



HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Closed Circuit Television

Evaluation 2024/2025

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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, High Peak Borough Council commissioned Plass Solutions Ltd to undertake an independent evaluation of the High Peak Borough Council’s CCTV systems that are monitored in a dedicated CCTV Control Room.

Whilst the Information Commissioners 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 High Peak Borough Council and they are responsible for the management, administration and security of the system. High Peak Borough 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:

Head of Communities, Culture and Climate Change (Interim)
High Peak Borough Council
Buxton Town Hall
Market Place
Buxton
Derbyshire
SK17 1AQ

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 High Peak Borough 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 High Peak 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 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.

High Peak 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 High Peak Borough 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 Z9245782. 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 1st September 2025, 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 2024/2025 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, High Peak Borough Council may charge reasonable fees when responding to manifestly unfounded or excessive requests. There have been no Subject Access Requests during 2024/2025.

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

Contextual Indicators relate to the circumstances or background surrounding the particular initiative. In this case the purposes of the CCTV are mainly to prevent and detect crime. Indicators will include both British Crime Statistics and Police Recorded statistics for this type of crime.

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 crime against individuals and households has generally decreased over the last 10 years with some notable exceptions, such as sexual assault.

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The latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated 9.5 million incidents of headline crime (which includes theft, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse, and violence with or without injury) in the survey year ending (YE) September 2024. This was 12% higher than last year's survey (8.5 million incidents in YE September 2023), mainly because of a 19% rise in fraud (to around 3.9 million incidents). This was similar to levels of fraud estimated in YE March 2020.

Experiences of domestic abuse, sexual assault, stalking and harassment among people aged 16 years and over are presented separately in our statistics as prevalence estimates (the proportion of all people who were victims in the previous 12 months). Over the last decade, there has been a gradual decrease in domestic abuse, but an increase in sexual assault. Latest estimates from the CSEW for YE September 2024 showed no statistically significant change in these experiences compared with YE March 2023, except for stalking:

- 4.5% of people aged 16 years and over had experienced domestic abuse in the last year (approximately 2.2 million victims).
- 2.8% (around 1.4 million people) had experienced stalking, a 0.6 percentage point decrease from 3.4% (1.6 million victims).
- 2.2% (approximately 1.0 million people) had experienced sexual assault.
- 9.0% had experienced some form of harassment (around 4.4 million people; this estimate is not comparable with the previous year).

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 YE September 2024 showed that:

- The number of homicides decreased by 4% (to 550 offences) compared with YE September 2023 (572 offences).
- Offences involving knives or sharp instruments increased by 4% (to 55,008 offences) compared with YE September 2023 (52,969 offences).
- Offences involving firearms decreased by 17% (to 5,372 offences) compared with YE September 2023 (6,499 offences).
- Robbery increased by 4% (to 82,347 offences) in comparison with YE September 2023 (78,865 offences).
- Shoplifting offences rose by 23% (to 492,914 offences) compared with the previous year (402,220 offences) and is the highest figure since current police recording practices began for the year ending March 2003.

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Since the mid-1990s, the CSEW has shown long-term decreases in violence with and without injury, theft offences and criminal damage. Fraud and computer misuse estimates are only available from year ending (YE) March 2017 onwards. While fraud levels have fluctuated over this time period, there has been a decrease in computer misuse.

The headline CSEW crime measure captures theft offences, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse, and violence with or without injury. There were an estimated 9.5 million incidents of CSEW headline crime in YE September 2024, a 12% increase compared with YE September 2023 (8.5 million incidents), mainly because of a 19% rise in fraud (to around 3.9 million incidents).

Providing context from a longer time period, CSEW headline crime remains lower than in the YE March 2017 survey (11.2 million incidents), when fraud and computer misuse were first included.

Police recorded crime covers more offences than the CSEW. It includes crimes against all people (including those aged under 16 years and those not permanently resident in households), businesses and organisations, and society (such as drug and weapons possession), that come to the attention of the police. Trends in police recorded crime are affected by improvements to recording practices and variations in police activity. These effects are more pronounced for some crime types.

In YE September 2024, police recorded 6.7 million crimes, which is the same as in the previous year. This is up from 4 million in YE March 2014. However, while increases over the last decade may include some genuine changes in trends in crimes that are reported to, and recorded by, the police, it will also be because of changes in police activity and recording practices. It therefore should not be used to say that overall crime has increased.

Further information on crime in England and Wales can be found on www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingseptember2024.

