



Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Closed Circuit Television

Evaluation 2022/2023

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In order to comply with the requirements of British Standard 7958, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Management and Operation – Code of Practice and the recommendations contained in the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner’s ‘Surveillance Camera Code of Practice 2021 and the Information Commissioner’s ‘CCTV Code of Practice’ published in 2014, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council commissioned Plass Solutions Ltd to undertake an independent evaluation of the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council’s CCTV systems that are monitored in a dedicated CCTV Control Room.

Whilst the Information Commissioner’s CCTV Code of Practice and the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice mention that a review should be undertaken that assesses the effectiveness of the system, British Standards are specific in the criteria required to be covered by such an evaluation. However, the afore-mentioned Codes of Practice agree that the results of the evaluation should be publicly available.

The topics required to be covered by the British Standard are as follows:

- a) a description of the scheme and the geographical area(s) of operation the schemes policy statement
- b) the purpose and scope of the scheme
- c) any changes to the operation or management of the CCTV scheme
- d) any changes that have been made to the policy
- e) any proposals to expand or reduce the operation of the scheme
- f) the aims and objectives for the next 12 months.

The British Standard also requires the following information to be included within the review:

- g) the number of incidents recorded by the scheme
- h) the number of incidents reported to the police and where appropriate other bodies
- i) an assessment of the CCTV scheme’s impact on crime levels and types of crime in the area covered by the scheme.

The following evaluation will focus on the content of that Standard as outlined above.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT AND SCHEME DESCRIPTION

2.1 Closed Circuit Television

The scheme initially comprises of cameras located in specific external locations with control, monitoring and recording facilities at a dedicated location. A problem orientated process was utilised to assess the appropriateness of CCTV in the area subject of this evaluation. The cameras have therefore been sited to capture images that are relevant to the purposes for which the scheme has been established. The purposes of the CCTV scheme are outlined later in this report.

2.2 Ownership

The scheme is owned by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and they are responsible for the management, administration and security of the system. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and its partners will ensure the protection of individuals and the public by complying with the Codes of Practice.

Should the public wish to make contact with the owners of the scheme they may write to:

The CCTV System Manager
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Moorlands House
Stockwell Street
Leek
Staffs
ST13 6HQ

The above contact point will be available to members of the public during office hours. Enquirers will be provided with the relevant documentation on request.

2.3 Policy Statement

To promote public confidence by developing a safe and secure environment for the benefit of those employed, visiting or using the area.

To inspire public confidence by ensuring that all public area Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems which are linked to the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council CCTV Control Room are operated in a manner that will secure their consistent effectiveness and preserve the civil liberty of law-abiding citizens at all times.

3.0 THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SCHEME

3.1 Purpose of the scheme

The following are the objectives for which the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council CCTV system was established:

- a) assist in the prevention and detection of offences
- b) reduce both the real and perceived level of crime
- c) reduce the fear of crime
- d) improve confidence in the rule of law
- e) assist in the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.
- f) gather evidence by a fair and accountable method
- g) create a safer community, improving the quality of life for all by:
 - reducing crime
 - monitoring public disorder
 - monitoring the movement of people in emergency situations
 - providing assistance with issues relating to public safety and health

3.2 Scope of the scheme

The cameras have been sited to capture images which are relevant to the purpose for which the scheme has been established.

The scheme will be operated fairly, within the applicable law and only for the purposes for which it is established or which are subsequently agreed in accordance with the Code of Practice.

Operators are aware of the purpose(s) for which the scheme has been established and that the CCTV equipment is only used to achieve the identified purposes.

The scheme will be operated with due regard for the privacy of the individual.

Before cameras are placed in residential areas the residents in that area will be consulted concerning the proposed system. The results of the consultation will be taken into account.

The public interest in the operation of the scheme will be recognised by ensuring the security and integrity of operational procedures.

The system will only be operated by trained and authorised personnel.

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An evaluation of the scheme will be made annually and this will be available to the public at specified locations.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and partners support the individual's right to privacy and will insist that all agencies involved in the provision and use of Public CCTV systems connected to the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's CCTV control room accept this fundamental principle as being paramount.

