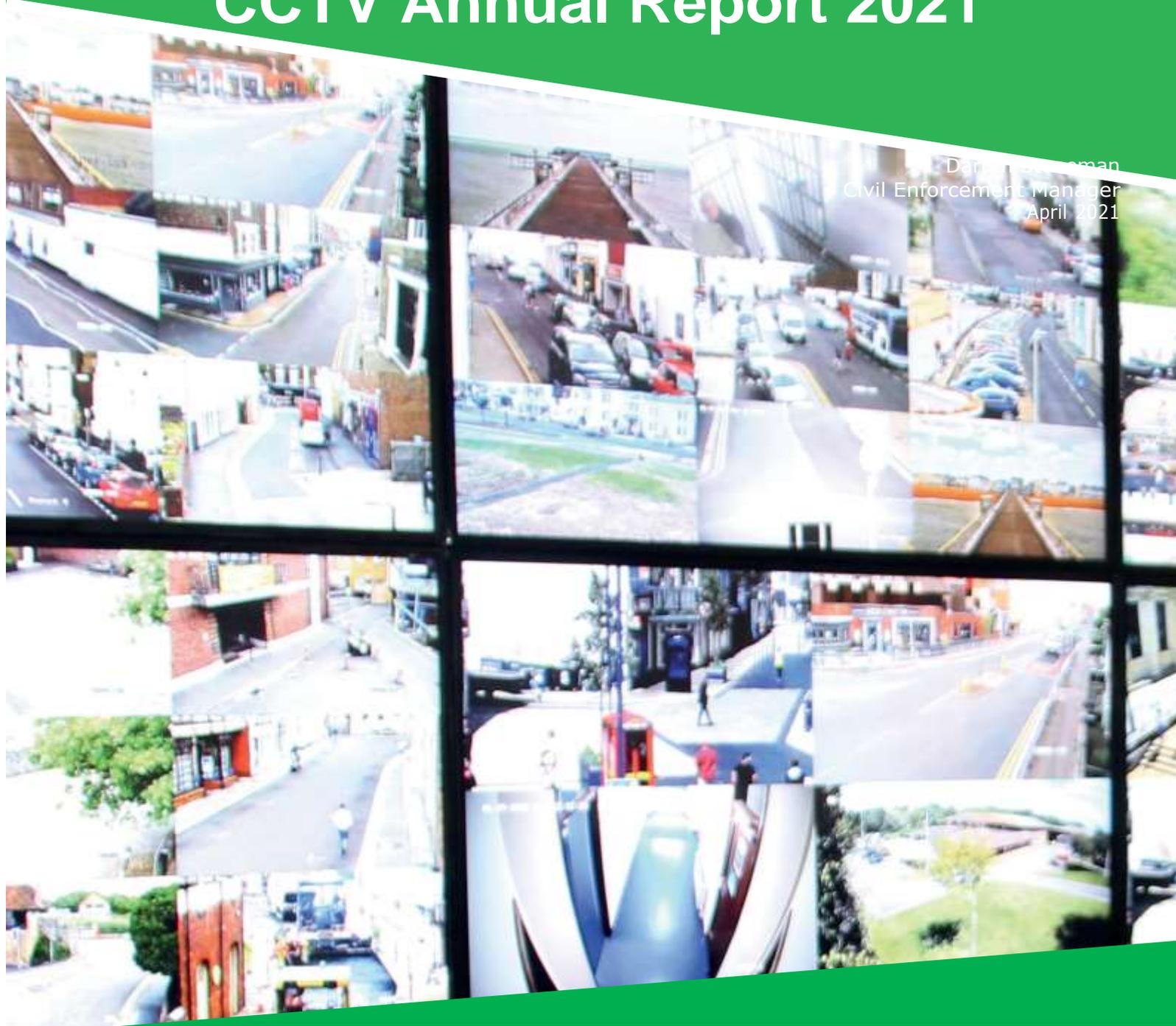




# Plymouth City Council CCTV Annual Report 2021

Dan Peggiman  
Civil Enforcement Manager  
April 2021



## **Plymouth City Council 2021 Annual CCTV Report**

Welcome to the 2021, Plymouth City Council CCTV Annual Report,

Plymouth City Council has continued to make significant commitment in its CCTV provision across the City as we continue to support a safer city where residents and visitors feel safe and the business community can thrive.

