



CCTV Annual Report 2023

Management Statement

Public Space Surveillance Cameras remain a powerful tool in the continuing fight against crime, particularly when integrated with other crime reduction methods, such as retail 'radio-link' systems and a close, positive working relationship with the local police.

Dover District Council and our partner agencies remain of the view that CCTV will diminish incidents of crime and public disorder where it is in place. It also assists in monitoring road safety and improves community confidence by assisting partner agencies to help those most at risk, including missing persons and vulnerable people and creating a safer environment for residents, businesses, tourists and visitors alike.

In operating its public space surveillance system, Dover District Council supports all the principles contained within:

- The European Directive 95/46/EC
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Regulatory & Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 introduced restrictions on the use of local authorities' surveillance powers, particularly with regards to covert surveillance. The Act also provides for the regulation of CCTV by the Secretary of State and the provision of a Code of Practice. As a result, an amended Code of Practice was introduced in January 2022 which can be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-surveillance-camera-code>

Under Section 33 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, local authorities are under a duty to have regard to the code when exercising any function to which it relates.

The Government has also released a circular in explanation of that duty, which can be accessed via www.gov.uk/government/publications/circular-0112013

Dover District Council is committed to complying with these codes in relation to the implementation and operation of CCTV. As part of that commitment, we have our own Code of Practice, which is updated annually and can be accessed via [CCTV Code of Practice \(dover.gov.uk\)](http://CCTV Code of Practice (dover.gov.uk))

What is the system used for?

The prime purpose of the system is to reduce both the real and perceived level of crime:

- To assist in the apprehension and prosecution of offenders in relation to crime and public disorder
- To gather evidence by a fair and accountable method
- To create a safer community and improve the quality of life for all by: -
 - Enhancing the economic climate, creating a greater opportunity for prosperity
 - Preventing or alleviating serious interruption to traffic flow
 - Preventing or alleviating problems of an anti-social nature in the community

What will the system not be used for?

It will not be used to gather information on people going about their lawful business. To encourage confidence in the system all cameras used by the CCTV Operation at Dover District Council are overt and their presence is clearly indicated by signs covering the CCTV area. In addition, the locations of all DDC operated cameras can be found at www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Community-Safety/CCTV/CCTV-Locations.aspx

- It will not be used to enforce minor breaches of law that do not impact adversely upon public safety or the quality of life
- Information recorded will only be used by the District Council, Police and other statutory Law Enforcement Agencies
- It will not be used for the enforcement of parking regulations.

The system

The CCTV system operated by Dover District Council comprises 27 cameras in Dover, 21 in Deal, 9 in Sandwich, 3 in Aylesham and 2 in Wingham. These cameras are a mixture of dome cameras and "shoe-box" type cameras. All cameras have the facility to pan, tilt and zoom except two, which are fixed in

the same position all of the time. The cameras also have the facility to pan, tilt and zoom automatically on preset rest points. To accompany these cameras, we also have 6 ANPR cameras across the district and 5 mobile cameras which can be placed in hot-spot locations across the district. In addition to the above we also have 43 cameras on our own assets.

System accountability

We take part in internal and external audits periodically. CCTV is due to be audited by the East Kent Audit Partnership in the coming months and the outcome of this will be published in next year's annual report. We have also obtained full third-party Surveillance Camera Commissioners certificate which expires on the 30th May 2024 that was carried out by the National Security Inspectorate (NSI).

Statistics

Home Office approved crime statistics can be found on the Kent Police website at www.kent.police.uk

The table below shows the number of incidents recorded by the CCTV staff from 2019 to 2022, plus those attended by the police, together with the number of CCTV-related arrests that were recorded as part of the incidents monitored by CCTV.

To describe the decline in the graph below - our CCTV team are integrated within the Dover

Partnership Against Crime and in particular the radio network that connects a number of commercial properties within the district. Owing to Covid-19 restrictions and the lockdowns that followed, many of these stores have been closed and this has resulted in a decline of incidents particularly around theft. This has also impacted the night time economy as public houses and other similar venues, including events, have not been able to open. Dover has seen a 70% reduction in footfall in our high streets. We expect incidents to rise as we come out of lockdown and this will be reflected in next year's annual report.

