

# CCTV Half Yearly Report

## Wantage and Abingdon

### 1 April 2025 to 30 September 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 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

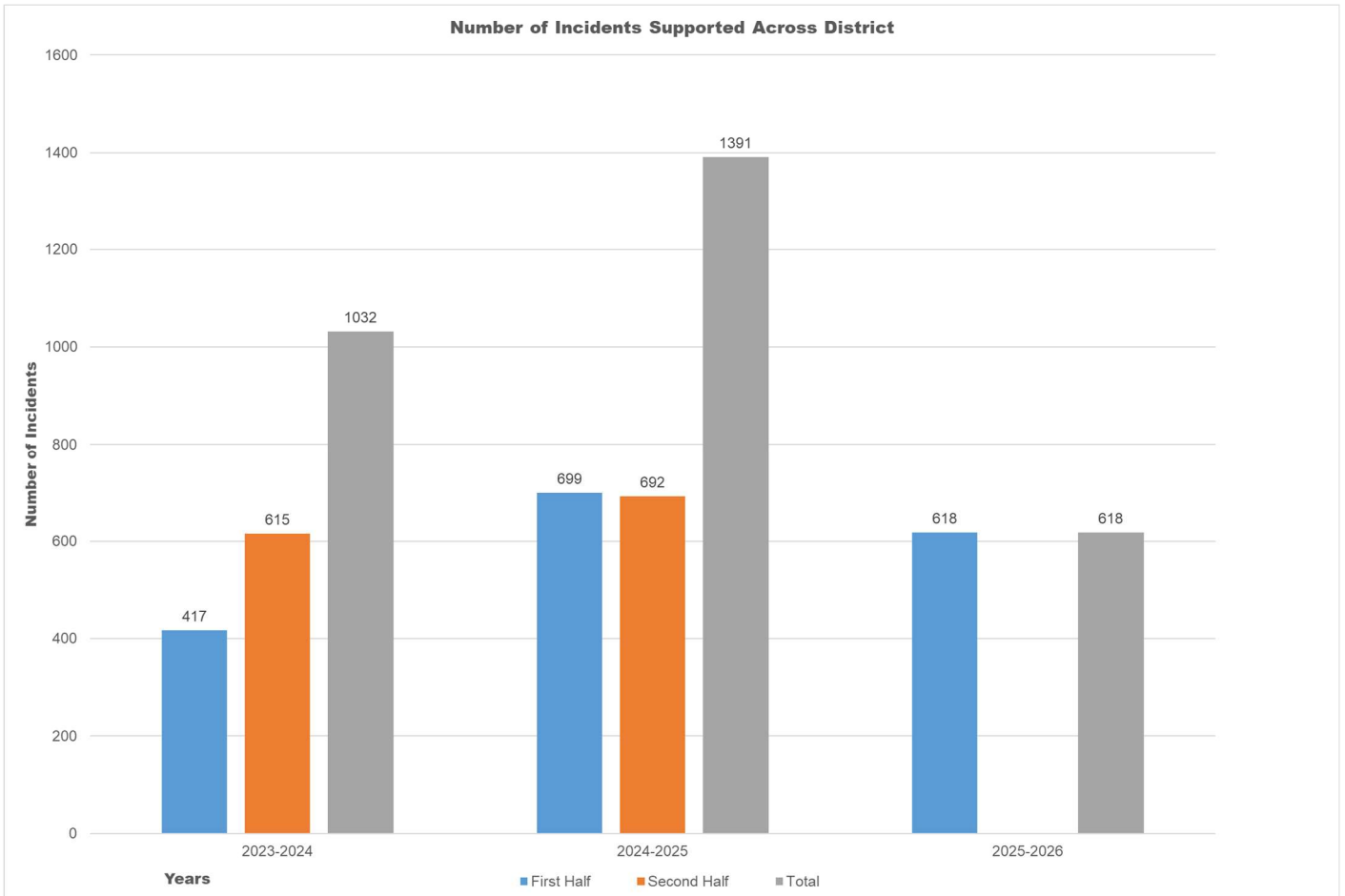
Across the Vale, CCTV operators **supported 618 incidents** during the first half of 2025-26.

The operators also **produced 133 evidence packs** for possible court proceedings which represents a 66 per cent increase when compared to the same period in the previous year. The team also carried out **96 reviews of CCTV footage** (a review is undertaken because of a written request) and **supported 43 arrests**.

