

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Public Space surveillance CCTV Scheme



**CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION
EVALUATION**

1st April 2024

To

31st March 2025

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1.0 METHODOLOGY

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 description of the scheme and the geographical area(s) of operation the schemes policy statement
- The purpose and scope of the scheme
- Any changes to the operation or management of the CCTV scheme
- Any changes that have been made to the policy.
- Any proposals to expand or reduce the operation of the scheme.
- The aims and objectives for the next 12 months.

The British Standard also requires the following information to be included within the evaluation:

- The number of incidents recorded by the scheme.
 - The number of incidents reported to the police and where appropriate other bodies.
 - An assessment of the CCTV scheme's impact on crime levels and types of crime in the area covered by the scheme.
 - An assessment of the schemes impact on its objectives, including
- The number of privacy impact assessments completed.
 - The number of reviews of footage by police and authorized agencies; and
 - The number of incidents per camera for the previous 12 months.

As RCT Council CCTV Control Centre is accredited to the above-mentioned British Standard, the following evaluation will focus on the content of that Standard as outlined above. In addition, RCT CBC is also certified as being compliant to the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Description of the scheme

There are 139 fully functional cameras installed at strategically positioned locations thought RCT. There are also 12 re-deployable cameras used during the period of evaluation.

In addition to public space surveillance cameras RCT CCTV control centre monitor camera systems from various RCT sites, including Schools, depots, council offices.

The system is operated and monitored 24 hours a day 365 days a year by trained and dedicated staff at the CCTV Control Centre.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT AND SCHEME DESCRIPTION

3.1 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.

3.2 Ownership

The scheme is owned by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council who is responsible for the management, administration and security of the system. RCT 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:

E-Mail : cctvvisitor@rctcbc.gov.uk

Telephone 01443 425005

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.

3.3 Policy Statement

To promote public confidence by developing a safe and secure environment for the benefit of those employed or visiting/using the area.

To inspire public confidence by ensuring that all public area Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems which are linked to the RCT Council CCTV Control Centre are operated in a manner that will secure their consistent effectiveness and preserve the civil liberty of law abiding citizens at all times.

4.0 THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SCHEME

4.1 Purposes of the scheme

The following are the objectives for which the RCT Council CCTV system was established:

- *To help reduce the fear of crime*
- *The help deter crime*
- *To help detect crime and provide evidential material for court proceedings*
- *To assist in the overall management of the Town Centres in Rhondda Cynon Taf covered by its town centre CCTV system*
- *To enhance community safety, assist in developing the economic well-being of the area and encourage greater use of the Town Centres, shopping areas car parks etc*
- *To assist the Local Authority in its enforcement and regulatory functions within the areas covered*
- *To assist in supporting civil proceedings which will help detect crime*
- *To assist in the training of CCTV operator, the Police and others involved in the use of the CCTV system*

4.2 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 will be made annually and this will be available to the public at specified locations.

RCT 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 RCT Council's CCTV Control Centre 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 Z4870111. 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.

Reviews of Data Protection and Legal Requirements are taken annually.

4.3 Personnel

All personnel involved with the monitoring of CCTV are security screened in accordance with British Standard 7858.

4.4 Training

All employees engaged in the monitoring and operations 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.

4.5 Operation of the scheme

The system is operated in accordance with a recognized Code of Practice and Procedural Manual. The scheme is registered with the Information Commissioner, details of which can be obtained from the Information Commissioners website. The scheme operates within the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018, Human Rights Act 1998 and relevant legislation and guidance. It also complies with the requirements of the Surveillance Camera Codes of Practice 2013.

5.0 CHANGES IN OPERATION, MANAGEMENT OR POLICY

As reflected in the Code of Practice, any major changes to the Code of Practice take place only after consultation with the relevant management group and upon agreement of the organisation with a participatory role in the operation of the system.

