



2022-23

CCTV Service Annual Statistical Report



served by One Team

Introduction

This document provides an examination of data collected by the CCTV department for the CCTV areas within East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council. This data is collected and studied in order to better understand the performance and achievements of the CCTV service. This report is not (nor indeed intended to be) a full picture of criminal activity within the areas it covers. Data for reported crime can be obtained from the appropriate source (www.police.uk)

All CCTV camera areas within this report are monitored from the Boston CCTV control room. Towns and Parishes within the above districts that have alternative monitoring solutions are not included in this report.

Data for North Kesteven District Council in this report relates to the CCTV area of Sleaford which is monitored from the Boston CCTV control room.

The data presented in this report is primarily derived from the 'Viewscape' software (previously referred to as VTAS), which is utilised by the CCTV service. Please note, the CCTV service does not have any predetermined objectives regarding incidents or arrests, nor do they receive any incentives or financing based on performance. As such, there is no motive for us to modify or falsify statistics, and the information provided in this document can be reliably considered as accurate.

Summary of Data

The data within this report relates to the period between 01/04/22 and 31/03/23. Within this time period, CCTV operators have recorded:

15,310 Administrative Daily Log entries.

The Operators 'Daily Log' is a record of routine actions, such as marking the beginning and end of a work shift, routine camera patrols, radio & telephone communications and Control Room administrative duties.

1160 Incident Records which includes...

587	East Lindsey camera area incidents
366	Boston camera area incidents
128	South Holland camera area incidents
79	North Kesteven camera area incidents.

An incident is an event or happening that deviates from the normal or expected course of events, often causing disruption, harm, or requiring attention or action. The CCTV incident log is a record of an Operator's actions and their assessment of the kind of incident they are involved with.

329 CCTV contributed arrests. This breaks down further to:

165	East Lindsey camera area arrests
92	Boston camera area arrests
46	South Holland camera area arrests
26	North Kesteven camera area arrests

A CCTV operator records police arrests for incidents that they have been involved with or arrests they have witnessed. This performs a safety function for all involved, and also acts as an objective performance indicator.

398 Evidence Packages for Police / Court use. Divided by district...

120	East Lindsey area evidence packages
161	Boston area evidence packages
81	South Holland area evidence packages
36	North Kesteven area evidence packages

A CCTV evidence package as produced by our CCTV Operators consists of a written witness statement, a DVD ROM disk of CCTV footage (sealed in an evidence bag for court use) and an unsealed copy for police officer usage. Each evidence package takes a minimum of 30 minutes to produce, but may take longer depending upon the complexity and volume of the footage. Flash drives or Hard Drives are sometimes used in evidential packages where bulk footage is requested.

Total Performance Data

The chart below shows a monthly breakdown of the evidence, incidents and arrests logged by CCTV across all monitored districts combined. This is compared with the figures from last year (21/22) and a percentage increase / decrease shown. Percentage differences can be dramatic for any given month, however this evens out when the whole year is taken into consideration. The page following this shows the same information divided by district.

Total CCTV Performance Data 22/23							
Month	Arrests		Evidence		Reviews	Incidents	
April	27	-25%	30	-9%	72	83	-25%
May	14	-30%	40	8%	84	66	-36%
June	28	4%	28	12%	61	87	-8%
July	29	12%	37	-8%	56	89	-22%
August	39	95%	35	-17%	71	154	54%
September	22	-12%	35	67%	68	93	-1%
October	29	164%	35	75%	60	91	12%
November	31	72%	30	-17%	48	94	57%
December	22	-33%	28	33%	50	83	20%
January	27	200%	30	-14%	65	112	38%
February	17	-23%	36	89%	69	94	29%
March	44	52%	34	-15%	73	114	13%
Year Total	329	19%	398	8%	777	1160	7%

Note, In this year's report, we have provided figures for the number of image reviews conducted. An image review refers to the process of a police officer or other authorised person reviewing previously recorded CCTV footage in either the Boston CCTV Control Room or the CCTV Review Suite at Skegness Police Station to investigate a crime, anti-social behaviour, or other incidents. Although records on image reviews from previous years are available, they are recorded in paper-based filing systems, which makes them difficult to analyse.

