 chart below compares this half yearly total with previous half years:

Number of Incidents Supported Across District

For further breakdown please see table below:

	2019 - 2020			2020 - 2021			2021 - 2022		
	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total
Didcot	411	448	859	198	157	355	156	148	304
Henley	213	225	438	209	183	392	218	89	307
Thame	130	147	277	97	78	195	87	58	145
Wallingford	171	110	281	88	63	151	93	49	142
Total	**925**	**930**	**1855**	**592**	**481**	**1073**	**554**	**237**	**791**

The number of monitored incidents between October 2021 and March 2022 is significantly lower that the previous six months. There are several reasons for this, including the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 before Christmas and the fact that we had a CCTV operator vacancy during this period which has now been filled.

TYPE AND NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

The chart on the next page shows the amount and type of incidents the CCTV operators have monitored and supported across all four towns, between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022.

Incidents by Type - 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022

Number of Incidents

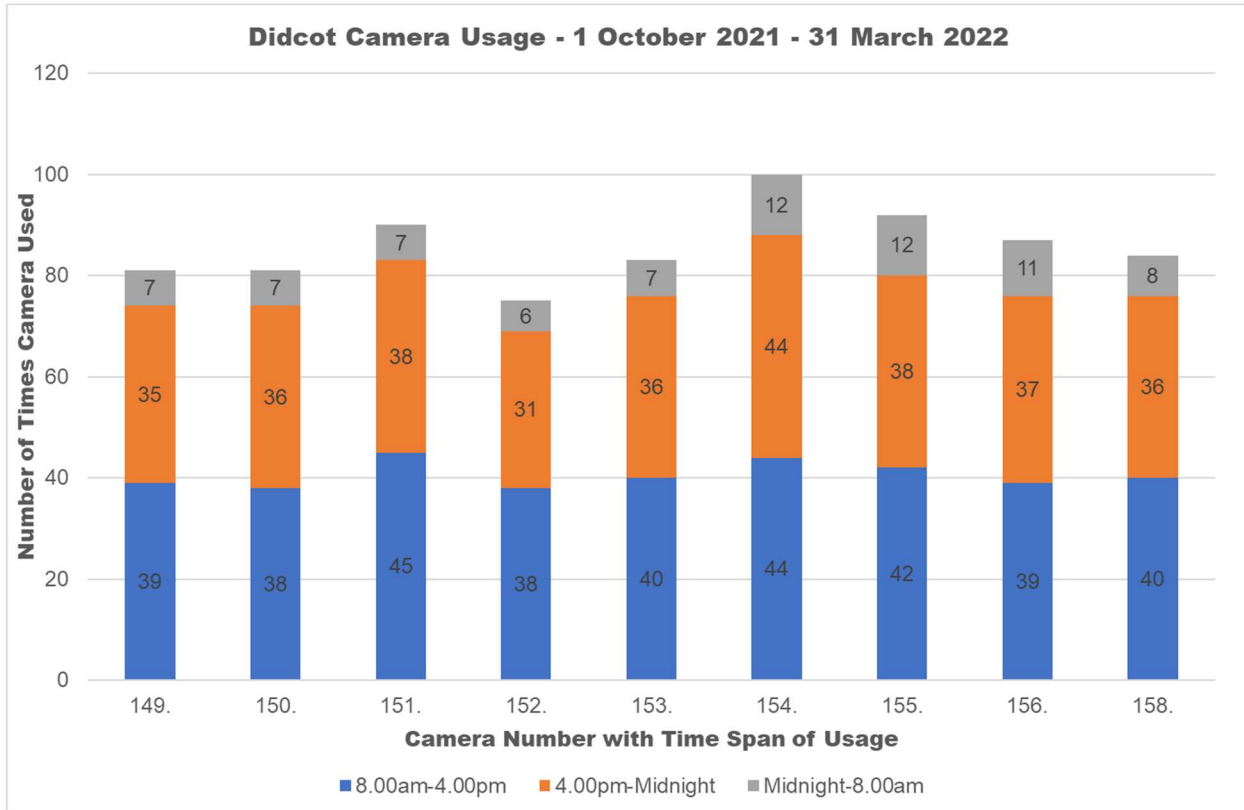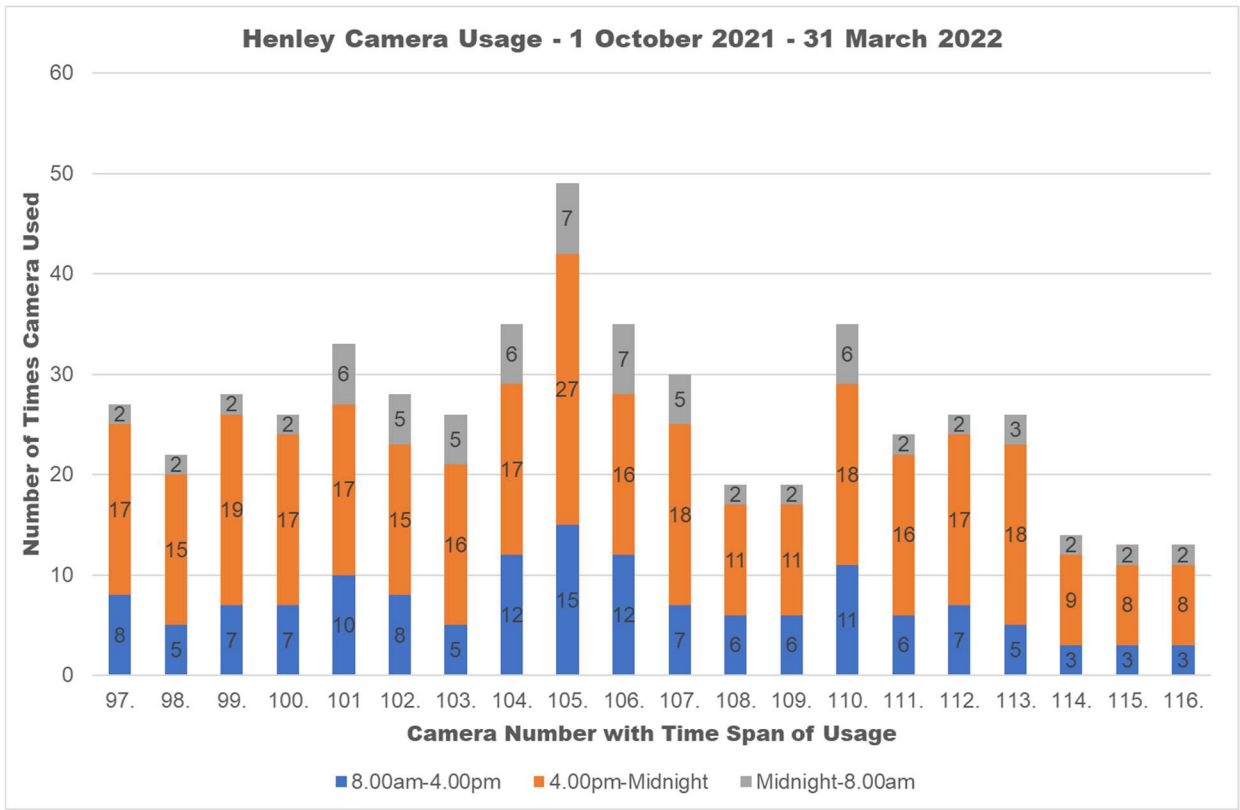| Incident Type	Number of Incidents
Anti-social Behaviour	22
Assault	11
Burglary	8
Criminal Damage	2
Drunk in charge of a vehicle	7
Disturbance	10
Drugs/Substance Misuse	7
Drunkenness	9
Fighting/Affray	21
Fraud	3
Offensive Weapon	8
Public order offences	15
Robbery	6
Shoplifting	20
Sexual Assault/Rape	0
Suspicious Behaviour	16
Theft	16
Threats to Kill	2
Domestic Abuse	3
Fear for welfare	42
Missing Persons	80
Self harm/suicide	4
Alarms	5
Arson/Fire	1
Health and safety	4
Miscellaneous	0
Road Traffic Collision	2
Traffic Prohibition	12
Wanted	8

