

USE OF CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION BY DYFED-POWYS POLICE

AN INQUIRY BY DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Introduction

In its annual report for 2019-2020 the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel resolved to establish a task and finish group to examine the investment made by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys in CCTV in a number of towns across the force area.

The aim of this exercise was for the Panel to satisfy itself that the investment in CCTV represented good value for money and has had positive benefits for the People of Dyfed-Powys.

What is the Police and Crime Panel and what is its role?

Police and Crime Panels were established by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 for the purpose of supporting and scrutinising the work of Police and Crime Commissioners. The Dyfed-Powys Panel consists of 14 members, made up of 3 County Councillors from each of the unitary authorities in the Dyfed-Powys force area and 2 independent co-opted members selected following a public recruitment exercise.

The Task and Finish Group undertaking this piece of work consists of

- Mrs Helen Thomas – Independent co-opted member (Chair)
- Councillor Ken Howell (Carmarthenshire)
- Councillor Lloyd Edwards (Ceredigion)
- Councillor Les George (Powys)
- Councillor Stephen Joseph (Pembrokeshire)

Why is the Police and Crime Panel undertaking this piece of work?

The Panel felt that the decision by the Commissioner to invest in a new CCTV system was so significant, both in terms of cost and impact upon society that it merited scrutiny, once it had been implemented and had time to deliver the benefits hoped for.

The commitment to invest in CCTV forms part of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan, which states that he would

“Commission and promote a range of crime prevention projects, reinvest in an appropriate CCTV infrastructure and provide an effective, co-ordinated and timely response to ASB”

How has the Panel undertaken this piece of work?

In preparing this report the Panel has

- Requested and received information from the Commissioner about the operation of the system
- Sought the views of the public through a consultation exercise
- Sought the views of key stakeholders
- Undertaken its own research

Where have CCTV Cameras been installed and at what cost?

At the time of writing this report over 150 cameras have been installed as part of this investment at a variety of locations in a total of 23 different towns. The towns where cameras have been installed as part of this investment are listed in appendix 1. In addition, work is ongoing regarding the installation of cameras in Narberth and Aberaeron

The overall capital investment by the Commissioner in CCTV is expected to be in the region of £1.3 million once all cameras have been installed.

All cameras are linked to and monitored from a central control room in police headquarters in Carmarthen. The system does not make use of any facial recognition technology.

What use is made of the cameras and how have they assisted the Police?

Appendix 2 contains several graphs setting out the use made by the force of the CCTV system since it started operating. From the data contained within these graphs the following conclusions can be drawn

- CCTV footage is regularly being downloaded by officers to assist in the conduct of criminal investigations. This applies across all parts the force area
- CCTV cameras are used to monitor an average of 414 incidents a month
- CCTV cameras are used on an average of 67 times a month to help finding missing persons

It is clear therefore than the CCTV system is being used extensively to support front line police officers in their work, not just in fighting crime but also protecting vulnerable members of our communities.

What does the public think of the investment in CCTV by the Commissioner?

Between September and December 2020, the Panel conduct a consultation exercise seeking the views of the public on the Commissioner's investment in the CCTV system. A total of 176 people responded.

In summary the consultation revealed the following

- 91% of respondents supported the investment in CCTV
- 79% of respondents agreed that the investment in CCTV made them feel safer
- 82% of respondents wanted the Commissioner to invest in more CCTV cameras and extend it to other areas.
- 66% of respondents did not have any concerns about the police use of CCTV and the information it captures.

However, it should be noted that a minority of residents did not share this positive view of the investment and a significant minority did have concerns about the use of CCTV and the information it captures.

The Panel recognises that concerns about privacy and intrusion are valid and are reflected in the legal safeguards that are put in place to control the use of CCTV systems. The law requires Privacy Impact Assessments to be carried out in respect of each camera installation and these assessments must be regularly reviewed to determine whether a particular installation is still justified. The Privacy Impact Assessments for each camera location listed in Appendix 1 can be accessed via the Dyfed Powys Police website.

The Surveillance Camera Commissioner also has statutory oversight in respect of CCTV systems and the Information Commissioner in respect of personal data that they capture.

Having regard to the Privacy Impact Assessments that have been undertaken and the oversight exercised by the statutory regulators referred to above, the Panel (and public) can be satisfied that the locations of cameras and their ongoing use is appropriate and proportionate and complies with the legal obligations placed upon Dyfed-Powys police.

The Panel also recognises that although a majority of respondents would like to see the CCTV system extended to other areas any such expansion would need to be objectively justified and be the subject of further privacy impact assessments.

