

CCTV Half Yearly Report

Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford

1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information on how the district council's CCTV cameras¹ 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 completed by the operator on duty, each time a CCTV camera is used proactively to monitor a specific incident.

The report covers the four towns that have had CCTV installed; Didcot (nine cameras), Henley-on-Thames (20 cameras), Thame (15 cameras) and Wallingford (13 cameras). Reports are provided on a half yearly basis to each town council and other stakeholders in order to share information and help publicise the positive outcomes of CCTV to residents and businesses.

DATA SUMMARY

In South Oxfordshire, CCTV operators supported 925 incidents during the first half of 2019-20. The operators also produced 46 evidence packs for possible court proceedings, carried out 24 reviews of CCTV footage (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and supported 47 arrests.

The following table displays the most common type of incident for each town during the first half of 2019-20, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

MOST COMMONLY MONITORED INCIDENTS				
	Didcot	Henley	Thame	Wallingford
1	Missing persons (55)	Fear for Welfare (27)	Fear for Welfare (18)	Fear for Welfare (23)
2	Fear for Welfare (42)	Miscellaneous* (26)	Missing persons (17)	Missing persons (23)
3	Disturbance (28)	Missing persons (19)	Miscellaneous* (11)	Disturbance (23)

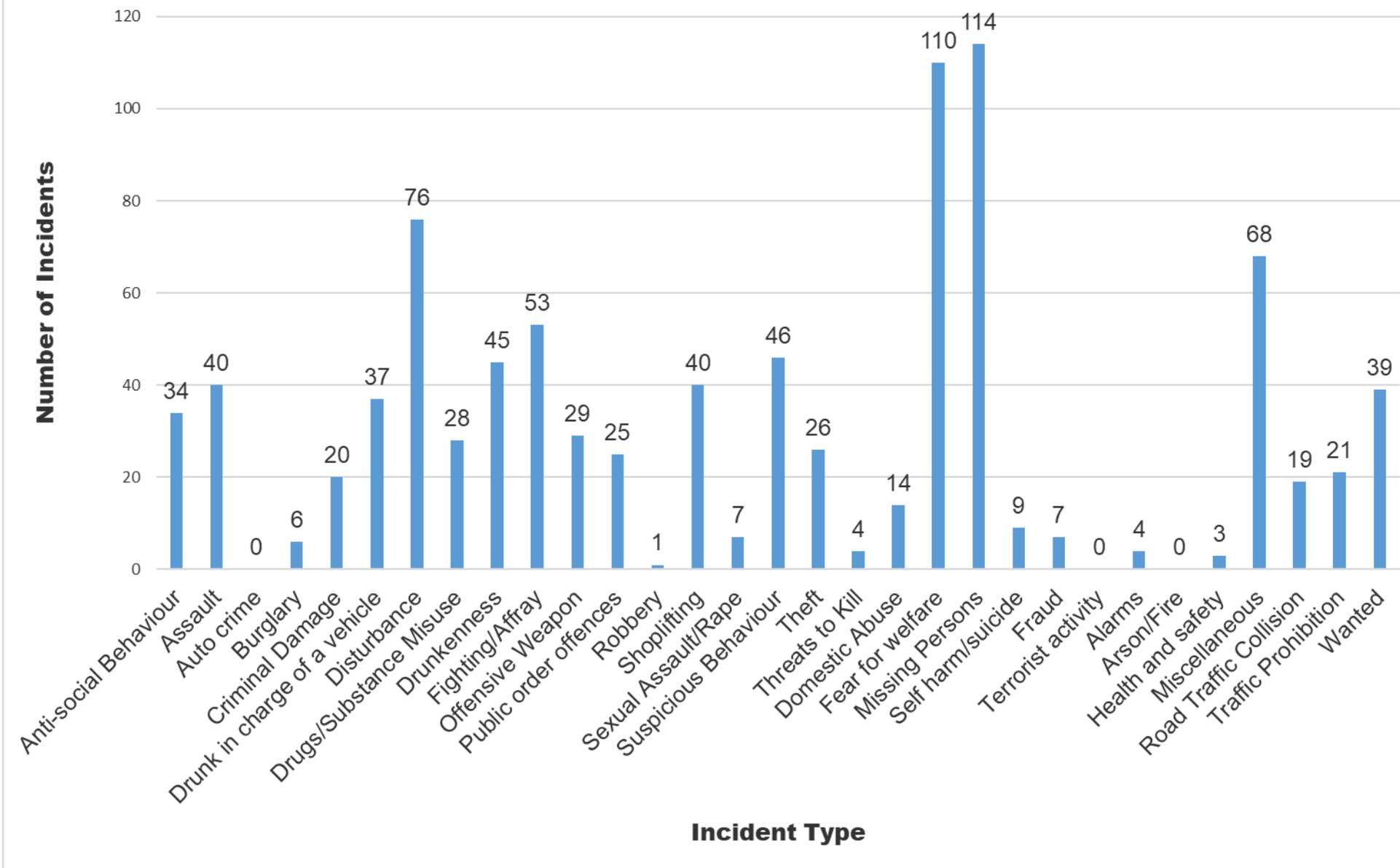
¹ The report covers the district council cameras plus three which Henley Town Council installed in Mill Meadows as these are managed under the same scheme.