District Monthly Breakdown

	Boston			
Month	Arrests	Evidence	Reviews	Incidents
April	6	16	47	23
May	5	11	41	26
June	4	7	31	22
July	7	14	25	24
August	6	13	34	31
September	7	20	44	33
October	15	15	27	38
November	8	9	20	26
December	9	10	25	34
January	7	13	37	28
February	5	16	35	38
March	13	17	39	43
Year Total	92	161	405	366

	East Lindsey			
Arrests	Evidence	Reviews	Incidents	
12	10	18	41	
6	15	22	28	
18	18	23	54	
22	13	16	57	
25	10	18	89	
12	8	14	50	
12	10	12	44	
17	7	8	47	
10	6	9	39	
12	5	8	60	
6	11	18	38	
13	7	17	40	
165	120	183	587	

	South Holland			
Arrests	Evidence	Reviews	Incidents	
8	4	7	18	
2	7	13	11	
6	2	5	9	
0	4	8	5	
7	8	11	23	
0	5	8	5	
1	7	14	6	
3	6	8	10	
1	10	12	4	
3	11	17	11	
3	8	15	9	
12	9	15	17	
46	81	133	128	

Incident Category Breakdown

Incident Category	BBC		ELDC		SHDC	
	21-22	22-23	21-22	22-23	21-22	22-23
Alarm Activation	5	5	10	9	4	2
Alcohol	14	13	29	22	5	8
Anti-Social Behaviour	60	56	39	35	7	11
Bicycle Theft	2	3	1	0	1	1
Breach of Conditions or Ban	6	9	1	2	3	2
Burglary	10	5	12	24	1	5
Criminal Damage & Arson	18	2	22	18	2	5
Domestic Abuse	8	2	9	8	1	0
Drugs	15	25	18	39	2	5
Emergencies	1	1	5	2	0	0
Environmental Crime	6	0	0	0	0	0
Events	0	0	1	2	0	0
Fire / Ambulance / Sudden Death	5	5	5	17	2	0
Fraud	3	1	0	1	0	0
Licensing	1	2	1	0	0	1
Other Crime	10	7	17	7	0	6
Other Theft	4	2	3	2	2	0
Public Order	19	21	33	39	5	12
Robbery	7	6	6	8	0	0
Search for Person	30	20	77	90	17	11
Shoplifting	28	40	16	19	3	12
Suspicious Behaviour	14	20	14	10	6	6
Theft from the Person	3	0	2	1	0	0
Traffic Offence	63	46	79	44	7	7
Vehicle Crime	4	11	4	9	0	1
Violence and Sexual	45	43	94	96	11	17
Weapons	16	13	39	42	6	16

The table above shows the incidents logged by CCTV operators and their assessment of the incident category it relates to. Figures are highlighted green where there is an increase in logged incidents on the previous year, red where there is a decrease and yellow where it has remained the same.

It is important to note that conventionally, the colour green signifies something positive or good, while red represents something negative or bad. Hence, an increase in crime rates is usually highlighted in red. However, this report is not focused on analysing crime levels but is instead an evaluation of the performance of the CCTV department. As such, for our purposes, increased activity is always indicated in green to signify a positive development.

District Locations – Top 20 Cameras

The table below shows the top 20 most active cameras in each district, as per the number of CCTV incidents logged for their usage.