5.1 Major changes to the code are defined as changes which affect its fundamental principles and shall be deemed to include:

- Additions and omissions of cameras to the system
- Matters which have privacy implications
- Additions to permitted uses criteria e.g. purposes of the scheme
- Changes in the right of access to personal data, except statutory requirements
- Significant legal implications

5.2 Minor changes to this Code of Practice are defined as operational and procedural matters which do not affect the fundamental principles and purposes; these include:

- Additions and omissions of contractors
- Additional clarifications, explanations and corrections to the existing code
- Additions to the code of practice in order to conform to the requirements of
- Any statutory Acts and changes in criminal legislation

A minor change may be agreed between the manager and the owner of the system. The Code of Practice is subject to annual review. Regular monitoring may necessitate the introduction of appropriate auditable documentation, procedures, and policies relating to the Data Protection and Human Rights legislation. A copy of the Code of Practice can be obtained.

6.0 PROPOSALS FOR THE SCHEMES INCLUDING AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council CCTV Control Centre utilises the latest technology in Closed Circuit Television. This is seen as being beneficial to all those who visit, reside and work in the area and in particular to those with special needs.

The aims and objectives remain the same and these are the prevention and detection of crime, to reduce the fear of crime and make the area a safe environment.

7.0 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

In order to achieve meaningful evaluation, the CCTV scheme 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.

7.1 Contextual Indicators

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.

7.2 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 total crime for the police area. Also included in this category will be the number of incidents reported by RCT Council CCTV Control Centre to police and other agencies.

7.3 Support Indicators

Support Indicators are used to refute or verify the key indicators. The measurements will include the number of clips of evidential footage seized by police which contain evidential value.

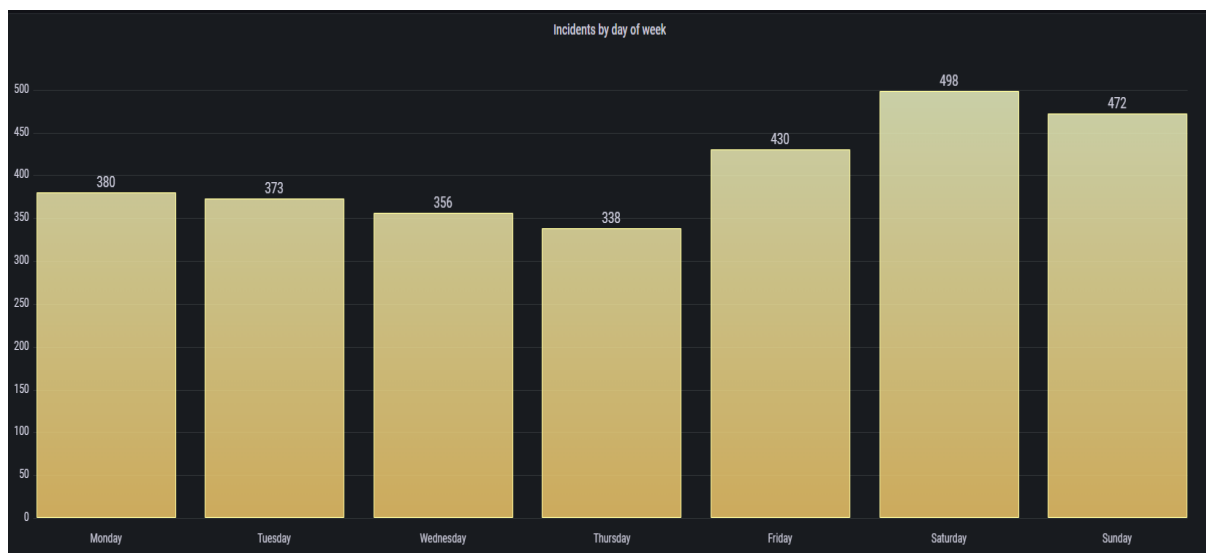
7.4 Support Indicators

The success of a CCTV scheme relies, to a considerable extent on the pro-active monitoring of the system operators. This sophisticated technology is primarily a passive device and without human interaction it relies on an incident occurring within its field of view, this is the case even when on automatically programmed patrols. It is necessary therefore to ascertain if the system is being used to its full potential by those operating the cameras and one method of establishing this is to analyse the Incident Reports.

