



# **CCTV Annual Statistical Report**

**2020**

## Introduction

This document provides an examination of data collected by the CCTV department of Boston Borough Council. This data is collected and studied in order better understand the performance and achievements of Boston's CCTV unit but is clearly not (nor indeed intended to be), a full picture of criminal activity within the areas it covers.

The majority of data in this report has been exported from the 'VTAS' software in use by Boston CCTV. Boston CCTV has no set targets for incidents or arrests, and does not receive any benefits or funding based on results or achievements. Altering or manipulating statistics would serve us no purpose, so the figures within this document can be confidently taken as factual.

## Scale of Data

The data relates to the period between 01/04/19 and 31/03/20. Within this time period, CCTV operators have:

Recorded **17,106** Daily log entries.  
Completed **3293** incident records which includes...  
    **686** Boston camera area incidents.  
    **626** East Lindsey camera area incidents.  
    **175** South Holland camera area incidents.  
    **36** North Kesteven camera area incidents.

Dealt with **453** Boston Borough Council Out of Hours Telephone Calls  
Dealt with **936** East Lindsey District Council Out of Hours Telephone Calls

CCTV contributed to **471** arrests (**238** relating to Boston only)

Produced **393** pieces of evidence for Police / Court use.

**184** of these for the Boston area.  
**108** for the East Lindsey area.  
**65** for the South Holland area.  
**36** for the North Kesteven area.

## Arrests / Incidents

The chart below shows a monthly breakdown of the **238** arrests where CCTV has provided a direct contribution in Boston. Also included in this chart, are the number of evidential CCTV packages seized by Police, the number of CCTV incidents logged, and also the number of incidents logged in regards to the Council's Out of Hours service. Boston Borough Council monitor CCTV for several other local authority areas, but the data within this report relates to Boston only. Some data from other areas is included to give some context to the work of the CCTV Control Room.

<b>BBC CCTV Performance Data 19/20</b>				
<b>Month</b>	<b>Arrests</b>	<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Out of Hours</b>
<b>April</b>	18	16	48	31
<b>May</b>	21	22	53	34
<b>June</b>	18	21	37	31
<b>July</b>	13	20	48	43
<b>August</b>	14	10	52	50
<b>September</b>	26	17	74	36
<b>October</b>	29	11	70	34
<b>November</b>	29	15	64	41
<b>December</b>	14	16	75	53
<b>January</b>	19	9	65	31
<b>February</b>	18	17	55	32
<b>March</b>	19	10	44	36
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>452</b>

## Boston - Incident Category Breakdown

2018/2019

Incident Category	No,
Alarm Activation	18
Alcohol	27
Anti-Social Behaviour	38
Bicycle Theft	6
Breach of Conditions or Ban	7
Burglary	10
Criminal Damage & Arson	10
Domestic Abuse	7
Drugs	21
Emergencies	3
Environmental Crime	17
Events	4
Fire / Ambulance / Sudden Death	4
Fraud	0
Licensing	1
Other Crime	15
Other Theft	10
Public Order	46
Robbery	6
Search for Person	85
Shoplifting	124
Suspicious Behaviour	35
Theft from the Person	0
Traffic Offence	64
Vehicle Crime	4
Violence and Sexual	40
Weapons	11

2019/2020

Incident Category	No,
Alarm Activation	14
Alcohol	30
Anti-Social Behaviour	97
Bicycle Theft	2
Breach of Conditions or Ban	4
Burglary	12
Criminal Damage & Arson	20
Domestic Abuse	2
Drugs	29
Emergencies	8
Environmental Crime	6
Events	2
Fire / Ambulance / Sudden Death	16
Fraud	1
Licensing	0
Other Crime	18
Other Theft	4
Public Order	49
Robbery	7
Search for Person	67
Shoplifting	95
Suspicious Behaviour	36
Theft from the Person	1
Traffic Offence	55
Vehicle Crime	6
Violence and Sexual	53
Weapons	25

This table shows a comparison between the 2018/19 report and 2019/20.

## Cameras / Locations

		2018/2019	2019/2020
	Camera	Incidents	Incidents
1	Camera 20 - Ingram Memorial	99	151
2	Camera 06 - Market Place	91	124
3	Camera 07 - Strait Bargate	92	92
4	Camera 03 - West Street	87	82
5	Camera 23 - Haven Bridge	60	73
6	Camera 08 - Strait Bargate	78	69
7	Camera 12 - John Adams Way	43	64
8	Camera 05 - Market Place	65	53
9	Camera 01 - West Street	63	51
10	Camera 26 - Red Lion Street	49	48

The list here shows the top 10 Boston cameras in regards to the numbers of incidents in which they have been used. The number of incidents from 2017/18 is included for comparison

Incidents are often covered by more than one camera in order to follow proceedings or cover the incident from multiple angles for better evidence capture. Camera 20 is top again as it covers the entire market place, and is used to support other cameras that may be closer to the problem area.