The table below shows the number of incidents recorded by the CCTV staff and attended by the police, together with the number of arrests made as a result of that police attendance.

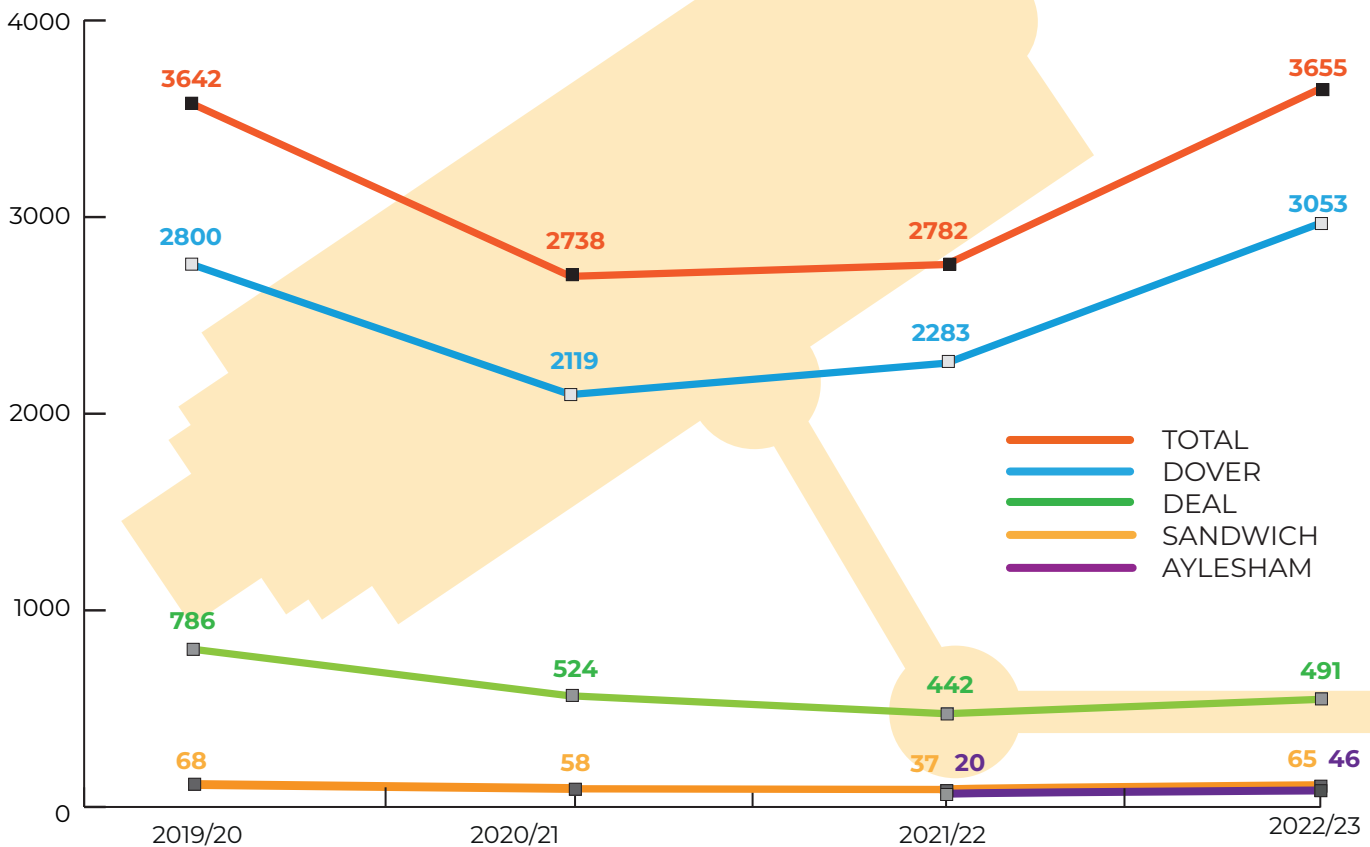
POLICE ATTENDANCE TO CCTV INCIDENTS 2022-23					
	DOVER	DEAL	SANDWICH	AYLESHAM	TOTAL
Incidents	1449	265	47	24	1785
Arrests	238	32	8	1	279

During this period, 315 recordings were reviewed on behalf of the police and 46 reviews were conducted for council activities such as environmental crime.. CCTV was involved in providing assistance to 217 vulnerable people.

