

# **CCTV Half Yearly Report**

## **Wantage and Abingdon**

**1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021**

### **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.

We aim to provide this report on a half yearly basis to share information and help publicise the positive outcomes of CCTV to residents and businesses. We have 23 cameras operating in Abingdon and six in Wantage.

### **DATA SUMMARY**

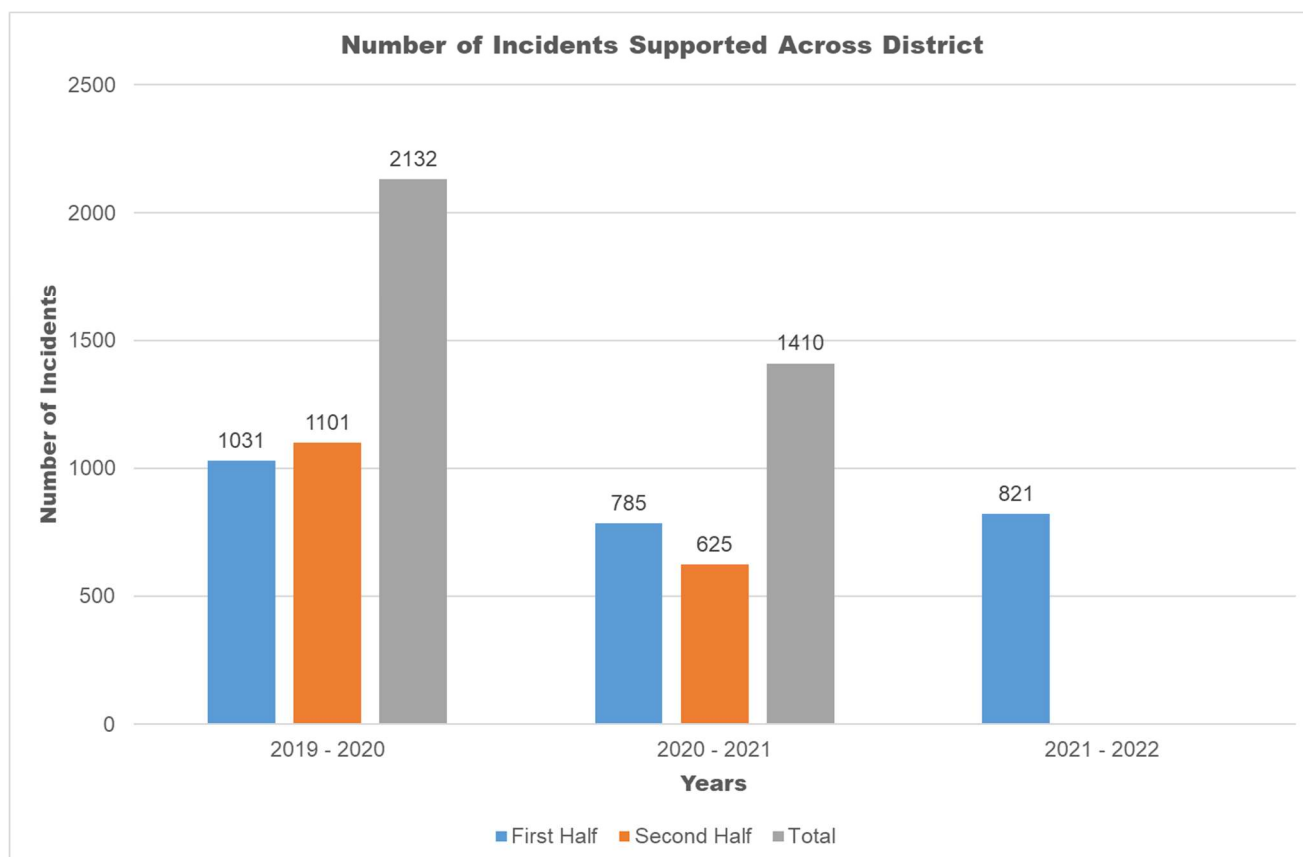
Across the Vale, CCTV operators supported 821 incidents during the first half of 2021-22.

The operators also produced 62 evidence packs for possible court proceedings, carried out 40 reviews of CCTV footage (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and supported 51 arrests.