* Miscellaneous refers to monitored incidents that don't fit easily into categories that are listed on page three e.g. A request from G4 security to monitor their staff attending a local bank.

TYPE AND NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

The chart on page three shows the amount and type of incidents the CCTV operators have monitored and supported across all four towns, between 1 April 2019 and 30 September 2019.

Incidents by Type - 1 April - 30 September 2019

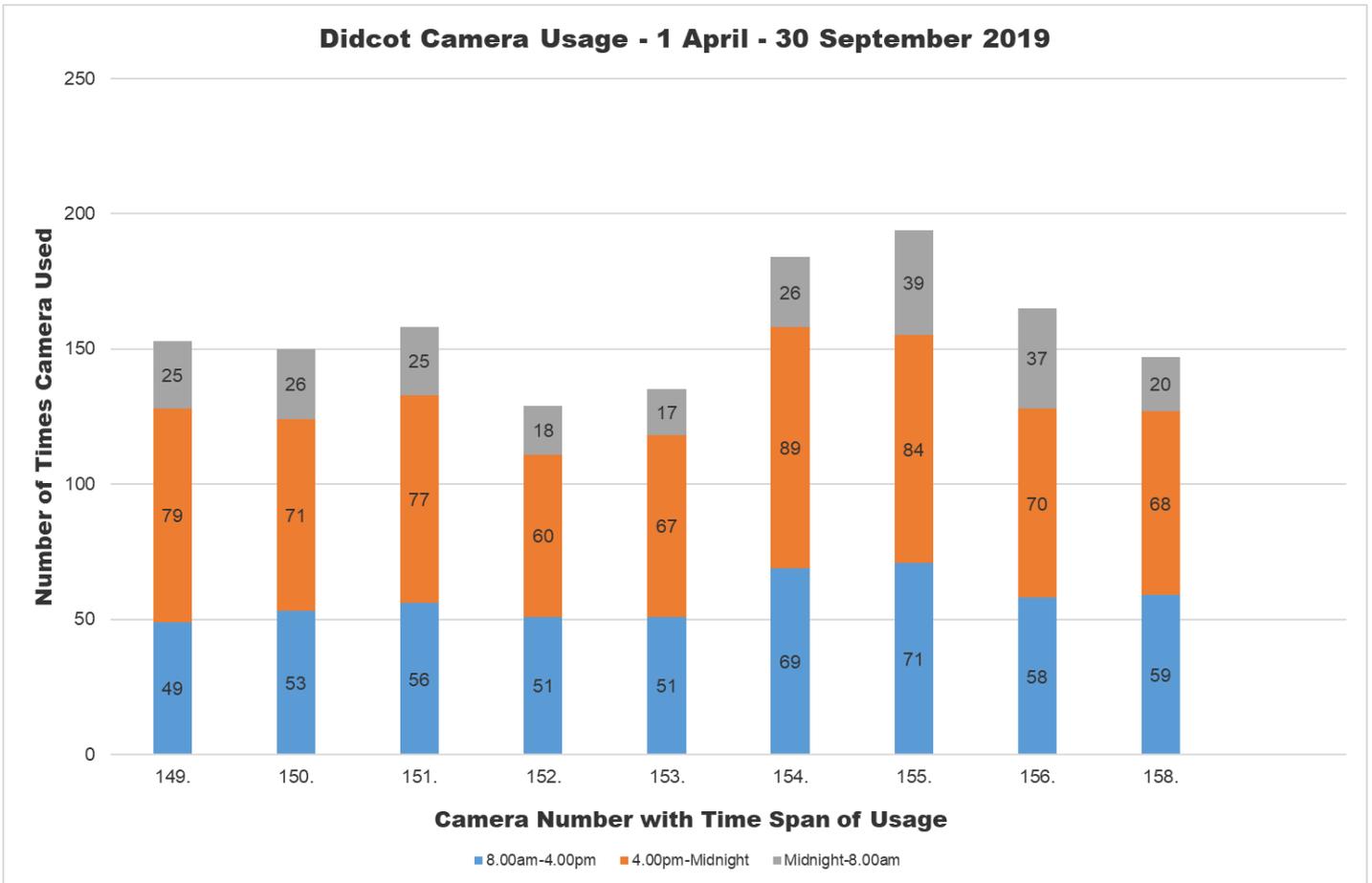


CAMERA USAGE

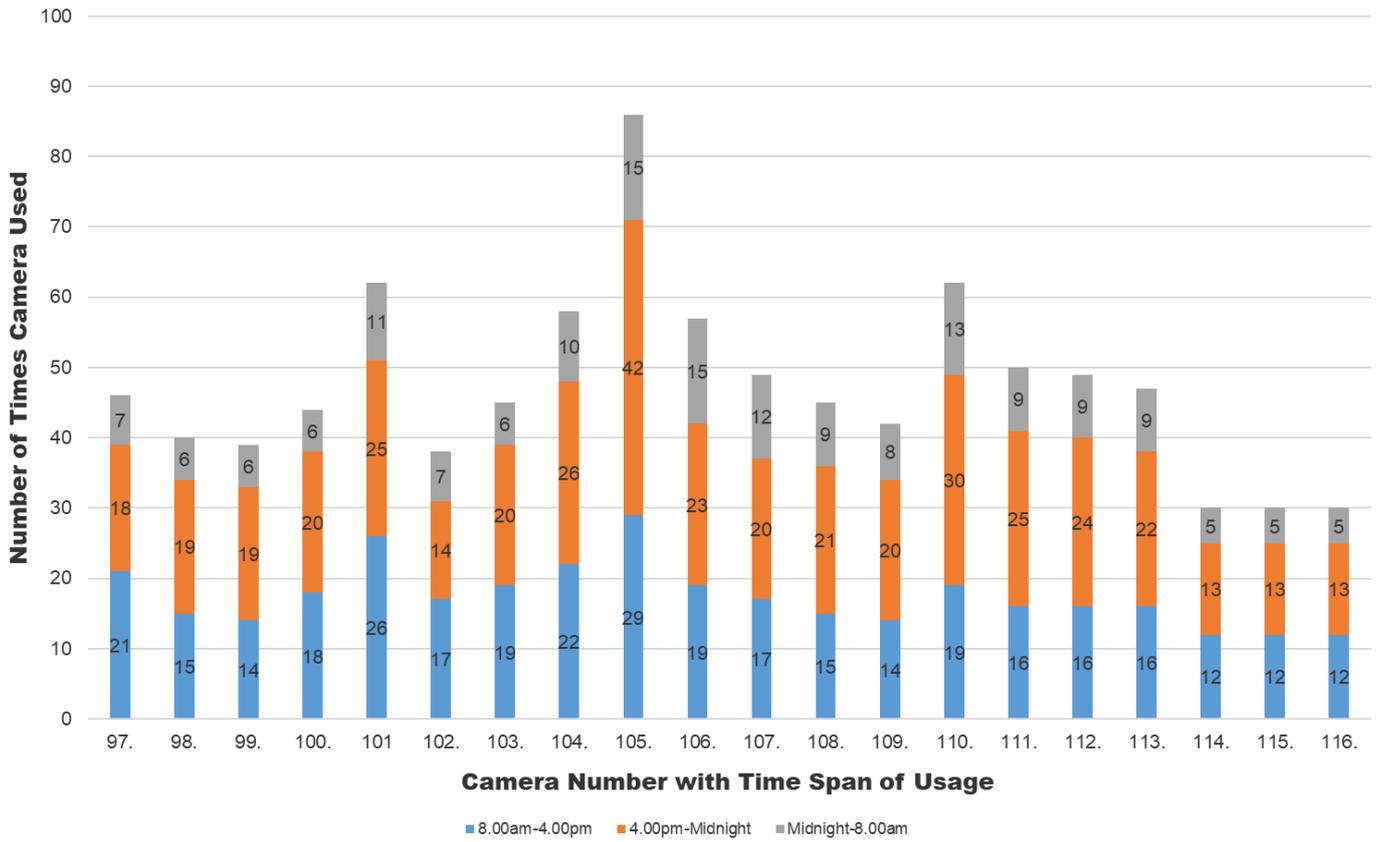
The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras were deployed in recorded, monitored events.

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

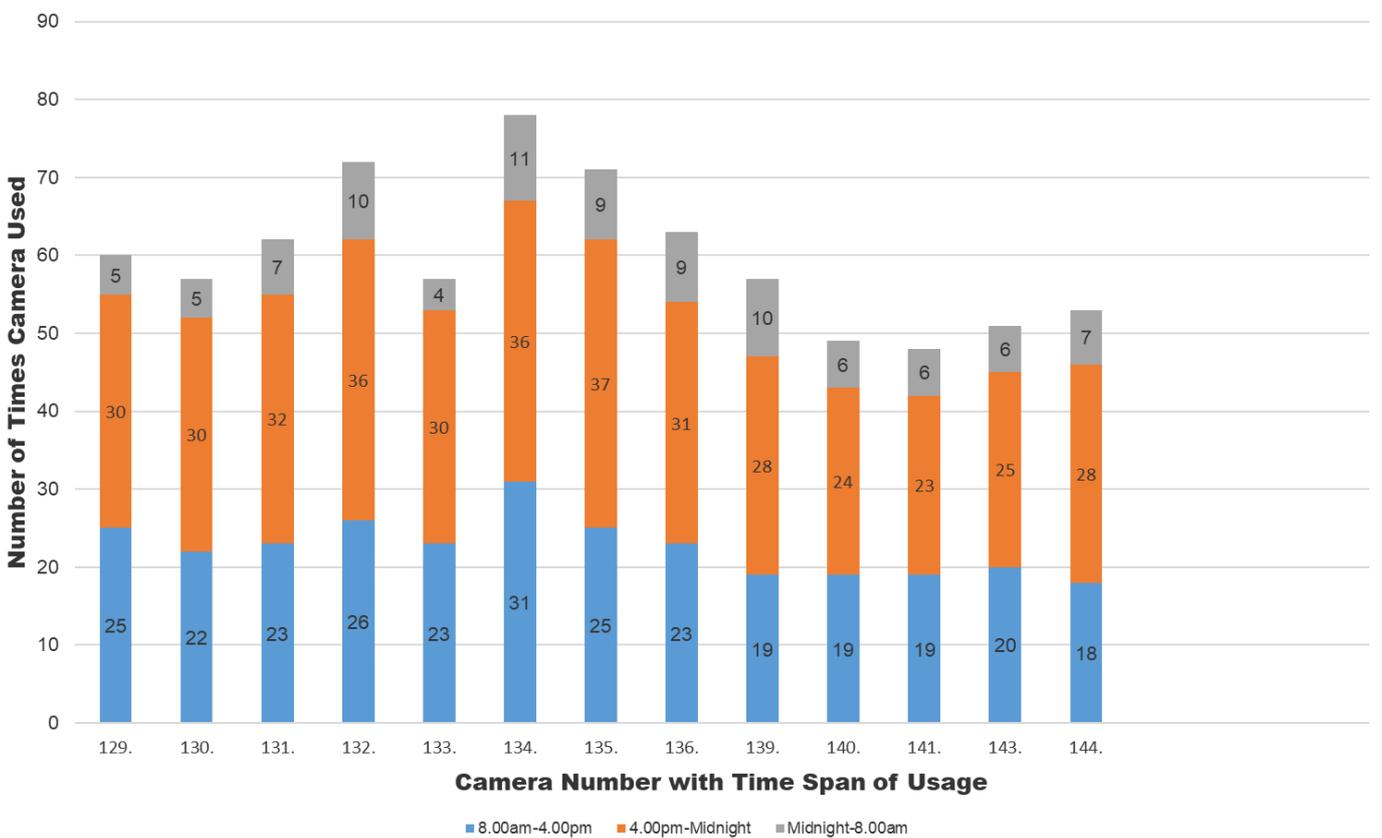
It is worth noting that for the period midnight to 8am, the vast majority of camera usage occurred between midnight and 4am.



