

# CCTV Half Yearly Report

## Wantage and Abingdon

### 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information on how the district council's CCTV cameras in Wantage and Abingdon contribute towards deterring crime, reducing the fear of crime, increasing crime detection and protecting vulnerable people in the district.

The report is produced using information provided by the CCTV monitoring suite based in Abingdon. It is based on information drawn from the record of occurrences. A record of occurrence is reported each time a CCTV camera is used proactively to monitor a specific incident.

Reports are provided on a half yearly basis to each town council and other stakeholders to share information and help publicise the positive outcomes of CCTV to residents and businesses. We have 23 cameras in Abingdon and six in Wantage.

#### DATA SUMMARY

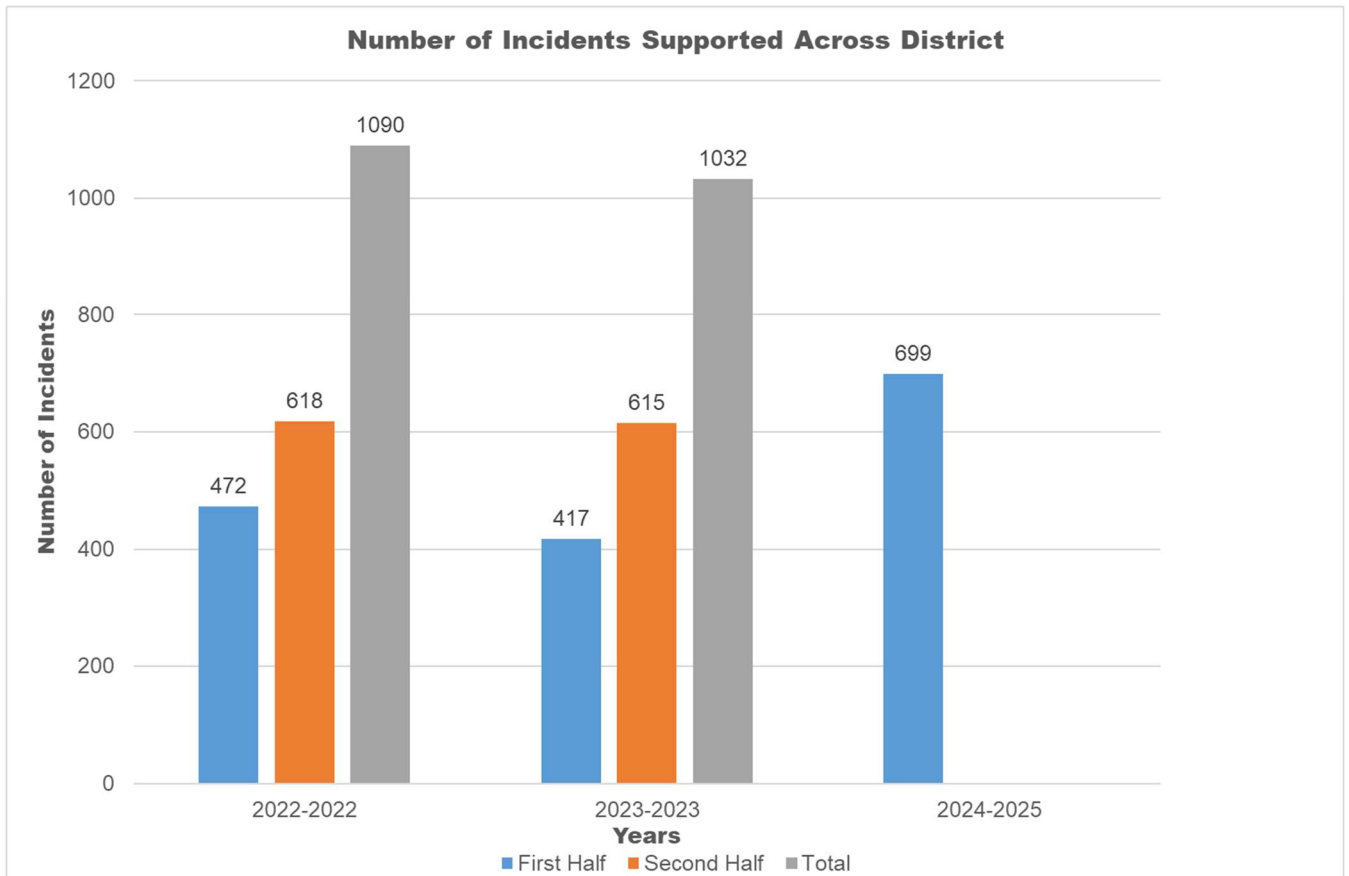
Across the Vale, CCTV operators **supported 699 incidents** during the first half of 2024-25 which represents an increase of 68 per cent when compared to the same period of the previous year. The operators also **produced 80 evidence packs** for possible court proceedings, carried out **23 reviews of CCTV footage** (a review is undertaken as a result of a request) and **supported 54 arrests**.

