

# CCTV Half Yearly Report

## Wantage and Abingdon

**1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025**

### 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

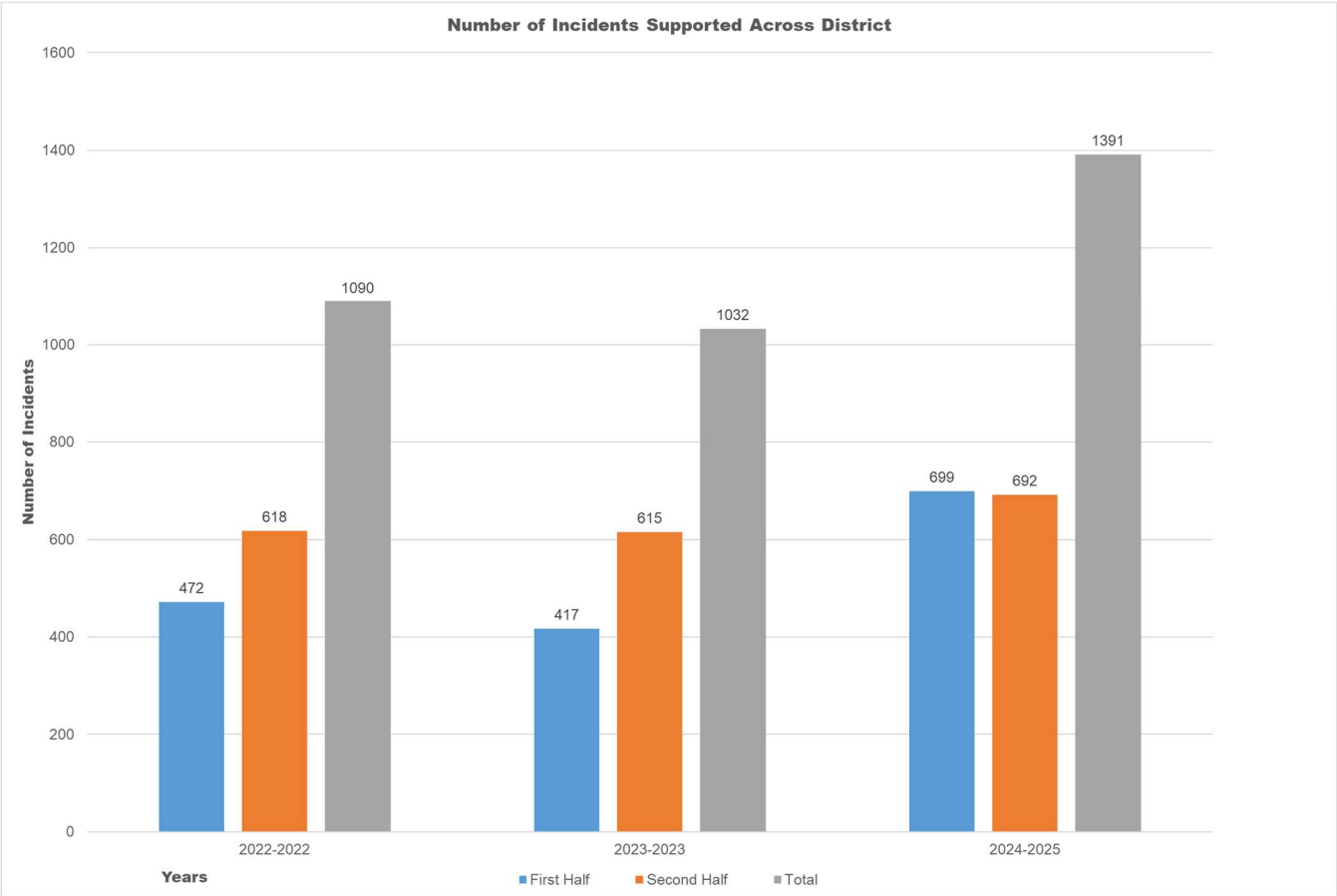
Across the Vale, CCTV operators **supported 692 incidents** during the second half of 2024-25 which represents an increase of 13 per cent when compared to the same period of the previous year. The operators also **produced 72 evidence packs** for possible court proceedings, carried out **89 reviews of CCTV footage** (a review is undertaken as a result of a request) and **supported 37 arrests**.