Conclusions

1. That the considerable investment made by the Commissioner in CCTV is supported by the public
2. That the investment has made at least some members of the public feel safer
3. That the system is delivering operational benefits to the police both when tackling crime and finding missing persons

4. As such the investment in CCTV has helped deliver Priorities 1(Keeping our communities safe), 2 (Safeguarding the vulnerable) and 3 (Protecting our communities from serious threats) in the Police and Crime Plan
5. There is public support for a further expansion of the CCTV system should there be evidence to justify such a step
6. Some members of the public do have concerns at the risk of intrusion into private lives that the use of such a system raises.

Recommendations

1. That the Commissioner continues to fund the operation of the system
2. That the Commissioner continues to monitor the use of the system by Dyfed-Powys police
3. That where objective evidence demonstrates that a further expansion of the system is warranted, the Commissioner consider allocating the necessary resources to enable this to happen
4. That when the Privacy Impact Assessments relating to the system are reviewed, the Commissioner give consideration to publicising the fact the reviews have been carried out and the conclusions reached, so as to try and address any concerns that members of the public might have about the use of such technology.

APPENDIX 1 – LOCATION OF CCTV CAMERAS

Aberystwyth

- [Outside NatWest Bank, Great Darkgate Street](#)
- [46 Great Darkgate Street](#)
- [Outside the Inn on the Pier, Marine Terrace](#)
- [Marine Terrace opposite the junction with Terrace Road](#)
- [Pier Street on the corner with Eastgate](#)
- [North Parade](#)
- [Outside Yr Hen Orsaf, Alexandra Road](#)
- [Terrace Road on the corner of Portland Street](#)
- [Outside the skate park, Ffordd Parc y Llyn](#)
- [Heol y Bont](#)

Ammanford

- [On the corner outside Mallards estate agents, College Street](#)
- [Outside Mallards estate agents, College Street](#)
- [Outside Lloyds Bank, Quay Street \(top\)](#)
- [Outside 925 Treats, Quay Street \(middle\)](#)
- [Outside Home Bargains, Quay Street \(bottom\)](#)

- [Bottom of Wind Street / Tir y Dail](#)
- [Outside John Francis estate agents, College Street](#)
- [Bus station Margaret Street](#)
- [Margaret Street car park](#)
- [Lloyd Street](#)

Brecon

- [High Street Superior](#)
- [High Street Inferior / Ship Street](#)
- [High Street Inferior / Tredegar Street](#)
- [Outside Bobbins, Bulwark](#)
- [Outside Visitor Information, Co-op car park](#)
- [Outside Brecon Chicken & Pizza Land, Ship Street](#)

Builth Wells

- [Outside Cribs Clothing, Broad Street](#)
- [Outside rugby club, Market Street](#)
- [Opposite Groe car park, The Strand](#)
- [Outside Hawthorn's, High Street](#)

Burry Port

- [Overlooking train station, Ashburnham Road](#)
- [Station Road junction with Stepney Road](#)
- [Outside the British Legion, Station Road](#)

Cardigan

- [Outside St Mary's Old school hall, Pont-y-Cleifion](#)
- [High Street opposite the junction with Priory Street](#)
- [Pendre junction with Bath-House](#)
- [Priory Street opposite junction with Morgan Street](#)
- [Outside Cardigan Castle Information Centre, Bridge Street](#)

Carmarthen

- [Darkgate Centre, Red Street](#)
- [Entrance to the Falcon Hotel car park, Lammas Street](#)
- [26 King Street](#)
- [59 King Street](#)
- [Spilman Street](#)
- [16 Red Street](#)
- [Towy Bridge](#)
- [Cambrian Court](#)

- [Regent's House, Notts Square](#)
- [Lammas Street / Morfa Lane](#)
- [Coracle Way](#)
- [Blue Street bus station](#)
- [Wilko's car park \(entrance\)](#)
- [Lammas Street](#)
- [Wilko's car park \(rear\)](#)
- [John Street car park](#)
- [St Peter's car park](#)
- [Water Street](#)

Fishguard

- [4 Main Street](#)
- [Opposite J J Morris estate agents, West Street](#)

Haverfordwest

- [Outside Poundstretcher, Swan Square](#)
- [Outside Subway, Castle Square](#)
- [Outside Castle Hotel, Castle Square](#)
- [Near to Salutation Square Roundabout](#)
- [Opposite Vaughan's, Quay Street](#)
- [31-33 High Street](#)
- [Outside Palace Cinema, Market Street](#)
- [Outside railway station](#)
- [Opposite multi-storey car park](#)
- [Days roundabout](#)
- [Outside Withybush Hospital, Fishguard Road](#)
- [Outside Eddie's Quay Street](#)
- [Bridgend Square](#)
- [Outside W H Smith, Riverside Quay](#)