The table below displays the most common type of incident monitored for each town during the first half of 2024-25, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

<b>MOST COMMONLY MONITORED INCIDENTS</b>	
<b>Abingdon</b>	<b>Wantage</b>
Antisocial behaviour (104)	Missing persons (23)
Fear for welfare (64)	Wanted persons (16)*
Shoplifting (33)	Fear for welfare (11)

\*typically someone with an outstanding arrest or suspect in a crime.

The chart below compares this half yearly total with previous half years:



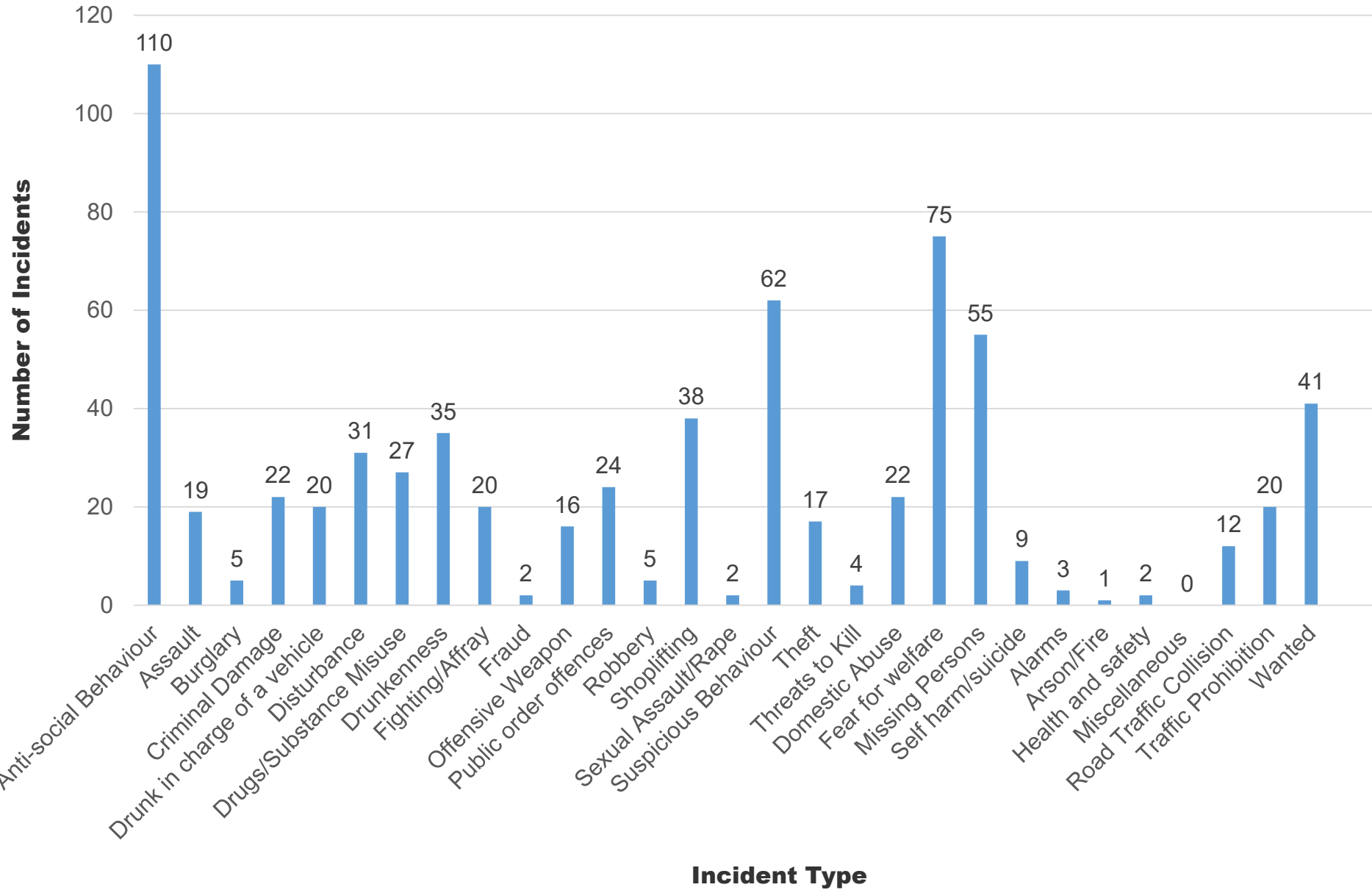
For a breakdown of monitored incidents by town please see table below:

	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total
<b>Abingdon</b>	374	521	895	340	472	812	574		574
<b>Wantage</b>	98	97	195	77	143	220	125		125
<b>Total</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>1090</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>699</b>		<b>699</b>

## TYPE AND NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

The chart on page three shows the numbers and types of incidents the CCTV Operators monitored from 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024 across both towns.