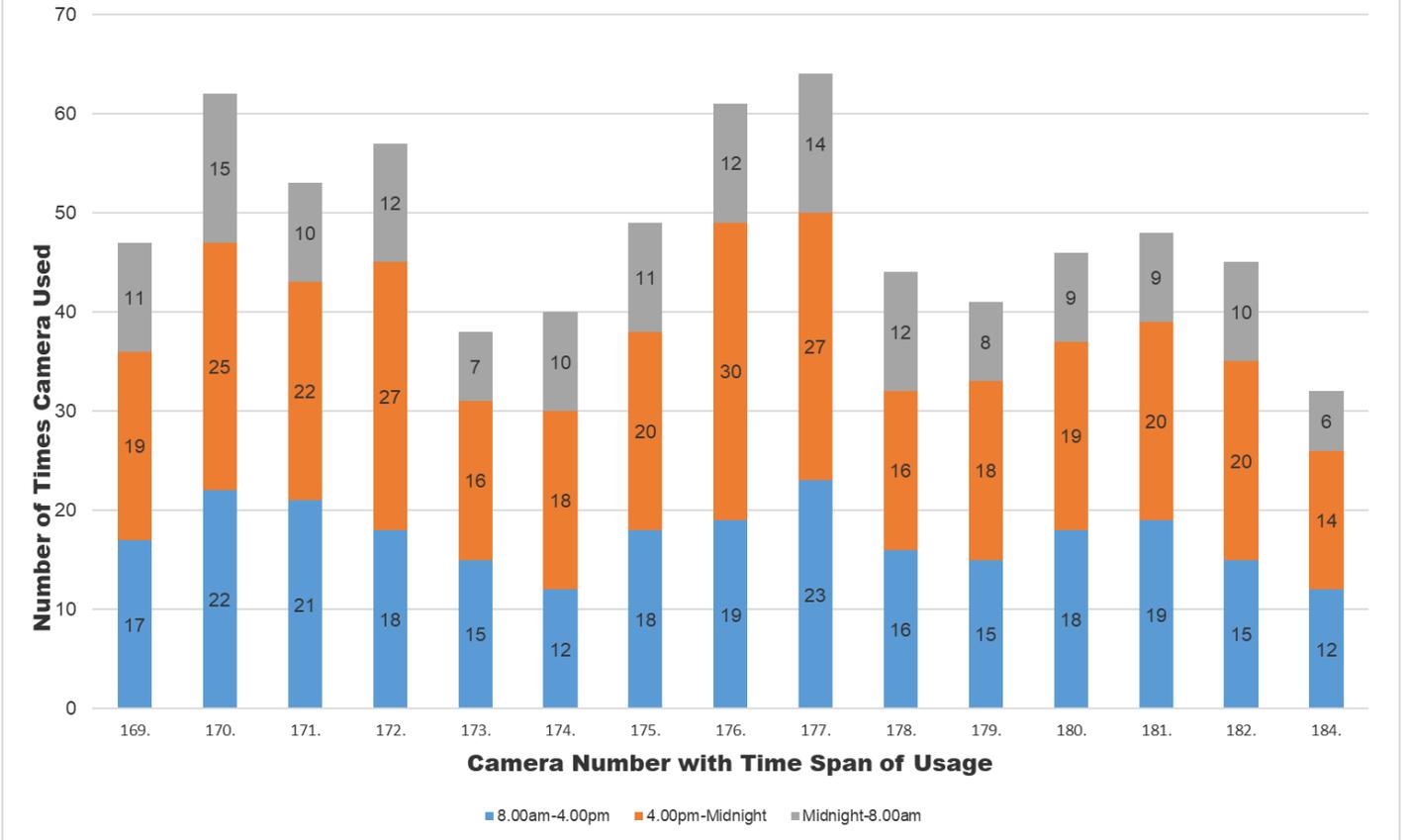
Henley Camera Usage - 1 April - 30 September 2019