4.5.2 Derbyshire 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 105,236 total offences recorded in 2024 compared to 114,103 in 2023; a decrease of 7.8%. The following table shows the comparison categories of crime:

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Category	2023	2024	+ / - %
Anti-Social Behaviour	19460	16,077	-17.4%
Burglary	4254	3287	-22.7%
Robbery	759	582	-23.3%
Vehicle crime	4763	4032	-15.3%
Violence/Sexual	43607	42209	-3.2%
Shop Lifting	6663	7163	7.5%
Criminal Damage/Arson	8793	7623	-13.3%
Other Theft	7493	6882	-8.2%
Drugs	2467	2944	19.3%
Bike Theft	669	483	-27.8%
Theft from a Person	678	587	-13.4%
Weapons	1031	979	-5.0%
Public Order	11391	10128	-11.1%
Other	2075	2260	8.9%

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 Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Glossop, Hadfield, New Mills and Whaley Bridge from 2020/2021 to 2024/2025.

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 High Peak Borough Council's cameras are situated. Data is recorded by boundary areas. Therefore, the areas of Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Glossop, Hadfield, New Mills and Whaley Bridge are included in the figures below:

Location	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Buxton	1782	1770	1834	1654	1295
Hadfield & Tintwhistle	1080	1231	846	833	769
Glossop	1621	1596	1510	1501	1474
Chapel & Chinley	1028	848	691	596	529
New Mills & Hayfield	960	899	836	785	708
Whaley Bridge	492	404	376	328	337
Total	6963	6748	6093	5697	5112

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. The categories have also changed with the addition of bike theft, possession of weapons and theft from a person. 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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Buxton Town Centre					
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
ASB	139	143	174	94	68
Bike Theft	0	0	0	3	1
Burglary	9	13	16	17	11
Criminal Damage	11	29	36	26	21
Drugs	7	4	10	12	5
Other Crime	9	30	35	34	25
Other Theft	12	20	22	45	26
Public Order	35	69	43	65	50
Possession of Weapons	4	3	1	2	1
Robbery	3	4	4	4	5
Shoplifting	32	52	88	91	95
Theft from a Person	0	4	3	3	7
Vehicle Crime	5	6	5	4	6
Violence	77	99	98	136	115
Grand Total	343	476	535	536	436

Chapel-en-le-Frith					
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
ASB	40	16	8	3	6
Bike Theft	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	1	2	3	0	0
Criminal Damage	13	3	1	6	6
Drugs	2	0	1	2	1
Other Crime	8	2	1	1	2
Other Theft	6	11	23	24	14
Public Order	7	4	5	3	5
Possession of Weapons	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	0	0	2	0
Shoplifting	1	1	0	3	21
Theft from a Person	0	1	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	4	1	0	0	1
Violence	12	15	10	20	21
Grand Total	94	56	52	64	66

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Glossop					
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
ASB	118	75	78	99	119
Bike Theft	1	0	0	1	0
Burglary	2	4	6	10	3
Criminal Damage	18	20	16	21	41
Drugs	4	3	14	8	7
Other Crime	20	17	13	35	41
Other Theft	10	12	11	23	8
Public Order	15	21	33	38	36
Possession of Weapons	1	2	2	1	5
Robbery	1	2	2	2	0
Shoplifting	12	42	28	71	99
Theft from a Person	1	0	2	0	1
Vehicle Crime	6	6	2	6	2
Violence	79	67	110	102	106
Grand Total	288	271	285	417	468

Hadfield					
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
ASB	1	17	8	8	7
Bike Theft	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	1	2	6
Criminal Damage	1	10	2	3	3
Drugs	0	0	1	1	0
Other Crime	2	1	1	5	5
Other Theft	3	2	3	5	4
Public Order	0	9	4	13	8
Possession of Weapons	0	0	0	1	0
Robbery	0	0	0	1	1
Shoplifting	0	11	3	36	23
Theft from a Person	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle Crime	0	4	3	1	1
Violence	1	13	13	24	24
Grand Total	8	67	39	100	82

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New Mills					
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
ASB	76	28	8	10	6
Bike Theft	0	1	0	0	0
Burglary	1	2	1	2	1
Criminal Damage	8	13	2	2	2
Drugs	0	1	1	0	0
Other Crime	2	2	1	1	1
Other Theft	3	2	3	2	1
Public Order	20	13	4	9	5
Possession of Weapons	0	2	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Shoplifting	6	4	3	1	0
Theft from a Person	0	0	0	1	1
Vehicle Crime	1	2	3	2	1
Violence	24	38	13	22	16
Grand Total	141	108	39	52	34

Whaley Bridge					
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
ASB	21	9	9	4	8
Bike Theft	1	0	1	1	1
Burglary	3	2	0	4	2
Criminal Damage	4	4	3	3	4
Drugs	1	2	0	2	1
Other Crime	3	1	1	3	1
Other Theft	1	1	1	3	3
Public Order	17	9	10	5	4
Possession of Weapons	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	1	0	0
Shoplifting	3	3	2	4	1
Theft from a Person	0	0	0	0	1
Vehicle Crime	3	2	0	1	3
Violence	14	16	30	15	24
Grand Total	71	49	58	45	53

The most prominent type of offences committed in the areas where the cameras are installed are for violence and anti-social behaviour. 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.