### Incidents by Type - 1 April 2024 - 30 September 2024

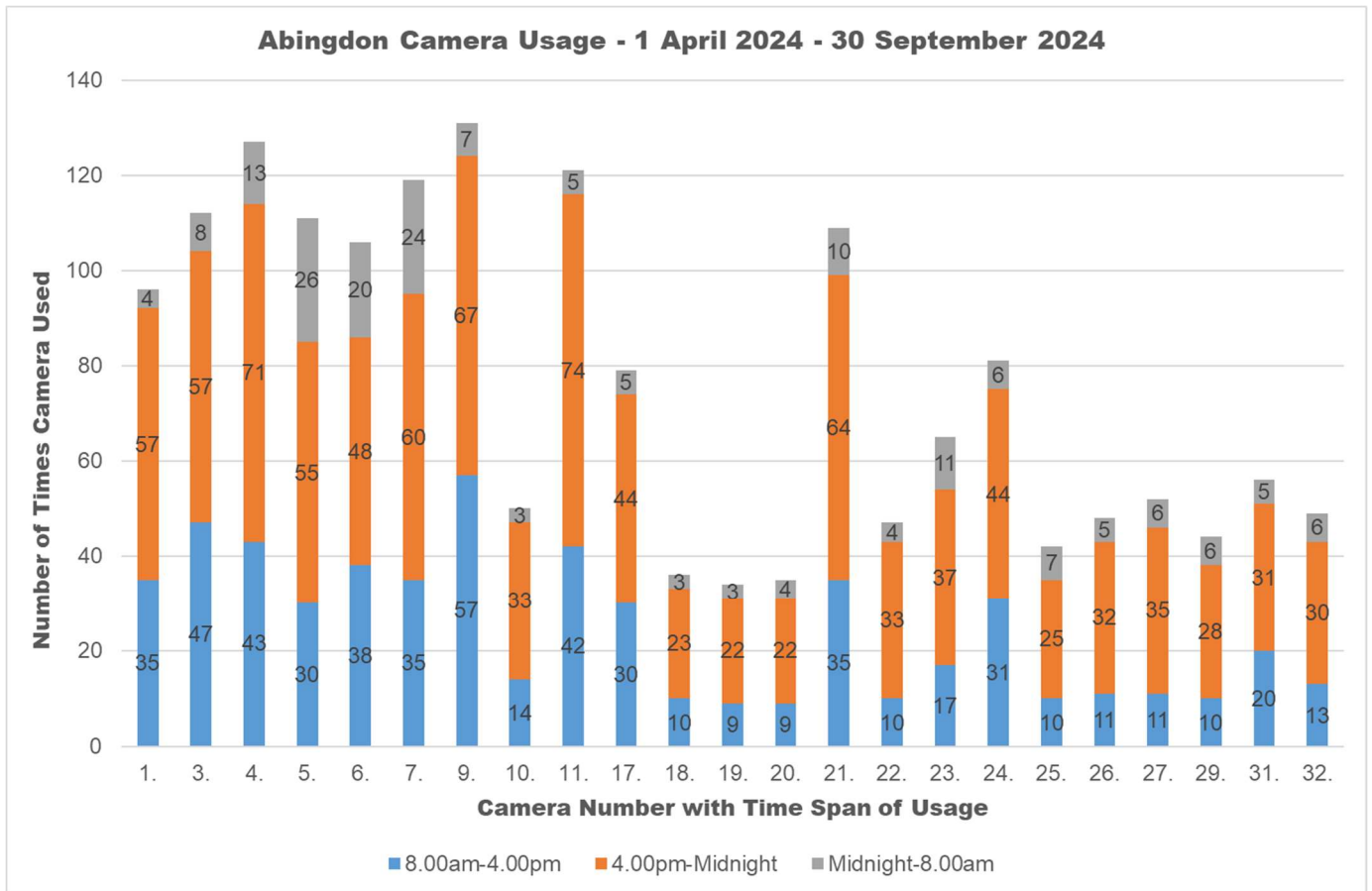


# CAMERA USAGE

The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras were deployed in recorded, monitored events.