The table below displays the most common type of incident monitored for each town during the first half of 2025-26, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

<b>MOST MONITORED INCIDENTS</b>	
<b>Abingdon</b>	<b>Wantage</b>
Anti-social behaviour (110)	Fighting/Affray (12)
Shoplifting (56)	Missing persons (8)
Fear for welfare (51)	Wanted persons (8)

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



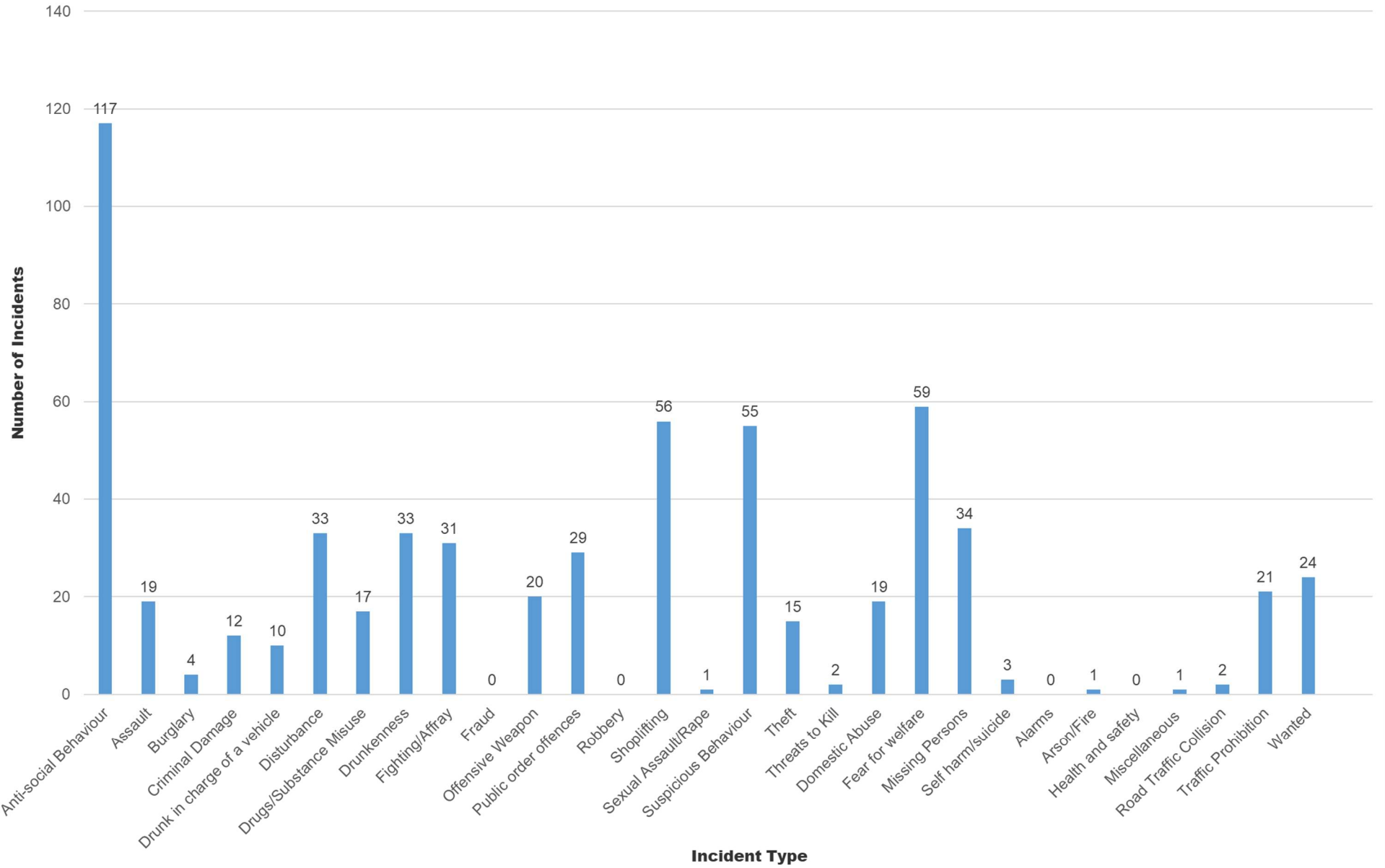
For further breakdown please see table below:

	2023-24			2024-25			2025-26		
	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total	First	Second	Total
<b>Abingdon</b>	340	472	812	574	586	1160	533		533
<b>Wantage</b>	77	143	220	125	106	231	85		85
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>1391</b>	<b>618</b>		<b>618</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 2025 to 30 September 2025 across both towns.

