



CCTV ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

Heidi Kenmure
Community Safety and CCTV Manager
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MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Closed circuit television (CCTV) remains a powerful weapon 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 Kent Police 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 thereby creating a safer environment for residents, businesses, tourists and visitors alike.

In operating its CCTV system, Dover District Council supports all the principles contained within:

- The Data Protection Act 1998
- The European Directive 95/46/EC
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Regulatory and Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

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, a new Code of Practice was introduced in August 2013 which can be accessed via

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/surveillance-camera-commissioner

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 totally 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

<http://www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Community-Safety/CCTV/CCTV-Code-of-Practice.pdf>

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 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 23 cameras in Dover, 16 in Deal and 9 in Sandwich. 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.

System Accountability

A Lay Visitor periodically attends the CCTV room unannounced to check that the system is being used in accordance with the Code of Practice. This is a voluntary position and the post-holder has unlimited access to the majority of records and all discs and tapes currently held within the system.

We currently have one Lay Visitor. In this reporting year, the Lay Visitor has carried out 5 unannounced visits. No concerns were raised.

We are currently recruiting for additional Lay Visitors.

Statistics 2016 - 2017

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

The following table details numbers of incidents that have been recorded by the CCTV system over the past few years. It should be noted that these are incidents identified by DDC CCTV staff and are not a reflection of Police crime statistics over the same period. For example, an incident may require action by CCTV staff yet not amount to a crime nor require any Police response.

CCTV INCIDENTS BY YEAR AND TOWN								
Incidents	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Dover	3083	2790	2583	3475	4079	4347	4557	4864
Deal	995	878	681	888	861	683	1084	1400
Sandwich	199	206	88	98	140	184	205	111
Total	4277	3874	3352	4461	5080	5214	5846	6375

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

POLICE ATTENDANCE TO CCTV INCIDENTS 2016 - 2017				
	Dover	Deal	Sandwich	Total
Incidents	4864	1400	111	6375
Police attended	1704	580	71	2355
Arrests	187	36	7	230

During this period, 384 recordings were reviewed by the Police and 176 by CCTV on behalf of the Police. 273 of these were found to contain evidence to justify seizure of that data for use in criminal investigations.

CCTV was involved in providing assistance to 367 vulnerable people.

160 arrests were made by Police as a direct result of observations carried out by CCTV operators, who additionally provided assistance in a further 44 arrests. CCTV also monitored a further 54 incidents.

Incident examples 2016 – 2017

In April, a member of the CCTV team noticed a male approach a group and hand something over. The male was tracked by CCTV staff and patrols were informed. The male was stopped by Police and taken back to the Police Station, and strip searched and found to be in possession of drugs.

In July, CCTV received a call from a night club to a fight inside. Police were informed and the CCTV monitored the groups outside. One male was punched and knocked unconscious. CCTV monitored the offender and advised patrols of his location and he was arrested.

In July, CCTV informed the Police about a male who was believed to be a drink driver in his vehicle. The patrols stopped the male and he was arrested for drink driving.

In September, CCTV informed the Police of a group of people beating up a drunk male. Police attended and the group ran off. CCTV monitored one offender and Police were advised of his location. Two males were arrested.

In September, Police alerted CCTV staff to a suicidal 18 year old male. The male was located by CCTV staff and the location was given to Police who took him to hospital.

Targeted Operations

The Code of Practice only permits use of the system to observe known individuals by law enforcement agencies if authorized 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 2016 – 2017, one such surveillance operation was 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

No applications were received in 2016 – 2017.

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 free of charge to assist with their investigation if a relevant crime report has been made.

Complaints

1 complaint was received in 2016 – 2017.

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. A fee will be charged.

Applications can also be made for CCTV footage in connection with Road Traffic Collisions. A fee will be charged to reflect the amount of time and administration required to service such requests. In such cases, footage will only be supplied to the Police or relevant insurance companies.

Partnership working

CCTV continues to work closely with the Dover District Community Safety 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 and Sandwich cost £220,567 in 2016 – 2017.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this report, please contact Heidi Kenmure, Community Safety and CCTV Manager, heidi.kenmure@dover.gov.uk