Boston Borough Council			East Lindsey District Council				South Holland District Council			
ID	Location	Inc	ID	Town	Location	Inc	ID	Town	Location	Inc
006	Market Place	84	483	Skegness	Grand Parade	111	207	Spalding	New Road	38
005	Market Place - Craythorne Lane	69	482	Skegness	North Parade	104	204	Spalding	Hall Place	36
003	West Street - Rosegarth Street	67	490	Skegness	Lumley Road	101	206	Spalding	Red Lion Street	36
023	Haven Bridge	51	491	Skegness	Lumley Square	98	203	Spalding	Market Place	21
013	Church Street - FootBridge	40	495	Skegness	Roman Bank	90	212	Spalding	Winsover Road	20
024	Rosegarth Street	40	484	Skegness	Grand Parade	87	205	Spalding	Sheep Market	19
026	Red Lion Street	39	488	Skegness	Beresford Avenue	83	209	Spalding	Swan Street	14
020	Ingram Memorial	36	489	Skegness	Lumley Avenue	68	210	Spalding	Winfrey Avenue	14
007	Strait Bargate - Market Place	35	496	Skegness	Roman Bank	50	208	Spalding	Herring Lane	9
001	West Street - Wickes Building	30	487	Skegness	Tower Esplanade CP	44	223	Holbeach	High Street	9
012	John Adams Way	30	492	Skegness	Tower Gardens	44	226	Spalding	Castle Sports Complex	9
015	New Street	27	468	Mablethorpe	High Street	36	227	Spalding	Castle Sports Complex	9
030	Central Park - Norfolk Street	24	511	Ingoldmells	Sea Lane - Roman Bank	36	220	Spalding	High Street Holbeach	8
017	Sluice Bridge	23	469	Mablethorpe	High Street	30	228	Spalding	Castle Sports Complex	8
031	Central Park (Centre)	23	493	Skegness	Tower Gardens	28	201	Spalding	Bridge Street	7
019	Lister Way	22	494	Skegness	Tower Gardens	27	221	Holbeach	High Street	7
008	Strait Bargate - Wide Bargate	21	497	Skegness	Richmond Drive	27	222	Holbeach	Station Road	7
002	St. Georges Road	20	512	Ingoldmells	Sea Lane - Roman Bank	26	215	Spalding	Vine Street	6
025	South Street	19	508	Skegness	Festival Car Park	24	214	Spalding	The Crescent	5
021	Town Bridge - Emery Lane	17	498	Skegness	Richmond Drive	21	211	Spalding	Westlode Street	3

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. Therefore adding up the columns will produce a number higher than the total number of incidents logged. It is worth noting that camera 211 at Westlode Street, Spalding has only recently been re-installed after a major upgrade, therefore this normally high performing camera is low in terms of this list, but not expected to be in the future.

Police Data Comparison

Our CCTV incident categories have been designed to align with those of official Police statistics of reported crime which are freely available online at www.police.uk. The following section is a comparison of Council CCTV incident records with those of the available Police crime data.

For the purposes of this report, the police data consists of information from within a 1 mile radius of a specific point. Data is collected from www.crime-statistics.co.uk. We have chosen the three most active towns in our covered districts, namely Boston, Skegness and Spalding.

The central points for the 1 mile radius of these areas are:

- Boston** – Municipal Buildings, West Street (**PE21 8QR**)
- Skegness** – The Skegness Clock Tower (**PE25 2UN**)
- Spalding** – The South Holland Centre (**PE11 1SS**)

Managing Expectations

The realistic expectation is that not all reported crime will be captured on CCTV. This can be for a number of reasons. A few are listed below:

1. **CCTV does not cover all areas**, but exists in a careful and proportionate balance between cost, technical capability and respect for privacy.
2. **Not all crime occurs in open public spaces**, therefore crime that occurs in the home or in private premises will not be captured by public space CCTV.
3. **Technical restrictions** of CCTV equipment in place can limit its evidence gathering capabilities under certain circumstances (extreme weather etc)
4. **Physical obstructions** hindering clear views (tree growth, scaffolding, Estate Agent signage etc.)

Under previous comparison reports, we have noticed a rough parity between the percentage of CCTV recorded incidents as a proportion of Police Incidents, and the national UK figure for reported crime that results in either a charge or a summons (21/22 figure = **5.6%** as per www.gov.uk). This makes sense, when you consider the importance of undisputable evidence (such as CCTV) in the criminal justice system. Therefore the expectation is that the Police/CCTV data comparison in the following studies will be in a similar region of around 5%.

