

Dover District Council CCTV Annual Report 2022

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Keeping the district a safer place to live, work and visit



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 23 cameras in Dover, 16 in Deal, 9 in Sandwich, 2 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 5 ANPR cameras across the district and 5 mobile cameras which can be placed in hot-spot locations across the district.

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 2020-21

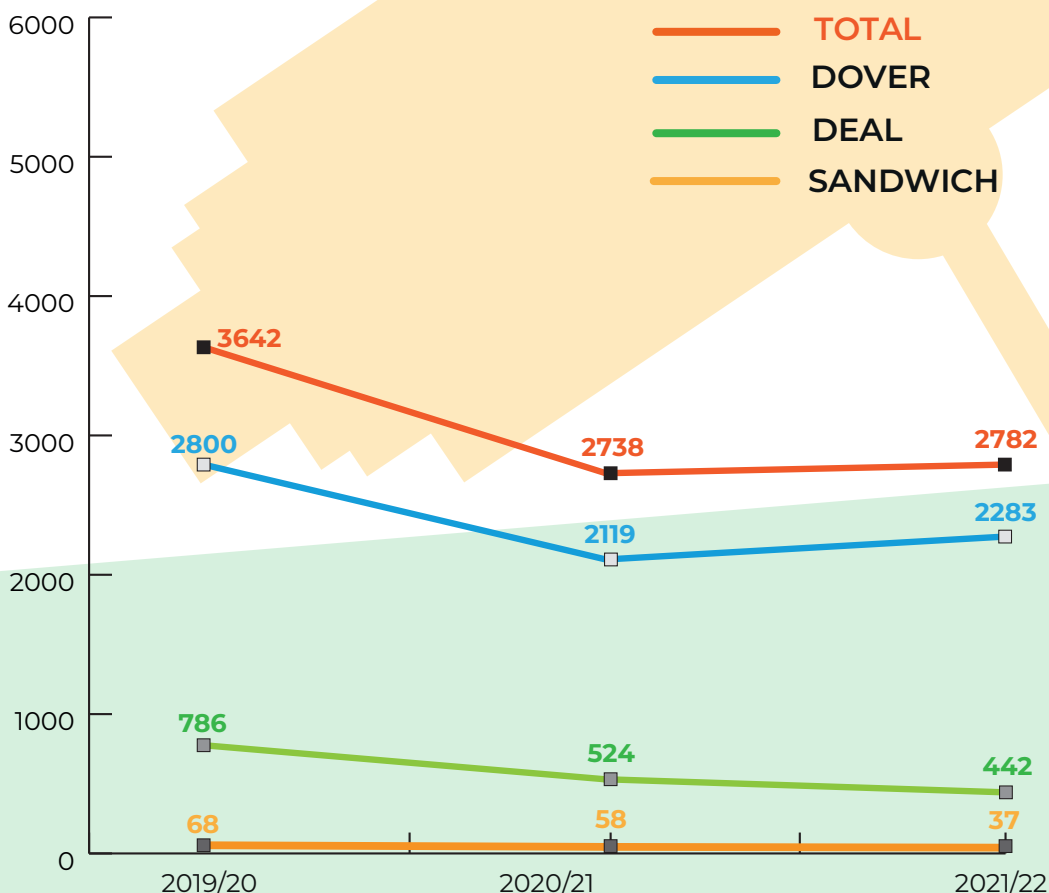
	DOVER	DEAL	SANDWICH	AYLESHAM	TOTAL
Incidents	1280	288	29	14	1611
Arrests	160	21	2	0	183

During this period, 218 recordings were reviewed by the police and 269 by CCTV on behalf of the police. Data seized by police that was found to contain evidence to justify seizure of that data for use in criminal investigations amounted to 502 seizures. CCTV was involved in providing assistance to 245 vulnerable people.

183 arrests were made by police as a direct result of observations carried out by CCTV operators.

Dover District Council as a local authority has a duty to do all that it reasonably can 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



Aylesham - 20 incidents recorded in 2021-22.
Not shown on the graph as we do not have any previous figures as these are new cameras in Aylesham.

Incident examples 2021-2022

Whilst conducting routine patrols, CCTV received a call from police describing a female in her 50s who they had safeguarding concerns for. Upon further investigation it was found that she had last used a telephone in Pencester Road, Dover. The CCTV operator then carried out a review and was able to locate the female. CCTV further monitored the woman who was seen walking towards Maison Dieu Gardens and advised local patrols of her location. The police then reached the female and gave the appropriate help.

The CCTV operator on duty was conducting a patrol when they noticed a group of people congregating in the skatepark. One of the individuals from the group was handling what appeared to be a firearm. The police were informed immediately and given a description of the young male. When the patrol arrived at the scene, the group of youths ran away and one of them was seen to place the gun in a nearby bush. Upon further inspection by the police it appeared the firearm in question was actually a BB gun.

Whilst conducting pro-active routine patrols, the CCTV operator on duty called the police control room to inform them of two male youths who were seen holding multiple cans of paint so continued to monitor. CCTV then witnessed them spraying graffiti onto the skatepark. The youths were then further monitored and seen walking towards Stockdale Gardens. Police were informed immediately of their location and given descriptions. A patrol then located the youths and arrested them for criminal damage.

The CCTV operator on duty, whilst conducting a routine patrol, witnessed a vehicle drive out of Church Street and crash into the barriers on the opposite side of the road. The driver was then seen exiting the vehicle and started to walk up Castle Street away from the scene. The operator informed the police control room and once a description was given, the male was quickly located by our operator and stopped to be questioned.

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 2021-2022, 1 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

0 applications were received in 2020-2021

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

One complaint was received in 2021-2022

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.

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 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 £219,693 in 2021-2022.

Future Plans

Dover District Council will continue to increase the capability of our CCTV infrastructure and work closely within our Community Safety Partnership to use CCTV and continue to reduce the fear of crime and build confidence within our communities. Since the last annual report, Port of Dover cameras are now embedded within our control room and we have worked in partnership with Wingham Parish Council to now have two cameras in the recreational ground.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this report, please contact David Parratt, Emergency Planning and CCTV Team Leader
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