



CCTV Annual Report 2025/26

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 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-2026-SECURE.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/Emergency-Planning-CCTV/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, 21 in Deal, 9 in Sandwich, 4 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 6 ANPR cameras across the district and 5 mobile cameras which can be placed in hot-spot locations across the district. In addition to the above we also have 49 cameras on our own assets.

System accountability

We take part in internal and external audits periodically. At our most recent East Kent Partnership Audit we received a Substantial Limited assurance rating. We are looking to renew our external accreditations within the next 12-18 months.

Statistics

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

The graph below shows the number of incidents recorded by the CCTV staff from 2021 to 2026.

Police attendance to CCTV incidents over the past financial year are detailed in the table (below), together with the number of CCTV-related arrests that were recorded as part of the incidents monitored by CCTV.

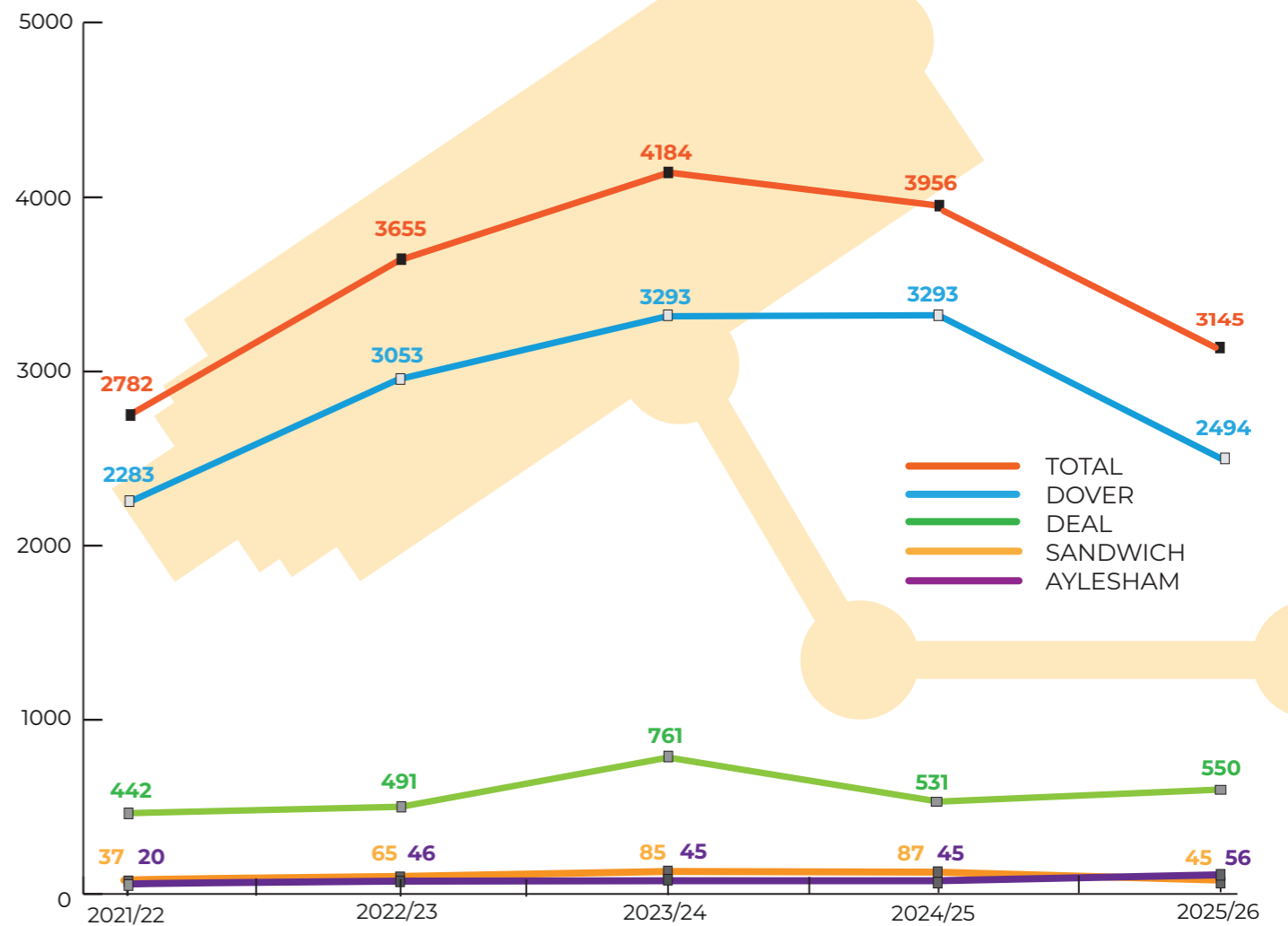
Our CCTV team is integrated within the Dover Partnership Against Crime (DPAC).

POLICE ATTENDANCE TO CCTV INCIDENTS 2025-26					
	DOVER	DEAL	SANDWICH	AYLESHAM	TOTAL
Incidents	1369	285	27	29	1710
Arrests	269	35	2	1	307

During this period, 527 requests were reviewed on behalf of the Police and 19 reviews were conducted for council activities such as environmental crime. CCTV was involved in providing assistance to 144 vulnerable people.

Dover District Council as a local authority has a duty to do all that is reasonable 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



Incident examples 2025-2026

A call received from Police Control confirmed a van and four males had been seen at an address, looking to empty a potential cannabis grow. CCTV located a hire van, which they suspected to be involved. As it left the area, the location and direction of travel was passed onto Police. The vehicle was then stopped by Kent Police in which officers discovered that the van was full of both cannabis and growing equipment. There was three arrests made with Kent Police thanking CCTV. This is a great example of how partners share useable intel with CCTV, who can then use that information to monitor areas of interest and assist partners in making our district safer.

While monitoring CCTV cameras, operators observed a vehicle travelling at excessive speed. CCTV continued to monitor the vehicle, which was then seen driving through multiple red lights at speed, posing a significant risk to the public. CCTV immediately informed Police Control, providing full vehicle details and continuous updates on its direction of travel. Kent Police attended the area and located the vehicle shortly afterward. Following police intervention, the driver was arrested and the vehicle was seized. This incident highlights the wide range of situations CCTV monitors and demonstrates how proactive surveillance, combined with effective communication with Police Control, directly contributes to public safety.

Police Control requested assistance in locating a high-risk female who had contacted a support service stating she intended to harm herself. Control advised that she was new to the area. CCTV operators requested a clothing description to begin an area search. Control later confirmed the individual's approximate height and that she was wearing a light-coloured jacket. CCTV conducted an area search and identified a person matching the description walking along a nearby road while on the phone. CCTV notified a local patrol, advising that this could be the high-risk individual. Officers attended, engaged with the female, and confirmed it was the person they were looking for. The individual was subsequently detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act for her safety. CCTV received thanks for their prompt assistance. This incident highlights how CCTV supports partner agencies in safeguarding vulnerable people and responding quickly to high-risk situations.

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 2025-2026, zero operations of this nature were carried out.

Further information on the legal requirements can be found at www.ipco.org.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 2025-2026.

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.

0 complaints were received in 2025-2026.

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: www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Emergency-Planning-CCTV/CCTV/CCTV.aspx

Applications for personal data or for a review of CCTV footage can also be made via this website.

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 £352,981 in 2025-2026.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this report, please contact David Parratt, Community Safety, Resilience & Digital Manager.

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