The scheme aims to provide surveillance of the public areas in order to fulfil the purposes of the scheme. The area protected by CCTV is indicated by the presence of signs. The signs are placed so that the public are aware that they are entering a zone which is covered by surveillance equipment. The signs state the organisation responsible for the scheme, the purposes of the scheme and a contact telephone number. Data will not be held for longer than necessary and disposal of information will be regulated.

The schemes are registered with the Information Commissioner. The registration number is Z4594350. The schemes will be managed in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018, Human Rights Act 1998 and the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice. Reviews of Data Protection and Legal requirements are undertaken annually.

Reviews of Data Protection and Legal requirements are completed annually.

3.3 Personnel

All personnel involved with the monitoring of CCTV have been security screened in accordance with British Standard 7858.

3.4 Training

All employees engaged in the monitoring and operation of CCTV, have received training to the standards required by the Private Security Industry Act 2001.

3.5 Operation of the scheme

The system is operated in accordance with a recognized Code of Practice and Procedural Manual. The scheme operates within the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018, Human Rights Act 1998, relevant legislation and guidance.

3.6 Audit

As mentioned in the introduction to this report the scheme is required to be independently monitored this includes a review of the scheme's operation and working practices.

An audit was undertaken on 30th November 2023, which considered the following:

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a) the level of attainment of objectives and procedures:

The level of attainment of objectives is covered in the main evaluation. The statistics relate to the 2022/2023 period. Procedures are governed by the Code of Practice and Procedural Manual. These were reviewed and comply with relevant processes and legislation in particular the Data Protection Act 2018 and Human Rights Act 1998.

b) random audits of the data log and the release of information:

All administrative documentation, which incorporate the release of information and incident reports in connection with this scheme were examined and all appear to be completed in accordance with the Procedural Manual.

c) the review policy:

The review policy is outlined within the Code of Practice. Procedures are reviewed on an ongoing basis in order to comply with procedures and legislation. There has been no change made to the Policy and Code of Practice from the review carried out.

d) standard of costs for the release or viewing of material:

The Information Commissioner states that requests are free of charge to the Data Subject. However, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council may charge reasonable fees when responding to manifestly unfounded or excessive requests. There have been seven Subject Access Requests during 2022/2023 but none have resulted in evidence being released.

e) legislation

At the time of the above audit all legislative requirements appear compliant.

4.0 INCIDENT AND OFFENCE ANALYSIS

4.1 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

In order to achieve meaningful evaluation, the CCTV cameras must be assessed against specific performance indicators which are relevant to the objectives of the scheme. This can be achieved by utilising baskets of indicators which are divided into the categories of Contextual and Key and Support Indicators.

4.2 Contextual Indicators

Contextual Indicators relate to the circumstances or background surrounding the particular initiative. In this case, the principal purpose of the CCTV schemes are the prevention and detection of crime, the reduction of the fear of crime and apprehension of offenders. Both British Crime Statistics and Police Recorded crime statistics will provide the contextual indicators necessary for the analysis.

4.3 Key Indicators

Key Indicators are closely related to the actual objectives of the particular initiative and attempt to measure its effect. This will include the number and type of incidents monitored and recorded by the CCTV Control Room operators for each camera.

4.4 Support Indicators

Support Indicators are used to refute or verify the key indicators. These measurements will include the number of reviews of media undertaken by the police.

4.5 EVALUATION

4.5.1 British Crime Survey

The responsibility for the publication of crime statistics transferred from the Home Office to Office of National Statistics (ONS) in April 2012, with the year starting on 1st July and finishing on 30th June. The following information has been taken from the ONS website.

The latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed that there were an estimated 8.5 million offences in the year ending September 2023. While the latest figures do not show a statistically significant change in total crime compared with the year ending September 2022, they do follow a long-term downward trend and more recent falls since the beginning of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with total crime 17% lower than the year ending March 2020. Compared with the year ending September 2022, there was some variation for individual crime types:

- Fraud decreased by 13%, with notable reductions in advance fee fraud (33%) and other fraud (40%).
- Computer misuse increased by 30%, mainly because of a 36% rise in unauthorised access to personal information.
- Criminal damage decreased by 21%, including a 30% fall in criminal damage to a vehicle.

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The CSEW remains the best estimate of long-term trends in crimes against the household population for the crimes included in the survey. However, estimates for the year ending September 2022 and September 2023 should be interpreted with caution. The CSEW estimates presented for the year ending September 2022 are based on lower than usual interview numbers following the gradual return to face-to-face interviewing from October 2021 (20,980 respondents). Both years are subject to lower response rates, which may affect the quality of the estimates. The CSEW estimates have been temporarily suspended of their National Statistics status while they assess data quality since the pandemic. For more information, see the Office for Statistics Regulation's Temporary suspension of National Statistics status for estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales note.

Although police recorded crime does not tend to be a good indicator of general trends in crime, it can give more insight into lower-volume, but higher-harm offences reported to the police, including those that the survey does not cover or capture well. Data for the year ending September 2023 showed:

- The number of homicides decreased by 9% to 591 offences compared with the year ending September 2022 (651 offences).
- Police recorded robbery offences increased by 12% to 79,091 offences compared with the year ending September 2022 (70,792 offences), but they remained 12% lower than the year ending March 2020 (90,187 offences).
- Offences involving knives or sharp instruments (excluding Greater Manchester Police and Devon and Cornwall Police) increased by 5% (to 48,716 offences) compared with the year ending September 2022 (46,367 offences), but remain 5% lower compared with the year ending March 2020 (51,228 offences).
- Offences involving firearms (excluding Devon and Cornwall Police) increased by 3% (to 6,233 offences) compared with the year ending September 2022 (6,024 offences).
- Theft offences increased by 9% to 1.8 million offences compared with the previous year, this was largely a result of a 32% increase in shoplifting offences.
- There was a slight increase (2%) in vehicle offences compared with the previous year, which included an 8% increase in theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle compared with year ending September 2022 and a 17% increase compared with the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic year ending March 2020.

According to Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates for the year ending September 2023, people aged 16 years and over experienced 8.5 million offences, no significant change compared with the year ending September 2022 (9.1 million offences). However, this follows a long-term downward trend and more recent falls since the beginning of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with total crime 17% lower than the year ending March 2020 (10.2 million offences).

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The latest CSEW figures are based on interviews conducted between October 2022 and September 2023, measuring experiences of crime in the 12 months before the interview. This means these crimes could have occurred any time between October 2021 and August 2023. Similarly, the year ending September 2022 will include crimes committed during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and as early as October 2020. Crime Survey estimates are not currently designated as National Statistics. Please use these data with caution because of the potential impact of lower response rates on data quality. Since the mid-1990s, there have been long-term falls in overall CSEW crime estimates. However, long-term trends vary by crime type.

For crimes that come to the attention of the police, police recorded crime has wider coverage than the CSEW as it includes offences against all people (including those aged under 16 years old and the non-household population), and businesses, as well as victimless crimes, such as drug taking.

Improvements to recording processes and practices by the police, expansions of the recorded crime collection to include new offences, variations in police activity, more victims reporting crime, and genuine increases in some types of crime, have each made substantial contributions to rises in recorded crime over recent years. This effect has been more pronounced for some crime types. For some types of offence these figures do not provide reliable trends in crime.

Police recorded crime in England and Wales in the year ending September 2023 was relatively stable with a 1% increase on the previous year. Overall, 6.7 million crimes were recorded in the year ending September 2023 compared with 6.6 million in the year ending September 2022. Notable increases were observed in shoplifting and fraud offences against businesses and other organisations (which are not included in the CSEW). Information on the investigative outcomes of crimes recorded by the police can be found in the Home Office's Crime outcomes in England and Wales publication.