Incidents by Type - 1 April 2025 - 30 September 2025

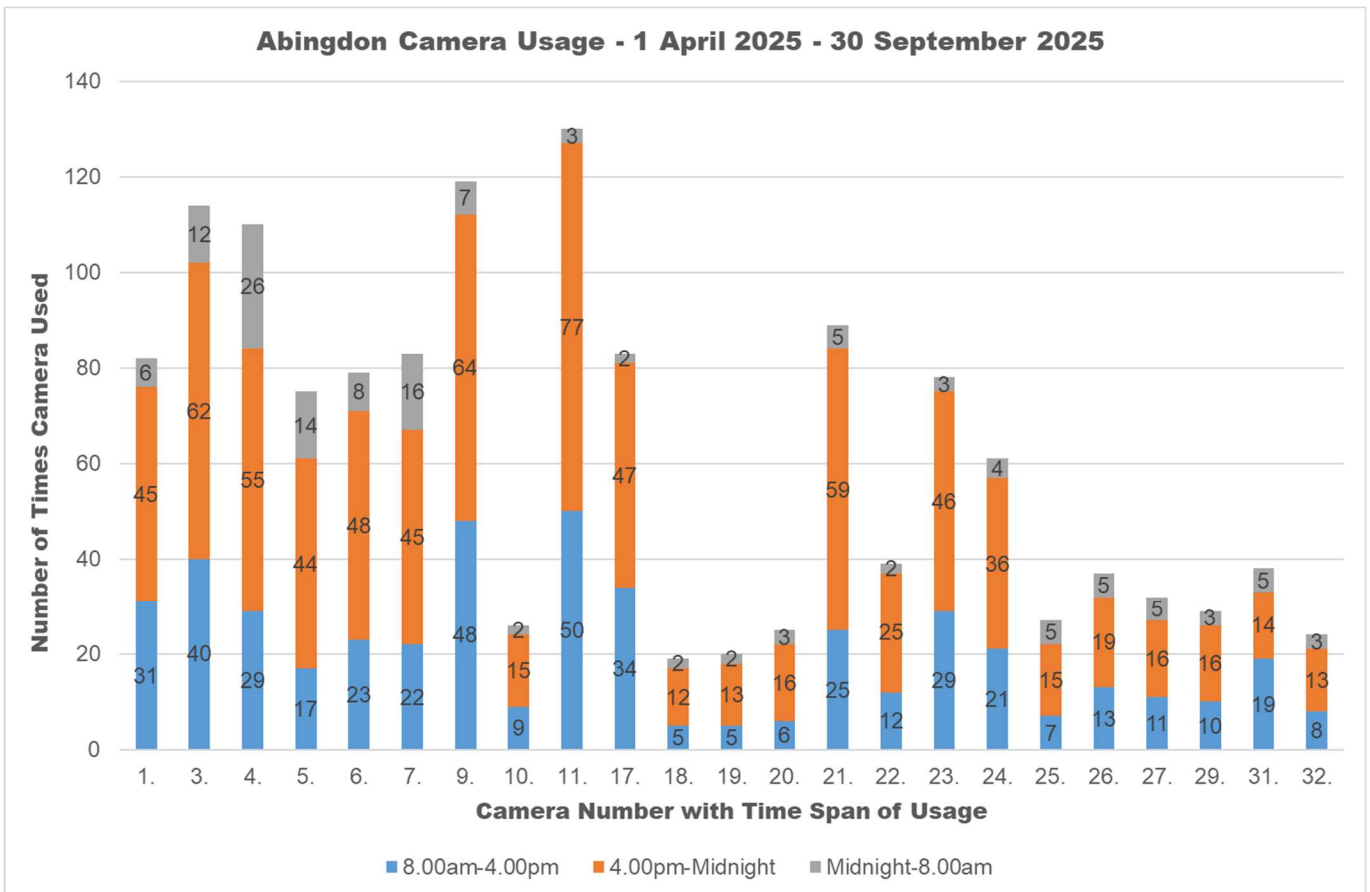


# CAMERA USAGE

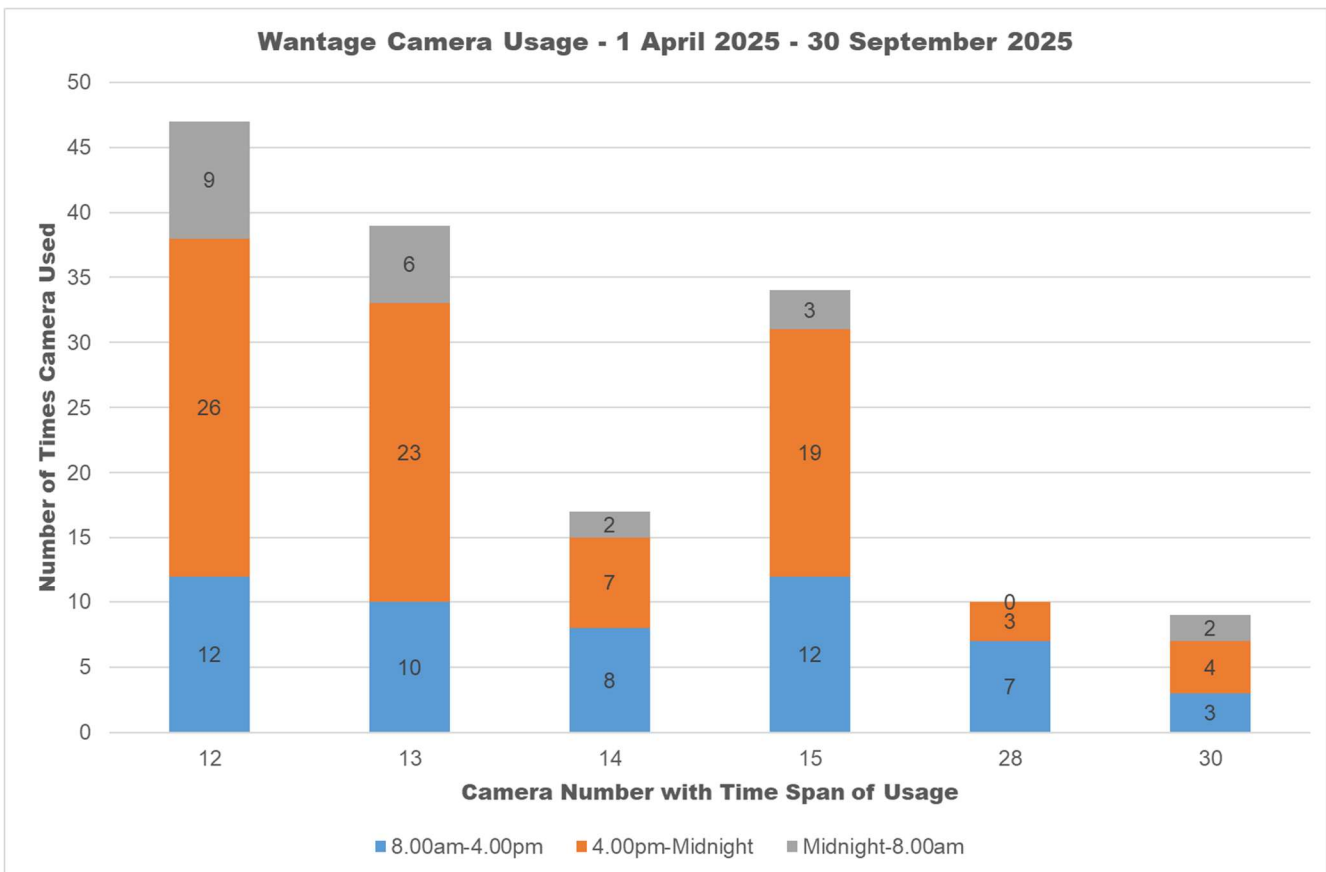
The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras are deployed in recorded, monitored events.

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



Camera 11 is crucial in monitoring the daytime economy (often involving incidents of antisocial behaviour and shoplifting) and has the highest usage during the six month period. Camera 9 covers Bury Street and saw the second highest usage across all cameras. The third most utilised camera was camera 3 which covers the Marketplace and is used to monitor both the daytime and nighttime economy.