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4.6.2 Recorded Incidents by CCTV operators

Recorded Incidents from 2020/2021 to 2024/2025.

Total No. of Incidents	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Actual Incidents Monitored	65	64	53	91	36
Proactive (Monitoring) Events	52	31	74	75	45
Total	117	95	127	166	81

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.

Location	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Buxton	37	41	62	69	41
Hadfield	4	10	9	16	7
Glossop/ Gamesley	17	18	21	39	18
Chapel	9	4	10	11	7
New Mills	3	12	16	16	6
Whaley Bridge	7	10	9	15	2
Total	77	95	127	166	81

4.6.4 Categories of Incident

The following tables depict the types of incidents for the 2020/2021 to 2024/2025 periods.

Location	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Mispers/General Observations	26	25	30	25	21
Public Order	8	2	0	13	0
Theft	0	1	2	7	0
Assault	0	0	0	0	3
Criminal Damage	0	0	0	0	0
Suspicious Incidents	4	9	36	23	11
ASB	13	8	28	27	23
Drugs	1	1	1	0	0
Robbery	1	1	0	2	0
Burglary	1	2	3	4	1
Other	6	15	15	19	10
Risk to Life	0	0	0	13	0
Assault	2	0	9	20	0
Traffic offences	3	0	3	13	5
Risk to Life	0	0	0	0	7
Total	65	64	127	166	81

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As can be seen by the above table, 'ABS' and 'Missing Persons/Observations' are the most recorded. The number of recorded incidents during 2024/2025 was 81, compared with 166 in 2023/2024.

4.6.5 Camera Usage

All systems must comply with the Information Commissioner's 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;

...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. All cameras are monitored by the approved CCTV control room.

The following table indicates the number of camera uses:

Camera Number	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
101	20	26	14	37	19
102	18	26	14	35	15
103	13	23	6	29	9
104	17	29	8	24	15
105	24	29	7	19	14
106	29	32	9	27	10
107	17	26	6	22	14
108	15	22	7	20	12
109	14	22	2	18	9
110	16	22	6	20	7
111	2	23	3	13	6

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112	5	8	0	11	3
113	5	2	1	8	3
114	5	8	4	12	0
115	4	10	4	5	1
116	1	10	2	16	6
117	8	8	6	16	6
118	2	8	2	0	0
119	7	15	4	34	1
120	10	0	1	0	6
121	7	10	2	30	6
122	0	0	1	19	0
123	5	11	2	25	1
124	5	10	4	18	6
125	5	7	4	15	1
126	5	8	5	16	6
127	5	9	3	15	6
128	7	8	2	8	0
129	6	1	0	0	1
130	6	4	4	9	5
131	3	5	5	9	4
132	0	5	4	11	2
133	0	4	4	10	4
134	3	1	2	1	2

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.

There is a requirement within the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice and the Data Protection Act to justify the continued use of CCTV cameras and the key performance indicator for this are the number of incidents recorded against each camera.

During 2020/2021 period there were 303 uses of the cameras, resulting in an average of 10 recorded incidents for each camera. There were 5 cameras that were below half the average of 6.

During 2021/2022 period there were 432 uses of the cameras, resulting in an average of 13 recorded incidents for each camera. There were 9 cameras that were below half the average of 7.

During 2022/2023 there were 146 uses of the cameras resulting in an average of 4 recorded incidents for each camera. There were 5 cameras that were below half the average of 2.

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During 2023/2024 there were 551 uses of the cameras resulting in an average of 16 recorded incidents for each camera. There were 5 cameras that were below half the average of 8.