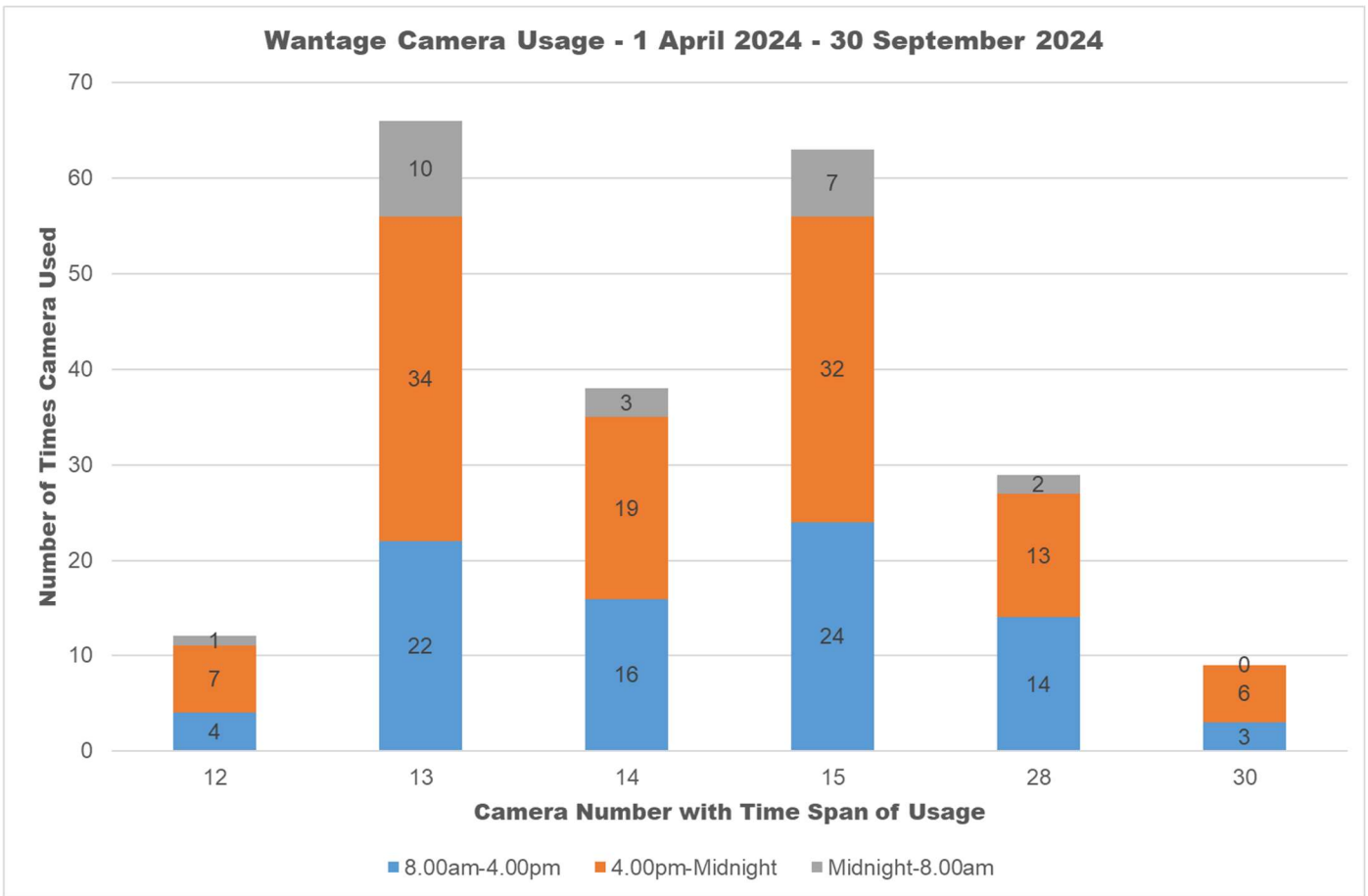
The number of times that each camera was used has been divided into three sections, covering a 24 hour period.

It is worth noting that for the period midnight to 8am, most of the camera usage occurred between midnight and 4am.



Camera 9 is located at the top of Bury Street and covers the main shopping centre and thoroughfare. The high usage reflects the levels of antisocial behaviour and shoplifting that were monitored by CCTV during this period. This is also true for camera 11, which is located at the end of Bury Street.