Dover District Council as a local authority has a duty to do all that is reasonable to prevent crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour, misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and

re-offending as detailed in Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. CCTV helps us accomplish these duties by being a powerful tool in reducing crime, the fear of crime and reassuring and promoting public safety.

CCTV INCIDENTS BY YEAR AND TOWN



Incident examples 2022-2023

Whilst conducting routine patrols, CCTV was made aware of an elderly male with dementia who was reported missing having left his home. Operators liaised with police and after receiving a description were able to locate him safe and well and direct police patrols to the males location in order to ensure he was returned home within an hour of the initial report being made.

Concerns were raised for a vulnerable young male who had not returned home in the Deal area. Operators tasked themselves to prioritise the search for the young male owing to the vulnerabilities present. After some hours, operators were able to identify the male near to Deal Pier and were able to direct police patrols to locate the young male and return him home.

Whilst conducting pro-active routine patrols, the CCTV operator on duty noticed a female acting erratically along the promenade in Dover. CCTV continued observations and noticed the female trying to climb the railings of the pier. CCTV immediately notified the police who attended and removed her from the wrong side of the railings and ensured she was taken to a place of safety. Had it not been for the identification of the incident the female may have ended her life that evening.

Targeted operations

The Code of Practice only permits use of the system to observe known individuals by law enforcement agencies if authorised to do so by a senior officer from the Council and by a Superintendent of Police or officer of similar level in other relevant law enforcement agencies.

Targeted operations using the Council's CCTV system are only conducted when other surveillance methods are considered inappropriate or not effective.

In 2022-2023, zero operations of this nature were carried out.

Further information on the legal requirements can be found at <http://surveillancecommissioners.independent.gov.uk>

Data Protection Act 1998

Individuals have the rights of subject access as provided for in Section 7 Data Protection Act 1998. Any application must be made in writing on a standard form, which is available on our website at www.dover.gov.uk/cctv

1 application was received in 2022-2023

Members of the public often request CCTV footage for allegations of crime. The website makes it clear that we are unable to provide any member of the public (whether a victim or witness) with such footage but that it will be supplied to the police to assist with their investigation if a relevant crime report has been made.

General Data Protection Regulation

Individuals have the right to access their personal data. This is commonly referred to as subject access. Individuals can make a subject access request verbally or in writing.

The Council has one month to respond.

Complaints

Zero complaints were received in 2022-2023

Further information

The DDC website CCTV page includes updated information and maps on the location of all DDC operated CCTV cameras. This can be found at: http://www.dover.gov.uk/community/community_safety/cctv.aspx

Applications for personal data or for a review of CCTV footage can also be made via this website.

Partnership working

CCTV continues to work closely with the Dover District Safer Stronger Communities Partnership, Kent Police, all emergency services and law enforcement agencies, and the Dover, Deal and Sandwich Partnerships Against Crime.

Costs

The CCTV system operated by DDC in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Aylesham cost £247,263 in 2022-2023.

Future Plans

Since our last annual report, we have expanded our infrastructure. In the past year we have extended our camera coverage into Stockdale Gardens, Bomford Place and soon we will have CCTV within our new development at Kimberley Close. We are also due to have a CCTV camera fitted onto our Community Roots van. This allows us to bring CCTV to events and other such incidents we may be involved in throughout the year. From Summer 2023 Dover District Council's out of hours provision will return in house and managed through our 24/7 control room.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this report, please contact David Parratt, Principal Community Safety, Emergency Planning and CCTV Officer

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April 2023