The table below displays the most common type of incident monitored for each town during the second 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 (114)	Missing persons (24)
Fear for welfare (58)	Wanted persons (9)*
Shoplifting (50)	Fighting/Affray (8)

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

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



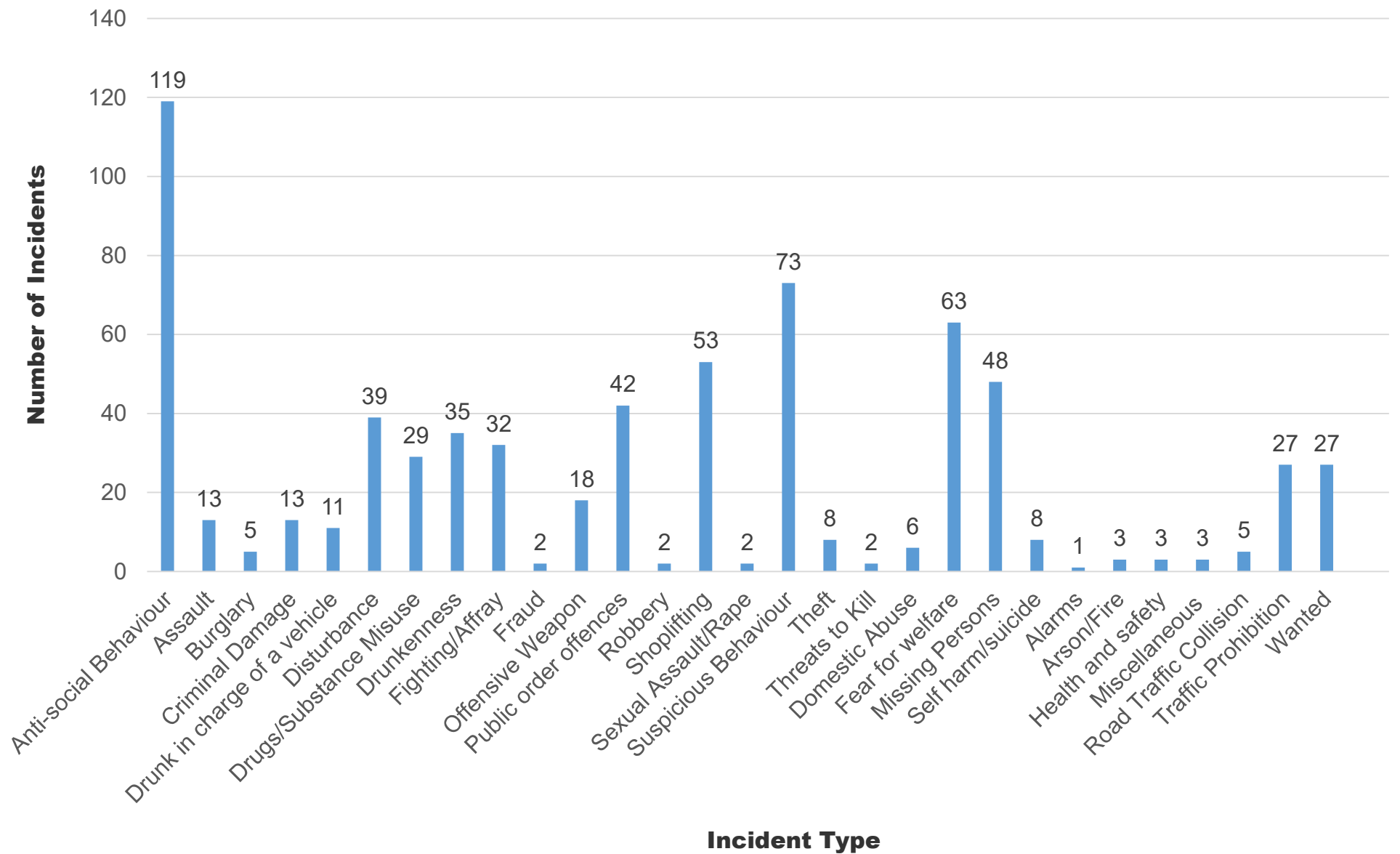
For a breakdown of monitored incidents by town please see the table below:

	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total
Abingdon	374	521	895	340	472	812	574	586	1160
Wantage	98	97	195	77	143	220	125	106	231
Total	472	618	1090	417	615	1032	699	692	1391

TYPE AND NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

The chart on page three shows the numbers and types of incidents the CCTV Operators monitored from 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025 across both towns.

## Incidents by Type - 1 October 2024 - 31 March 2025

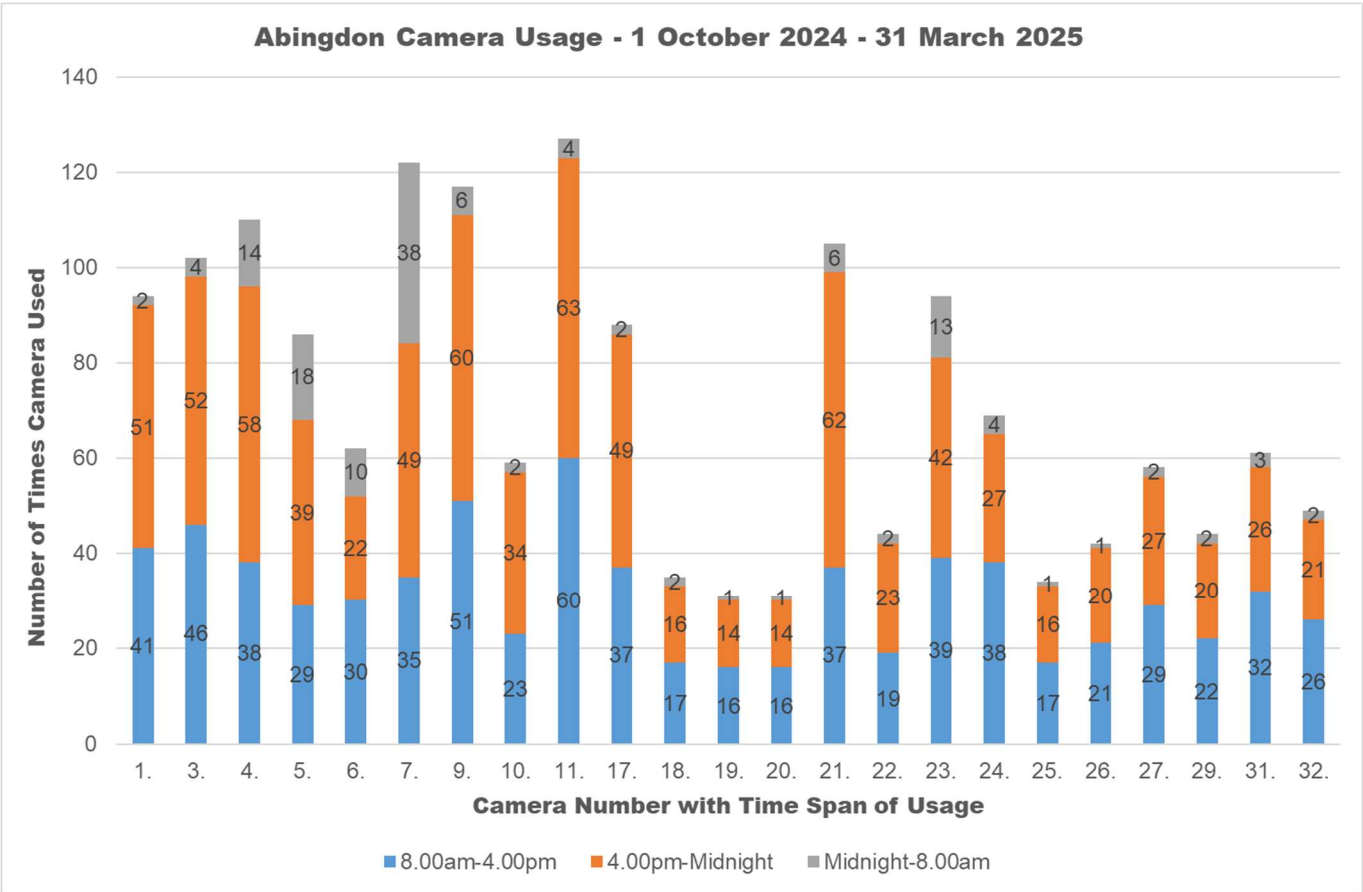


# CAMERA USAGE

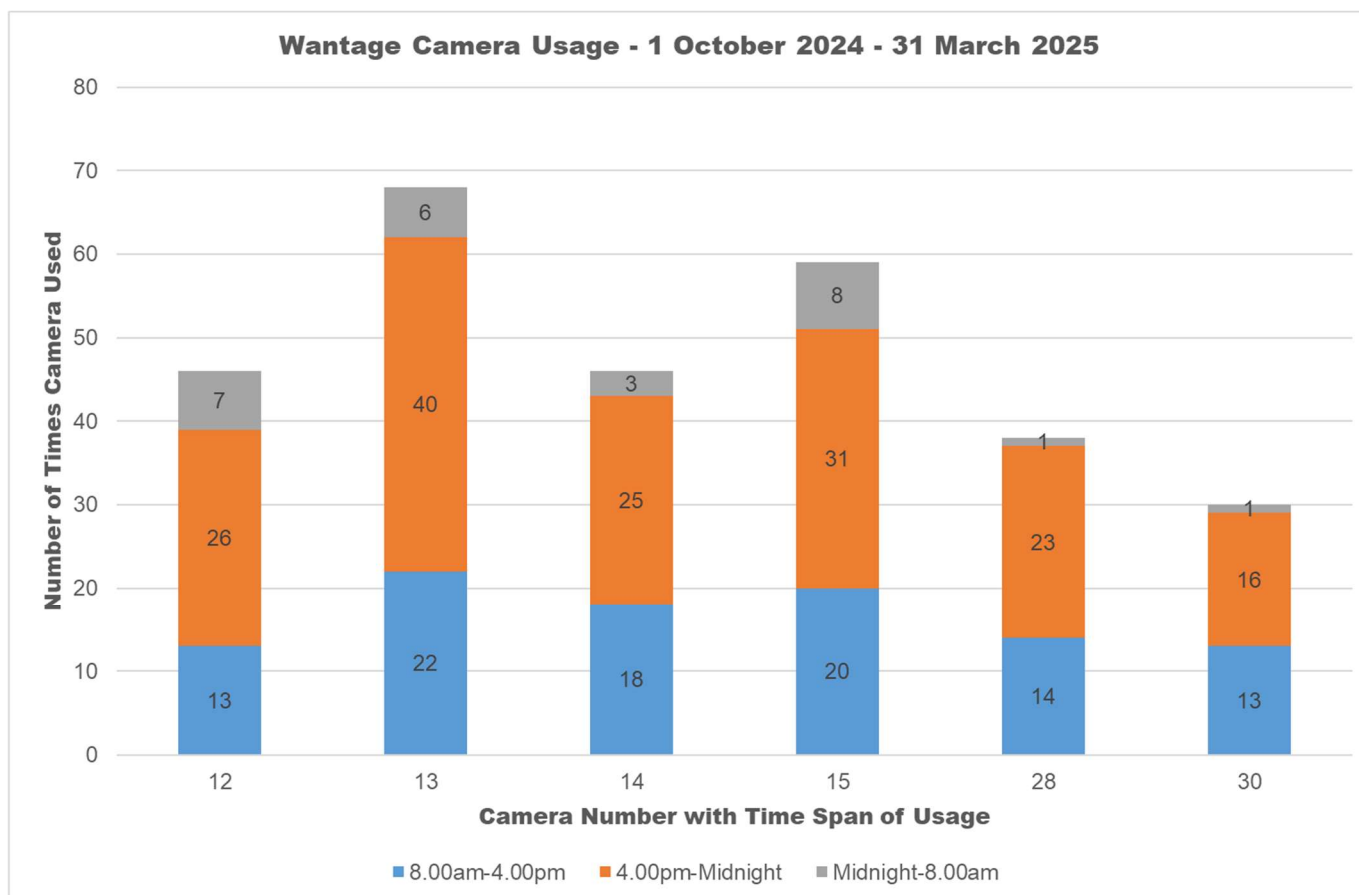
The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras were deployed in recorded, monitored events.