4.5.2 Staffordshire Police crime and offence statistics.

As previously mentioned, contextual performance indicators are closely related to the background and environment of the particular initiative; it is therefore advantageous to examine the context in which the cameras operate. This will include the total crime for the police area. There is an argument that the number of recorded offences would be reflected in the levels of incidents created by the CCTV operators.

There were 110,790 total offences recorded in 2022 compared to 94,842 in 2021; an increase of 16.8%. The following table shows the comparison categories of crime:

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Category	2021	2022	+ / - %
Anti-Social Behaviour	24,873	21,037	-15.4%
Burglary	3,166	4,126	30.3%
Robbery	670	891	33.0%
Vehicle crime	4,044	5,637	39.4%
Violence/Sexual	34,657	43,799	26.4%
Shop Lifting	4,484	5,214	16.3%
Criminal Damage/Arson	8,075	8,826	9.3%
Other Theft	5,940	7,837	31.9%
Drugs	1,244	2,188	75.9%
Bike Theft	737	977	32.6%
Theft from a Person	368	513	39.4%
Weapons	533	756	41.8%
Public Order	4,890	7,109	45.4%
Other	1,161	1,880	61.9%

4.6 KEY INDICATORS

4.6.1 Analysis of Recorded Crime Levels

The following is an analysis of recorded crime in the areas covered by the CCTV schemes installed in Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle from 2018/2019 to 2022/2023.

The following statistics were obtained from the online crime mapping website. However, it should be noted the Police has changed the way it publishes crime as part of their performance data. This no longer allows for data to be extracted for the exact locations where Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's cameras are situated. Data is recorded by boundary areas. Therefore, the areas of Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle are included in the figures below. The categories have also changed with the addition of bike theft, possession of weapons and theft from a person:

Location	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/2023
Leek	1701	1785	1601	1752	2130
Biddulph	1309	1196	1165	1104	1518
Cheadle	799	769	842	962	1046
Total	3809	3750	3608	3818	4694

The following table compares the most predominant offences recorded by the police in those areas that directly benefit from the location of the CCTV system. It is understood that the CCTV system may have an impact upon crime levels beyond the immediate area, this may manifest itself as displacement of offences or the diffusion of benefits; however, this would need further extensive research into a complex subject.

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Leek Town Centre					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
ASB	82	44	55	80	84
Bike Theft	0	0	0	1	0
Burglary	9	2	4	3	4
Criminal Damage	18	8	15	22	37
Drugs	1	5	4	6	10
Other Crime	2	4	3	9	17
Other Theft	15	8	8	15	16
Public Order	14	12	20	33	57
Possession of Weapons	0	0	0	2	2
Robbery	1	2	1	1	1
Shoplifting	0	5	12	23	67
Theft	0	0	2	2	0
Vehicle Crime	3	0	2	5	8
Violence	62	44	61	124	209
Grand Total	207	134	190	326	512

Biddulph Town Centre					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
ASB	94	64	67	84	35
Bike Theft	0	0	1	0	0
Burglary	7	4	1	2	2
Criminal Damage	15	6	22	32	17
Drugs	4	0	0	0	2
Other Crime	2	0	5	12	9
Other Theft	7	13	7	6	0
Public Order	14	6	12	10	32
Possession of Weapons	1	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0
Shoplifting	0	0	3	25	8
Theft	0	2	1	1	10
Vehicle Crime	1	3	1	5	1
Violence	60	32	35	67	56
Grand Total	206	130	155	244	172

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Cheadle Town Centre					
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
ASB	84	58	46	48	39
Bike Theft	0	1	0	0	0
Burglary	8	13	5	0	4
Criminal Damage	12	17	21	11	10
Drugs	6	3	5	1	3
Other Crime	1	1	5	4	19
Other Theft	14	11	8	7	15
Public Order	11	11	4	11	14
Possession of Weapons	0	2	1	2	1
Robbery	1	3	1	1	2
Shoplifting	0	8	5	7	3
Theft	0	3	0	1	0
Vehicle Crime	4	3	1	1	1
Violence	48	46	41	33	87
Grand Total	189	180	143	127	198

The most prominent type of offences committed in the areas where the cameras are installed are for anti-social behaviour and violence. Research suggests that these types of offences are those that are more likely to be captured by public space surveillance systems and this should be reflected in the incidents captured by the CCTV operators.