Lampeter

- [Outside Caffi Jac, 11 Bridge Street](#)
- [On Conti's Café, 5 Harford Square](#)
- [On the mini roundabout, Station Road](#)
- [Outside 16 High Street](#)

Llandrindod Wells

- [Middleton Street junction with A4081](#)
- [Opposite the train station on Waterloo Road](#)
- [Junction of A483 with Station Crescent](#)

Llanelli

- [Entrance to St Elli shopping centre, Stepney Precinct](#)
- [Stepney Place](#)
- [Outside Dyfed & Glamorgan ACF, Murray Street](#)
- [Job Centre, Stepney Street](#)
- [Y Ffwrnes, Park Street](#)
- [The Jail House, Eastgate](#)
- [Junction of Murray Street and Station Road](#)
- [Junction of Lakefield Road and Station Road](#)
- [Station Road opposite junction to Pemberton Street](#)
- [Station Road near roundabout at Home Bargains](#)
- [New Dock Road junction with Copperworks Road](#)
- [Bus station, Eastgate](#)
- [Multi storey car park, Murray Street](#)
- [Market Street](#)
- [Outside Zion Baptist Chapel, Eastgate](#)
- [Outside train station, Great Western Crescent](#)
- [Boots, Vaughan Street](#)
- [Boots, Stepney Street](#)
- [Church Street](#)
- [New Dock Road \(bottom\)](#)
- [Stepney Street](#)
- [Rowberry's, Stepney Precinct](#)

Llwynhendy

- [Outside Parc y Scarlets, Maes-ar-Ddafen Road](#)
- [The Avenue](#)
- [Bonnie's Hair Design, Heol Gwili](#)
- [Outside The Hilltop, Gelli Road](#)
- [Opposite Prince Philip Hospital, Dafen Road](#)
- [Dafen Park](#)

Machynlleth

- [Outside 50 Heol Maengwyn](#)
- [Clock Tower, Penrallt Street](#)
- [Ffordd Mynydd Griffiths](#)

Milford Haven

- [On Granby's, Upper Charles Street](#)
- [11 Lower Charles Street](#)
- [Hamilton Terrace](#)
- [Great North Road](#)

Newcastle Emlyn

- [Outside Emlyn CLIC Circle, 7 Bridge Street](#)
- [Outside County Crafts & Fabrics, 9 Sycamore Street](#)
- [Outside Caffi Central Café, Emlyn Square](#)

Newtown

- [Outside HSBC bank, Broad Street](#)
- [Junction of Market Street and Shortbridge Street](#)
- [Back Lane opposite the junction to High Street](#)
- [Bus station, Wesley Street](#)
- [The Regent Centre on the junction of Longbridge Street and Back Lane](#)
- [On the junction of St Mary's Close and Gas Street](#)
- [Opposite Gravel car park, Shortbridge Street](#)

Pembroke

- [B4320 opposite junction with Long Mains](#)
- [On the corner of Castle Terrace and North Gate Street](#)
- [Outside Brown's Snack Bar, Main Street](#)
- [Mill Pond](#)

Pembroke Dock

- [On the corner of Dimond Street and Water Street](#)
- [On the corner of Dimond Street and Queen Street](#)
- [Albion Square opposite junction of Clarence Street](#)
- [London Road junction with Ferry Lane](#)

Saundersfoot

- [Outside Heywoods of Saundersfoot, Milford Street](#)
- [Junction of Cambrian Place and High Street](#)

Tenby

- [Opposite Lion Hotel, High Street](#)
- [On the junction with South Parade and Trafalgar Road](#)
- [46 High Street, Tudor Square](#)
- [Five Arches Tavern, St George's Street](#)
- [The Harbour](#)
- [Upper Frog Street on the corner with St Nicholas Lane](#)