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 11 is crucial in monitoring the daytime economy (commonly involving incidents of anti-social behaviour and shoplifting) and shows the highest use. Camera 7 is the primary camera for the nighttime economy in the town and as a result saw the second highest use across all cameras. Camera 4 covers the High Street and saw the third highest use.



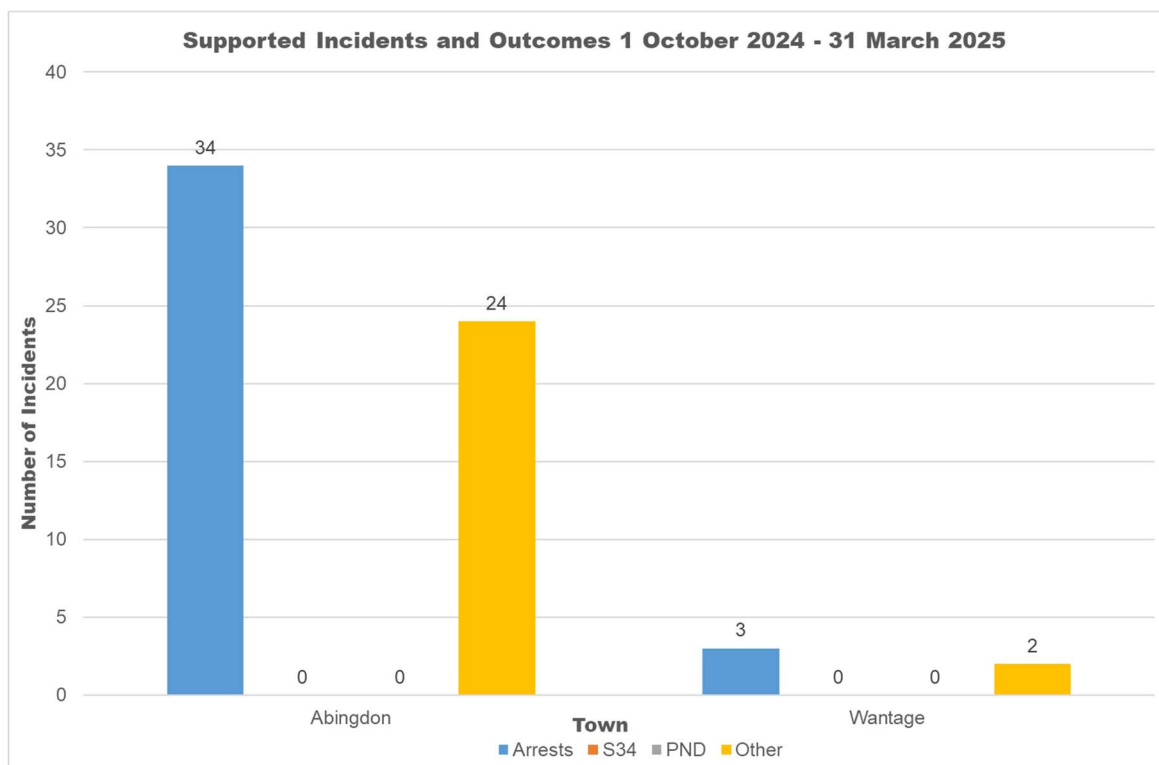
Camera 12 is used to cover Wantage town centre and a major bus stop and saw the highest use of all the cameras. Camera 15 was the second most commonly used camera as it monitors the nighttime economy.