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 24 hour period.
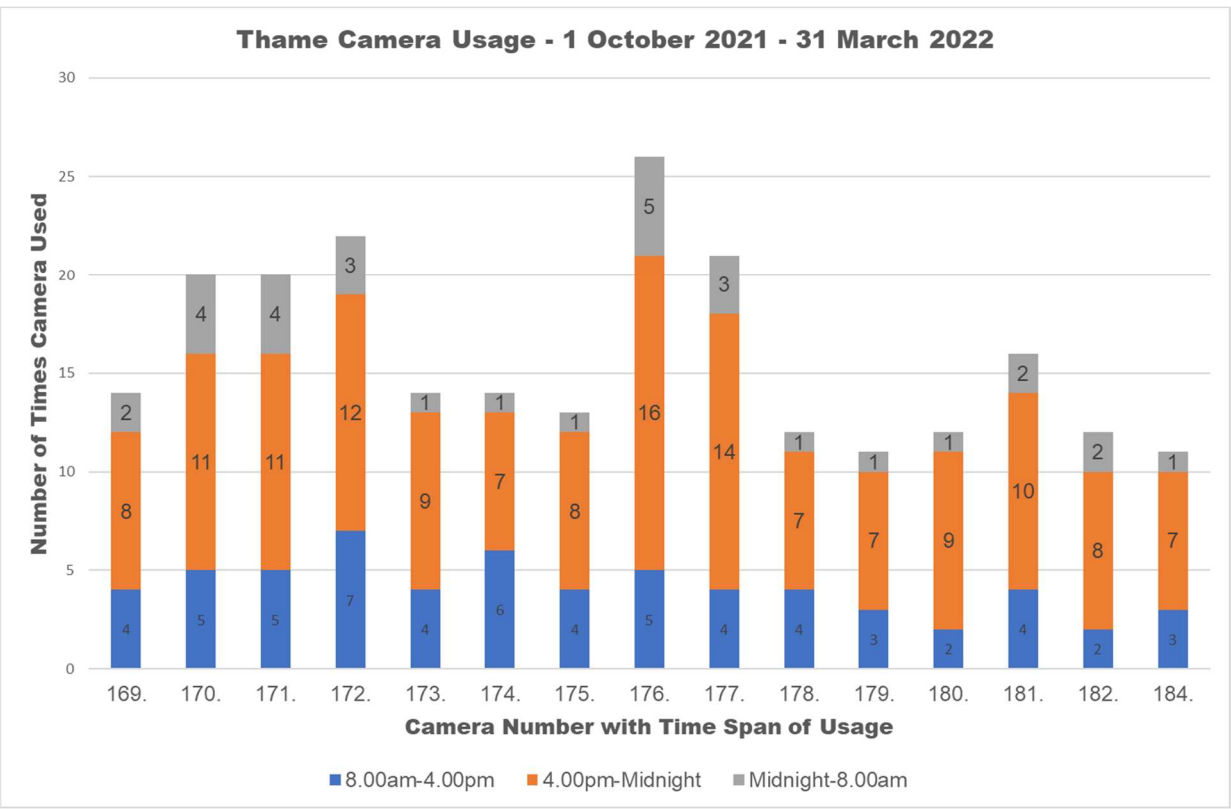
It is worth noting that for the period midnight to 8am, a large amount of camera usage occurred between midnight and 4am.