The table below displays the most common type of incident monitored for each town during the first half of 2021-22 where CCTV was involved at some stage:

<b>MOST COMMONLY MONITORED INCIDENTS</b>	
<b>Abingdon</b>	<b>Wantage</b>
Fear for Welfare (80)	Missing Persons (37)
Missing Persons (69)	Fear for Welfare (28)
Anti-social Behaviour (61)	Drunkenness (11)

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

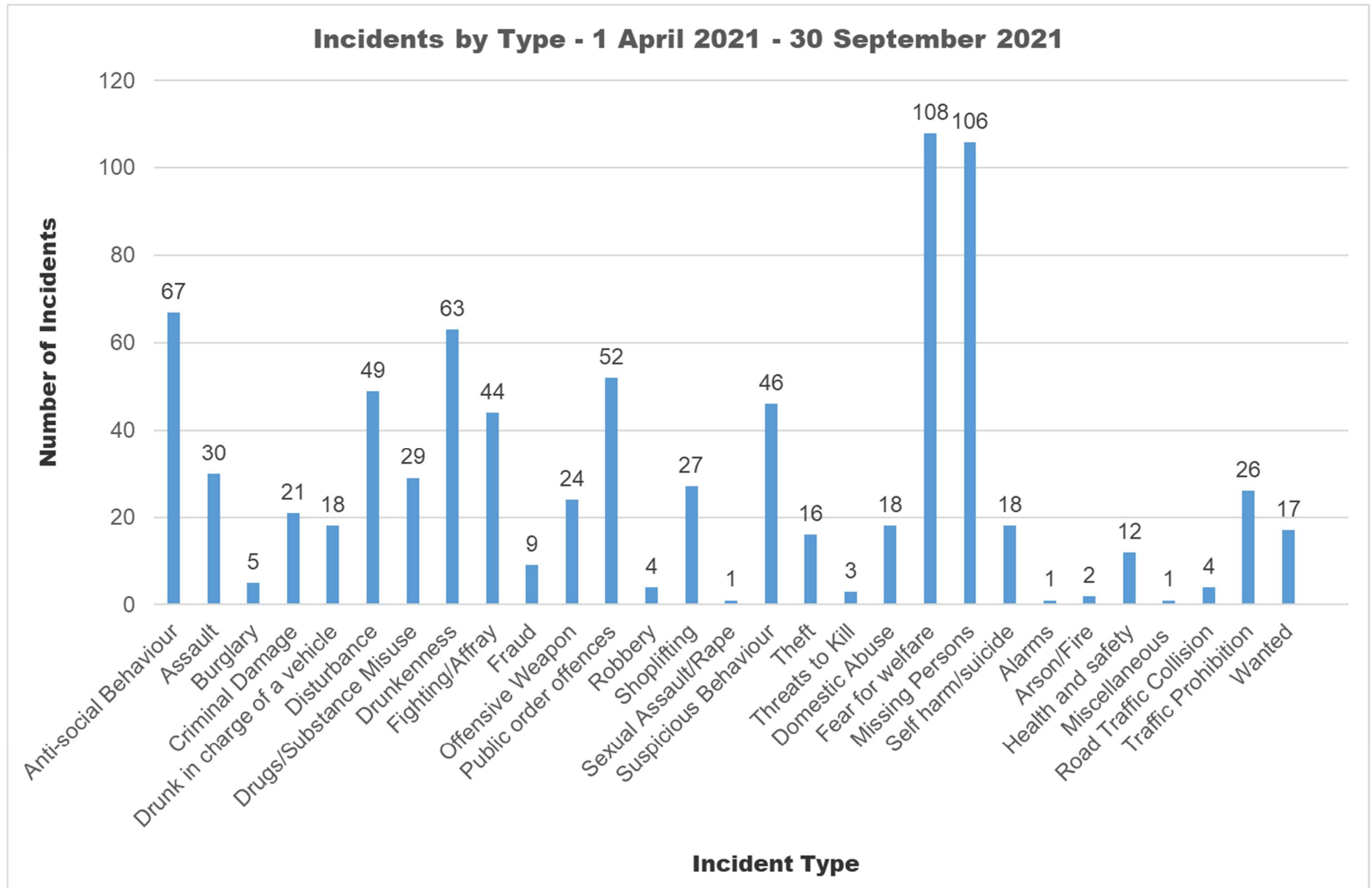


For further breakdown please see the table below:

	2019 - 2020			2020-2021			2021 - 2022		
	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total
<b>Abingdon</b>	873	908	1781	662	542	1204	672		
<b>Wantage</b>	158	193	351	123	83	206	149		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1031</b>	<b>1101</b>	<b>2132</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>821</b>		

## TYPE AND NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

The chart on page three shows the numbers and types of incident the CCTV Operators monitored from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 across both towns.

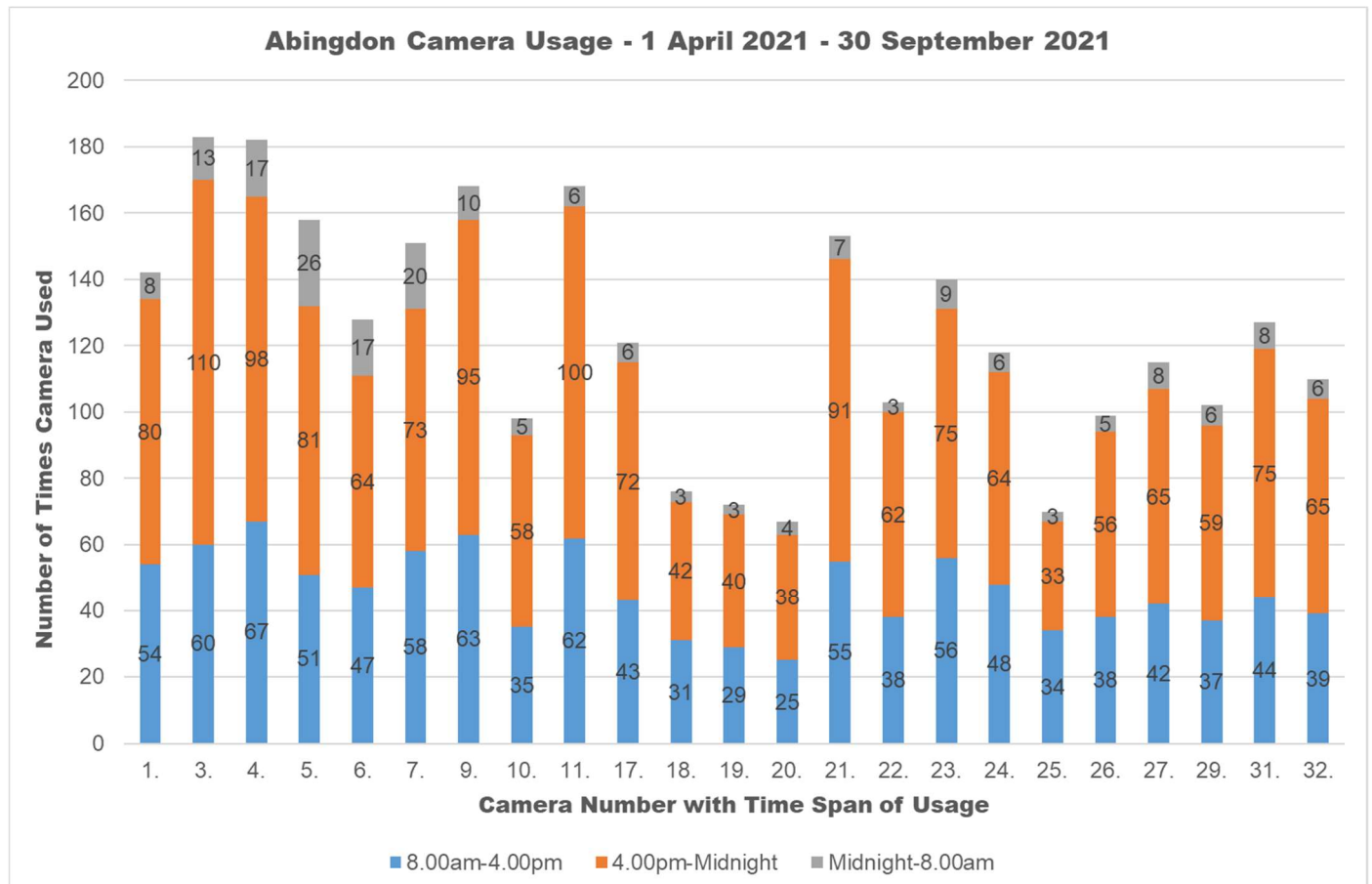


## CAMERA USAGE

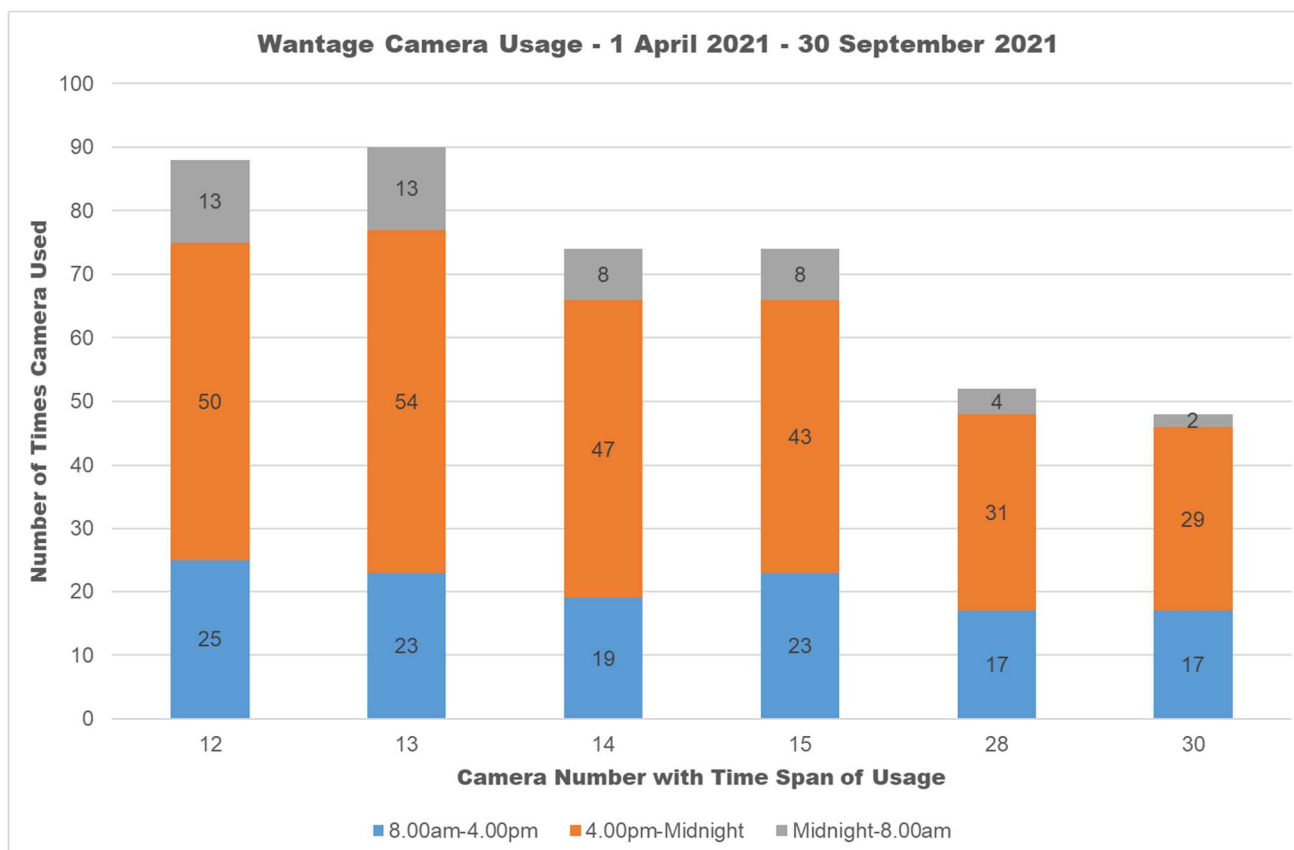
The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras are deployed in recorded, monitored events.

