



CCTV ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10



Dover CCTV Control Room

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1.

MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Closed circuit television, otherwise known as CCTV has proved itself in recent years to be a powerful weapon in the continuing fight against crime, particularly when integrated with other crime reduction methods such as retail 'radio-link' systems.

Dover District Council, Police, the Town Councils in Dover, Deal and Sandwich, and Chambers of Commerce in Dover, Deal and Sandwich are of the view that CCTV will diminish incidents of crime and public disorder where it is either in place or will subsequently be introduced. It also assists us in monitoring road safety and improves community confidence creating a safer environment for residents, traders, tourists and visitors alike.

It is recognised that gaining and keeping public support for such an initiative is vital. We therefore understand the need for a comprehensive and effective Code of Practice defining the systems operational parameters.

We will only utilise CCTV with the consent and support of the local populace to assist in the fight against crime, whilst ensuring that an individuals personal civil liberties are not infringed upon. We therefore support all the principles contained within the Data Protection Act 1998, the European Directive 95/46/EC, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Regulatory and Investigatory powers Act 2000. All system design and operation is based on current Home Office, PSDB and Kent Police guidelines. The CCTV scheme is registered with the Office of the Information Commissioner, in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and with Home Office in respect of the Police radio.

All partners are totally committed to complying with these Codes in relation to the implementation and operation of CCTV. The Code covering the operation of the system is therefore readily available to the public at all local authority offices, public libraries and Citizens' Advice Bureaux. It can also be viewed on line at www.dover.gov.uk/cctv.

2. Principles

2.1 What is the system used for?

- The prime purpose of the system is to reduce both the real and perceived level of crime.
- To improve confidence in the rule of law.
- 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, improving 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

2.2 What will the system not be used for?

- Φ It will not be used to gather information on people going about their lawful business. To encourage confidence 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.
- Φ It will not be used to enforce minor breaches of law that do not impede upon public safety or the quality of life.
- Φ Information recorded will only be used by the District Council, Police and other statutory Law Enforcement Agencies.

3. The System

The CCTV system operated by Dover District Council comprises of 23 cameras in Dover, 17 cameras in Deal and 9 cameras in Sandwich. These cameras are a mixture of dome cameras and "shoe-box " cameras. All our cameras have the facility to pan, tilt and zoom except one, which is fixed in the same position all of the time. The cameras also have the facility to pan, tilt and zoom automatically, on pre set rest points.

4. System Accountability

A Lay Visitor periodically attends the CCTV room unannounced, and checks that the system is being used in accordance with the Code of Practice. Five such visits took place during 2009/10, and no instances of misuse were reported. This volunteer has unlimited access to most paperwork and all discs and tapes currently held within the system. This control is in place as one of several means to ensure that our CCTV Operators comply with the Code of Conduct.

In addition to this safeguard, Dartford Borough Council carried out an independent evaluation on 18 January 2010 in to the system compliance, and this report can be found on our website – www.dover.gov.uk/cctv .

5. Statistics 2009/2010

Crime figures in relation to CCTV locations are no longer supplied to this Authority by Kent Police, so it has not been possible to assess the system against historical crime data.

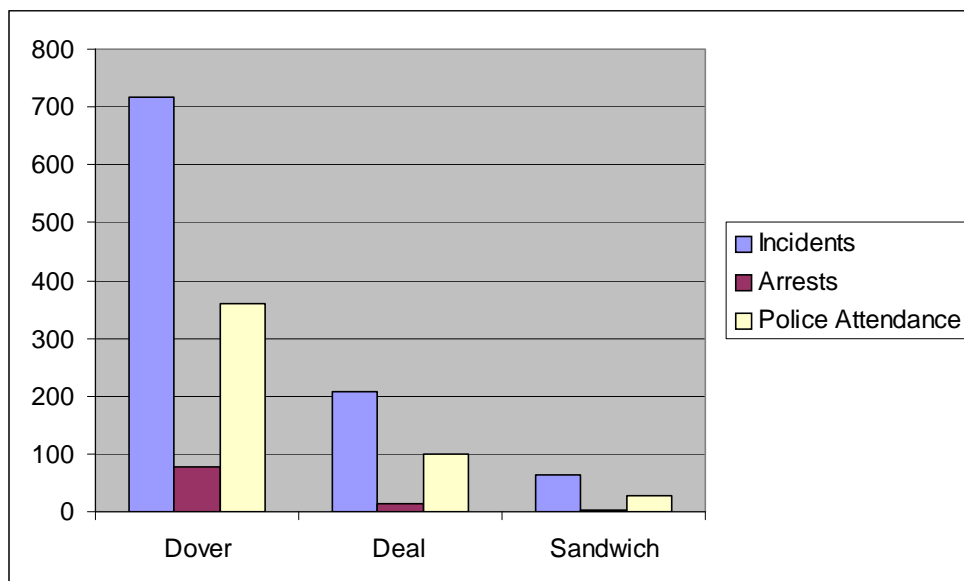
New criteria have therefore been drawn up against which to assess the effectiveness of the Service, using 2008/9 as a base rate, and the Service is being benchmarked using 2009/10 data against other Local Authorities in Kent. It is anticipated that this data will be available from August 2010, and will be made available on our website.

The following tables and graphs detail incidents that have been recorded by the CCTV system over the past few years. It should be noted that these are incidents and are not a reflection of Police crime statistics over the same period. For instance an incident may constitute a missing child, or a vulnerable person, which may not be recorded by the Police, as no crime has been committed.

