

**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council**

**Closed Circuit Television**

**Evaluation Report**

**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 Information Commissioner’s CCTV Code of Practice published in October 2014 and Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner’s ‘Surveillance Camera Code of Practice’. Plass Solutions Ltd has been commissioned to undertake an independent evaluation of the Solihull Borough Council CCTV systems that are monitored in a dedicated CCTV Control Room.

Whilst the Information Commissioner’s CCTV Code of Practice and the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner’s ‘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 aforementioned Codes of Practices agree that the results of the evaluation should be contained in an annual report and 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 evaluation:

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

As the West Midlands Combined Authority CCTV Control Room is accredited to the above mentioned British Standard and the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner’s ‘Surveillance Camera Code of Practice’, the following evaluation will focus on the content of that Standard and the Code of Practice 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 Solihull Borough Council who is responsible for the management, administration and security of the system. Solihull Borough Council 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:

Solihull Borough Council  
Council House  
Manor Square  
Solihull  
West Midlands  
B91 3QB

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 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 Purposes of the scheme**

The following are the objectives for which the Solihull Borough 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 car crime
  - monitoring public disorder
  - monitoring the movement of people in emergency situations, e.g. evacuation
  - providing assistance in civil claims
  - 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.

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

Solihull Borough 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 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 scheme is registered with the Information Commissioner. The registration number is Z5888433. The scheme will be managed in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018, Human Rights Act 1998 and all other relevant legislation and guidelines including the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice.

Reviews of Data Protection and Legal requirements are taken 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. As a further requirement of the above Act all operators are licensed by the Security Industry Authority.

### **3.5 Operation of the scheme**

The system is operated in accordance with a recognized Code of Practice and Procedural Manual.

### **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 has been undertaken on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 prior to this evaluation report 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 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.

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

The Information Commissioner confirms the cost should be free of charge. However, West Midlands Combined Authority may charge reasonable fees when responding to manifestly unfounded or excessive requests. There were no Subject Access Requests received and processed in 2023.

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, 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 offences recorded at each location and 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 1<sup>st</sup> July and finishing on 30<sup>th</sup> 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.



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- Criminal damage decreased by 21%, including a 30% fall in criminal damage to a vehicle.

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. 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).

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 West Midlands 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.

During 2019 the recorded crime has decreased by -0.2%. There was an increase in Weapons (+28%), Drugs (+25%), Violence (+22%), Public Order (+19%), Other Crime (+17%) and Robbery (+8%). Decreases were recorded in Bike Theft (-18%), Anti-Social Behaviour (-17%), Burglary (-15%), Other Theft (-15%), Shoplifting (-11%), Vehicle (-11%), Theft from a Person (-4%) and Criminal Damage/Arson (-2%).

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During 2020 the recorded crime has increased by 7.5%. There was an increase in Public Order (+41%), Anti-Social Behaviour (+40%), Violence (+25%), Other Crime (+25%), Weapons (+8%) and Drugs (+3%). Decreases were recorded in Theft from a Person (-33%), Shoplifting (-30%), Burglary (-22%), Robbery (-22%), Other Theft (-21%), Vehicle (-19%), Criminal Damage/Arson (-14%) and Bike Theft (-9%).

During 2021 the recorded crime had increased by 22%. There was an increase in Public Order (+66%), Weapons (+61%), Violence (+49%), Criminal Damage/Arson (+48%), Other Crime (+41%), Drugs (+24%), Other Theft (+7%), Bike Theft (+4%) and Robbery (+1%). Decreases were recorded in Burglary (-19%), Anti-Social Behaviour (-16%), Vehicle (-5%), Theft from a Person (-3%) and Shoplifting (-3%).

During 2022 the recorded crime had increased by 8%. There was an increase in Other Crime (+1043%), Shoplifting (+42%), Drugs (+29%). Public Order (+29%), Violence and Sexual (+19%), Criminal Damage/Arson (+13%), Vehicle (+2%) and Bike Theft (0%). Decreases were recorded in Other Theft (-14%), Weapons (-21%), Burglary (-36%), Robbery (-40%), Anti-Social Behaviour (-66%) and Theft from a Person (-67%).