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, the vast majority of camera usage occurred between midnight and 4am.



Cameras three, four, nine and eleven cover the High St., Market Place and shopping precinct and show the greatest amount of use.



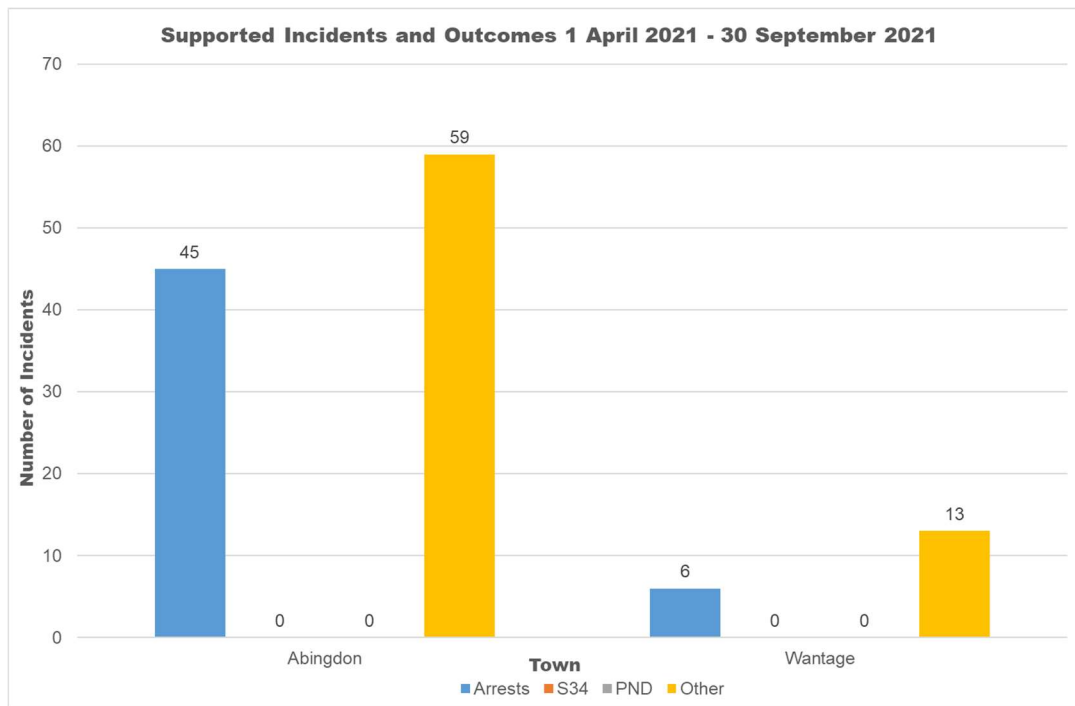
Although the graph shows significant usage across all cameras in Wantage, cameras 12 and 13 cover most of the town centre activity.

## ARRESTS, SECTION 34S AND OTHER OUTCOMES

The chart on 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. should the situation allow, leaving CCTV to monitor incidents or offenders while officers attend other incidents.