Boston

Offence	Police	CCTV	
Anti-Social Behaviour	787	56	7.12%
Bicycle Theft	124	3	2.42%
Burglary	165	5	3.03%
Criminal Damage & Arson	353	2	0.57%
Drugs	143	25	17.48%
Other Theft	284	2	0.70%
Possession of Weapons	47	13	27.66%
Public Order	282	21	7.45%
Robbery	44	6	13.64%
Shoplifting	437	40	9.15%
Theft From the Person	26	0	0.00%
Vehicle Crime	119	11	9.24%
Violence and Sexual	1686	43	2.55%
Other Crime	79	7	8.86%

The comparison between Police and CCTV data in relation to CCTV logged incidents for the area results in a figure of **5.11%**.

As expected some incident types show greater effectiveness while Criminal Damage & Arson shows some potential room for improvement.

If we compare Police incidents with the number of CCTV evidence packages produced this results in **3.52%**.

Similarly comparing Police Incidents vs Police image reviews results in **8.85%**

Skegness

Offence	Police	CCTV	
Anti-Social Behaviour	535	30	5.61%
Bicycle Theft	27	0	0.00%
Burglary	199	15	7.54%
Criminal Damage & Arson	304	10	3.29%
Drugs	101	37	36.63%
Other Theft	211	1	0.47%
Possession of Weapons	33	29	87.88%
Public Order	280	32	11.43%
Robbery	14	6	42.86%
Shoplifting	256	13	5.08%
Theft From the Person	14	1	7.14%
Vehicle Crime	85	4	4.71%
Violence and Sexual	1310	74	5.65%
Other Crime	57	6	10.53%

For Skegness, the figure comparing CCTV logged incidents result in the figure of **7.53%**

Bicycle theft seems to be a lesser problem in this area, with operators working well at priority public safety issues such as drugs & possession of weapons.

Comparing Police incidents with the number of CCTV evidence packages produced results in a figure of **2.04%**.

For Police incidents compared to Police CCTV image reviews of the Skegness area comes to **3.15%**

Spalding

Offence	Police	CCTV	
Anti-Social Behaviour	462	10	2.16%
Bicycle Theft	71	1	1.41%
Burglary	97	4	4.12%
Criminal Damage & Arson	205	4	1.95%
Drugs	85	5	5.88%
Other Theft	173	0	0.00%
Possession of Weapons	28	14	50.00%
Public Order	169	11	6.51%
Robbery	17	0	0.00%
Shoplifting	166	11	6.63%
Theft From the Person	7	0	0.00%
Vehicle Crime	92	1	1.09%
Violence and Sexual	1203	16	1.33%
Other Crime	50	6	12.00%

For the area of Spalding, the figure comparing CCTV logged Incidents result in the figure of **2.94%**

Comparing Police incidents with the number of CCTV evidence packages produced results in a figure of **2.69%**.

For Police incidents compared to Police CCTV image reviews of the Spalding area comes to **4.11%**

It is worth noting that police data is taken from an area of 1 mile radius, however the CCTV camera area for Spalding has a maximum area of **0.33** of a mile radius.

Reflections

For the first time, this report includes data from the three partnership districts of Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council, and South Holland District Council. This in itself has presented some interesting trends and differences. For instance, East Lindsey has the greater number of incidents and arrests, however Boston has more than twice the number of police image reviews than the two other districts combined (405 for BBC, 183 for ELDC, 133 for SHDC). This is surprising, considering the availability of CCTV image review facilities in Skegness Police Station.

The availability of good CCTV evidence leads to better outcomes for people reporting crime in our districts. The improvements currently being made via funding from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund go some way to increase the quality and availability of CCTV evidence. The camera clusters providing permanent 360-degree coverage in Spalding Town Centre will provide a dramatic increase in the amount of evidential footage recorded. The same systems are currently being installed in Skegness at the time of this report being written, with Boston following.

However, this report makes it clear that we still need to work on access and availability of CCTV footage to police in our wide geographical area. The conversation between Lincolnshire Police and the CCTV service is already ongoing, and we have already begun trialling the use of police staff/police volunteers to conduct image reviews for police officers. This is in the very early stages, but could lead to better utilisation of police officers and better utilisation of CCTV operators.

More CCTV image review consoles in police stations are still a consideration, however the reasons behind the popularity of the Boston Control Room in comparison needs to be looked into. The likelihood is one of confidence and training in regards to police officers' use of the equipment (one where friendly assistance can always be provided in the Boston Control Room).