During 2023 the recorded crime has decreased by 5%. There was an increase in Shoplifting (+45%), Anti-Social Behaviour (+17%), Robbery (+7%). Decreases were recorded in Drugs (-3%), Other Crime (-3%), Weapons (-4%), Burglary (-5%), Other Theft (-5%), Vehicle (-7%), Criminal Damage/Arson (-7%), Violence and Sexual (-9%), Bike Theft (-12%), Theft from a Person (-14%), and Public Order (-24%).

**4.6 Key Indicators**

**4.6.1 Analysis of Recorded Crime Levels**

The following table depicts the number of crimes/offences recorded in the area covered by the CCTV system.

**Crimes and Offences**

Camera	Location	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
5001	Poplar Rd/Warwick Rd	95	46	78	168	130
5002	High Street	180	136	99	243	152
5003	Middle High Street	93	55	73	83	90
5004	High Street Drury Lane	93	56	21	45	22
5005	Drury Lane Mill Lane	59	43	46	51	53
5006	Warwick Rd/Mill Lane	23	18	11	21	9
5007	Mell Square	55	41	13	36	45
5008	Mill Lane	48	37	20	24	9
5009/5010	Poplar Way	162	89	78	165	130
5018	Manor Walk	67	36	12	29	11
5019	Station Road	50	31	114	324	270
5023	Tudor Grange	0	1	19	38	37
5024	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	0	0	0	0	0
5035	Church Road, Shirley	13	19	27	29	12

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5036/5037	Stratford Road, Shirley	109	101	90	143	159
5038	Shirley Park	29	15	19	9	11
5045	UTC Streetsbrook Road	6	4	15	10	9
5046	UTC Princes Way	3	5	2	6	0
5047	UTC Blossomfield Road	14	9	1	5	4
5048	Station Approach	8	9	5	15	12
5049	UTC Monkspath Hall Road	0	0	0	0	4
5050	UTC New Rd/Warwick Rd	5	9	4	0	3
5095	UTC Coleshill Asda Crossroads	38	18	9	15	15
5096	Station Road	109	97	113	324	270
5097/5098	UTC Solihull Bypass	5	4	13	23	13
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1264</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>1806</b>	<b>1470</b>

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. It should also be noted that the mapped cameras have buffers that overlap, so a crime may be counted more than once in this table. In total there were 1470 crimes/non crimes that have occurred within 50m of the mapped cameras.

#### 4.6.2 Recorded Incidents by CCTV operators

The following table depicts the number of incidents recorded by the operators using the cameras at the identified locations for the 2023 period compared to the 2022 period. This should be regarded as an important indicator to the performance of both the operator and cameras.

Type	Incidents 2022	Incident 2023
ASB	32	53
Alcohol related	10	3
Arson	0	2
Assault	35	26
Attempted robbery	4	1
Attempted theft	3	28
Begging	1	23
Burglary	0	1
Criminal damage	8	10
Disorder	30	61
Domestic	2	4
Drugs	3	15
Fare evasion	0	1
Fatality	2	0
Fire alarm activation	0	1
Fly tipping	0	1
Indecent exposure	0	4

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Lift incident	0	1
Medical	9	29
Missing person	0	4
Observed by operator	0	54
Offensive weapons	3	7
Other	13	8
Perfume sellers	0	1
Police request	29	20
Road Traffic Accident	12	22
Robbery	8	7
Rough sleeper	0	4
Serious incident	3	2
Sexual offences	0	3
Shop theft	0	13
Suspicious person/activity	6	12
Theft	20	52
Theft – cycle	0	3
Theft – vehicle	0	2
Trespass	0	3
Urinating	0	12
Vandalism	0	12
Vehicle interference	1	3
Verbal assault	1	3
Violence	0	0
	<b>235</b>	<b>513</b>

During 2022 there were 235 incidents recorded by CCTV operators; this increased to 513 in 2023. The category of ‘Disorder’ is the most prominent type of incident recorded.