The type of crimes that CCTV will address are not totally random or isolated events but combine into sets with common features. Such crimes will show patterns and form clusters, these will include times and dates or focus on particular types of property or victims and are committed by a range of methods.

4.6.2 Recorded Incidents by CCTV operators

Recorded Incidents from 2018/2019 to 2022/2023:

Total No. of Incidents	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Actual Incidents Monitored	156	29	14	1	12
Proactive (Monitoring) Events	85	57	13	0	9
Total	241	86	27	1	21

4.6.3 Recorded Incidents by Location

The following tables show the number of incidents recorded for each of the locations for the period under review:

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	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Leek	82	57	20	1	7
Biddulph	38	11	3	0	7
Cheadle	31	17	9	0	7
Werrington	0	0	0	0	0
Cheddleton	0	0	0	0	0
Blythe Bridge	5	1	0	0	0
Forsbrook	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Edge	0	0	0	0	0
Total	156	86	32	1	21

4.6.4 Categories of Incident

The following tables depict the types of incidents for the 2018/2019 to 2022/2023 periods.

	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Mispers/General Observations	118	30	9	0	5
Public Order	20	2	1	0	4
Theft	1	1	1	0	2
Criminal Damage	2	2	0	0	0
Suspicious Incidents	0	1	1	0	1
ASB	4	20	0	1	1
Drugs	2	0	0	0	0
Violence/Sexual	5	19	0	0	1
Burglary	0	0	0	0	1
Other	4	11	2	0	6
Total	156	86	14	1	21

As can be seen by the above table, 'Other' is the most recorded. The number of recorded incidents during 2022/2023 was 21, compared with 1 in 2021/2022. As previously mentioned, the upgrade of the CCTV system commenced in July 2022; therefore the number of incidents for the first of the year reported by the operator was negligible.

4.6.5 Camera Usage

All systems must comply with the Information Commissioners CCTV Code of Practice, which are based on the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Human Rights Act 1998. The following extracts are amongst the requirements;

“You should review regularly whether the use of CCTV continues to be justified. You will have to renew your notification yearly, so this would be an appropriate time to consider the ongoing use of CCTV”.

The document further asserts;

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...there should be a periodic review (at least annually) of the system's effectiveness to ensure that it is still doing what it was intended to do. If it does not achieve its purpose, it should be stopped or modified.

In order to comply with the last requirement, it is necessary to focus on individual camera usage and the following section provides some information which may assist.

During the monitoring of an incident, it is normal practice to use a number of cameras and therefore the following analysis will have no resemblance to the actual number of incidents, shown in the previous table. However, it will provide an indication of the usefulness of each camera to the overall system when dealing with incidents. It may reflect, for instance, that the camera forms part of a group of cameras used for tracking purposes.

There is a total of 34 cameras installed within the Scheme, although the new Veracity CCTV system commenced installation in July 2022 and is still being completed. All cameras are monitored by the approved CCTV control room.

The following table indicates the number of camera uses:

Staffordshire Moorland District Council Camera Usage			
Camera No	No. of times camera used	Camera No	No. of times camera used
301	2	323	5
302	2	324	6
303	0	325	6
304	1	326	0
305	0	330	2
306	1	331	1
307	1	332	0
308	1	333	3
309	1	334	3
310	1	335	1
311	1	336	2
312	0	337	2
313	1	338	1
314	1	339	2
315	1		
316	1		
317	1		
318	1		
321	6		
322	3		

The above table indicates how many occasions each individual camera has been used to capture incidents or undertake observations. This will not correspond with the actual number of incidents as numerous cameras may be used during one incident.

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During 2018/2019 there were 707 uses of the cameras and this meant that there was an average of 18 recorded incidents for each camera. Those cameras registering less than 9 incidents, this being half the average, were placed in the 'at risk' list.