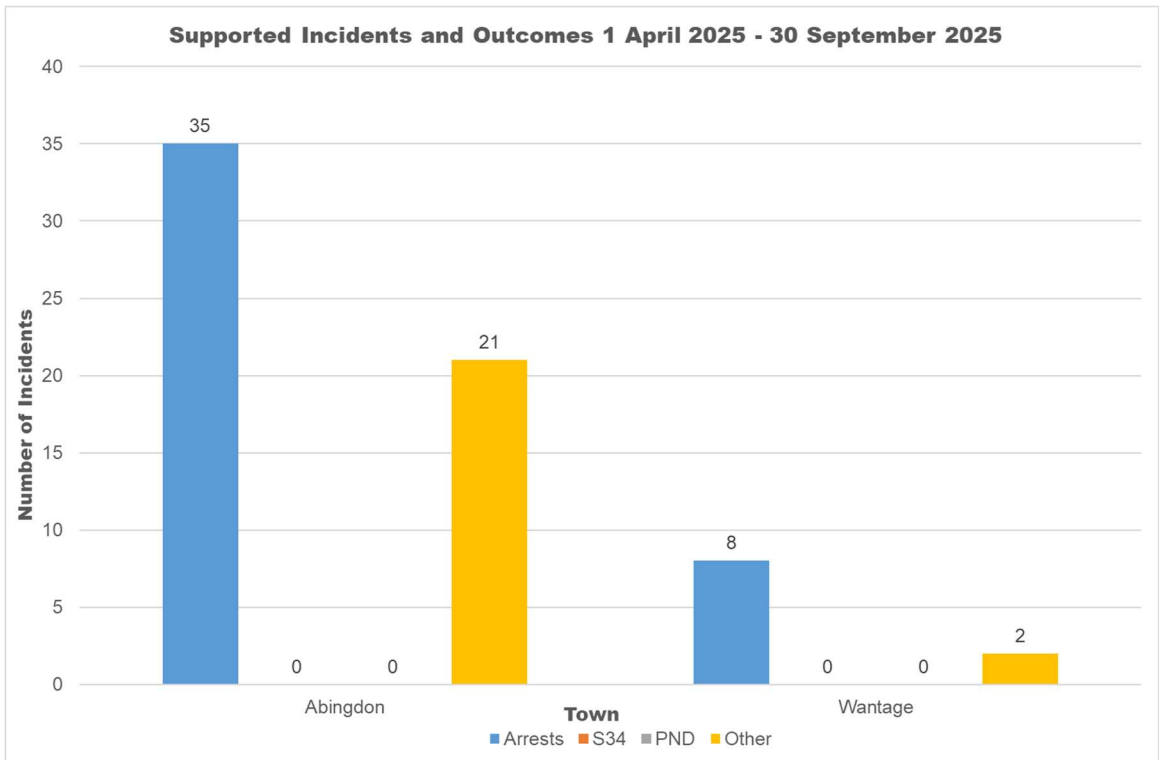
Camera 12 is used to cover the town centre and a major bus stop. and saw the highest use of all the cameras in Wantage. Camera 13 was the second most commonly utilised camera, monitoring the nighttime economy in particular.