Camera 4 is used to monitor both the day and nighttime economy. It is situated on the corner of West St Helen Street and the High Street.



Cameras 13 and 15 both saw high usage in the first half of the year; camera 15 covers the marketplace as well as one of the late-night venues and camera 13 is located at the top of Mill Street.

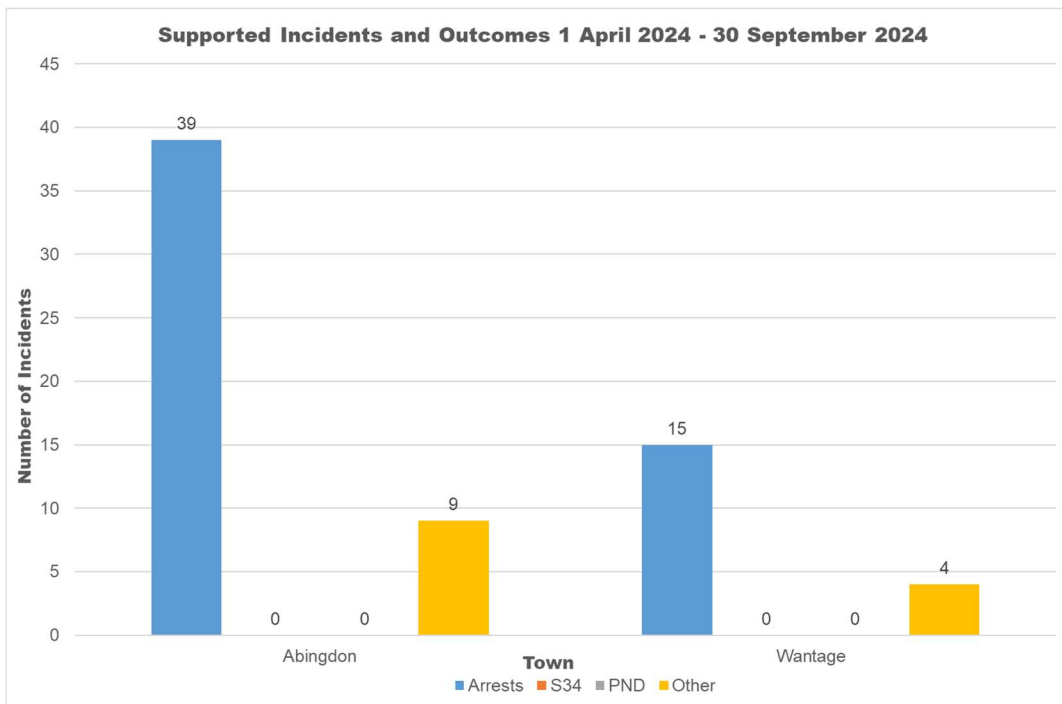
During the first half of the year, camera 12 suffered a fault which rendered it inoperable and damaged beyond repair. This accounts for the lower recorded figures for that camera than normal. The council has secured a replacement camera which is due to be installed imminently.

**ARRESTS, SECTION 34S AND OTHER OUTCOMES**

The chart at the top of page six shows the outcomes the CCTV operators supported while involved in monitoring an incident. The police use their discretion on how an incident is resolved based on experience, the gravity of the offence, the resources that are available to them at that time and so on. Whilst we cannot always be certain whether CCTV was solely instrumental in an arrest or the serving of a Section 34 or a Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND), we do know the cameras alert police to incidents they may not have known about. CCTV also gives the police the ability to assess and allocate resources and priorities in real time e.g. leaving CCTV to monitor incidents or offenders while officers attend other incidents.

