



CCTV Annual Report 2024

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-2023-FINAL.pdf](#) (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/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 27 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 43 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 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 2020 to 2024.

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

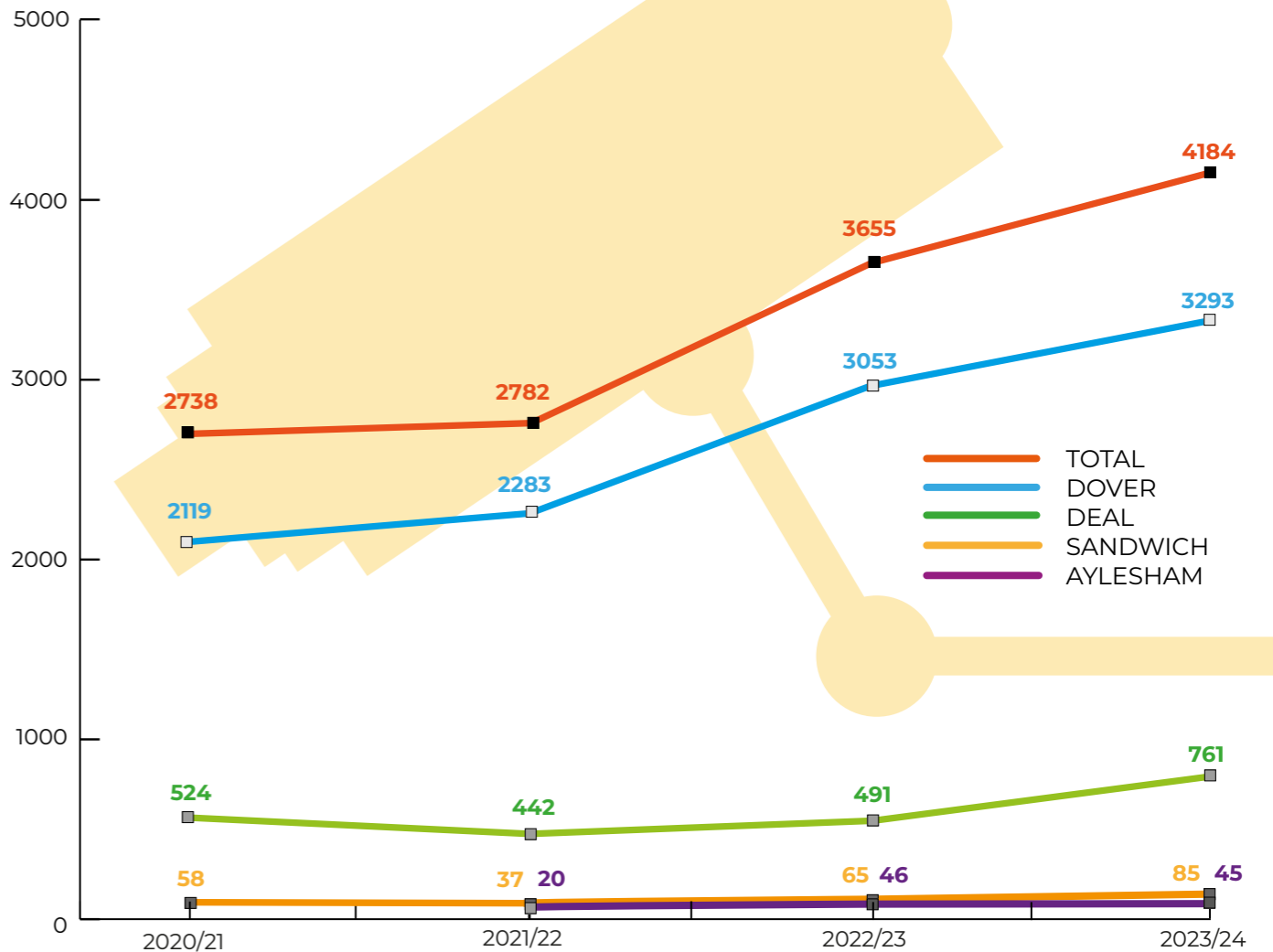
Our CCTV team is integrated within the Dover Partnership Against Crime (DPAC).

POLICE ATTENDANCE TO CCTV INCIDENTS 2023-24					
	DOVER	DEAL	SANDWICH	AYLESHAM	TOTAL
Incidents	1516	376	49	23	1964
Arrests	287	51	9	3	350

During this period, 677 requests were reviewed on behalf of the police and 44 reviews were conducted for council activities such as environmental crime.. CCTV was involved in providing assistance to 245 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 2023-2024

Whilst conducting routine patrols, the CCTV operator located a female unconscious laying next to a night time venue in Deal. The operator called 999 and was able to provide the ambulance service with all required information and could see through body movement that the female was breathing and eyes open but clearly showing signs of having a seizure. With no other persons around this would have gone unnoticed had it not been for the quick-thinking actions of the operator. Paramedics arrived and appropriate care was then provided.

Police alerted CCTV to an alarm activation at a retail premises in Deal. CCTV carried out a proactive search of the cameras in the area and were able to identify the suspects. The suspects were seen to run away from the scene however due to the positive identification made of the individuals they were promptly arrested by police on suspicion of burglary.

CCTV were made aware of a vulnerable adult female who had the mental age of a young child who had gone missing from carers. The female was also in possession of a knife and concerns were raised regarding her intention. CCTV was able to locate this female on CCTV and direct patrols to the location. The female was returned to her carers where onward support was then provided.

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 2023-2024, 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

2 applications were received in 2023-2024

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

Zero complaints were received in 2023-2024

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 £274,247 in 2023-2024.

Future Plans

The out of hours service has continued to grow and the authority have been dealing with out of hours calls inhouse since July 2023. As we look forward to 2024 /25 we will be focusing on supporting operations around the EU Entry/Exit System (EES) alongside our core activities to support operational and strategic decision making regarding the Impact from EES.

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

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