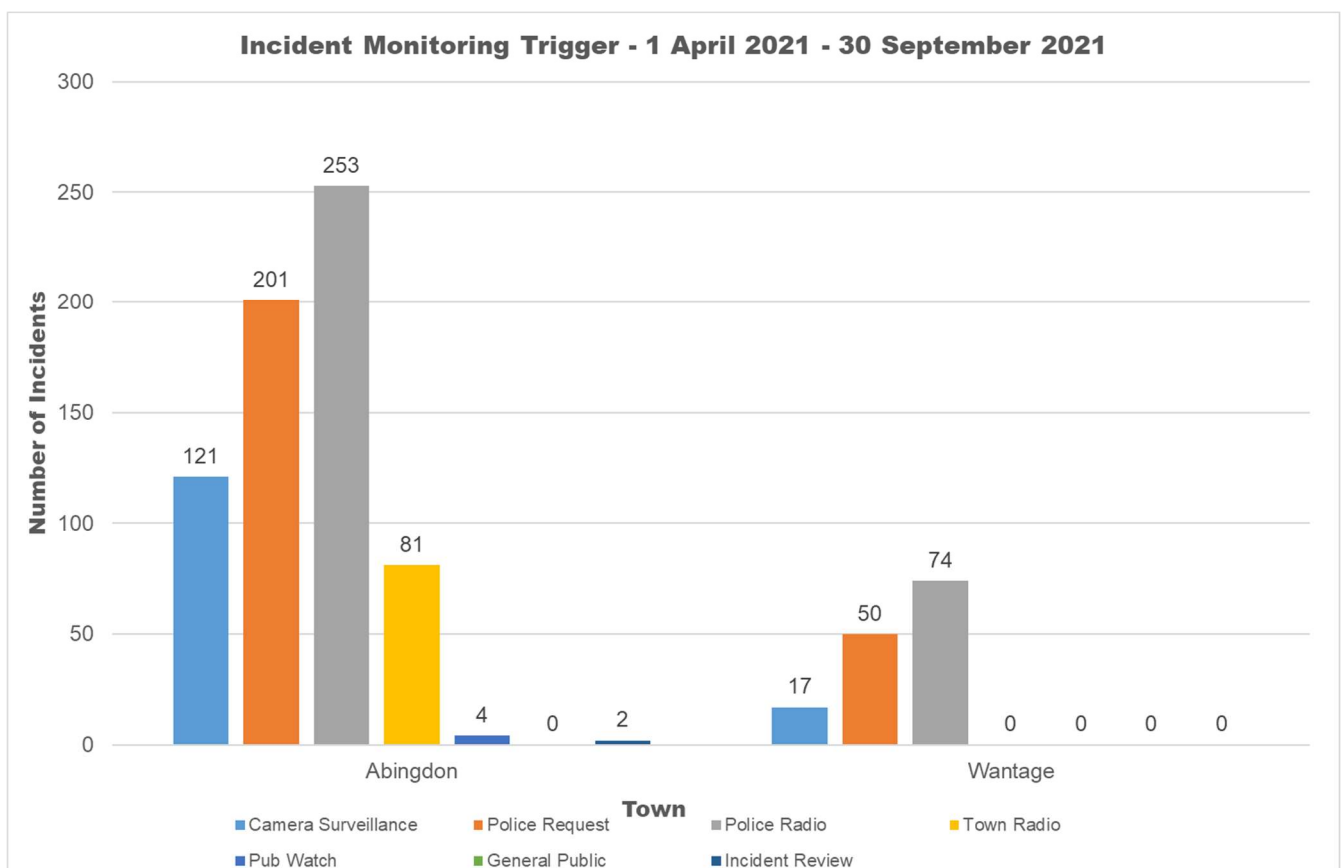
A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social behaviour disorder. A PND is an 'on the spot fine'.

Actions on the chart designated 'other' usually means that the police either gave verbal advice or admonition or a non-recordable sanction, for example; replace items in a bin that had been kicked over.



## 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 shop 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 which are agreed with the police as the areas most likely to experience problems.

