



CCTV Annual Statistical Report

2022

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 01/04/21 and 31/03/22. Within this time period, CCTV operators have:

Recorded **16,475** Daily log entries.

Completed **2,131** incident records which includes...

411 Boston camera area incidents.

571 East Lindsey camera area incidents.

82 South Holland camera area incidents.

17 North Kesteven camera area incidents.

413 Boston Borough Council Out of Hours Telephone Calls

637 East Lindsey District Council Out of Hours Telephone Calls

CCTV contributed to **276** arrests (**93** relating to Boston only)

Produced **369** pieces of evidence for Police / Court use.

186 of these for the Boston area.

109 for the East Lindsey area.

52 for the South Holland area.

22 for the North Kesteven area.

Arrests / Incidents

The chart below shows a monthly breakdown of the **93** 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.

BBC CCTV Performance Data 21/22				
Month	Arrests	Evidence	Incidents	Out of Hours
April	13	15	40	20
May	11	22	40	28
June	5	5	27	38
July	7	19	34	36
August	4	24	38	33
September	9	11	35	39
October	3	15	36	62
November	6	18	26	34
December	15	6	28	29
January	4	20	40	27
February	9	12	28	45
March	7	19	39	22
Year Total	93	186	411	413

Boston - Incident Category Breakdown

2020/2021	
Incident Category	No,
Alarm Activation	7
Alcohol	7
Anti-Social Behaviour	41
Bicycle Theft	2
Breach of Conditions or Ban	0
Burglary	3
Criminal Damage & Arson	9
Domestic Abuse	3
Drugs	16
Emergencies	3
Environmental Crime	3
Events	1
Fire / Ambulance / Sudden Death	4
Fraud	1
Licensing	0
Other Crime	13
Other Theft	1
Public Order	20
Robbery	4
Search for Person	57
Shoplifting	38
Suspicious Behaviour	26
Theft from the Person	0
Traffic Offence	53
Vehicle Crime	2
Violence and Sexual	23
Weapons	14

2021/2022	
Incident Category	No,
Alarm Activation	5
Alcohol	14
Anti-Social Behaviour	60
Bicycle Theft	2
Breach of Conditions or Ban	6
Burglary	10
Criminal Damage & Arson	18
Domestic Abuse	8
Drugs	15
Emergencies	1
Environmental Crime	6
Events	0
Fire / Ambulance / Sudden Death	5
Fraud	3
Licensing	1
Other Crime	10
Other Theft	4
Public Order	19
Robbery	7
Search for Person	30
Shoplifting	28
Suspicious Behaviour	14
Theft from the Person	3
Traffic Offence	63
Vehicle Crime	4
Violence and Sexual	45
Weapons	16

This table shows a comparison between the 2020/21 report and 2021/22. A number of types of incidents have seen an increase, likely due to the lifting of Covid related restrictions. However incidents are still generally lower than 2019/20 levels.

Cameras / Locations

		2020-21	2021-22
	Camera	Incidents	Incidents
1	Camera 20 - Ingram Memorial	83	85
2	Camera 6 - Market Place	69	76
3	Camera 7 - Straight Bargate	56	66
4	Camera 23 - Haven Bridge	53	65
5	Camera 5 - Market Place	57	62
6	Camera 3 - West Street	74	58
7	Camera 13 - Footbridge	24	49
8	Camera 8 - Straight Bargate	30	48
9	Camera 26 - Red Lion Street	34	48
10	Camera 15 - New Street	25	45

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 2020/21 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.

Central Park had entered the top 10 cameras in 20-21, however a large amount of the incidents logged during that period were Covid-19 related. Now those restrictions are no longer in force, Central Park has dropped out of the top 10.

Police Data Comparison

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. 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	993	60
Bicycle Theft	110	2
Burglary	144	10
Criminal Damage & Arson	397	18
Drugs	173	15
Other Crime	109	10
Other Theft	251	4
Public Order	287	19
Robbery	49	7
Shoplifting	429	28
Theft From the Person	19	3
Vehicle Crime	100	4
Violence and Sexual	1579	45
Weapons	45	16

When we compare all reported crime in the area with CCTV data for the same incident categories we see on average CCTV is involved in **5.1%** of incidents. (The 20/21 figure was 3.8%)

Similarly if we compare the total reported crime (**4685**) with the number of evidence disks produced for the Boston area (**186**) then we can conclude that CCTV provides video evidence for **4%** of reported crime.