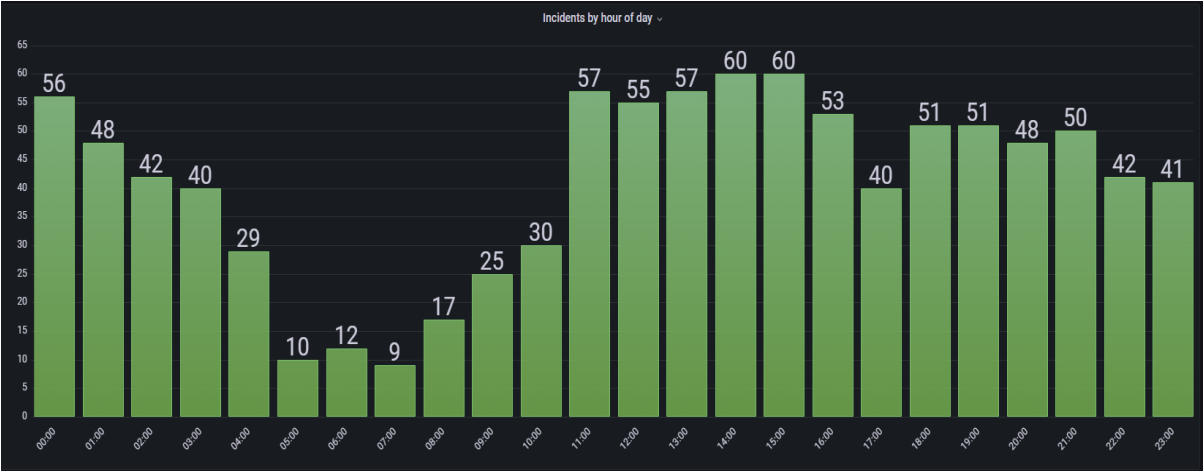
7.5. Incident Reports

During this period, there were 3797 incidents recorded by the CCTV Operators.

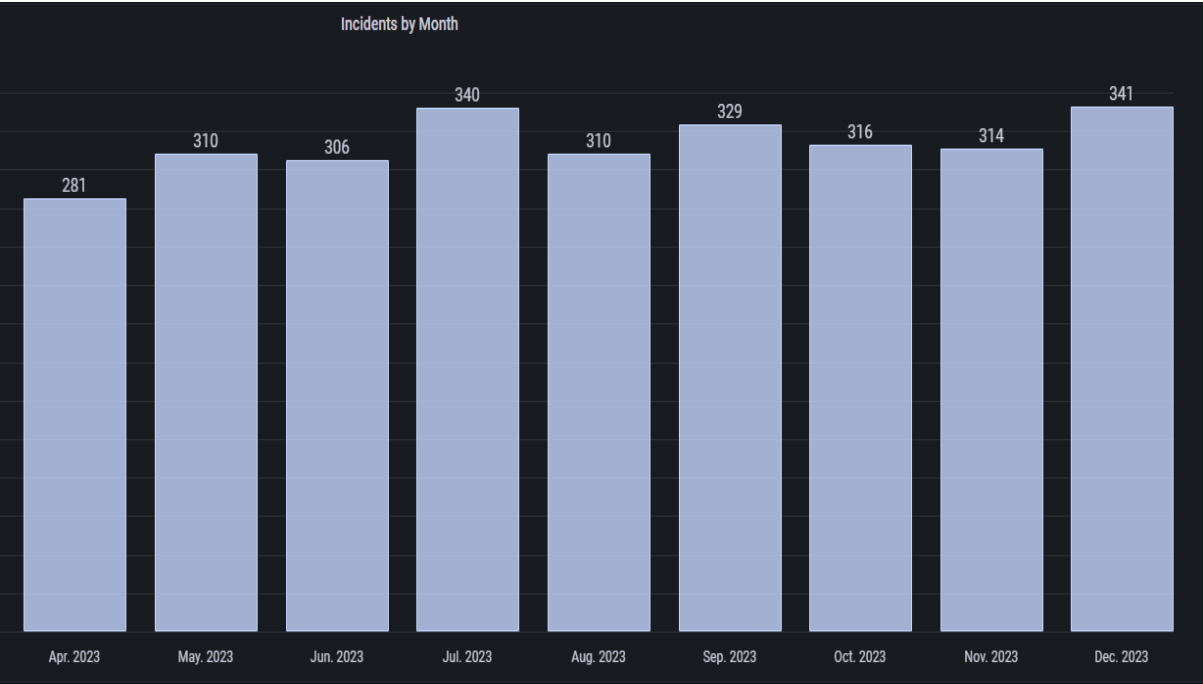
The following table highlights incidents recorded by operators using the public space CCTV system during 2024/2025