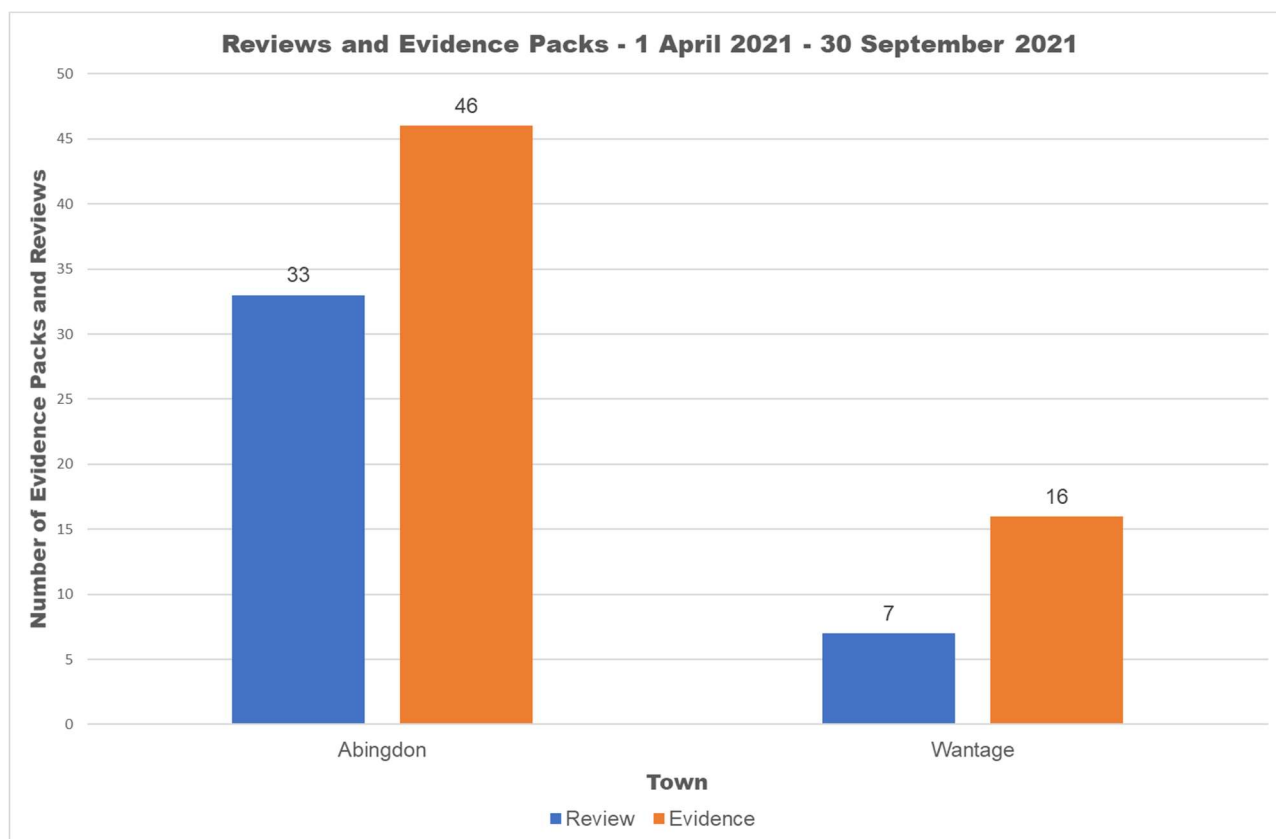
CCTV operators and the CCTV supervisor also respond to requests from members of the public and third parties under data protection legislation and subject access requests (SARs). The most common request is to examine car park or road cameras for evidence of 'non-stop road traffic collisions' in which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

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

Evidence reviews are checks through historical material. The 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 DVD copy for evidential use.