The 21/22 UK figure for reported crime that results in either a charge or a summons is **5.6%** (www.gov.uk)

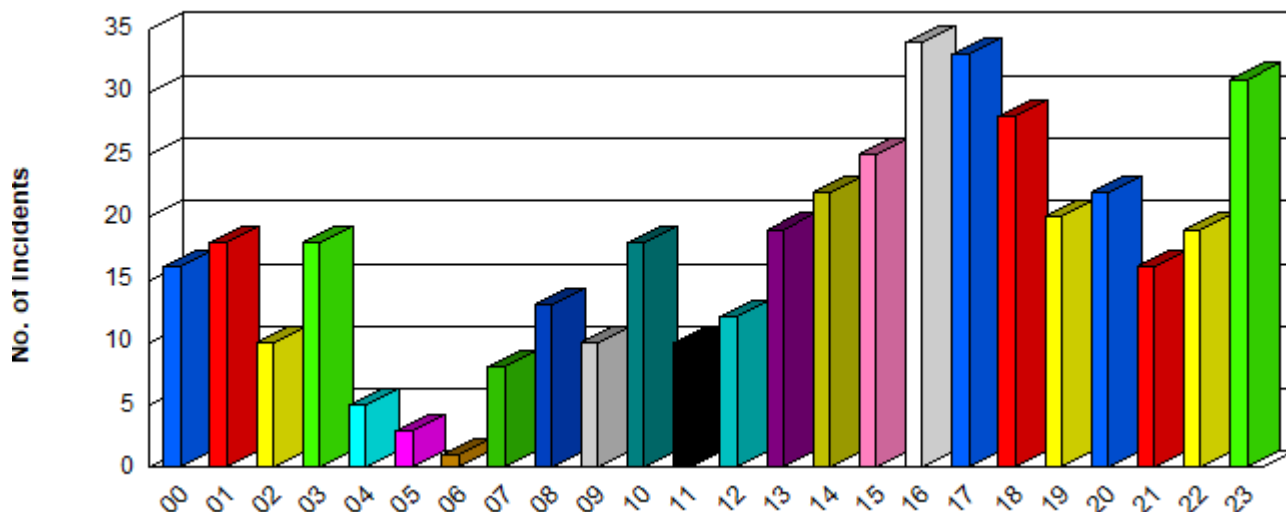
Out of Hours Service

The Out of Hours services for Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council were operated from our 24hr CCTV Control Room for the period of this report. After May 2022 this service has been operated by Serco. This change has been put in place to make better use of CCTV resources, by allowing CCTV Operators to concentrate on their front line CCTV duties. The small table here shows a comparison between the calls logged by CCTV in June and July 2021, and the calls answered by Serco in the same period of 2022.

	CCTV 2021	Serco 2022
June	38	46
July	36	69

Hours of Activity

The graph below shows the number of CCTV incidents by the hour of the day in which they occurred (based on a 24hr clock).



It is often considered that CCTV can be limited in the hours of darkness, but this graph shows that this is not the case. Greater activity exist outside of the conventional work/school hours with lower levels of incident activity in the early hours of the morning. CCTV is mostly centred on town centres, where street lighting levels are usually good. Areas of low light (such as park areas) are supplemented by Infrared lighting on the cameras themselves to provide illumination around the camera area.

2022/23

In this report, we can see some signs of behaviours returning to some kind of normality after the removal of Covid restrictions. At the moment it is difficult to predict where this will go, especially with difficult financial issues many people are facing also affecting behaviour. For example, we would normally expect a rise in acquisitive crime such as shoplifting during times of financial hardship, but we are not seeing this in the CCTV figures.

We have received funding through the Home Office Safer Streets Fund to improve town centre CCTV in the areas of Skegness, Spalding and Boston. This funding is specifically aimed at providing safer routes for women and girls in town centres and transport hubs. Boston will see these upgrades likely in the final quarter of the 22/23 financial year.

With these upgrades, we hope to increase the availability of good CCTV evidence to Police by the use of camera clusters providing permanent 360 degree coverage in town centre areas. From the comparison of Police crime data and our CCTV data we begin to see the importance of CCTV evidence in progressing reported crime towards someone being charged and summoned to court for that crime.

For that purpose, we are looking at several ways to improve Police access to CCTV evidence. We are in the early stages of discussions with Police to increase the availability of CCTV image review consoles in more Police Stations, making it easier for officers to review CCTV footage without excessive amounts of travel.

As part of the Safer Streets project, we will also be utilising Police Volunteers as CCTV Assistants. With the increase in available evidence their aim will be to assist Police to review CCTV footage, and assist CCTV operators with the production of evidence. Although the future is somewhat unpredictable at the moment, we aim to have the resources and flexibility in place to address whatever arises.