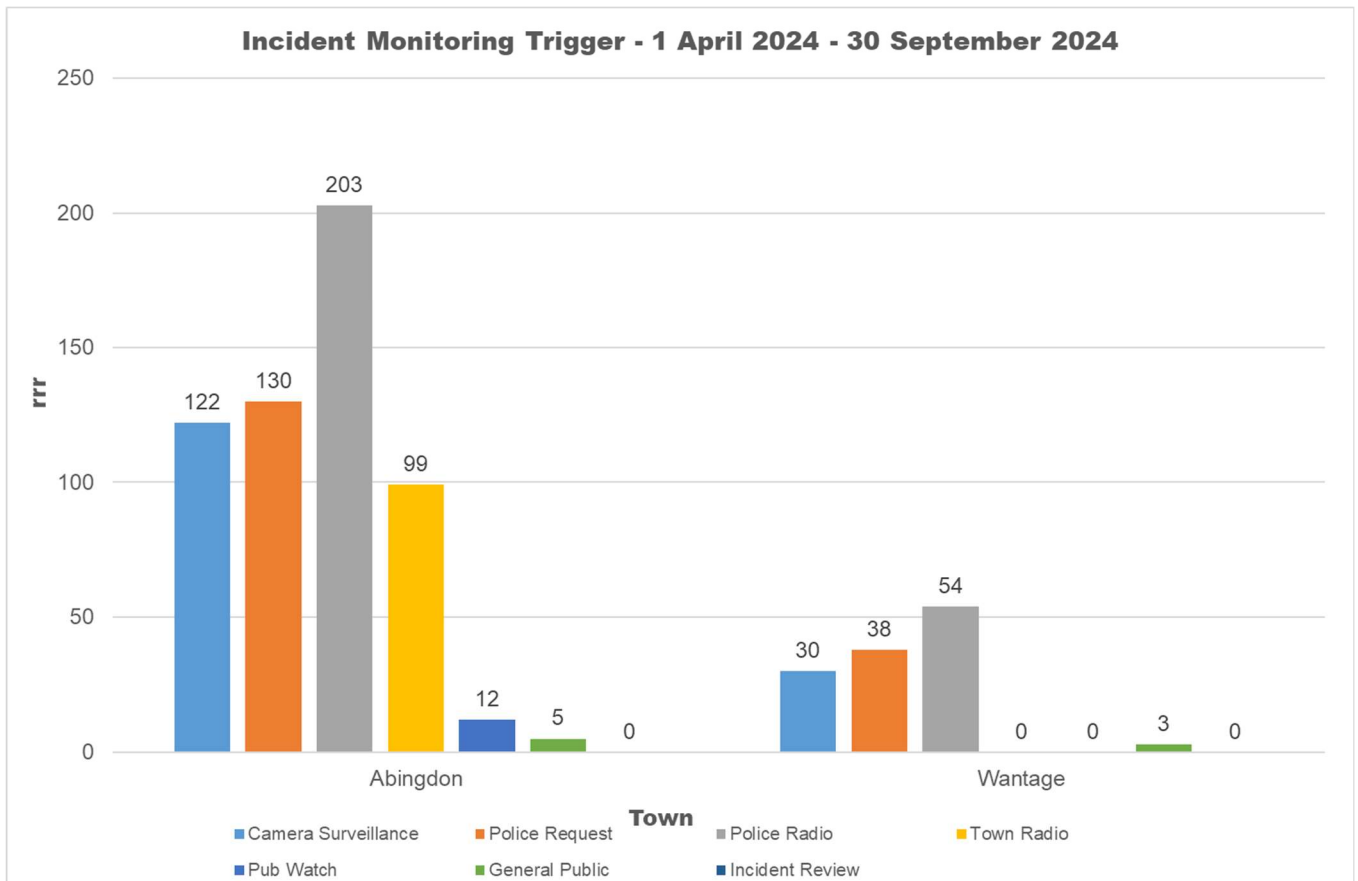
A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social behaviour disorder. A PND is an ‘on the spot fine’.

Actions on the chart designated ‘other’ usually mean that the police either gave verbal advice or a warning or a non-recordable sanction.



## HOW CCTV MONITORING WAS INITIATED

The chart below shows how many of the incidents monitored by CCTV were as a result of the following: a direct request from the police (police requests); the CCTV operator hearing about an incident on a police radio (police radio); request to review footage at the time of an incident (incident review); the operator proactively patrolling the cameras (camera surveillance). Only Abingdon has a town radio scheme.



## REVIEWS AND EVIDENCE PACKS

When not tasked by police, the operators patrol all the cameras and focus on 'hotspot' areas. All cameras are recording 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are set in 'default' positions where they remain whilst not being actively moved by an operator. These positions are agreed with the police and town councils as covering those areas that are most likely to experience community safety issues.

