



# CCTV Annual Report

**2022-2022**

Taunton and West Somerset



This document has been produced to provide details of the CCTV surveillance system in operation in the towns of Taunton and Wellington, monitored by Sedgemoor District Council. It also assists in demonstrating compliance with the Home Office's "Surveillance Camera Code of Practice" (the Code).

The Sedgemoor District Council CCTV system has been notified to the information Commissioner registration number Z5968381

Sedgemoor District Council currently operates 167 CCTV cameras which are a mix of Public

Open Space and internal cameras. These are monitored in Bridgwater. The scheme is supported by Somerset West and Taunton Council, South Somerset District Council and Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

There are currently 60 public space CCTV cameras monitored in Taunton and 6 in Wellington. The details and locations of these are set out below, including the amount of incidents each camera has been utilised in - recorded to date in 2022;

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Make	Incidents 2022
301	Kilkenny West	Analogue	Bosch	4
302	Kilkenny East	Analogue	360 vision Predator (White Light)	6
303	Coal Orchard North	Analogue	360 vision Predator (White Light)	1
304	Coal Orchard South	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
305	Brewhouse	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
306	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Fixed	0
307	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Fixed	1
309	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
310	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	HIK	1
311	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Bosch	0
312	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
313	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	1
314	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
315	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
316	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	0
317	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	0
318	Multi-storey Car Park	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	3
319	Belvedere West	Analogue	Bosch	2
320	Belvedere East	Analogue	360 vision Predator (White Light)	0

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Make	Incidents 2022
321	Crescent North	Analogue	Pelco	23
322	Crescent South	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	29
323	Canon street church	Analogue	Bosch	8
324	Canon street entrance	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	6
325	Castle Green	Analogue	360 vision predator (White Light)	41
326	Whirligig Lane	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	14
327	Castle Green	Analogue	360 vision predator (White Light)	27
328	Bath Place	Analogue	Vista Power Dome	19
329	Wood Street	Analogue	Vista Power Dome	5
330	Yarde Lane	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	0
331	Victoria Gate Car Park	Analogue	Vista Power Dome	37
332	Duke Street	Analogue	Bosch Mic1-400 IR	26
333	Station Road/Priory Bridge Road	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	52
334	Outside Swimming Pool – Station Road	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	65
335	Wood Street/ Bridge Street	Analogue	Pelco	91
336	Wood Street/ Bridge Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	127
337	St James Street/ North Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	112
338	St James Street/ North Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	50
339	North Street*	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	126
340	Parade*	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	46
341	Church Square/ Hammet Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	10
342	East Street/ Fore Street*	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	83
343	Paul Street/Cheap Side	Analogue	Vista Power Dome	21

Camera no	Location	Analogue/Digital	Make	Incidents 2022
344	East Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	22
345	Outside Wetherspoons East Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	120
346	East Street – East Reach	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	83
347	East Reach/ South Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	23
348	East Reach/ Haydon Road	Analogue	Vista Powerdome	107
349	East Reach	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	39
350	Victoria Street Taunton	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	95
351	High Street/ Parade end	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	94
352	Central High Street	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	107
353	High Street/ Job Centre end	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	51
354	Corporation Street/ Tower Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris Dome	0
355	Roman Road	Analogue	Bosch MIC1-400 IR	14
356	Crossway	Analogue	Bosch MIC1-400 IR	18
357	Lambrook Road	Analogue	Bosch MIC1-400 IR	23
358	Creechbarrow	Analogue	Bosch MIC1-400 IR	6
359	Laxton Road	Analogue	Bosch MIC1-400 IR	2
360	Eastwick Road	Digital	Samsung 1080P HD	30
362	Tangier/LIDL Not yet in use	Analogue	360 vision predator (White Light)	
381	High Street Wellington	Analogue	Pelco Spectra IV	13
382	High Street Wellington, opposite Kings Arms	Analogue	Bosch 1080P HD	20
383	South Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	0
384	Fore Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	10
385	Mantel Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	1
386	North Street	Analogue	Bewator Solaris dome	4

**The Sedgemoor District Council CCTV scheme is operated in relation to the prevention of disorder or crime and the reduction of the fear of crime. Additionally, it may be used in relation to public safety.**

This document also reviews the camera locations and highlights some of the good work CCTV assists with.