Didcot Camera Usage - 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022

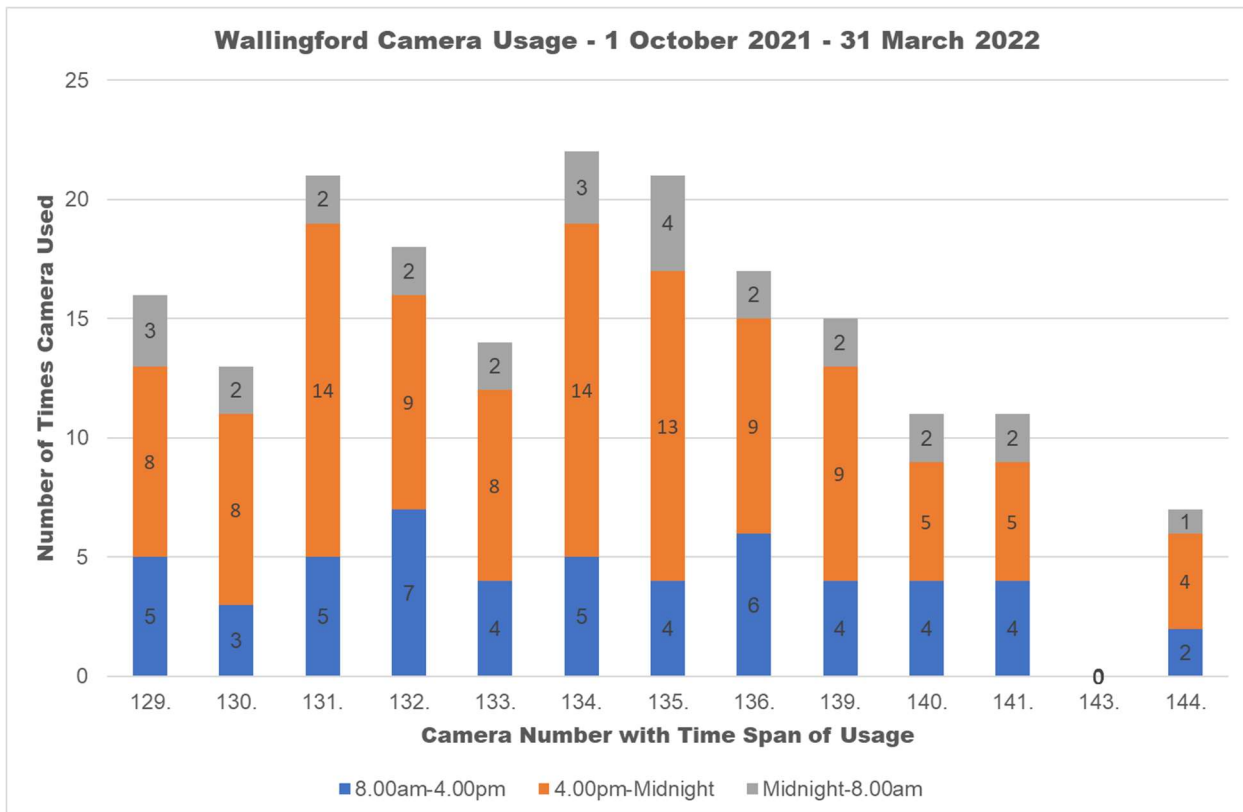| Camera Number	8.00am-4.00pm	4.00pm-Midnight	Midnight-8.00am
149.	39	35	7
150.	38	36	7
151.	45	38	7
152.	38	31	6
153.	40	36	7
154.	44	44	12
155.	42	38	12
156.	39	37	11
158.	40	36	8

Camera 154 is situated at one end of the Orchard centre and close to several bus stops. This was the most frequently used camera for the second half of the year, reflecting the increase in missing person reports as they often frequent the shopping centre or transit hubs.

Henley Camera Usage - 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022

Camera 105 is situated in the town centre at the traffic lights serving the Duke St. - Hart St. – Bell St. junction and clearly has the greatest number of occurrences attached to it; along with cameras 106 (Hart St.) and 110 (Bottom of Grey's Road). Camera 104 (town hall/marketplace) also saw high use for the second half of the year.

Thame Camera Usage - 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022

In Thame, camera 176 is used to monitor the Birdcage and James Figg in the evening and saw the highest use for this period. Camera 172 (High Street) and camera 177 (Upper High Street/North Street) also saw frequent use.

Wallingford Camera Usage - 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022