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

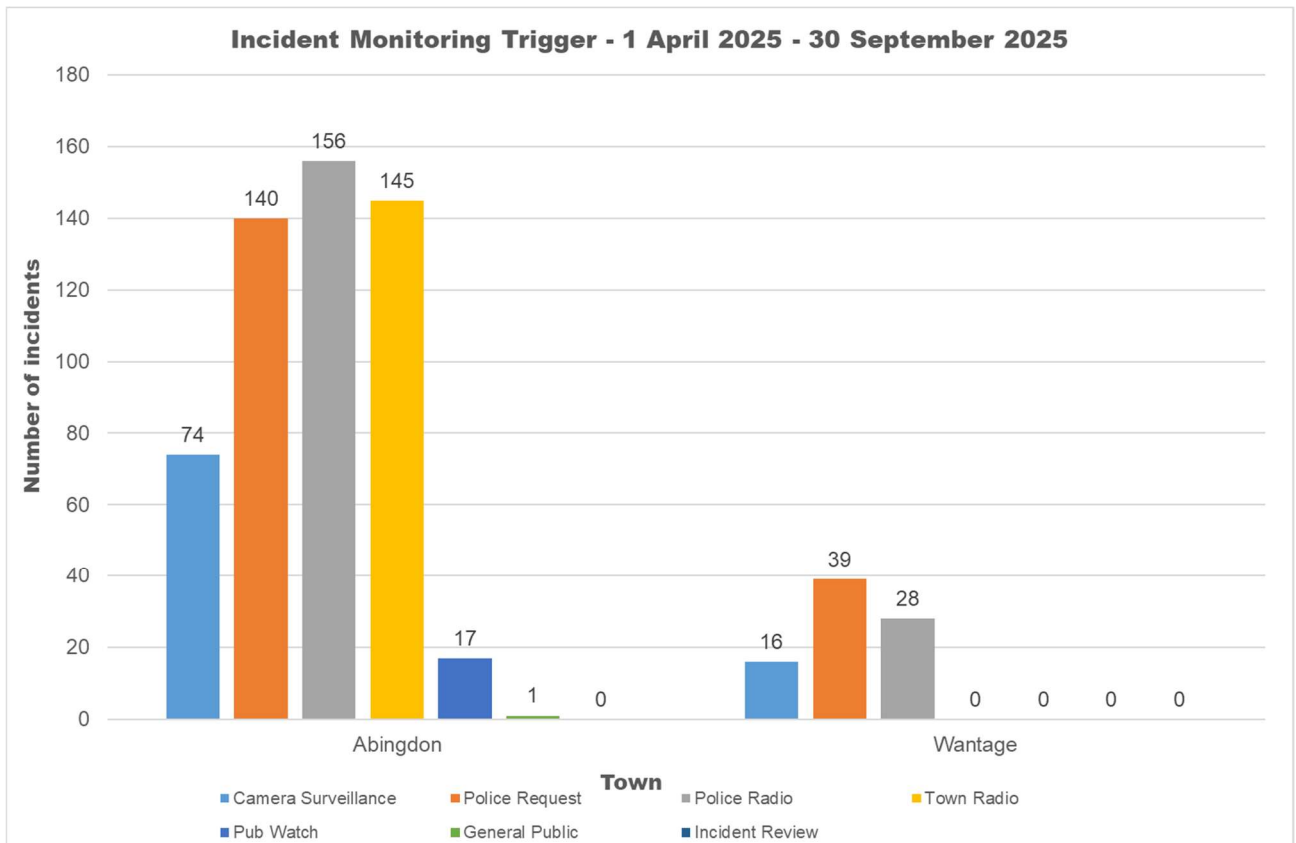
A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social behaviour disorder. A PND is an ‘on the spot fine’.

Actions on the chart designated ‘other’ usually means that the police either gave verbal advice or a non-recordable sanction, for example, requiring someone to place items back in a bin that they had 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 town radio scheme.