## **Introduction**

Sedgemoor District Council has operated public open space CCTV cameras in Taunton and Wellington for over 20 years.

The cameras are permanently monitored 24 hrs a day, 365 days a year and the operatives are in close contact with the Police at all times via airwave radio, over 3 district channels.

The control room has a video wall with six large HD slim profile monitors.

Each monitor can display one, large image for dealing with major incidents or hot spot areas, or up to 4, 6, 9, or 12 images from separate cameras at any time, and this is all controlled by the new Genetec VMS equipment, which was installed in February 2022.



*Sedgemoor District Council CCTV Monitoring Office*

## Background

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent;

- Crime and disorder in their areas (including anti-social and other behavior adversely affecting the local environment),
- The misuse of drugs, alcohol or other substances, and
- Re-offending in their areas.

This will lead to improvements in people's quality of life as a result.

Management responsibility for the monitoring, operation and technical maintenance of the CCTV scheme is undertaken by Sedgemoor District Council and it's approved installation and maintenance contractor CDS (Computerised Data Systems).

The CCTV Operations team consist of 1 Team Leader and 10 CCTV Monitoring Officers, all of whom are SIA licensed. Two members of staff, depending on operational requirements, undertake the 24-hour monitoring on a shift/rota basis. The scheme is operated in compliance with the internally approved CCTV Code of Practice, which has been agreed with the Police and has been prepared as guidance for Council staff and the operators of the system.

This internal Code of Practice also reflects the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and associated regulations. This was reviewed in 2021 and is refreshed bi-annually.

## Purpose of the CCTV System

The Code details that the use of a surveillance camera system must always be for a specified purpose which is in pursuit of a legitimate aim and necessary to meet an identified pressing need.

It states that such a legitimate aim and pressing need might include national security, public safety, the economic well-being of the country, the prevention of disorder or crime, the protection of health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

The scheme is operated in relation to the prevention of disorder or crime and the reduction of the fear of crime. Additionally, it may be used in relation to public safety.

The CCTV scheme is operated within applicable law/guidance and only for the purposes identified above. The scheme will be operated with due regard to the privacy of the individual.

The scheme will not be used, for example, for traffic management or minor enforcement issues (including parking offences).





## List of Priorities

A list of priorities have been agreed with Avon and Somerset Constabulary, through monthly partnership meetings and fortnightly priorities meetings; The priorities are not listed in any particular order. They are all equally important and assist in evidencing the pressing need for the continued investment and use of CCTV to deter and prevent crime and disorder.

- Hate Crime
- Victimisation (including repeat victimisation)
- Vulnerability and Exploitation
- Anti-Social Behavior (nuisance)
- Reducing Re-offending
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Road Safety
- Use of drugs
- Missing persons (adult and minors)

## Highlights from the Operation of the System - Taunton

Since the installation of the Genetec VMS System in February 2022 The key highlights are as follows:-

CCTV staff were involved in 500 incidents/ observations broken down as follows;

**80** ASB Incidents

**35** Missing Persons – Adults

**27** Traffic Offences

**78** Theft Offences

**26** Concern for Welfare

**36** Suspicious Activities

**53** Assault Incidents

**34** Missing persons – Minors

**20** Public Order Offences

**18** Drugs Offences

**93** Other/Observations



CCTV staff were directly involved in 208 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Taunton throughout this period for the following offences;

**25** ASB Incidents

**15** Wanted Persons

**9** Suspicious Persons

**7** Concerns for Safety

**30** Other Offences

**26** Theft Offences

**23** Public Order Incidents

**11** Traffic Offence Incidents

**9** Weapons Incidents

**7** Criminal Damage Offences

**46** Assault Incidents

## Number of arrests by month – Taunton

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22
	22	43	35	25	26	20	23	14

## Highlights from the operations of the system – Wellington

CCTV staff were involved in 49 incidents/observations broken down as follows;

**33** Concern for Welfare

**2** ASB

**3** Missing person – Adults

**3** Missing person – Minors

**1** RTC

**1** Sexual Assault

**2** Public order

**3** Suspicious activity

**1** Other offences



CCTV staff were directly involved in 7 arrests by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in Wellington throughout this period for the following offences;

**3 Assault Offences**

**2 Traffic Offences**

**1 Public Order Offence**

**1 Suspicious Person**

Arrests	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22
	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	1

## Monitoring details

The images from the Council's CCTV cameras are monitored in a specifically designed secure monitoring suite in Bridgwater.