Wallingford Camera Usage - 1 April - 30 September 2019



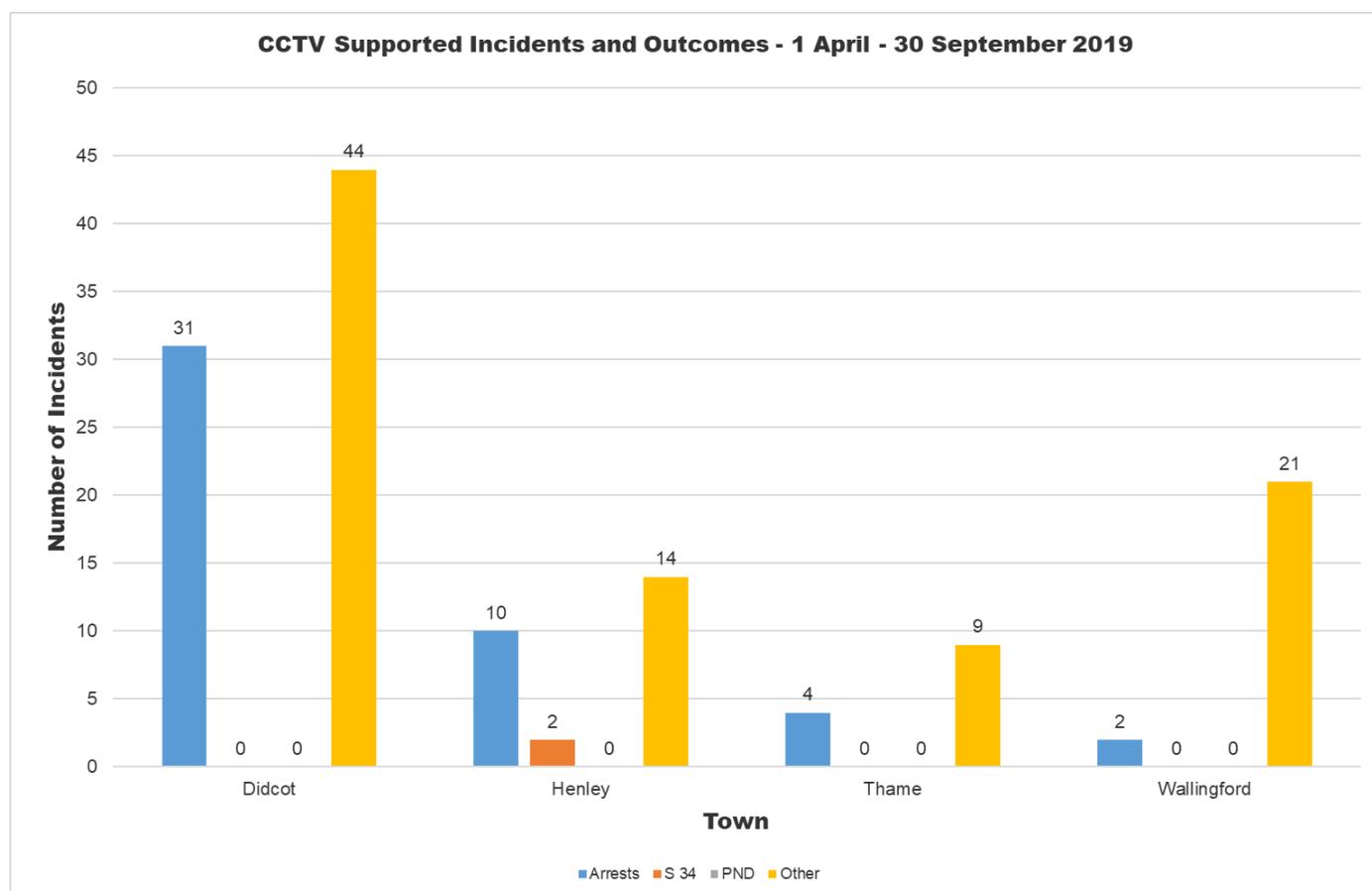
Thame Camera Usage - 1 April - 30 September 2019



ARRESTS, SECTION 34S AND OTHER OUTCOMES

The chart below, 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. While we cannot always be certain whether CCTV was solely instrumental in an arrest or the serving of a Section 34² or a Penalty Notice for Disorder³ (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 prioritise in real time e.g. should the situation allow, leaving CCTV to monitor incidents or offenders while officers attend other incidents.

In the chart below, actions designated 'other' usually means that the police either gave verbal advice or a non-recordable sanction.