## 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.

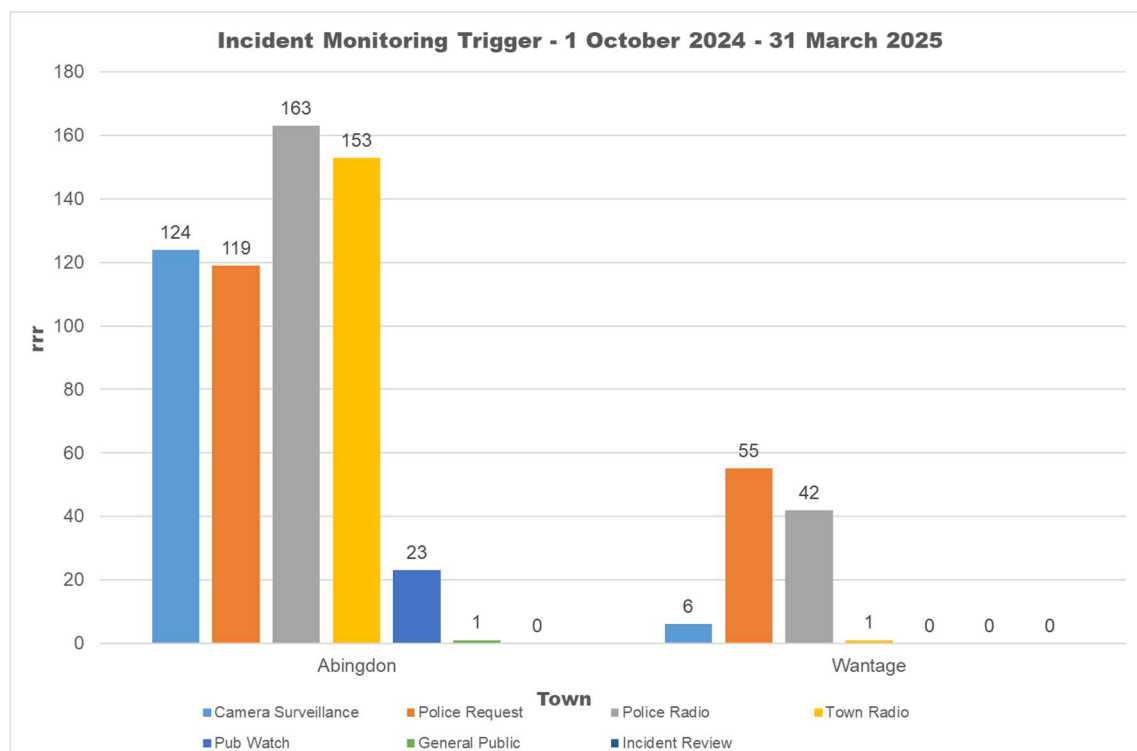
A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social behaviour disorder. A PND is an 'on the spot fine'.