The recently amended Corporate Plan, holds the safety of all residents and visitors to Plymouth as a core commitment and this has been underpinned with the commitment to increase and expand CCTV across our great city.

This report highlights the achievements of this valuable service and the benefits the service brings to our city, the recent audit of our CCTV, which ensures that we operate to a very high standard was very positive and I look forward to providing more details of this audit and the relevant certification this will achieve in the next report.

Plymouth City Council remain committed to a high quality compliant CCTV service and will continue to uphold the standards set by the Security Camera Commissioner and the Home Office and comply with the requirements of the Information Commissioners office on the safety of our data,

The CCTV service has recently invested in a suite of new 4G CCTV cameras, this enable the council to act quickly where a need is identified for CCTV, in locations which would otherwise have been cost prohibitive, this has been further developed with a small re-deployable CCTV system to assist our Public Protection Team in dealing with the investigation and prosecution of Fly tipping.

The service has been supported over the last year by the Police and Crime Commissioner, with funding for CCTV for a number of high profile projects, this has included new CCTV in Victoria Park to support the Safer Stonehouse Project and funding to increase CCTV staffing during the COVID Pandemic.

I hope this report will give you some background on our CCTV service and its notable achievements, should you have any questions or require any further information about CCTV in Plymouth please visit our website

[CCTV | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/cctv)

Or email our team at [CCTV@Plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:CCTV@Plymouth.gov.uk)

Kind Regards

Councillor John Riley  
Portfolio Holder.



# COUNCIL STATEMENT

Public Space Surveillance Cameras remain a powerful tool in the continuing fight against crime, particularly when integrated with other crime reduction methods such as retail 'store net' systems and a close, positive working relationship with the local police.

Plymouth City Council and our partner agencies remain of the view that CCTV will diminish incidents of crime and public disorder where it is in place. It also assists in monitoring road safety and improves community confidence by assisting partner agencies to help those most at risk including missing persons and vulnerable people and creating a safer environment for residents, businesses, tourists and visitors alike.

In operating its public space surveillance system, Plymouth City Council supports all the principles contained within:

- The European Directive 95/46/EC
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Regulatory & Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 introduced restrictions on the use of local authorities' surveillance powers, particularly with regards to covert surveillance. The Act also provides for the regulation of CCTV by the Secretary of State and the provision of a Code of Practice. As a result, a new Code of Practice was introduced in August 2013 which can be accessed via

[Surveillance Camera Commissioner - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Under Section 33 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, Local Authorities are under a duty to comply with the code when exercising any function to which it relates.

The Government has also released a circular in explanation of that duty, which can be accessed via

[Surveillance camera code of practice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Plymouth City Council is committed to complying with these Codes in relation to the implementation and operation of CCTV. As part of that commitment, we have our own Code of Practice, which is updated annually and can be accessed via

[CCTV | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk)

## What is the system used for?

- **The prime purpose of the system is to reduce both the real and perceived level of crime**
- **To assist in the apprehension and prosecution of offenders in relation to crime and public disorder**
- **To gather evidence by a fair and accountable method**
- **To create a safer community and improve the quality of life for all by: -**
  - o **Enhancing the economic climate, creating a greater opportunity for prosperity**
  - o **Preventing or alleviating serious interruption to traffic flow**
  - o **Preventing or alleviating problems of an anti-social nature in the community**

## What will the system not be used for?

It will not be used to gather information on people going about their lawful business. To encourage confidence in the system all cameras used by the CCTV Operation at Plymouth City Council are overt and their presence is clearly indicated by signs covering the CCTV area. In addition, the locations of all PCC operated cameras can be found at

[CCTV | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk)

- It will not be used to enforce minor breaches of law that do not impact adversely upon public safety or the quality of life
- Information recorded will only be used by the City Council, Police and other statutory Law Enforcement Agencies
- It will not be used for the enforcement of parking regulations.