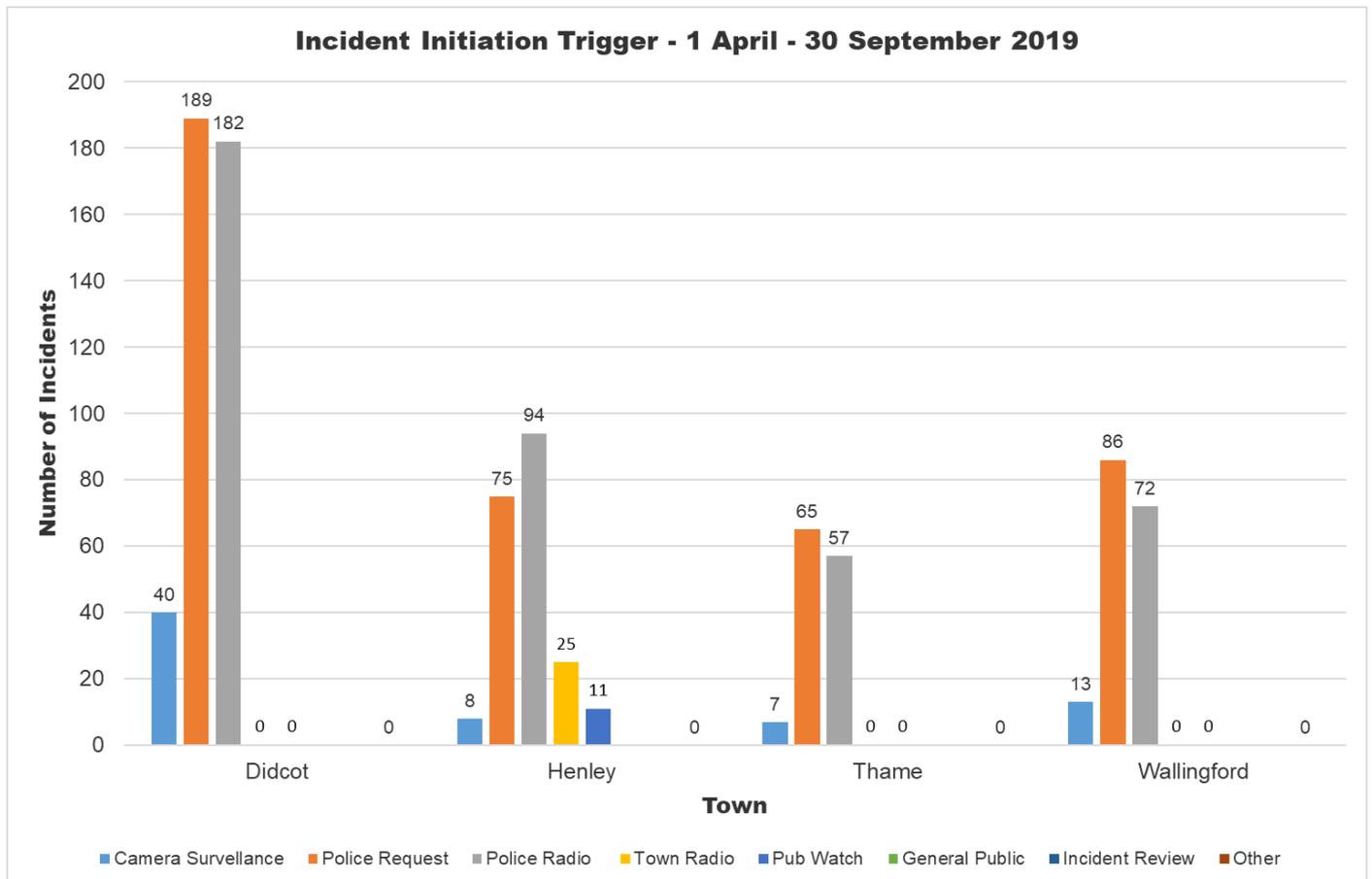


² A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social related disorder.

³ A PND is the 'on the spot fine'

HOW CCTV MONITORING WAS INITIATED

The chart below, shows how many of the incidents monitored 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); or initiated by the operator proactively patrolling the cameras (camera surveillance); request to review footage at the time of an incident (incident review). Only Henley-on-Thames 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 area most likely to experience problems.