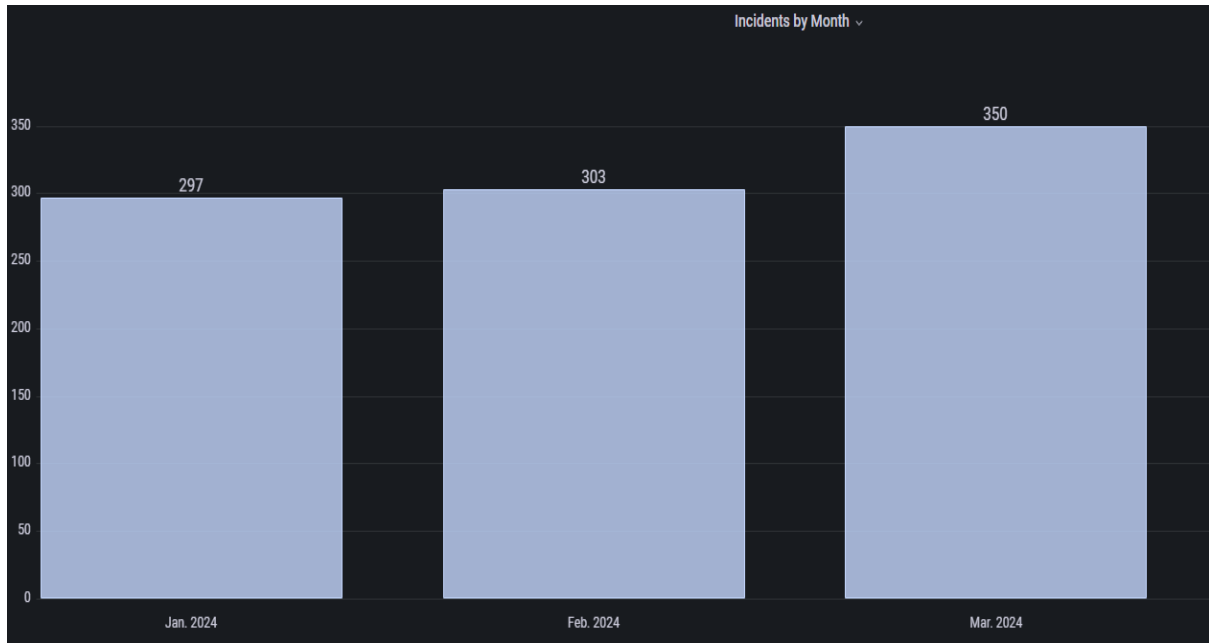
Incidents by Day of Week



Incidents by hour of the Day



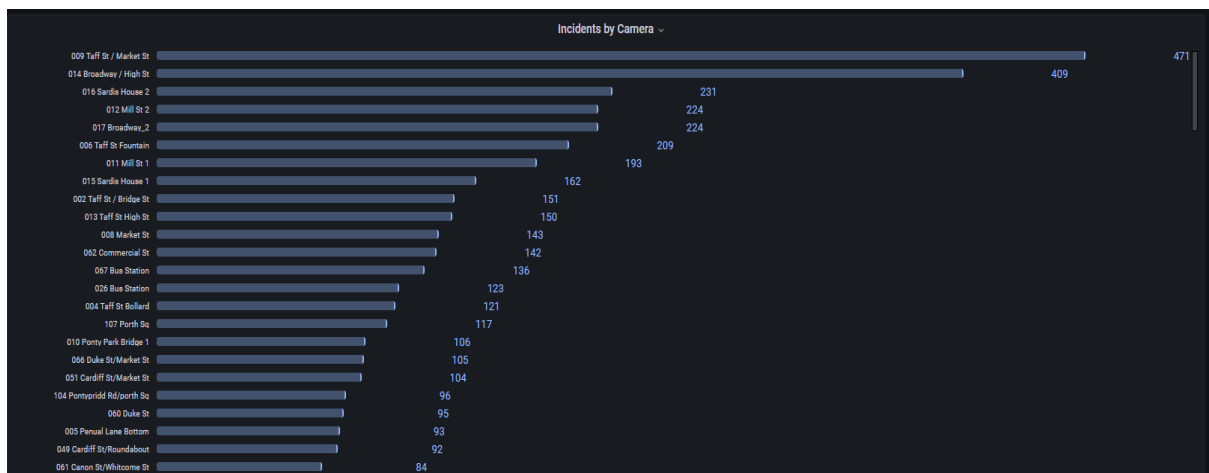
Incidents by Month