## The System

The CCTV system operated by Plymouth City Council comprises 348 cameras in Plymouth these cameras are all dome cameras. All cameras have the facility to pan, tilt and zoom. The cameras also have the facility to pan, tilt and zoom automatically on preset rest points. To accompany these cameras, we also have a number ANPR cameras across the district and 10 mobile cameras which can be placed in hot spot locations across the district. There is also a new VIPA system in place for Environmental Enforcement

## System Accountability

We take part in internal and external audits periodically. CCTV in Plymouth has been audited in June 2021 to secure the BSI standards and full third-party surveillance camera commissioners certification full details of this audit will be presented in 2022 CCTV Report

# STATISTICS

Home Office approved crime statistics can be found on the Devon & Cornwall Police web site at

[Crime figures | Devon and Cornwall Police \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

The table below shows the number of incidents recorded by the CCTV staff from 2012 to 2021. Plus those attended by the police, together with the number of CCTV related arrests that were recorded as part of the incident monitored by CCTV.

To describe the decline in the graph below - Our CCTV team work closely with the Plymouth Safety Partnership and in particular the radio networks PARC (Plymouth Against Retail Crime) and Nitenet that connects a number of commercial properties within the district. Owing to Covid-19 restrictions and the lockdowns that followed, many of these stores have been closed and this has resulted in a decline of incidents particularly around theft. This has also impacted the night time economy as public houses and other similar venues including events have not been able to open. Plymouth has seen a 70% reduction in footfall in our high streets. We expect incidents to rise as we come out of lockdown and this will be reflected in next year's annual report.

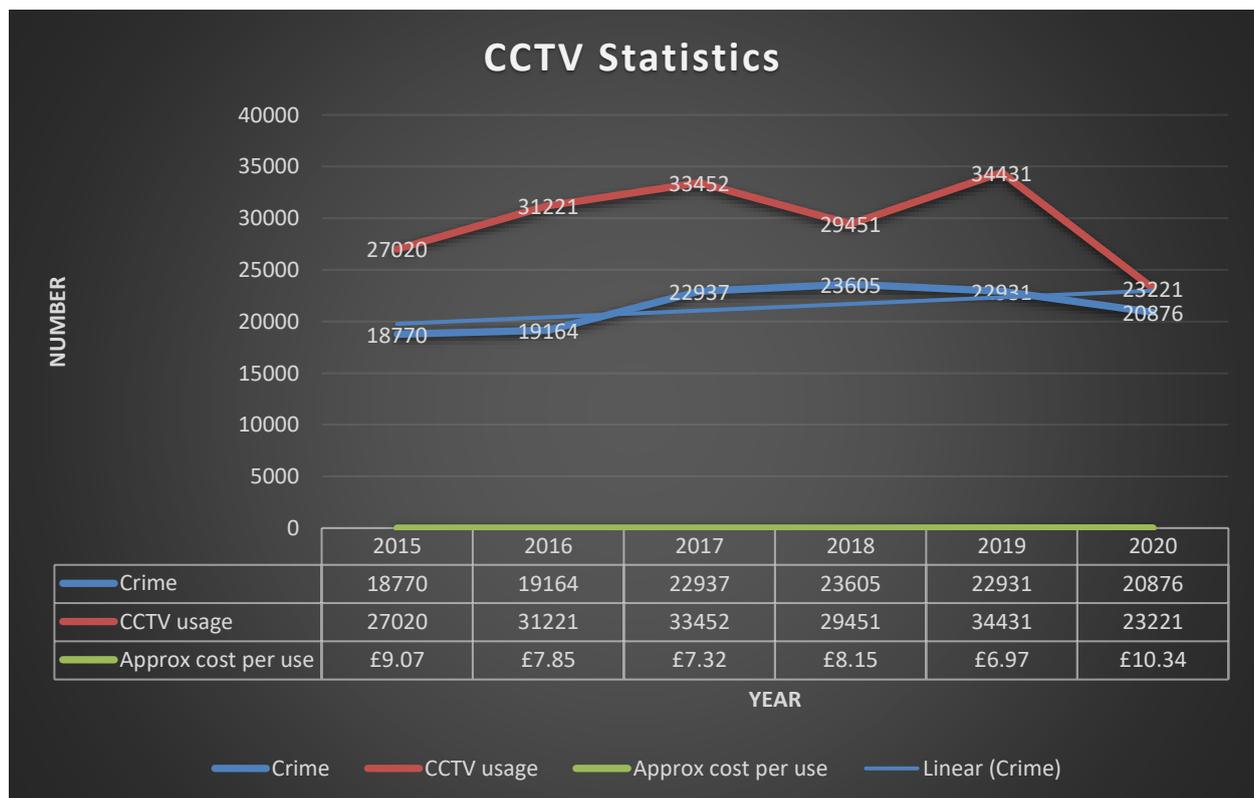
The table below shows the number of incidents recorded by the CCTV staff and attended by the police, together with the number of arrests made as a result of that police attendance.