Cameras 134 and 135 are fairly central to the town, which is reflected in the highest number of recorded uses. Camera 131 is situated on a main junction and saw high usage. Camera 143 is currently awaiting replacement as part of the district council's project to upgrade all the town's cameras to digital models.
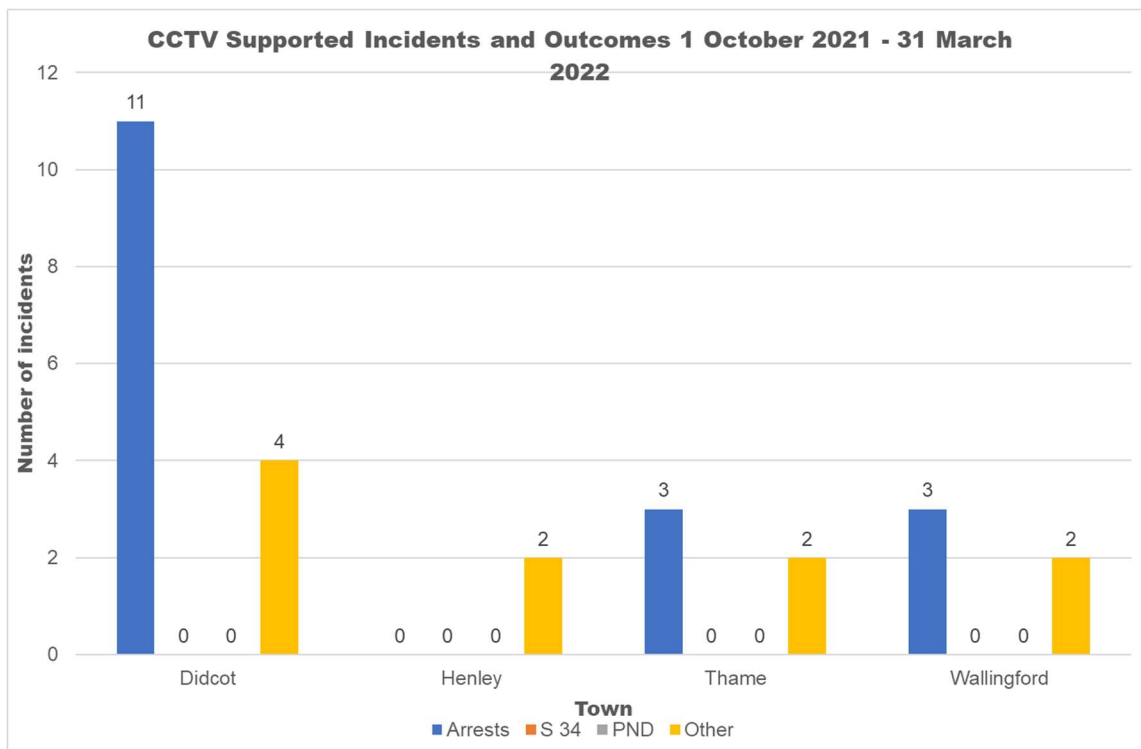
ARRESTS, SECTION 34S AND OTHER OUTCOMES

The chart at the top of page seven 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 34[2] or a Penalty Notice for Disorder[3] (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 on page seven, actions designated 'other' usually means that the police either gave verbal advice or a non-recordable sanction.
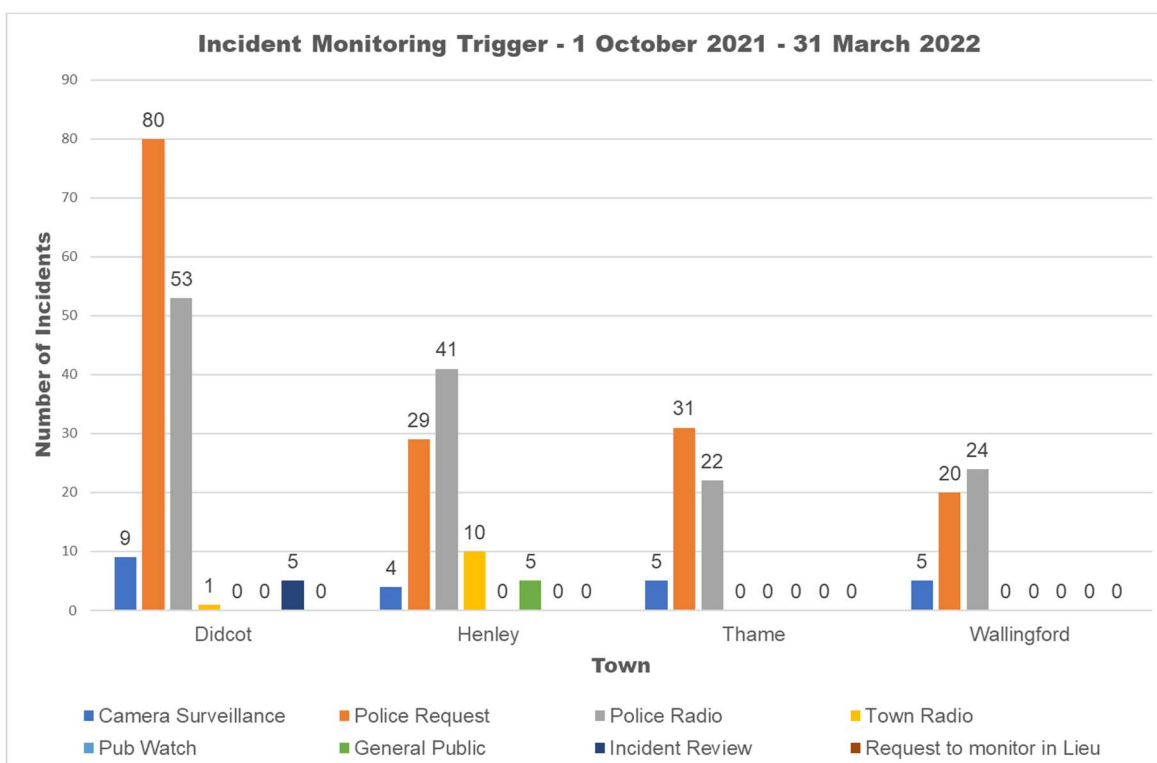
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[2] A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social related disorder.
[3] A PND is the 'on the spot fine'