Incidents by Month

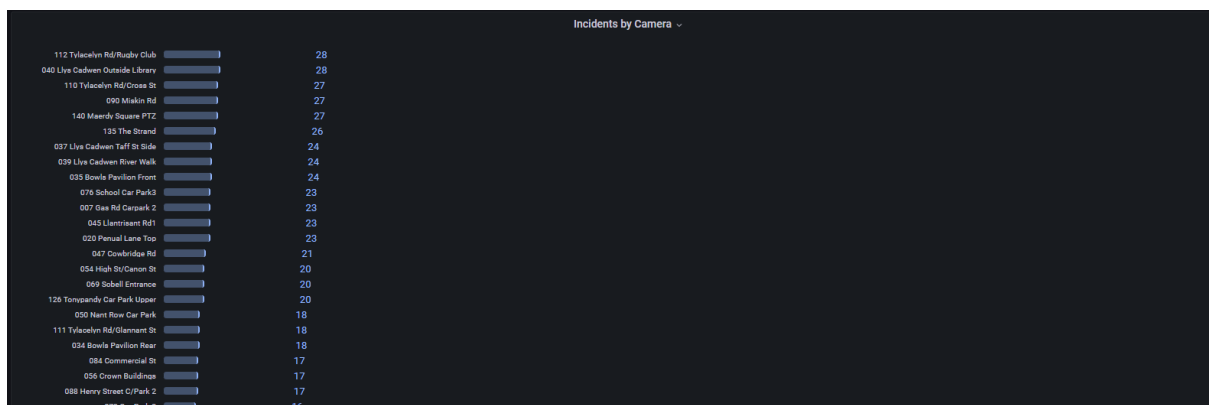
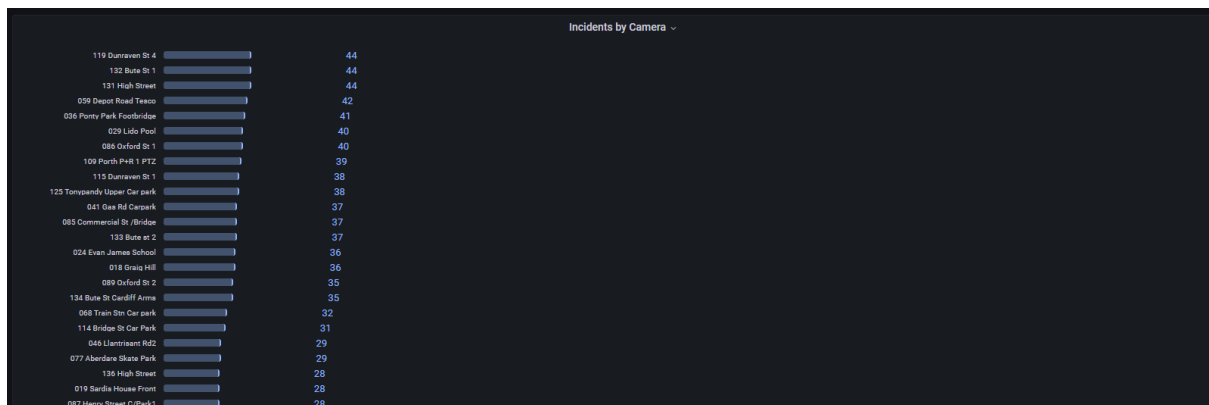
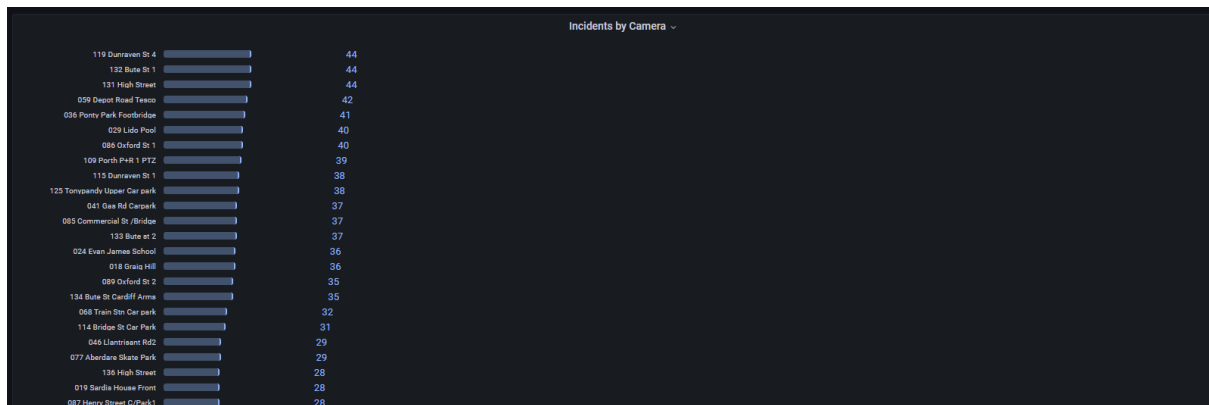
7.5.2 Camera Usage