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

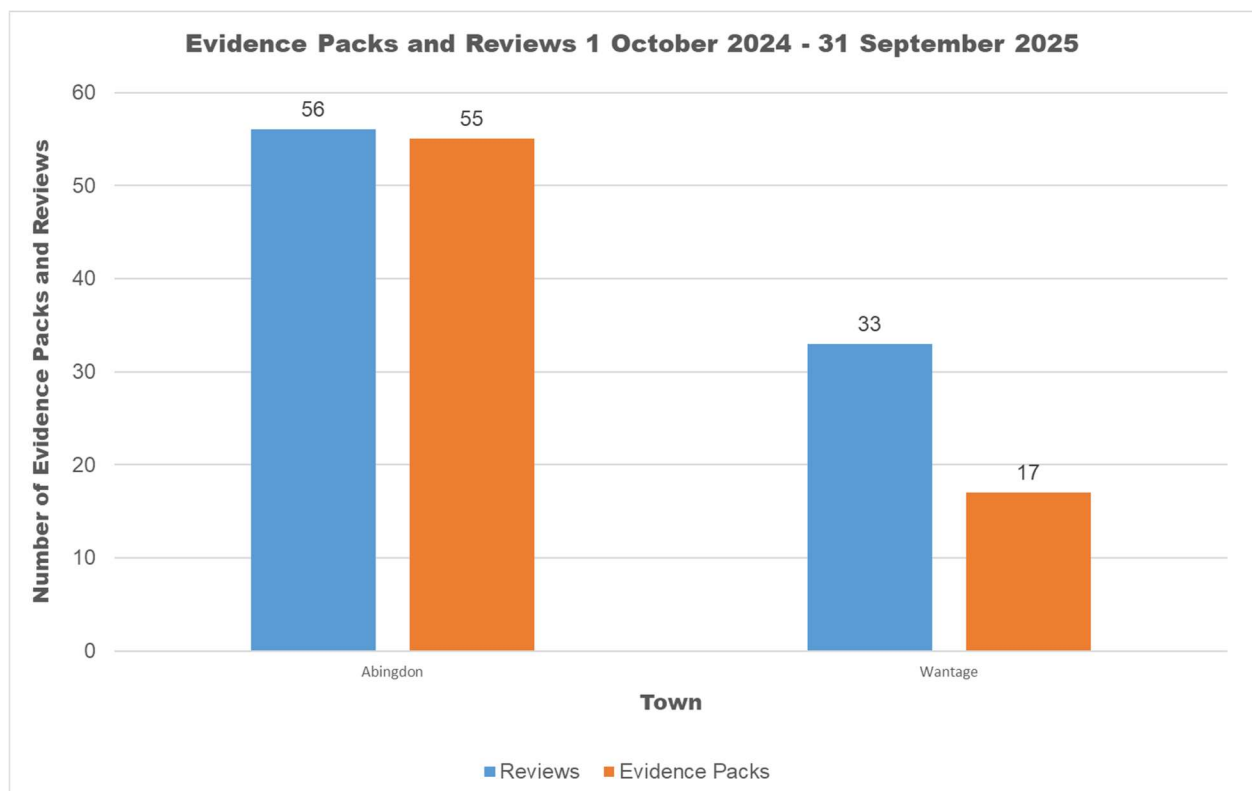
When not tasked by police, the operators patrol all the cameras and focus on 'hotspot' areas. All cameras are recording 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are set in 'default' positions where they remain whilst not being actively moved by an operator. These positions are agreed with the police and 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 **11** 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:

- 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, where 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.



## **CASE STUDIES**

The following are examples of incidents dealt with by CCTV operators during the second 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**

During the second half of 2024-25, one of the most prominent issues in the Abingdon town centre was anti-social behaviour (ASB), predominantly caused by school aged children. This ranged from shoplifting and vandalism to verbal abuse and assault. Through a combination of our team being able to identify emerging trends and strong partnership working with the police and other agencies, we have begun to see a decrease in the levels of ASB in the town.

Whilst working an evening shift, our operator heard reports of a robbery at a local park involving a bladed article. With only limited descriptions, the operator sighted several people coming from the direction of the park who were acting suspiciously. They provided the police with this information and continued to monitor until officers arrived. The men were stopped and weapons and drugs recovered.

Having received a report of a man breaching his Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO), our operator on duty located him in the town and observed further breaches of the Order. They collated all the relevant footage for the police which was then used for court proceedings, resulting in a custodial sentence.

### **Wantage**

Our operator on duty received a report that a man had stolen items from a store and a weapon had been seen. From the description given, we quickly reviewed camera footage to find a clear image of the suspect and shared this with police. Using this information, they were able to identify the person involved and arrest him.

Whilst monitoring, our operator spotted a man distributing what appeared to be nitrous oxide. Our operator observed numerous exchanges and relayed details to the police but the man left in a vehicle before police officers were able to attend. Our operator provided the details of the vehicle to the police who were then able to stop it and deal with the driver.

Our operator observed a woman leaving a local pub who was very unsteady on her feet. Further monitoring showed her getting into a vehicle and struggling to operate it. We quickly informed the police who attended before the vehicle left and made an arrest.

Date of report: May 2025

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