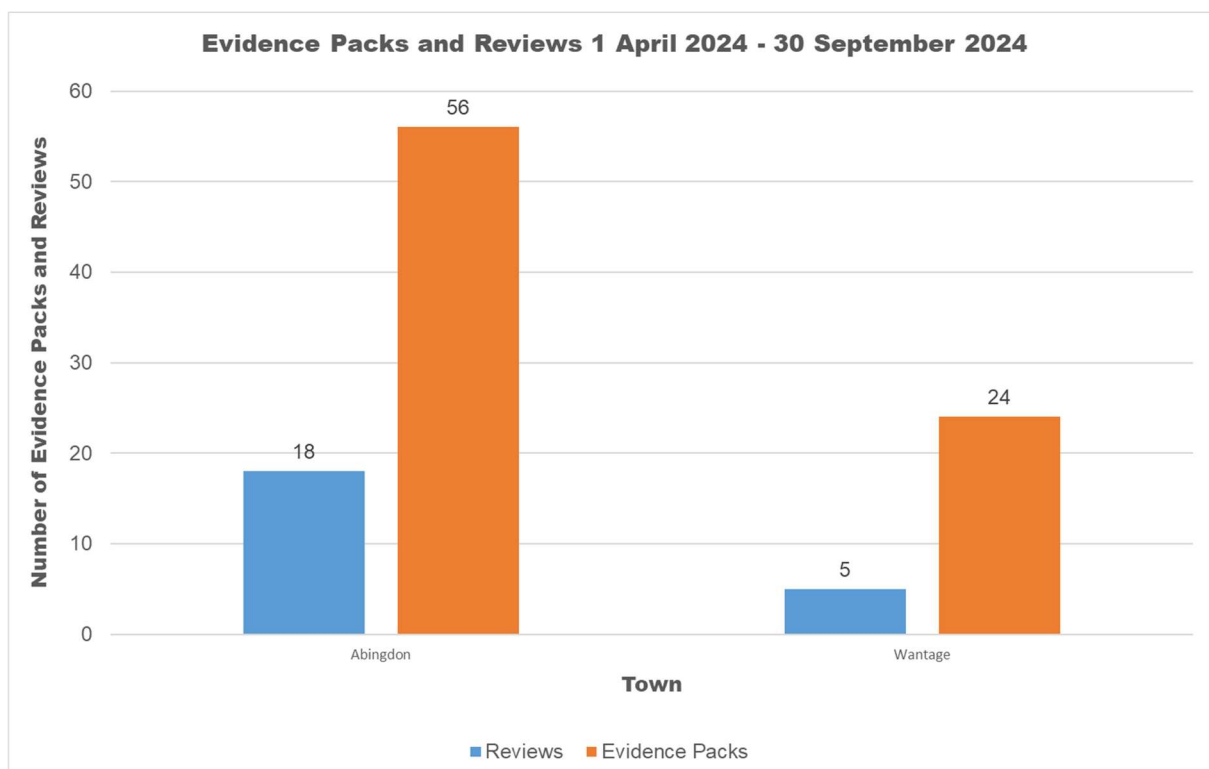
CCTV operators and the CCTV supervisor also respond to requests from members of the public and third parties under data protection legislation and subject access requests (SARs). The most common request is to examine car park or road cameras for evidence of 'non-stop road traffic collisions' in which the complainant's car has been damaged. Altogether we received 14 such requests during this half of the year which were all actioned and replies given.

The chart below shows the number of evidence packs the CCTV operators put together and the number of evidence reviews they undertook as a result of formal written requests.

Evidence packs are the recordings and statements which the CCTV operators produce for police, solicitors and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Activity that monitors past footage but does not result in an evidence pack being produced is termed 'a review'. This may be, for example, that the footage does not show an event clearly enough to warrant making a permanent copy for evidential use.

