



CCTV ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

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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 and 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, 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 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

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Community-Safety/CCTV/CCTV-Code-of-Practice-2018.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 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 8 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 currently held within the system.

We currently have three Lay Visitors. In this reporting year, the Lay Visitors have carried out five unannounced visits. No concerns were raised.

Statistics 2019 - 2020

Home Office approved crime statistics can be found on the Kent Police web site at www.kent.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	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Dover	3475	4079	4374	4557	4864	4751	3429	2800
Deal	888	861	683	1084	1400	1094	934	786
Sandwich	98	140	184	205	111	66	63	68
Total	4461	5080	5214	5846	6375	5911	4426	3642

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 2019 - 2020				
	Dover	Deal	Sandwich	Total
Incidents	1132	295	30	1457
Arrests	199	20	2	221

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 402 vulnerable people.

145 arrests were made by Police as a direct result of observations carried out by CCTV operators, who additionally provided assistance in a further 54 arrests. CCTV also monitored a further 42 incidents.

Incident examples 2019 – 2020

CCTV staff received a report of a missing 7-year-old child. Due to the child's age he was deemed to be a high-risk vulnerable person. Operators were able to locate him and direct police patrols to meet with him and reunite him with his family.

Operators received a report of a concern for a male's welfare who was feeling depressed. He was located on CCTV pacing up and down near the edge of the cliffs and at one point dangling his legs over the edge. Due to the quick thinking from the operators, emergency services were called in where the male was brought to safety.

CCTV staff located an intoxicated female who had caused a disturbance outside a night club. She was then seen to enter a vehicle and drive off. Vehicle was monitored and contact made with police. The female was subsequently stopped and arrested for drink driving offences and found to be three times over the legal limit.

Police called CCTV for assistance in locating three suspects wanted for robbery. The suspects made off from police and CCTV staff were able to locate them on cameras due to the description given by police. Police attended and arrested 3 suspects on suspicion of robbery.

Call received from police of a male who was shouting at members of the public. CCTV staff were able to locate the male and whilst monitoring him and awaiting police patrols to arrive they noticed he had attempted to start a fight with passersby and then seen to pull a knife from his waistband. This information was relayed to the police who subsequently arrested him.

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 2019 – 2020, no 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

0 applications were received in 2019 – 2020.

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

0 complaints were received in 2019 – 2020.

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 and Sandwich cost £270,322 in 2019 – 2020.

Future Plans

Dover District Council will be moving the CCTV team and operations from the 1st May 2020 from their site at Maison Dieu to the new state of the art system within the main council offices at Whitfield. The move will see a major upgrade to the CCTV system to a new digital technology and introducing cameras into Aylesham. The technology also enables future investment opportunities in town centre Wi-Fi. Below is an image taken of the site at Maison Dieu followed by an image of the new control room at Whitfield.



Maison Dieu CCTV Control Room



New Whitfield CCTV Control Room

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