The following table is 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



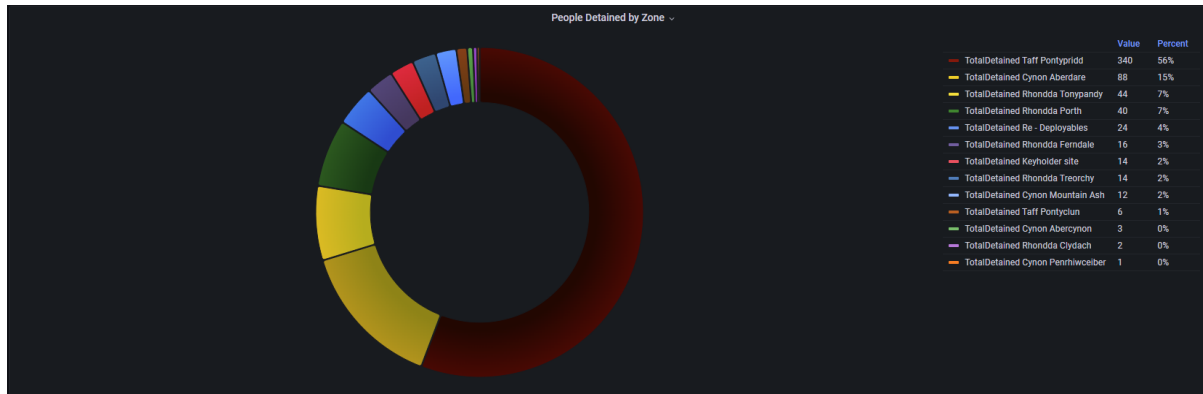
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7.5.3 Arrests assisted by CCTV

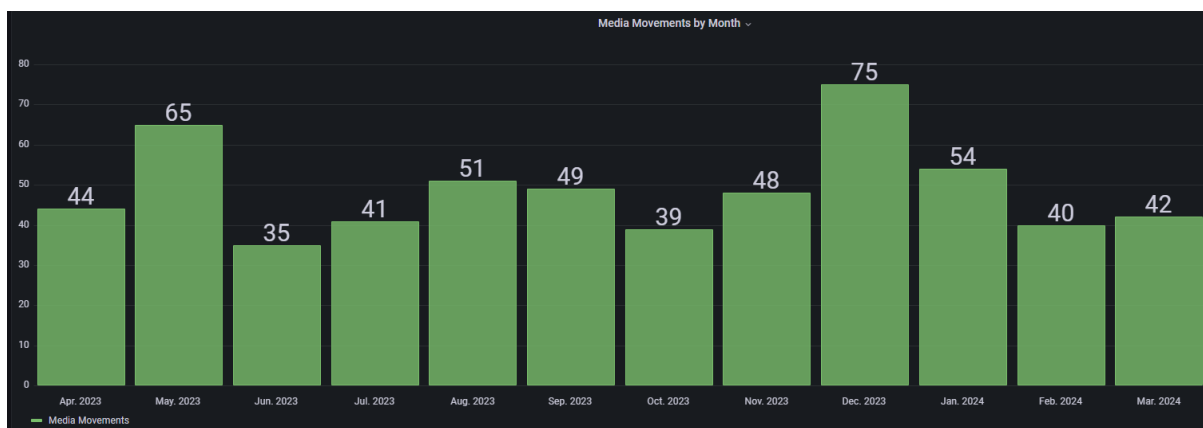
There is only one available performance measurement that can be used to determine arrests that have been assisted by the use of CCTV and these are those that have actually been recorded on camera. The pro-active arrests are those that the operator has initially observed, monitored and initiated a response, the conclusion being an on-camera arrest. It should be noted that some of the incidents resulted in multiple arrests. Nonetheless, this is a clear indication that the system is used pro-actively by the operators. During 2024/2025.