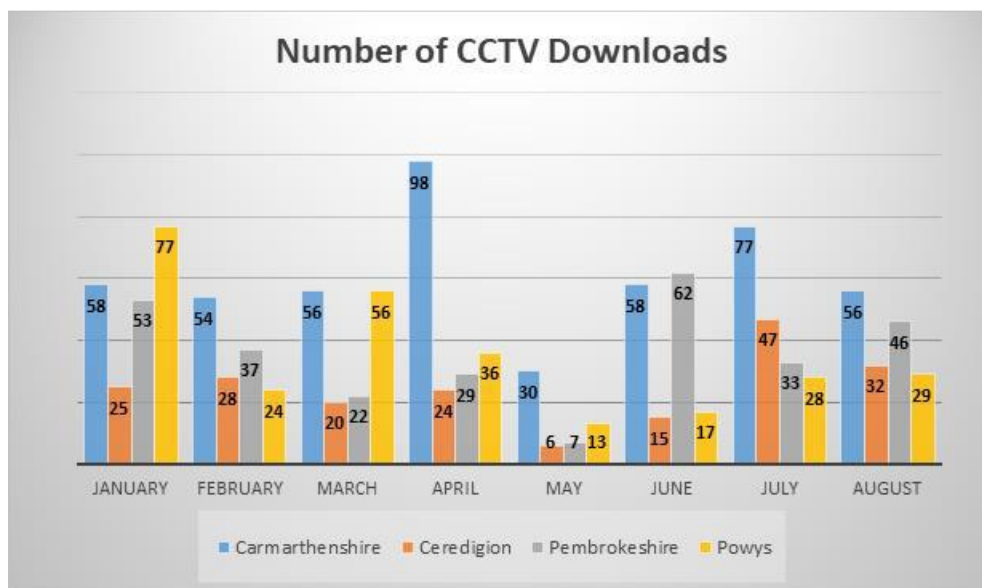
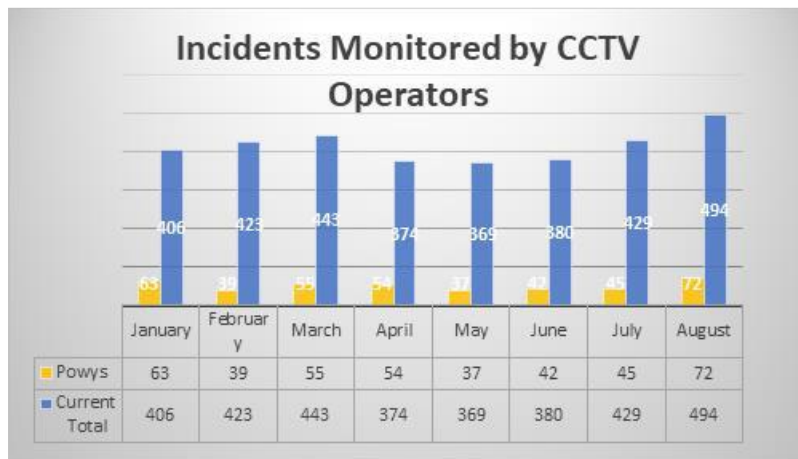
Welshpool

- [Puzzle Square, Cumberland Place](#)
- [Puzzle Square, Parker's Place](#)
- [Opposite Severn Stars Road](#)
- [Junction of High Street and Jehu Road](#)
- [Outside Harrisons Solicitors, 11 Berriew Street](#)
- [On the junction of Church Street and Severn Street](#)
- [Broad Street](#)

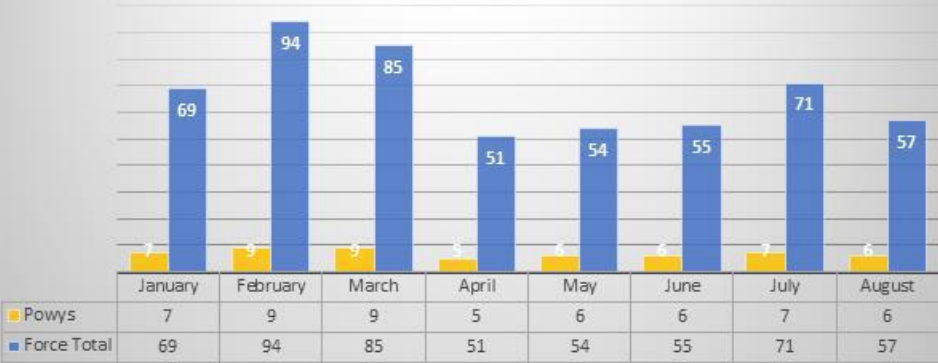
Ystradgynlais

- [Outside No. 21 Station Road](#)
- [TUI Holiday Store, 2 Commercial Street](#)
- [Opposite Merlin's Café-Bar, 44 Commercial Street](#)

APPENDIX 2 – USE OF THE CCTV SYSTEM (2020)



Missing Person Incidents Monitored



Annual Number of CCTV Downloads