#### **4.6.3 Camera Usage**

The criteria required by the British Standard in relation to the Annual Report stipulates that the number of incidents per camera needs to be established. This is also reflected in Principle 10 of the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner’s ‘Surveillance Camera Code of Practice’, which requires the owner to establish if the camera remains justifiable, whilst the Information Commissioner’s CCTV codes demands that an annual review of the system should be undertaken to establish if it continues to be justified.

One of the only indicators is the use of the camera. Appendix ‘A’ provides an analysis of the number of times each camera has been used to capture incidents.

During the monitoring of an incident, it is normal practice to use a number of cameras and therefore the statistics bear no resemblance to the actual number of incidents, shown in the previous tables. However, it will provide an indication of the usefulness of the camera to the overall system.

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During 2019 there were 475 camera usages during incidents captured by the cameras on the Solihull CCTV scheme and this equated to an average of 7 usages for each camera.

During 2020 there were 233 camera usages during incidents captured by the 64 cameras on the Solihull CCTV scheme and this equated to an average of 4 usages for each camera.

During 2021 there were 278 camera usages during incidents captured by the 64 cameras on the Solihull CCTV scheme and this equated to an average of 4 usages for each camera.

During 2022 there were 452 camera usages during incidents captured by the 64 cameras on the Solihull CCTV scheme and this equated to an average of 7 usages for each camera.

In 2022 there were 1111 camera usages during incidents captured by the 68 cameras on the Solihull CCTV scheme and this equates to an average of 16 usages for each camera.

Using the formulae employed with other Local Authorities, all cameras with less than 8 recorded incidents for the period under review, this being half the average, should be regarded as being 'at risk' of further consideration.

This does not mean that the 'at risk cameras' should automatically be de-commissioned, as further investigation should be made. A formal process is required in order to ensure that all avenues, such as consultation, cost implications etcetera are undertaken prior to any decisions, as this will avoid problems that have previously been experienced by other Local Authorities.

#### **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 DVD/CD/USBs, the audit trail is difficult to trace from this point and this is the case with most CCTV schemes.

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During 2019 there were 61 viewings by the police and 58 seizures of DVD/USB evidence or intelligence and 3 stills. During 2020, there were 53 viewings by the police and 32 seizures of DVD/USB evidence or intelligence and 21 stills. During 2021, there were 9 viewings by the police, resulting in and 8 seizures of DVD/USB evidence or intelligence and 1 still. During 2022, there were 42 viewings by the police, resulting in and 61 seizures of DVD/USB evidence or intelligence and 6 stills. In 2022, there were 77 viewings by the police, resulting in and 52 seizures of DVD/USB evidence or intelligence and no Stills. In addition to the Police, there were 11 third party requests but no evidence was released to Solihull for processing. Generally, it would appear to indicate that the police are finding the CCTV systems useful and this is a positive support indicator.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This is the second evaluation undertaken on the Solihull Borough Council CCTV scheme and focuses on the 70 public space Closed Circuit Television surveillance cameras installed and owned by Solihull Borough Council. An agreement between Solihull Borough Council and West Midlands Combined Authority has seen the monitoring, operation and management of the CCTV system being moved to the West Midlands Combined Authority CCTV Control Room. This review will provide a baseline for future evaluations.

During 2022, there were 1794 crimes and offences recorded for the area covered by the CCTV scheme. In 2023, there were 1470 crimes and offences recorded for the area covered by the CCTV scheme. However, it should be noted that the mapped cameras have buffers that overlap, so a crime may be counted more than once in this table. Therefore, in total there were 1470 crimes/non crimes that have occurred within 50m of the mapped cameras. Camera 5019, which is situated on Station Road, was the most prominent location for recorded crimes and offences of 270, this was followed by cameras 5036 and 5037 on Stratford Road, Shirley with 159 crimes and offences.

During 2022, there were 452 camera usages during incidents captured and this equated to an average of 7 usages for each camera. In 2023, there were 1111 camera usages during incidents captured and this equates to an average of 16 usages for each camera. The above statistics should be treated with caution as they rely on an incident being started by the CCTV operator on the incident software as soon as it is noticed. On initiating the incident software, all cameras used in the monitoring will be ascribed to that incident. On occasions the operator may not use the incident software until the occurrence being monitored has concluded and therefore some of the cameras used may not be added, this will result in an under calculation for the usage of some cameras.