CCTV Supported Incidents and Outcomes 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022

Figure: Bar chart showing Number of incidents by Town (Arrests, S 34, PND, Other).

- Didcot: Arrests 11, S 34 0, PND 0, Other 4
- Henley: Arrests 0, S 34 0, PND 0, Other 2
- Thame: Arrests 3, S 34 0, PND 0, Other 2
- Wallingford: Arrests 3, S 34 0, PND 0, Other 2

Legend: Arrests, S 34, PND, Other

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); the operator proactively patrolling the cameras (camera surveillance); request from officers to review footage at the time of an incident e.g. to clarify details of a reported incident while they are on scene (incident review). Only Henley-on-Thames has a shop radio scheme.

Incident Monitoring Trigger - 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022

Figure: Bar chart showing Number of Incidents by Town.

- Didcot: Camera Surveillance 9, Police Request 80, Police Radio 53, Town Radio 1, Pub Watch 0, General Public 0, Incident Review 5, Request to monitor in Lieu 0
- Henley: Camera Surveillance 4, Police Request 29, Police Radio 41, Town Radio 10, Pub Watch 0, General Public 5, Incident Review 0, Request to monitor in Lieu 0
- Thame: Camera Surveillance 5, Police Request 31, Police Radio 22, Town Radio 0, Pub Watch 0, General Public 0, Incident Review 0, Request to monitor in Lieu 0
- Wallingford: Camera Surveillance 5, Police Request 20, Police Radio 24, Town Radio 0, Pub Watch 0, General Public 0, Incident Review 0, Request to monitor in Lieu 0

Legend: Camera Surveillance, Police Request, Police Radio, Town Radio, Pub Watch, General Public, Incident Review, Request to monitor in Lieu