The images from all the cameras are being permanently recorded and these recordings are kept for 28 days before being deleted. Footage can be archived within a storage vault on the VMS if it is being used by the Police in relation to a specific case, however, when the footage is no longer needed it is deleted.

The Code details that access to retained images and information should be restricted and that there must be clearly defined rules on who can gain access and for what purpose such access is granted. The disclosure of images or information should only take place when it is necessary for such a purpose or for law enforcement purposes.

## Business link system

The service also operates a 24-hour business radio link system within the town of Taunton, which currently serves 35 different businesses including a mixture of shops, libraries and night time economy premises. This service is monitored and operated by Sedgemoor District Council and owned by APEX Radio. There are 4 additional

businesses in the process of joining as this is written.

Sedgemoor CCTV operators have monitored/communicated 181 incidents in Taunton utilising this system over the last 12 months.

## Future Plans

A project is underway to upgrade 11 cameras within the town centre from analogue to digital as we move towards the end of the year. There is also the possibility of incorporating the West Somerset CCTV system into our network

Sedgemoor District Council have secured 11 deployable CCTV cameras, 3 of which have been earmarked for the following locations in Taunton and are free of charge for the first year from the point of installation.;

- Hamilton Road
- Obridge
- Cheddon Road

The monitoring office now has a link between Bridgwater House and Bridgwater Police Centre which will allow police communications operators

a live, real-time view of what operators are monitoring.

This will allow improved dispatch times and a greater understanding of our role. This will go live by the end of October 2022.

## Directed Surveillance

- The law and our Code of Practice permits the use of the CCTV system to monitor or observe individuals covertly via CCTV (i.e. 'directed surveillance') at the request of 'Public Authorities' (i.e. law enforcement bodies).
- Targeted operations employing directed surveillance will only be carried out where other methods of investigation are not appropriate or not likely to be effective and where they are considered 'proportionate' to the suspected criminal activity or problem posed. The law and rules relating to covert surveillance are contained in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Failure to obtain the necessary authorisations under this Act could invalidate any subsequent evidence obtained by virtue of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
- Local authorities are required to obtain judicial approval prior to using covert techniques. Local Authority authorisations and notices under the Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) will only be given effect once an order has been granted by a Justice of the Peace in England and Wales.

## Complaints

The Code details that system operators should also record and publish information in relation to

any complaints it receives about CCTV. For the period of this report 0 complaints were received.

## Regulation of investigatory Powers

During the period in question no covert surveillance took place.

## Future reports

- The Council will continue to be transparent regarding its use of CCTV and produce an annual report moving forwards as required.
  - Sedgemoor District Council is committed to community safety and helps with the prevention and detection of crime.
- The council is exploring new ways to improve and develop our partnership working with neighbouring councils and partner agencies, to ensure a safer community to live, visit and work in.



## Contact us

### Website

[sedgemoor.gov.uk/CCTV](http://sedgemoor.gov.uk/CCTV)

### Email

[CCTV@sedgemoor.gov.uk](mailto:CCTV@sedgemoor.gov.uk)

### Call

0300 303 7800

### Follow

[twitter.com/sedgemoorDC](https://twitter.com/sedgemoorDC)

[facebook.com/sedgemoordc](https://facebook.com/sedgemoordc)

[instagram.com/sedgemoordc](https://instagram.com/sedgemoordc)

### Visit

At the address below

8:45am – 5:00pm

Monday to Friday

(except bank holidays)

### Write

Sedgemoor District Council,  
Bridgwater House,  
King Square, Bridgwater,  
Somerset TA6 3AR