During 2019/2020 there were 119 uses of the cameras and this meant that there was an average of 5 recorded incidents for each camera. Those cameras registering less than 2 incidents, this being half the average, were placed in the 'at risk' list.

During 2020/2021 there were 115 uses of the cameras and this meant that there was an average of 4 recorded incidents for each camera. Those cameras registering less than 2 incidents, this being half the average, were placed in the 'at risk' list.

During 2021/2022 there were only 2 uses of the cameras due to the system failure and the delays in upgrading the CCTV System. The new Veracity CCTV system commenced installation in July 2022 but has not yet been completed.

In 2022/2023 there were 60 uses of the cameras and this meant that there was an average of 2 recorded incidents for each camera. Those cameras registering less than 1 incident, this being half the average, were placed in the 'at risk' list.

4.7 SUPPORT INDICATORS

As mentioned at the beginning of this section of the report, using a basket of performance indicators, assists in a more reliable conclusion. There is a fundamental danger in using a single indicator (crime related or not) to assess performance, as that indicator might be unreliable, in that it may fail to measure accurately what is being assessed or the data may be unrepresentative of the true position. For this reason, evaluation should be based wherever possible, on a group of indicators, commonly referred to as a 'basket' of indicators.

The key performance indicators in this project are the number of incidents recorded by the CCTV operators for each individual camera and the usage of each camera during an incident. The viewing and subsequent copying/seizure of recorded images by police can act as an indicator to support or refute the effectiveness of the scheme in obtaining meaningful evidence. However, it is difficult, if not impossible to ascertain from police records whether the images viewed have been used as evidence to obtain a conviction at court, assisted in any other clearance process or been used for intelligence purposes. Whilst officers complete a log when they receive copy DVDs/CDs/USBs, the audit trail is difficult to trace from this point and this is the case with most CCTV schemes.

4.7.1 Review of Footage

An important indicator of the use of the system by the police is the viewing and subsequent evidential value of recorded images.

During 2018/2019, there were 129 downloads undertaken by the police and this was a decrease of 43.2% over the previous period.

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During 2019/2020, there were 62 downloads undertaken by the police and this is a decrease of 51.9% over the previous period. 1 third party request (insurance company) was received and processed.

During 2020/2021, there were 38 downloads undertaken by the police and this is a decrease of 44.1% over the previous period. 1 third party request (insurance company) was received and processed.

During 2021/2022, due to the CCTV system not working, there were no requests or downloads undertaken by the police. There were no third-party requests.

In 2022/2023, there were 6 downloads undertaken by the police and this is a decrease of 84.2% over the previous period; although it cannot be compared due to the system failure in 2021/2022. There were 4 requests from third party request (insurance company) were received and processed.

There have been no RIPA requests.

4.7.2 Complaints

A member of the public wishing to make a complaint about the system may do so through Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's complaint procedure. A copy of the complaint procedure is available by writing to:

The Principal Officer Communities and Partnerships
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Moorlands House
Stockwell Street
Leek
Staffs
ST13 6HQ

A complaints procedure has been documented. A record of the number of complaints or enquiries received will be maintained together with an outline of the action taken.

During the period of evaluation there have been no recorded complaints concerning the schemes in question.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

This camera evaluation report focuses on the 40 public space Closed Circuit Television surveillance cameras installed in the Staffordshire Moorlands area and monitored and recorded at a remote CCTV Control Room.

It is envisaged that this evaluation, in relation to the Staffordshire Moorlands CCTV scheme, will assist in complying with the requirements of the Information Commissioner's 'CCTV Code of Practice' 2014 based on legally enforceable legislation, British Standard 7958 and the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner's 'Surveillance Camera Code of Practice 2021.

Due to the reduction in resources available to undertake the analysis of crime and offences by the police, it has been necessary to use the crime mapping facility to obtain the statistics. It has therefore been impossible to provide a comparison with previous periods due to the different methodology used.