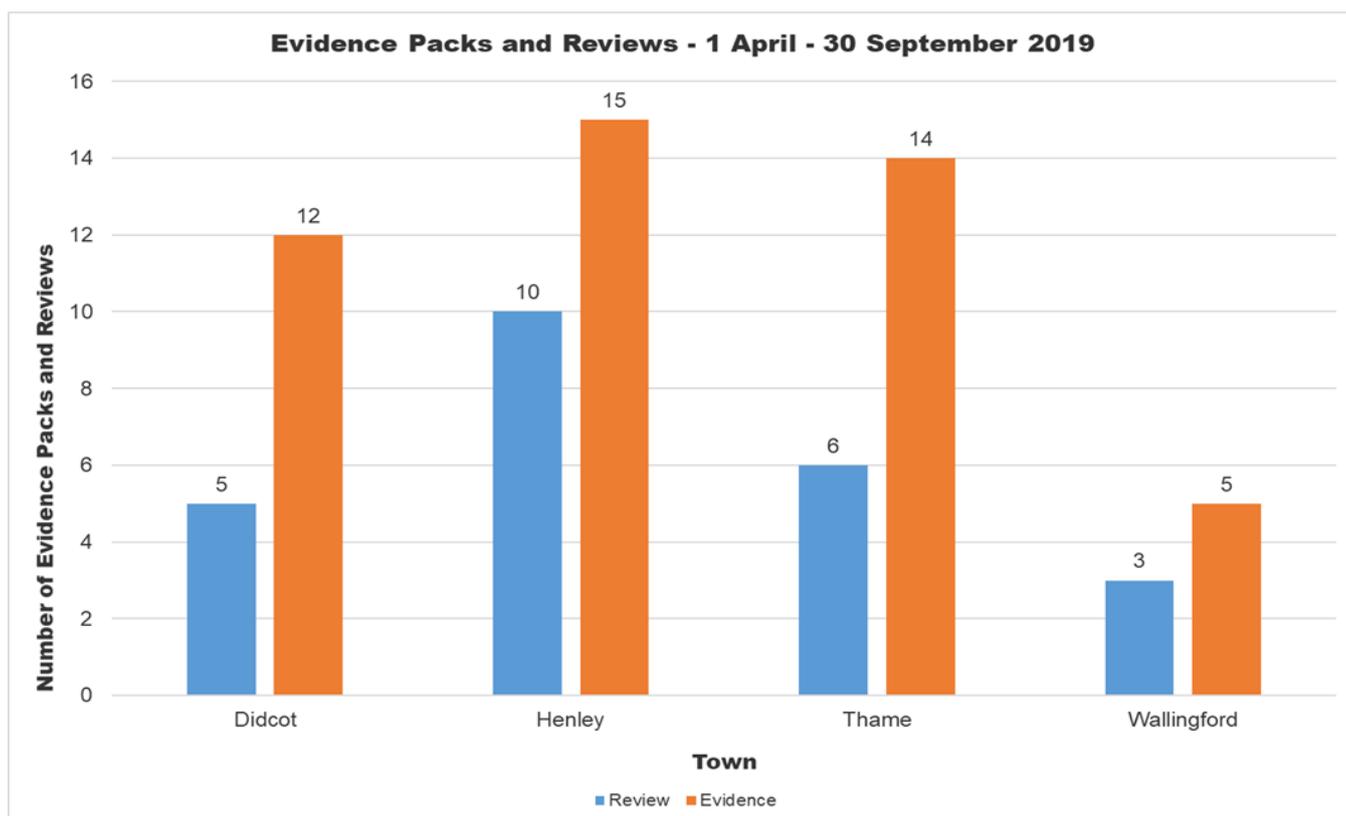
CCTV operators and the CCTV supervisor also respond to requests from members of the public and third parties under data protection legislation and subject access requests (SARs). The most common request is to examine car park or road cameras for evidence of 'non-stop road traffic collisions' in which the complainant's car has been damaged. All such requests are actioned and replies given. These are not included in this report but this data is something that we will be looking to feature in future reports as we are seeing an increase in demand for SARs.

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, that the footage does not show an event clearly enough to warrant making a permanent DVD copy for evidential use.

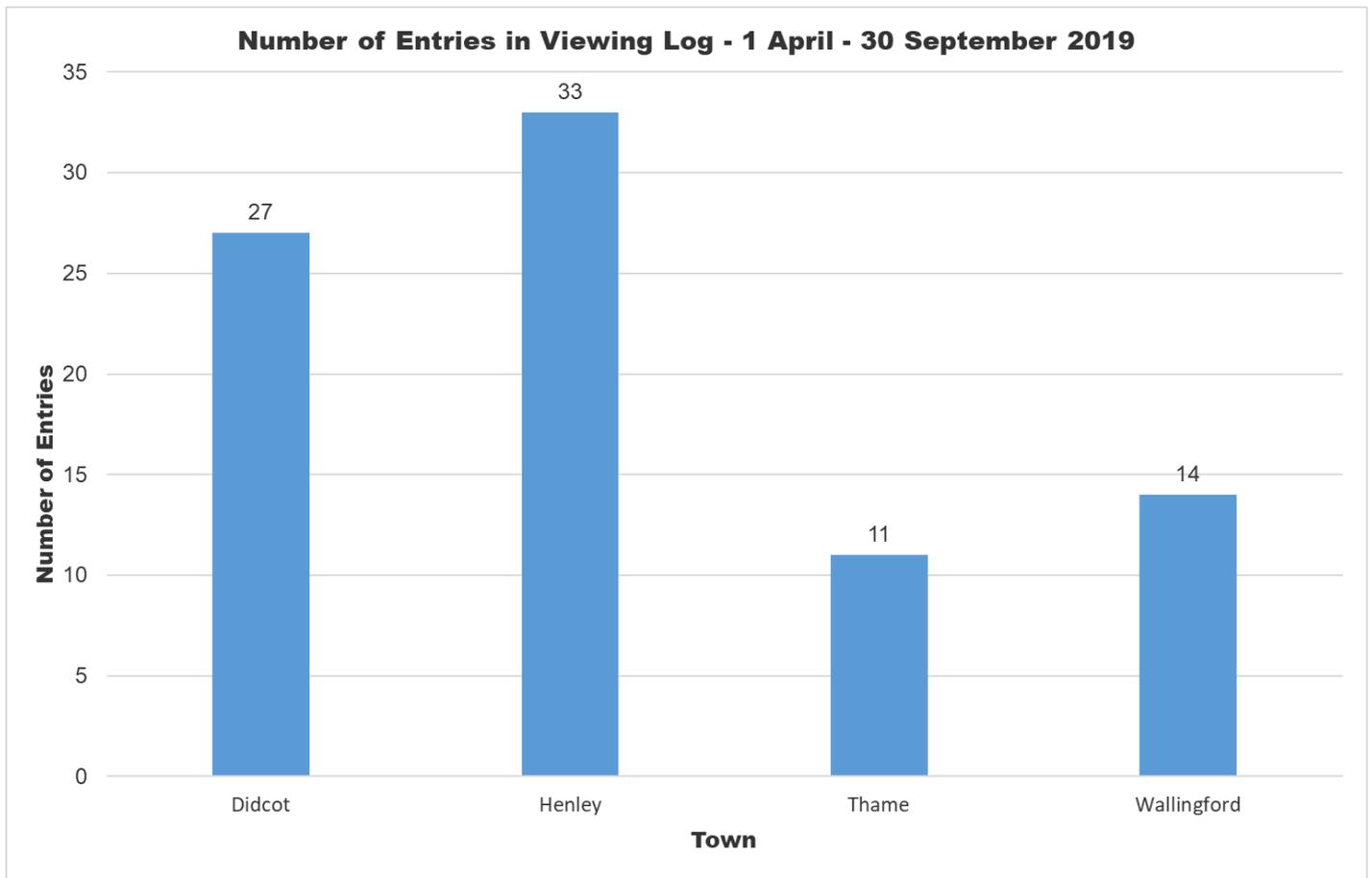
One of the greatest advantages of CCTV footage is in obtaining a guilty plea at the early interview stage. For many offences this early admission is due to the offence being captured clearly on camera and saves the expense of a full trial at either magistrates or crown court.