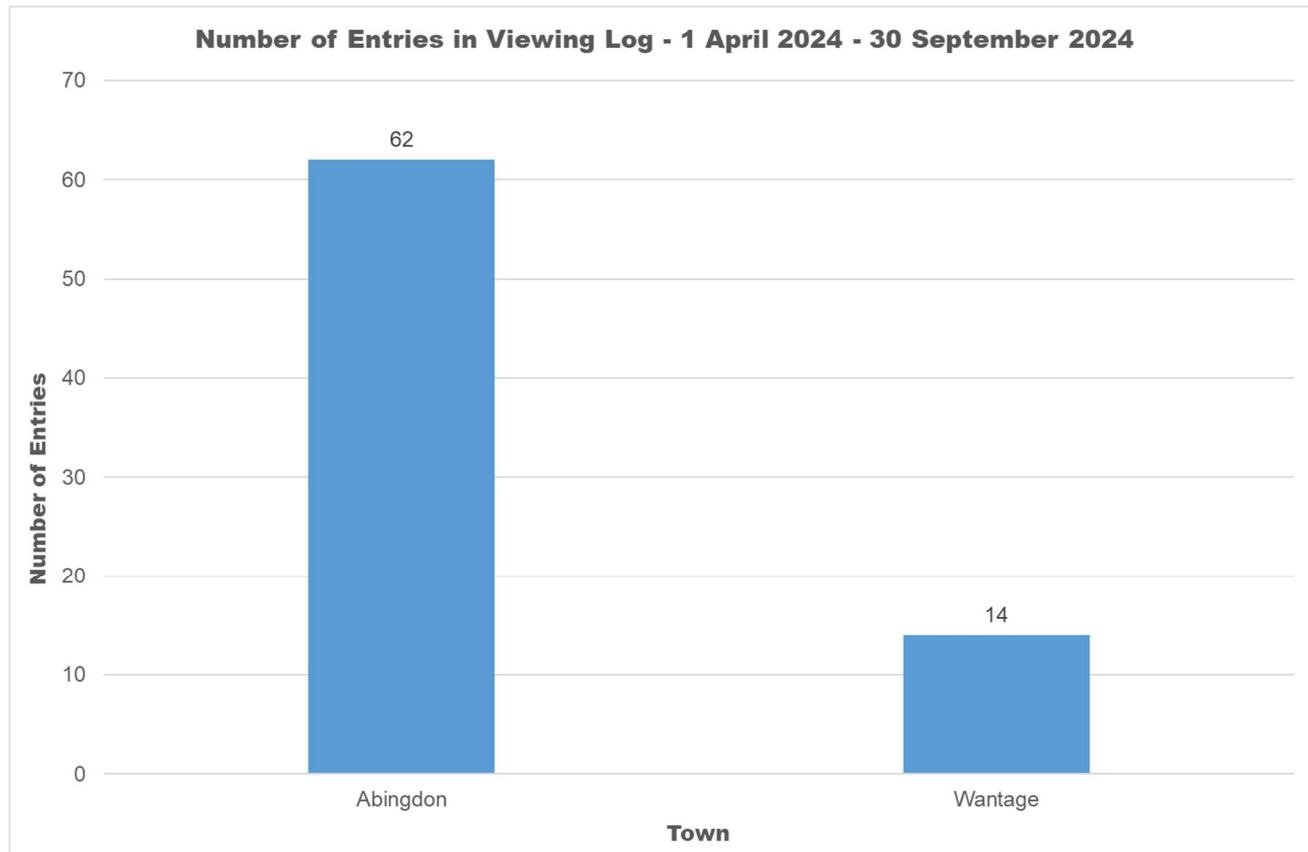
One of the greatest advantages of CCTV footage is in obtaining a guilty plea at the early interview stage. For many offences this early admission is due to the offence being captured clearly on camera and saves the expense of full trial at either magistrates or crown court.



## VIEWING LOG

When authorised personnel (most often police officers) visit the CCTV control room to view footage, the details are entered into a viewing log. The chart below reflects the number of times this occurred between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024 across the two towns.

Please note that the viewing of footage may or may not be followed by a formal written request for footage.



## CASE STUDIES

The following are examples of incidents dealt with by CCTV operators during the first half of 2024–25. They aim to demonstrate how our CCTV service helps to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe.

### Abingdon

Whilst monitoring Abingdon town centre, one of our operators observed a man hitting a woman. They immediately contacted the police to pass on details and a description. The man became aggressive to passers-by, but police officers soon attended and made an arrest.

The team was informed that a man had run off during a police stop and search in Abingdon. The operator on duty quickly identified the direction in which the person had run and passed this information to officers on the ground. They were able to track the person and update the police with their hiding place. One arrest was made for drug possession.



During a late shift, the police control room informed our CCTV team that there was a potential drink driver who was going to be leaving a licensed premises in the town centre. Using the information provided, one of the operators sighted their vehicle leaving the area and updated officers. They were subsequently able to plan a safe stop and arrest the driver, who was found to be over the legal alcohol limit.

## **Wantage**

Late one night, a report came into the CCTV control room of people attempting to break into the Sainsburys store. A description was given and one of our operators began searching for the suspects. A short while later, they sighted two individuals matching the description and acting suspiciously. They directed officers to the location and two arrests were made.

Having been provided with a description of a vulnerable young woman who had left an address in Wantage, our CCTV operator carried out a search of the local area and was able to quickly locate a possible match in the town centre. Officers attended and confirmed that the person was indeed the woman they were concerned about and were able to safeguard her.

During a shift, our operator spotted a man who was wanted by the police for numerous offences. Using local knowledge, the operator helped officers prepare to make an arrest by assessing various routes of possible 'escape'. When confronted by officers, the man attempted to escape through an alley but was quickly apprehended by officers positioned at the other end.

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Author: James Bell

Contact details: tel. 01865 309417, email [james.bell@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:james.bell@southandvale.gov.uk)