The largest category of offences remains anti-social behaviour, however, it should be realized that this may cover incidents of playing football on the street to the use of verbal threats and abuse.

In the 2018/2019 period there were 707 uses of the cameras and an average of 18 recorded incidents for each camera. Those cameras registering less than 9 incidents, this being half the average, were placed in the 'at risk' list.

In 2019/2020 there were 119 uses of the cameras and this meant that there was an average of 5 recorded incidents for each camera. Those cameras registering less than 2 incidents, this being half the average, were placed in the 'at risk' list.

In 2020/2021 there were 115 uses of the cameras and this meant that there was an average of 4 recorded incidents for each camera. Those cameras registering less than 2 incidents, this being half the average, were placed in the 'at risk' list.

In 2021/2022 there were only 2 uses of the cameras due to the system failure and the delays in upgrading the CCTV System. The new CCTV system was due to be installed by the end of 2022.

In 2022/2023 there were 60 uses of the cameras and this meant that there was an average of 2 recorded incidents for each camera. Those cameras registering less than 1 incident, this being half the average, were placed in the 'at risk' list.

5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1 Further Investigations

Prior to any decisions there are further investigations to be undertaken on those cameras mentioned in the 'at risk' category and these fall into the following headings:

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- a) Environmental – obstructions, lighting, location
- b) Technical – quality of images, transmission, equipment
- c) Operational – are cameras:
 - part of a group of cameras which provide continuity for
 - tracking, escape route
 - used for night time economy
 - essential for influencing the fear of crime
 - used for another purpose
- d) Consultation:
 - CCTV control room management, Supervisors, Police
 - Public/Residents and businesses

Whilst the above list does not intend to be exclusive, it will assist in focusing on the additional considerations and investigation to be undertaken.

5.2.2 Options

Once further research has been concluded there should be a core number of cameras where decisions are necessary and the options may include the following:

- a) Improve environment
- b) Technical upgrade
- c) Increased monitoring (Technical or Human)
- d) Seek sponsorship of camera (either by local businesses or groups etc)
- e) Temporary disconnection (To ascertain effects on crime or public perceptions)
- f) Relocation of camera to 'Hot Spot'
- g) Decommission and utilize re-deployable cameras, if technically achievable
- h) Decommission and do not consider any of the above

Once again, the above list is not intended to be exclusive and there may be other options to consider.

De-Commissioning:

If the decision is made to de-commission cameras there needs to be a further process and this will include the following:

- When deciding which cameras to decommission consultation is important and should not be ignored, this can be achieved in a number of ways, including placing notices, posting leaflets and articles in local press explaining what is intended, why it is being considered and which cameras are under review. It is important to provide contact numbers for further information if required.
- Information must also be fed through to council members, neighbourhood managers/panels and forums for local consultation.

5.2.3 Impact assessment

The Information Commissioner's 'CCTV Code of Practice' requires makes the following requirements:

"You should review regularly whether the use of CCTV continues to be justified. You will have to renew your notification yearly, so this would be an appropriate time to consider the ongoing use of CCTV

...there should be a periodic review (at least annually) of the systems effectiveness to ensure that it is still doing what it was intended to do. If it does not achieve its purpose, it should be stopped or modified."

Information Commissioner's Code of Practice 2014

The purposes and scope of the scheme are detailed in Section four of this report and these include the prevention and detection of offences. Whilst it is not possible to make an assumption that the CCTV system is actually preventing offences it is a component part of the preventative package. To remove or modify the use of the CCTV system may also detract from a further identified purpose, this being to reduce the fear of crime. It is therefore recommended that at present the system is effective in achieving its purpose, however, there appears to be no current research available which indicates the perceptions of the public, residents and those working in the area covered by the cameras and it is recommended that this be addressed in future evaluations.

5.2.4 Future Evaluations

It is recommended that the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's CCTV scheme be evaluated on an annual basis. This will ensure continued compliance with the British Standard, which is assessed annually. It will also provide compliance with legislation and the Surveillance Camera Codes, which Local Authorities must have regard to.