VIEWING LOG

When authorised personnel (mainly police officers) visit the CCTV control room to view footage, the details are entered into a viewing log. The following chart reflects the number of times this occurred between 1 April and 30 September 2019 across the four towns.

N.B. These visits 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 2019–20. They aim to demonstrate how our CCTV service helps to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and keep people safe.

Didcot

Our operator was asked to monitor for a man who was believed to be involved in the theft of a wallet from an elderly man in a local supermarket. Using the time given by the police control centre, our operator was able to locate a man matching the

description given during a review of camera footage. In addition, our operator recognised the man as being involved in previous similar offences. The footage was passed on to the police to help with their investigation.

A report had come into the police control room of a group of teenagers behaving anti-socially. It was alleged that they were pushing each other into passers-by along a narrow path and were possibly smoking cannabis. Our operator was able to locate the group and advise police officers who attended. The officers gave the group strong words of advice and moved them on.

The police control centre broadcast the description of a young teenager who had been missing for some time and for whom there were welfare concerns. Our operator noted a young man matching the description given and alerted the police to his whereabouts. Police attended and confirmed that this was indeed the missing teenager and were able to return him to a place of safety.

Henley-on-Thames

In the early hours of one morning, the police control centre alerted our operator to reports of a burglary that had just taken place at a local business premises. From the description of the vehicle, our operator was able to give an account of its movement before and after the event. Further to this, our operator continued to monitor the town centre and recognised the vehicle returning. The vehicle's registration was relayed to the police control centre, along with a commentary of its movements. Police officers stopped the vehicle and arrested four men.

A report came in to the police control centre from a concerned member of the public. A woman was seen getting into a car apparently against her will. Fearing for the woman's welfare, three separate police areas were involved in the search for the vehicle. By remaining vigilant, our operator spotted the car in the town at a later time and immediately alerted the police control centre. Guided by our operator, officers stopped the car and were able to carry out a thorough investigation of the incident.

A local store went out on shop watch radio to alert all stores of a potential shoplifter who had just been intercepted and fled the store, having left the goods behind. Our operator was able to locate the individual from the description given over the radio and monitor them until they drove off in a vehicle and left the town. Details of the incident were then passed to the police control centre.

Thame

The police control centre alerted our operator to an incident where a man who had been drinking heavily had made threats to his family and had driven into town to purchase more alcohol. Our operator was able to locate the vehicle involved from the registration and monitored the man getting into the car with a carrier bag containing cans. Officers were alerted and they stopped the vehicle before it was able to leave the car park. The man was arrested.

During the course of routine monitoring, our operator noticed a horse that appeared to be distressed, tied up outside a local pub. On review, our operator was able to establish that the horse had been there for quite some time and having contacted the

police control centre, was able to stream live images. Officers were dispatched and found the owner of the horse in the pub. Advice was given and our operator was able to advise when the horse was ridden out of town by its owner.

During the course of routine monitoring, our operator witnessed a man punch another man in the face. Information was relayed to the police control centre and near by officers attended. Details were taken and as no complaints were made, the men were sent on their way with strong words of advice.

Wallingford

During routine monitoring, our operator observed a man who was wanted by the police for a previous offence. Police officers were dispatched and were able to co-ordinate their approach towards The Market Square, with guidance from our operator on the man's movements. Despite his best efforts to evade officers, the man was arrested. He was further arrested for being in possession of illegal drugs and stolen property.

A report had come in to the police control centre of children jumping from the bridge into the river. Our operator was able to monitor the bridge and activity around it and update officers when they arrived on scene. Strong words of advice were given to the children regarding their safety.

Our operator was requested to review footage by the police regarding an accident that had occurred involving a pedestrian and a van. The appropriate footage was located on our system and an evidence pack produced to help police with their inquiries.

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