## Police Data

Our incident categories are grouped in a similar way, and therefore can be comparable with official Police statistics which can be viewed freely online at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). The table below shows police collected data regarding reported crime within a 1 mile radius centred on the Municipal Buildings. This is then compared with the CCTV performance data.

Offence	Police	CCTV
Anti-Social Behaviour	1017	97
Bicycle Theft	126	2
Burglary	190	12
Criminal Damage & Arson	375	20
Drugs	211	29
Other Crime	121	18
Other Theft	277	4
Public Order	318	49
Robbery	33	7
Shoplifting	658	95
Theft From the Person	23	1
Vehicle Crime	119	6
Violence and Sexual	1541	53
Weapons	67	25

When we compare all reported crime in the area with CCTV data we see on average CCTV is involved in **8.23%** of incidents.

Similarly if we compare the total reported crime (**5076**) with the number of evidence disks produced for the Boston area (**184**) then we can conclude that CCTV provides video evidence for **3.62%** of reported crime.

These figures may not seem particularly impressive, until we look at how this fits into the bigger picture nationally. Home Office figures suggest that in England and Wales, only **8%** of all reported crime results in a prosecution. We can start to see how important CCTV evidence is for providing undisputable proof for those prosecutions.

The comparison above does not include some of the other incidents that CCTV deal with that do not necessarily involve the Police. For instance, Environmental crime (littering, fly tipping, urinating etc.) and the Out of Hours service.

## Out of Hours Service

The Out of Hours services for Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council are operated from our 24hr CCTV control room. When the main areas of Council business are closed, this maintains a contact point for members of the public needing emergency assistance. Calls can be varied and sometimes challenging for staff to reach the best solution. Staff are provided with a guide book for most types of call but often need to think 'outside the box' to assist callers.

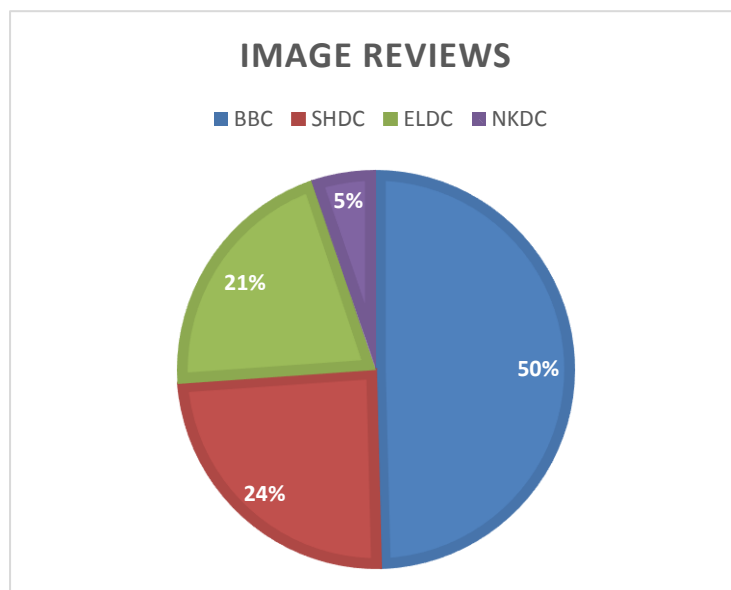
The Out of Hours Service has become a significant part of the CCTV operator's duties, logging **1389** Out of Hours calls for 2019/20. This is a reduction of 10% from the previous year. Community Safety has been working with the IT department to try and reduce call volumes, by providing more easily accessible information on the Council's website.

## Image Reviews

An image review is the investigation of an incident or happening, by looking back at recorded CCTV footage. Image reviews are normally conducted by Police officers as part of the process of investigating crime. We have image review facilities in Boston CCTV control room, and also within Skegness Police Station.

In 2019/20 a total of **934** image reviews were conducted. **795** of these were conducted from the Boston Control Room, and **139** were conducted from Skegness Police Station.

**393** image reviews resulted in video evidence being produced for police / court use, so **42%** of image reviews result in images being requested. We are looking at ways of increasing the effectiveness of the system (and therefore this percentage), such as using static cameras covering specific hotspots, or increased resolution images.



The chart here shows the percentage of image reviews that were conducted for Boston Borough, South Holland District, East Lindsey District and North Kesteven (Sleaford) areas.

## 2020/21

We have started to trial the use of additional static high resolution cameras in hotspot areas, to see if we can increase the usefulness of the system. At the moment this includes Central Park, where many areas now have constant coverage. In 20/21 we hope we can prove the increased effectiveness through this technique.

We are beginning to implement changes to reduce the number of Out of Hours calls received by the CCTV control room. This involves working with other departments (from both BBC and ELDC) to improve access to information on the Council's website.

The CCTV Control room is likely to be heavily involved with monitoring the recovery actions around the COVID-19 pandemic in the CCTV area. We have had additional responsibility during the April / May 2020 lockdown – such as monitoring and reporting infringements of social distancing. CCTV is also providing information regarding the numbers of people seen in our town centre areas, and notifying emergency services of any hotspot or problem areas. We also collate similar information from other CCTV control rooms and report for the county as a whole.