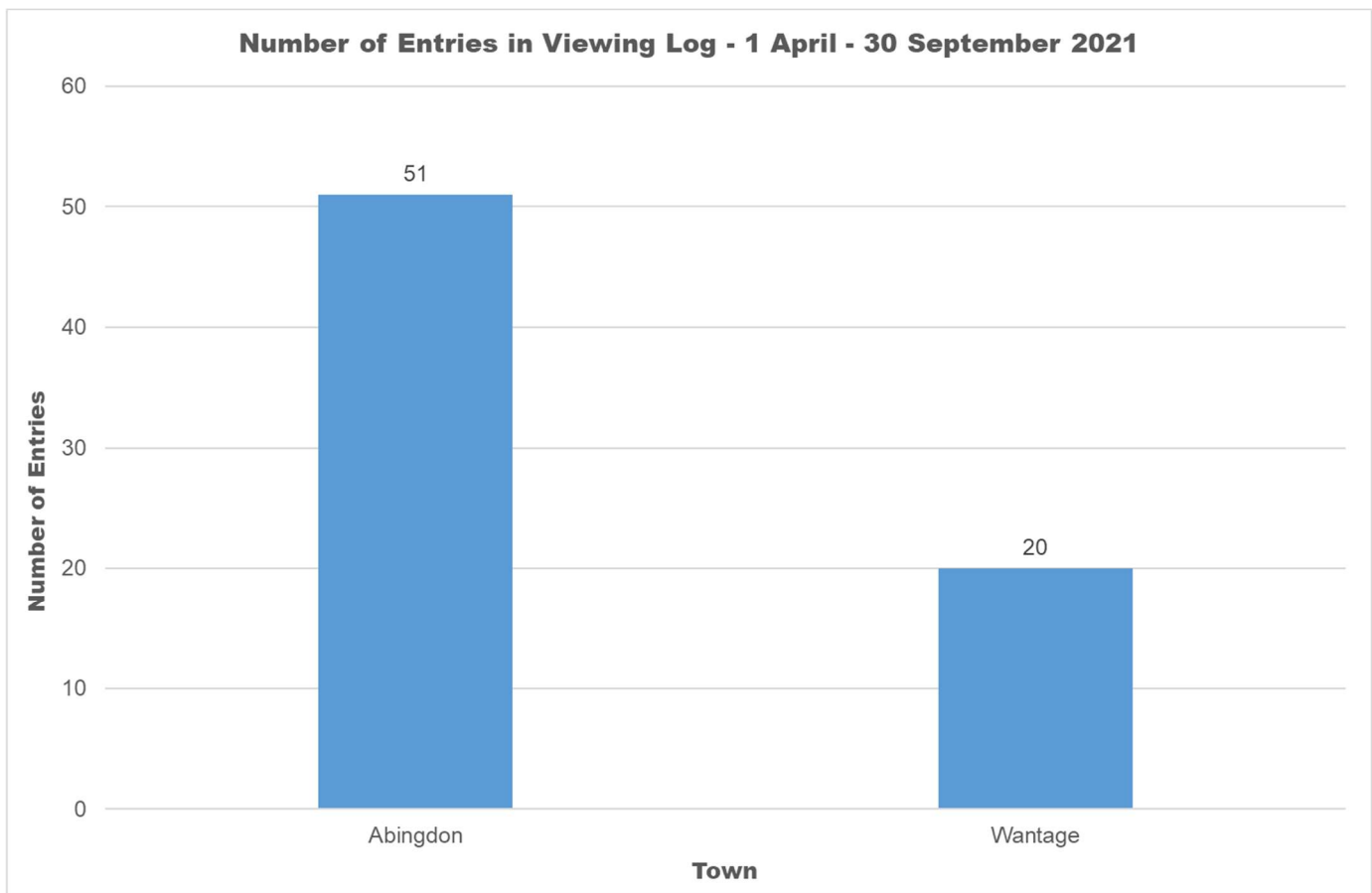
One of the greatest advantages of CCTV footage is in obtaining a guilty plea at the early interview stage. For many offences this early admission is due to the offence being captured clearly on camera and saves the expense of full trial at either magistrates or crown court.



## VIEWING LOG

During this period, we were unable to accommodate visitors in the control room due in the Covid-19 situation (with the exception of CCTV maintenance staff). Therefore, when police officers asked to view footage, these requests were carried out by our operators on their behalf. The following chart reflects the number of times this occurred between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021 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 2021–22. They aim to demonstrate how our CCTV service helps to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe.

### Abingdon

During the course of routine monitoring, our operator noted that a man known to have a Criminal Behaviour Order was behaving in a way that breached its conditions. Our operator was able to use the camera controls to gather evidence of this breach in order to produce an evidence pack for the police, when requested.

A man and a woman had been reported to be having an altercation and there were concerns that the man was becoming violent. Our operator was able to locate the couple and guide police



officers to the last seen location before they disappeared from camera view. With this information, officers located the couple and ensured the woman was safe.

Our operator was given the description of a woman who it had been reported was threatening to harm herself. Using this information, our operator was able to locate the woman, just outside the town centre. Officers were alerted and attended, taking the woman to a place of safety.

## **Wantage**

A member of the public had reported to the police that they were concerned for an elderly woman's welfare as she was at the town centre bus stop and appeared disorientated and confused. Using a description of the woman heard over police radio, our operator was able to confirm her location and monitor her movements until officers arrived. She was subsequently taken to a place of safety.

Our operator noted a young man in the town centre who was known to go missing from home and be vulnerable to possible exploitation. Our operator alerted the police control centre and an officer was despatched to engage with the young man. Satisfied that he was in no danger and likely to be returning home, he was allowed to go on his way.

During the course of routine monitoring, our operator noticed a man in the town centre who should not have been there as it was an infringement of his bail conditions. They alerted the police control centre; officers were dispatched and the man was detained.

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