## REVIEWS AND EVIDENCE PACKS

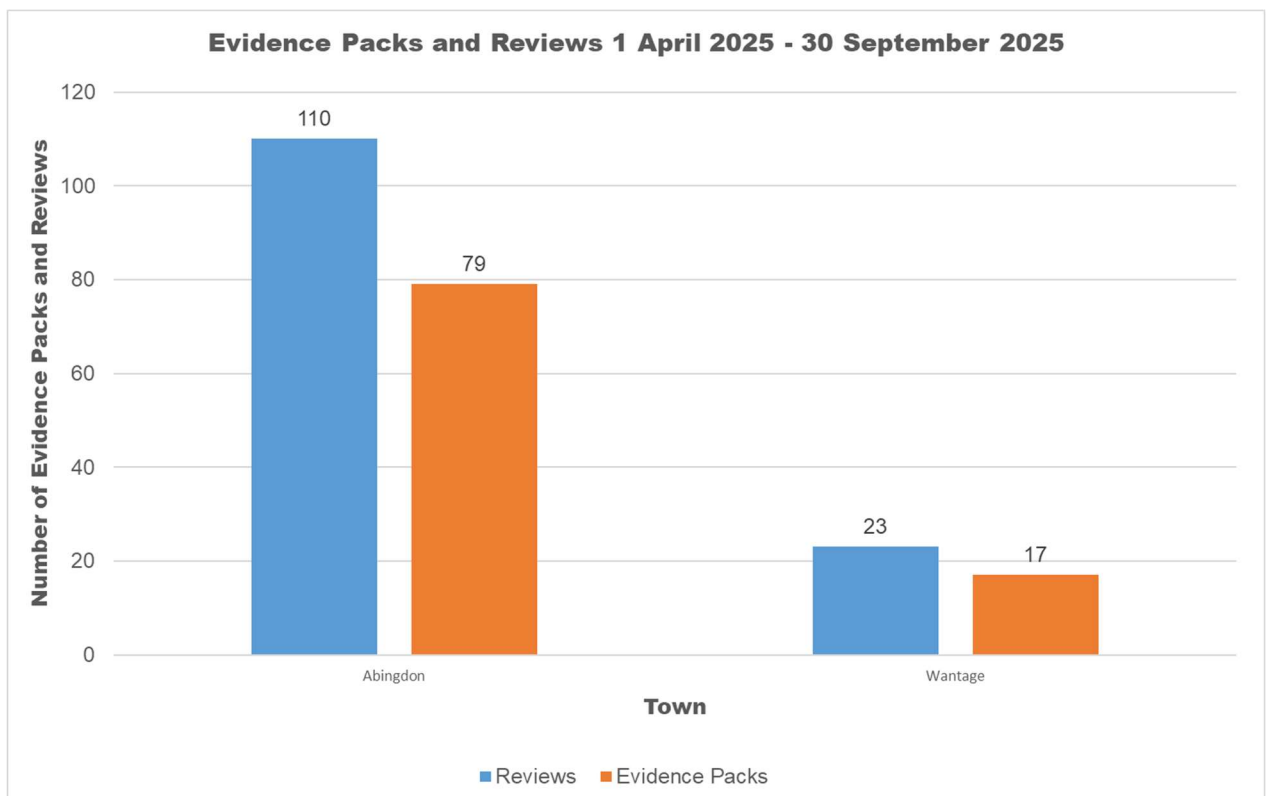
When not tasked by police, the operators patrol all the cameras and focus on 'hotspot' areas. All cameras are recording 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are set in 'default' positions where they remain whilst not being actively moved by an operator. These positions are agreed with the police and 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. All such requests are actioned and replies given. Altogether we received **13** such requests during this half of the year.

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 the 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 first half of 2025–26. They aim to demonstrate how our CCTV service helps to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe

### **Abingdon**

Via the town radio, the CCTV control room received a report of a drunken man who had left a local store and entered a vehicle. The team spotted the vehicle on a camera and monitored it as it was driven away and then parked in a local car park. The operator on duty was able to provide the police with the details, including a potential suspect name. Police officers arrived on scene and made an arrest; the driver was already banned from driving and was charged with multiple offences.

During their shift, one of our operators saw a person in the town who appeared to be confused and lost. After observing him for a short time, the operator informed the police control room as they were concerned for their welfare. When police attended, they established that the person had been reported missing from another area and had recently been diagnosed with dementia. Due to the operator's quick and pro-active action, the vulnerable person was returned to a place of safety.

The police control room informed the CCTV team that a man had just stolen some high value items from a local store. Although the store was not within view of our cameras, the operator made a note of the offender's description and later that day, they spotted someone matching the description entering a shop in town. They alerted the store via the town radio and police officers attended and apprehended the man, who was found to be in possession of stolen goods. Subsequent checks also resulted in the recovery of the stolen goods from earlier. Retail crime remains a high priority and the close working relationship between the town centre stores, our CCTV team and the police plays a significant role in tackling the problem.

### **Wantage**

Whilst monitoring the town centre one evening, our operator observed two men in what appeared to be a heated conversation. One of the them then produced a weapon and an altercation ensued. Our operator alerted the police and continued to monitor the situation and officers were able to make several arrests thanks to the footage we provided.

Our team spotted a group of young people starting a small fire in one of the public bins in the town centre. The operator on duty immediately passed this information to the police control room and officers were dispatched as well as the fire service being called. The fire was quickly put out and due to the images our operator was able to obtain of those involved, subsequent arrests were made.

The police were looking for a vehicle that was suspected of being involved in drug dealing activity. Having heard the details, our operator on shift conducted an 'area search' and managed to spot the car in question. They directed officers to its location and the occupants of the vehicle were arrested on drug related offences.

Date of report: October 2025

Author: James Bell

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