

# Dover District Council CCTV Annual Report 2021

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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, a new Code of Practice was introduced in August 2013 which can be accessed via [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/surveillance-camera-commissioner](http://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](http://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:
  - o Enhancing the economic climate, creating a greater opportunity for prosperity
  - o Preventing or alleviating serious interruption to traffic flow
  - o 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](http://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, 8 in Sandwich and 2 in Aylesham. 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 certification which expires on the 30th May 2024 which was carried out by the National Security Inspectorate (NSI).

# STATISTICS

Home Office approved crime statistics can be found on the Kent Police web site at [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

The table below shows the number of incidents recorded by the CCTV staff from 2012 to 2021. Plus those attended by the police, together with the number of CCTV related arrests that were recorded as part of the incident monitored by CCTV.

To describe the decline the 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.

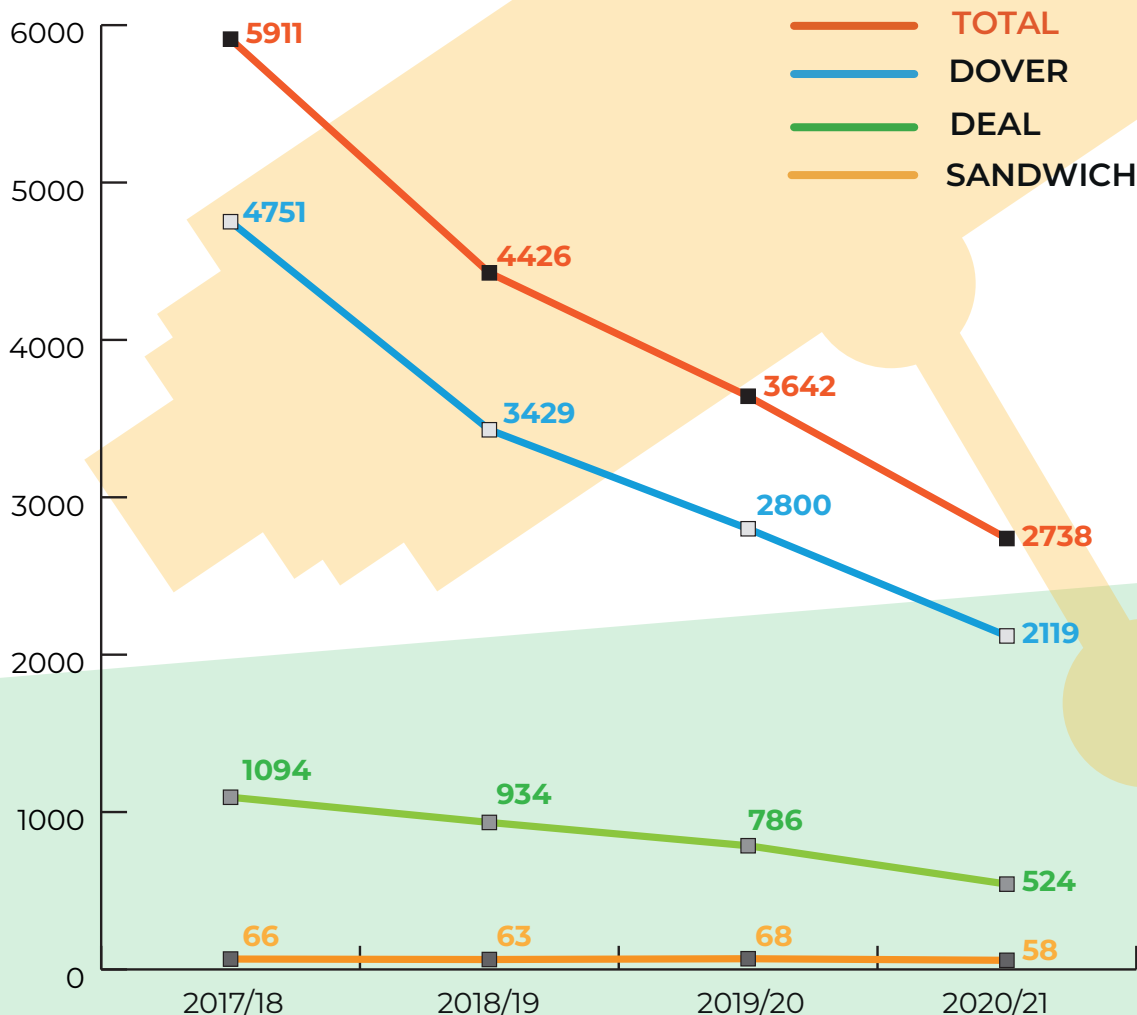
The table below shows the number of incidents recorded by the CCTV staff and attended by the police, together with the number of arrests made as a result of that police attendance.

POLICE ATTENDANCE TO CCTV INCIDENTS 2020-21				
	DOVER	DEAL	SANDWICH	TOTAL
Incidents	1157	318	30	1517
Arrests	161	44	20	225

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.

## CCTV INCIDENTS BY YEAR AND TOWN



**Aylesham - 19 incidents recorded in 2020-2021.** Not shown on the graph as we do not have any previous figures as these are new cameras in Aylesham



## Incident examples 2020-2021

The CCTV operator on duty one night monitored a male who was acting suspiciously in Folkestone Road. When some passers by had left the area the male then took a number plate off a vehicle. The operator called the control room and a patrol attended and located the male and took him back to the vehicle and made him put the number plate back on the vehicle.

The control room received a call from police who reported a concern for a male who had suicidal thoughts in Dover. An area search was carried out by patrols who were unable to locate the male. Half an hour after the report the male was located by one of our CCTV operators on a nearby road on CCTV. Police were advised who attended and ensured the male received appropriate care.

CCTV operator monitored a disturbance outside a coffee shop in Dover town centre. One male was seen to have a knuckle duster and another male had a hammer in his hand. Police were informed and the operator continued to monitor. One of the males was seen to have an injury to his head. One of the offenders then entered a white BMW belonging to the injured male and drive off at speed. The operator followed the vehicle which made off toward Buckland. The car was abandoned and the offender made off on foot. CCTV was able to monitor the male throughout and direct officers to his location where he was subsequently arrested for a range of serious offences. In total 3 individuals were arrested in connection with the incident.

A call was received from a member of the public to two 4x4 vehicles and motorcycles racing across the playing field at Aylesham during the snow. We were able to identify these vehicles on CCTV and monitored them. Police patrols were called however officers were not able to respond at the time owing to adverse weather conditions. Those involved were seen to go into a garden. This information was fed back to patrols including the registration number of the vehicle that was clearly seen on camera and able to issue a section 59 warning to the drivers along with a fine for breaching Covid-19 rules. were arrested.

## 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 2020-2021, 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](http://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

No complaints were received in 2020-2021

## 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](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 £333,810 in 2020-2021.

## 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. We have been working closely with our partners to achieve that aim which includes access to a number of cameras within the Port of Dover and surrounding areas in order to have a collaborative approach as well as deploy our mobile cameras strategically across the district.

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