In 2024/2025 there were 204 uses of the cameras and working on the parameters mentioned previously, this means that there was an average of 6 recorded incidents for each camera. Those cameras registering less than 3 incidents, this being half the average, were placed in the 'at risk' list for further investigation. The cameras placed in this list are as follows:

Cameras recording lower than average

Camera Number	Camera Number
114	125
115	128
118	129
119	132
122	134
123	

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 appropriate support performance indicator is the number of reviews undertaken by the police and the number of evidence seized. The following table depicts the number of viewings made by the Police and the number of evidence provided to them:

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	Number of Reviews	Evidence issued
2020/2021	63	36
2021/2022	114	27
2022/2023	79	41
2023/2024	30	30
2024/2025	19	28

During 2024/2025, there were no requests from third parties (eg insurance companies and solicitors etc).

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 High Peak Borough Council's complaint procedure. A copy of the complaint procedure is available by writing to:

Head of Communities, Culture and Climate Change (Interim)
High Peak Borough Council
Town Hall
Market Place
Buxton
SK17 1AQ

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 complaints received regarding the CCTV scheme.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

This camera evaluation report focuses on the 34 public space Closed Circuit Television surveillance cameras installed in the High Peak area and monitored and recorded at a remote CCTV Control Room.

It is envisaged that this evaluation, in relation to the High Peak CCTV scheme, will assist in complying with the requirements of the Information Commissioner's 'CCTV Code of Practice' based on legally enforceable legislation, British Standard 7958 and 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.

During 2020/21 there was an increase to 343 offences recorded by the Police. The most prominent occurrences in the locality of the cameras were for anti-social behaviour. The offences occur mainly in the Buxton area. During 2021/22 there was an increase to 476 offences recorded. The most prominent occurrences in the locality of the cameras were for anti-social behaviour. The offences occur mainly in the Buxton area. During 2022/23 there was a further increase to 535 offences recorded. The most prominent occurrences in the locality of the cameras were for anti-social behaviour. The offences occur mainly in the Buxton area. During 2023/24 there was a further increase to 536 offences recorded. The most prominent occurrences in the locality of the cameras were for Violence. The offences occur mainly in the Buxton area. In 2024/25 there was a decrease to 436 offences recorded. The most prominent occurrences in the locality of the cameras were for Violence. The offences occur mainly in the Buxton area.

During 2020/21 there was a decrease to 65 incidents recorded by operators. During 2022/23 there was an increase to 127 incidents recorded. Suspicious incidents was the most prominent occurrence during the period under review, followed by Missing Persons/Observations. During 2023/24 there was an increase to 166 incidents recorded. ASB was the most prominent occurrence during the period under review, followed by Missing Persons/Observations. In 2024/25 there was a decrease to 81 incidents recorded. ASB was the most prominent occurrence during the period under review, followed by Missing Persons/Observations.

Using a similar principle to that previously adopted with other Local Authorities all cameras registering half the average should be placed in the 'at risk' list for further investigation. During 2020/2021, there were 303 uses of the cameras, resulting in an average of 10 recorded incidents for each camera. There were 8 cameras that were below half the average.

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During 2021/2022, there were 432 uses of the cameras, resulting in an average of 13 recorded incidents for each camera. There were 9 cameras that were below half the average.

During 2022/2023, there were 146 uses of the cameras, resulting in an average of 2 recorded incidents for each camera. There were 5 cameras that were below half the average.

During 2023/2024, there were 551 uses of the cameras, resulting in an average of 16 recorded incidents for each camera. There were 5 cameras that were below half the average.

In 2024/2025, there were 204 uses of the cameras, resulting in an average of 6 recorded incidents for each camera. There were 11 cameras that were below half the average.

An appropriate support performance indicator is the number of reviews undertaken by the police and the number of media seized. During 2020/2021 there were 63 reviews undertaken by the police and this equated to a decrease of 50.4% over the previous period. 36 DVDs were issued to the Police compared to 65 the previous year. During 2021/2022 there were 114 reviews undertaken by the police and this equated to an increase of 81% over the previous period. 27 DVDs were issued to the Police compared to 36 the previous year. During 2022/2023 there were 79 reviews undertaken by the police and this equated to a decrease of 30.7% over the previous period. 41 DVDs were issued to the Police compared to 27 the previous year. During 2023/2024 there were 30 reviews undertaken by the police and this equates to a decrease of 62% over the previous period. 30 DVDs were issued to the Police compared to 41 the previous year. In 2024/2025 there were 19 reviews undertaken by the police. This equates to a decrease of 36.7% over the previous period. 28 DVDs were issued to the Police compared to 30 the previous year.

The analysis of the statistical information is merely an indication of a camera's performance and where appropriate further investigation should be undertaken prior to any decisions.

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:

- 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

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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 Commissioners 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 Commissioners Code of Practice 2014

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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 High Peak Borough 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.