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.
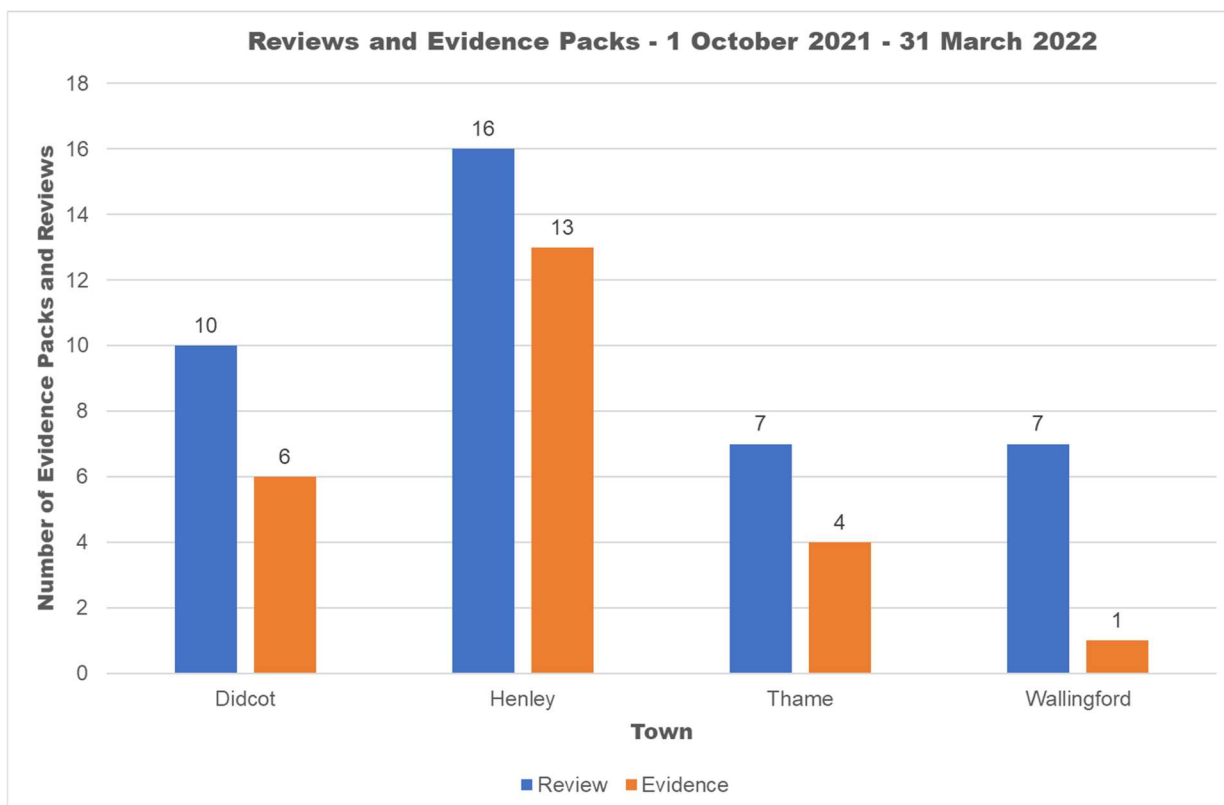
CCTV operators and the CCTV supervisor also respond to requests from members of the public and third parties under data protection legislation and subject access requests (SARs). The most common request is to examine car park or road cameras for evidence of 'non-stop road traffic collisions' in which the complainant's car has been damaged. Altogether we received seven such requests during this half of the year. In four of the cases, footage was sent out. We also received three requests from town and district council departments regarding incidents. In two of these cases, we were able to supply footage of specific incidents, caught on camera.

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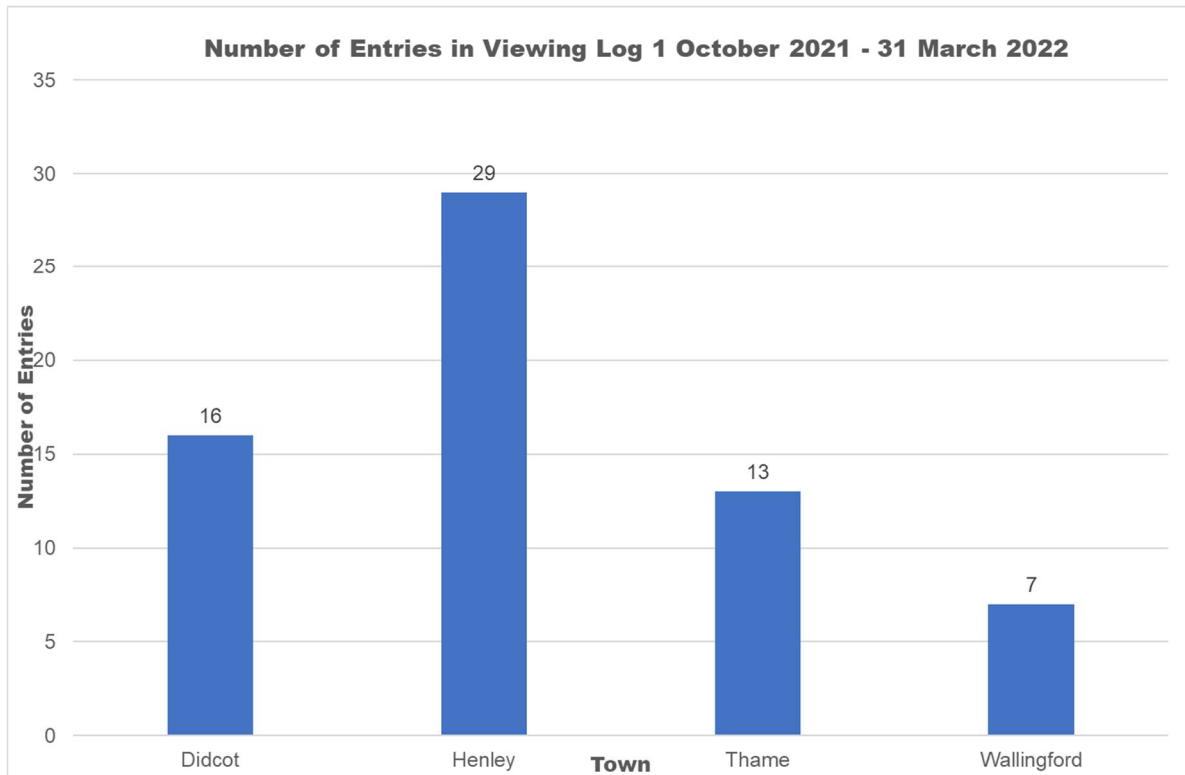
One of the greatest advantages of CCTV footage is in obtaining a guilty plea at the early interview stage. For many offences this early admission is due to the offence being captured clearly on camera and saves the expense of a full trial at either magistrates or crown court.