POLICE ATTENDANCE TO CCTV INCIDENTS 2020-21	
Plymouth	
Incidents	3875
Arrests	234* (Info held clerically)

During this period, 745 recordings were reviewed by the police and 614 by CCTV on behalf of the police. Data seized by police that was found to contain evidence to justify seizure of that data for use in criminal investigations amounted to 311 seizures. CCTV was involved in providing assistance to 324 vulnerable people.

97 arrests were made by Police as a direct result of observations carried out by CCTV operators, who additionally provided assistance in a further 127 arrests. CCTV also monitored a further 378 incidents.

The graph below shows overall Crime, CCTV and Cost data



\*Data Extracted from D&C Police annual crime reports, CCTV Usage documents

## Incident examples 2020-2021

The CCTV Service in Plymouth along with most sectors of the community have experienced a very different year to the norm.

The control has acted as a focal point for supporting Covid Wardens and identifying where breaches of COVID restrictions may be occurring.

The team are highly trained in identifying vulnerable people, an example is when the control room observed a radio call from a police officer who reported a concern for a male who had suicidal thoughts in Plymouth. An area search was carried out by patrols who were unable to locate the male. Half an hour after the report the male was located by one of our CCTV operators on a nearby road on CCTV. Police were advised who attended and ensured the male received appropriate care.

CCTV operator monitored a car driving erratically and dangerously, the police were alerted the vehicle stopped and a driver under the influence of alcohol was arrested.

## Community Awareness

Plymouth City Council support a number of local educational establishments with a number of awareness and training opportunities, these include

Marjon University  
South Devon College  
Institute of Advanced Motorists  
Association of Professional Driving Instructors  
HM Navy  
PCC Concierge service  
The Box

These involve a mixture of lectures, visits and educational resources.

## Targeted Operations

The Code of Practice only permits use of the system to observe known individuals by law enforcement agencies if authorised to do so by a senior officer from the Council and by a Superintendent of Police or officer of similar level in other relevant law enforcement agencies. Targeted operations using the Council's CCTV system are only conducted when other surveillance methods are considered inappropriate or not effective.

In 2020-2021, no such surveillance operation was carried out.

Further information on the legal requirements can be found at [CCTV - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://CCTV-GOV.UK)

Data Protection Act

Individuals have the rights of subject access as provided for in. Any application must be made in writing on a standard form, which is available on our website at

0 applications were received in 2020-2021

Members of the public often request CCTV footage for allegations of crime. The website makes it clear that we are unable to provide any member of the public (whether a victim or witness) with such footage but that it will be supplied to the police to assist with their investigation if a relevant crime report has been made.

## General Data Protection Regulation

Individuals have the right to access their personal data. This is commonly referred to as subject access. Individuals can make a subject access request verbally or in writing. The Council has one month to respond.

## Complaints

No complaints were received in 2020-2021

### FURTHER INFORMATION

The Plymouth City Council website CCTV page includes updated information and maps on the location of all PCC operated CCTV cameras. This can be found at:

[CCTV | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](http://CCTV | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK)

Applications for personal data or for a review of CCTV footage can also be made via this website.

Applications can also be made for CCTV footage in connection with road traffic collisions. A fee will be charged to reflect the amount of time and administration required to service such requests. In such cases, footage will only be supplied to the police or relevant insurance companies.

## Partnership working

CCTV continues to work closely with the Safer Plymouth Partnership, all emergency services and law Enforcement agencies, and the Plymouth Against Retail Crime and Night Net members.

## Costs

The CCTV system operated by PCC in Plymouth cost £250000 in 2020-2021.

## Future Plans

Plymouth City Council will continue to increase the capability of our CCTV infrastructure and work closely within our Community Safety Partnership to use CCTV to reduce the fear of crime and build confidence within our communities. We have been working closely with our partners to achieve that aim which includes access to a number of cameras within the development of our new 4G cameras

**Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this report, please contact Darren Stoneman, Civil Enforcement Manager**  
[CCTV@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:CCTV@plymouth.gov.uk)