Incidents	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Dover	1332	1563	1398	1525	3083
Deal	324	427	394	577	995
Sandwich	45	85	68	82	199

It should be noted that, from February 2009, the way in which incidents were captured and recorded was changed to reflect every aspect of the Service, and to comply with benchmarking requirements with the rest of Kent. This has resulted in a rise in the number of incidents, but is mainly due to the external contacts received and made, such as Traffic link, with whom we now have daily contact regarding traffic problems in the district.

Police attendance to all incidents in 2009/10 was at an acceptable level.



762 recordings were reviewed by the Police in 2009, and 469 of these were found to contain evidence of a sufficient nature to warrant seizure of the data held.

In percentage terms, the number of tapes seized after review increased slightly from the previous year to 59%, from 60% in 2005, 62% in 2006, 60% in 2007, and 56% in 2008.

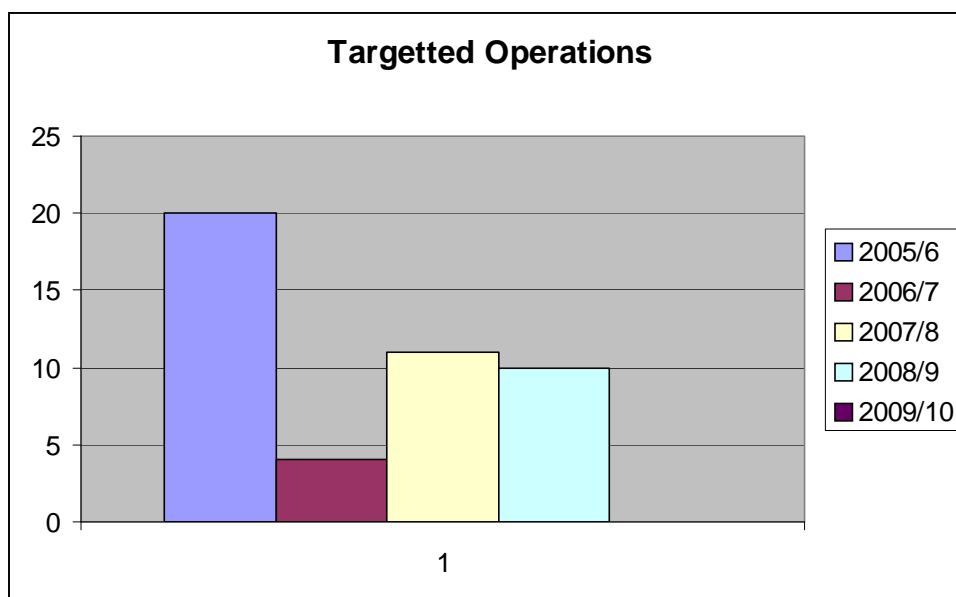
From May of 2007, an additional performance indicator was introduced – the number of vulnerable people assisted. Too often, CCTV is associated only with crime, and it is felt that this important aspect of the Service is often forgotten. From April of 2009, until March of 2010, the CCTV Operation assisted 308 vulnerable people. This is a significant increase over 2009, when only 111 were recorded.

Arrests made by the Police, as a result of initial observations at the CCTV Unit are also monitored. During 2008/9 170 arrests were made as a direct result of the CCTV Operators. This represents an increase of 4 arrests over the previous year. CCTV also assisted, or monitored, the arrests of a further 332 offenders – an increase of 40 over 2008/9 - over the same period of time.

From December 2007, a record has been kept of the number of times the Police Control room was contacted. Over 2009/10, 3200 contacts have been made both to, and from, the Police. This represents an increase of 1,944 contacts over the previous year, and is largely due to better record keeping on the part of the Operators.

6. Targetted Operations

6.1 The Code of Practice only permits use of the system to observe known individuals by law enforcement agencies if authorised by a senior officer from the Council and by the Superintendent of Police, or similar level in other agencies. Targetted operations are only carried out if other methods of surveillance are not appropriate or effective.



7. Data Protection Act 1998

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

7.2 No requests of this nature were received in 2009/10.

8. Complaints

No complaints were received about the CCTV Service during 2009/10.

9. New in 2009

One new camera was installed in 2009, at The Strand at Walmer – the first camera to be installed in this area. Wireless technology has been used to transmit the data back to the CCTV Room for the first time, which has reduced transmission costs for Dover District Council, without compromising significantly on the quality of the images.

10. Partnerships

CCTV continues to work closely in partnership with Kent Police, the Community Safety Partnership, other Law Enforcement Agencies and the Dover, Deal and Sandwich Partnerships Against Crime.

11. Costs

The CCTV System in Dover, Deal and Sandwich cost £334,264 in 2009/10, compared to £320,913 in 2008/9. This is an increase in costs of 4% on the previous year, but is still £25,000 under budget. The above-inflation increase is due to increased data transmission costs from BT, and increased maintenance costs due to the age of the system. The £10,000 per annum funding from the Dover/Deal/Sandwich Partnership Against Crime, towards the cost of a CCTV Operator, reached the end of a three-year commitment in 2008. Despite this reduction in funding, Dover District Council has continued to employ this additional member of staff, and absorbed the additional costs.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this report, please contact Dianne Hopper on 01304 216860, or e-mail diannehopper@dover.gov.uk