Reviews and Evidence Packs - 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022

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 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 across the four towns. There was a slight increase overall in visits, likely due to the re-opening of the control room to visitors following the easing of Covid restrictions.

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

Number of Entries in Viewing Log 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022

CASE STUDIES

The following are examples of incidents dealt with by CCTV operators during the second half of 2021–22. They aim to demonstrate how our CCTV service helps to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe.

Didcot

A member of the public was concerned about a man near the Orchard Centre because of his behaviour, which was very erratic and reported it to the police. With only very minimal details, our operator was able to locate the man in question and direct officers to him so they could ensure he was safe.

Following a report to the police that a mobile phone had been stolen in the town, our operator conducted a review of camera footage and found a suspect exiting the premise where the alleged theft had occurred. Continuing the review, they observed the suspect leaving in a vehicle and obtained an index which they then passed to police. Subsequent investigations led to an arrest.

The police received a report of a robbery involving a vehicle and our operator quickly located it in the town centre. They passed details to the police control room and continued to monitor the vehicle until officers attended the scene, stopped the vehicle and made three arrests.

Henley-on-Thames

One evening, our operator responded to a report made over the pub watch radio, of a man refusing to leave a licensed premises. They relayed this information to the police and officers attended to remove the man from the pub.

Having received a report from the police of a possible drunk driver in the area, our operator sighted the vehicle from the report and tracked it through the town, whilst simultaneously passing accurate information to police. As a result, an officer was able to stop the vehicle and carry out the necessary checks on the driver.

Thame

Over the radio, the police had asked our CCTV team to keep an eye out for a vehicle and driver suspected to be drunk. Our operator was able to locate the vehicle and give a running commentary for officers so that it could be stopped and checked.

During routine monitoring, our operator noticed a man in the road and a build-up of traffic. They immediately informed the police control room and continued to provide updates until an ambulance arrived.

Whilst doing a general patrol of the Thame cameras, our operator observed a road traffic collision between a pedestrian and a van. They alerted the police and provided updates until officers and an ambulance arrived at the scene.

Wallingford

The police had received a call that a robbery had taken place at a premises near the town centre. Despite not being within view of our cameras, the operator conducted a review of footage from the closest camera and found a possible suspect. They then located the suspect in real time and directed police officers to him to make an arrest.

A member of the public called police as they were concerned about a man in Wallingford. Using their knowledge of prior incidents involving a similar man, our operator was able to locate him in the town. They passed this information to the police and officers attended to safeguard the individual involved.

Having observed a man fighting with door staff, our operator alerted the police control room and they dispatched officers to the scene. The operator was able to continue updating the police with running commentary until officers arrived and arrested the man.