7.5.4 Evidential Footage Seizure by Police

An appropriate performance indicator is the number of viewings undertaken by the police, as being of possible evidential use. The following statistics are for all the systems monitored in the CCTV Control Centre for the period under review.

2024/2025 RCT CCTV Operators issued 483 clips of footage to Police.



7.5.5 Complaints

A member of the public wishing to make a complaint about the system may do so through RCT Council's complaint procedure. Copies of the complaints procedure are available by writing to:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/CommentsandCompliments/Commentscomplimentsandcomplaints.aspx>

PublicHealthCommunitySafety@rctcbc.gov.uk

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 recorded complaints concerning the scheme in question.

7.5.6 Access requests

The following information is an accurate account of the various access requests received by the CCTV department during the period of time 2024/2025.

Data search (SAR) - members of the Public: 5

Data search Schedule 5 – Insurance companies/Solicitors: 8

Data search Schedule 2 – Local authority: 108

Data search Schedule 2 – Police: 248

Camera Locations - Public Space

Porth	12
Pontypridd Town Centre	40
Aberdare Town Centre	38
Treorchy	6
Pontyclun	4
Ferndale	5
Tonypandy/Penygraig	17
Mountain Ash	7
Abercynon Park and Ride	4
Sobell Car Park/Skate Park	14
Re-deployable	12
Pontypridd New NVR	5
MSCP Car Park Ponty	98
Cae Fadde	3
Aberdare Bus Station	9
Pontypridd Bus Station	2
Pontypridd Park	4
Abercynon 3G	5

Darren Park 3G	4
NantGwyn 3G	3
Tonyrefail 3G	3
Mountain Ash 3G	5
Treherbet 3G	4

The CCTV Control Centre are also Data controllers for a number of CCTV systems that are located in the below RCT owned sites/buildings.

<u>Site</u>	<u>No Of Cameras</u>
Pontypridd Lido	21
Rhondda Heritage Park	16
Dare Valley Country Park	35
Coliseum Aberdare	15
Park and Dare Treorchy	15
St. Michael's. Treforest.	15
SS Gabriel & Raphael Roman Catholic School.	5
Gelli Primary school	17
Cymmer Primary	17
Llantiltud Fadref	15

Aman Centre, Godreaman	9
Rhydyfelin Children's Centre	16
Penrhys Flying Start.	10
Taff Vale Leisure Suite	29
Rhondda Fach Sports Centre	38
Llantwit Fardre Sports Centre	27
Rhondda Fawr Leisure Centre	19
Llantrisant Leisure Centre	17
Bronwydd Pool. Porth	9
Ferndale Pool	13
Tonyrefail Leisure Centre	24
Llwys Cadwin 1	24
Sardis One 4 All	14
Porth One 4 All	7
Ty Elai	28
Pavilions	41
Ty Trevithick	38
Model House, Llantrisant.	8
Bronwydd House.	26
Old way House. Porth	16
Abercynon Depot	19
Hepworth Park	19
Ty Glantaff	44
Dinas Depot	34
Ty Amgen. Aberdare.	17
Ferndale CRC	5
Llantrisant CRC	
Treherbet CRC	16
Aberdare Park Depot	12
Aberdare Library	9
Porth One 4 All	7

Mountain Ash Library	30
Ferndale HWB.	16
Tonypandy	20
Treorchy Library	30
Trealaw Cemetery	7
Glyntaff Crematorium	12
Llwydcoed Crematorium	12