Using the formulae employed with other Local Authorities, all cameras with less than 8 recorded incidents for the period under review, this being half the average, should be regarded as being 'at risk' of further consideration. Closer examination of the table below revealed that 8 cameras recorded less than half the average number of incidents and it is suggested that the operational requirements of these cameras be examined.

During 2022 there were 42 viewings by the police and 61 seizures of DVD/USB evidence or intelligence and 6 Stills. In 2023 there were 77 viewings by the police and 52 seizures of DVD/USB evidence or intelligence and no stills. Generally, it would appear to indicate that the police are finding the CCTV systems useful and this is a positive support indicator. In addition to the Police, there were 11 third party requests but no evidence was released to Solihull for processing.

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.  
“If you are already using a surveillance system, you should regularly evaluate whether it is  
necessary and proportionate to continue to use it”*

*“You should review regularly whether the use of CCTV continues to be justified. It is necessary  
to renew your notification with the ICO annually, so this would be an appropriate time to  
consider the ongoing use of such systems.”*

*...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.”*

**Information Commissioners 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.

## **5.2 Future Evaluations**

It is recommended that the Solihull Borough Council CCTV scheme be evaluated on an annual basis. This will ensure continued compliance with the British Standard, which is assessed each year, it will also provide compliance with legislation and the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice. It will also ensure continuous measurement of fluctuations and monitoring for any emergence of life cycles, which could cause a decline in the initiative.

## **5.3 Further Investigations**

As stated, prior to any decisions there are further investigations to be undertaken on those cameras identified as ‘at risk’. These will include the following:

- 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
  - essential for influencing the fear of crime, security of staff and
  - customers
  - used for another purpose
- d) Consultation
  - CCTV Control Room operators/management

- Police
- Station managers
- Businesses

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

#### **5.4 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 e.g prune trees, increase lighting etc
- b) Technical upgrade
- c) Increased monitoring (Technical or Human)
- d) Temporary disconnection (To ascertain effects on crime or public perceptions)
- e) Relocation of camera to 'Hot Spot'
- f) Decommission and utilise re-deployable cameras, if technically achievable
- g) Decommission and do not consider any of the above

**APPENDIX 'A'**

**CAMERA USAGE**

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<b>Camera</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
5001	29	47	158
5002	42	116	243
5003	21	39	92
5004	12	12	35
5005	3	2	9
5006	15	10	45
5007	15	8	75
5008	9	1	43
5009	5	7	12
5010	5	3	12
5011	1	2	0
5012	3	3	5
5013	0	0	0
5014	1	0	0
5015	1	0	1
5016	0	0	1
5017	1	2	5
5018	5	3	7
5019	12	31	59
5020	0	2	2
5021	1	0	2
5022	4	3	6
5024	0	0	0
5025	0	3	1
5026	0	2	2
5029	3	5	0
5030	3	2	1
5031	0	3	0
5032	0	2	0
5033	0	2	0
5034	0	2	1
5035	5	1	3
5036	5	5	10
5037	3	3	8
5038	4	1	2
5039	0	0	2
5040	0	0	1
5041	0	0	2
5042	1	1	2
5043	0	0	0
5044	7	8	10
5045	4	3	4
5046	9	10	13
5047	6	6	9
5048	3	7	13
5049	0	4	1

**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council CCTV Evaluation Report**  
**1<sup>st</sup> January to December 2023**

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5050	2	2	7
5095	0	3	8
5096	29	69	153
5097	2	0	11
5098	2	2	4
5101	0	0	0
5102	0	0	2
5103	1	0	3
5104	0	1	3
5105	0	2	0
5107	1	1	0
5108	0	0	1
5109	0	0	0
5110	0	0	0
5111	0	1	0
5112	0	0	1
5113	1	3	6
5114	0	0	5
5115	2	7	7
5116	0	0	1
5175	0	0	1
5176	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>1111</b>