

CCTV Report



Wantage and Abingdon 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information on how the district council's CCTV cameras in Wantage and Abingdon are used in contributing to deterring crime, reducing fear of crime and increasing crime detection.

The report is produced using information provided by the CCTV monitoring suite based in Abingdon. It is based on information drawn from the record of occurrences. A record of occurrence is reported each time a CCTV camera is used proactively to monitor a specific incident.

We aim to provide this report on a half yearly basis to share information and help publicise the positive outcomes of CCTV. We have 23 cameras operational in Abingdon and six in Wantage.

DATA SUMMARY

Across the Vale, CCTV operators supported 841 incidents during the second half of 2018-19.

The operators also produced 50 evidence packs for possible court proceedings, carried out six reviews of CCTV footage (a review is undertaken as a result of a written request) and supported 67 arrests.

The table on the following page displays the most common type of incident monitored for each town during the second half of 2018-19, where CCTV was involved at some stage:

MOST COMMONLY MONITORED INCIDENTS

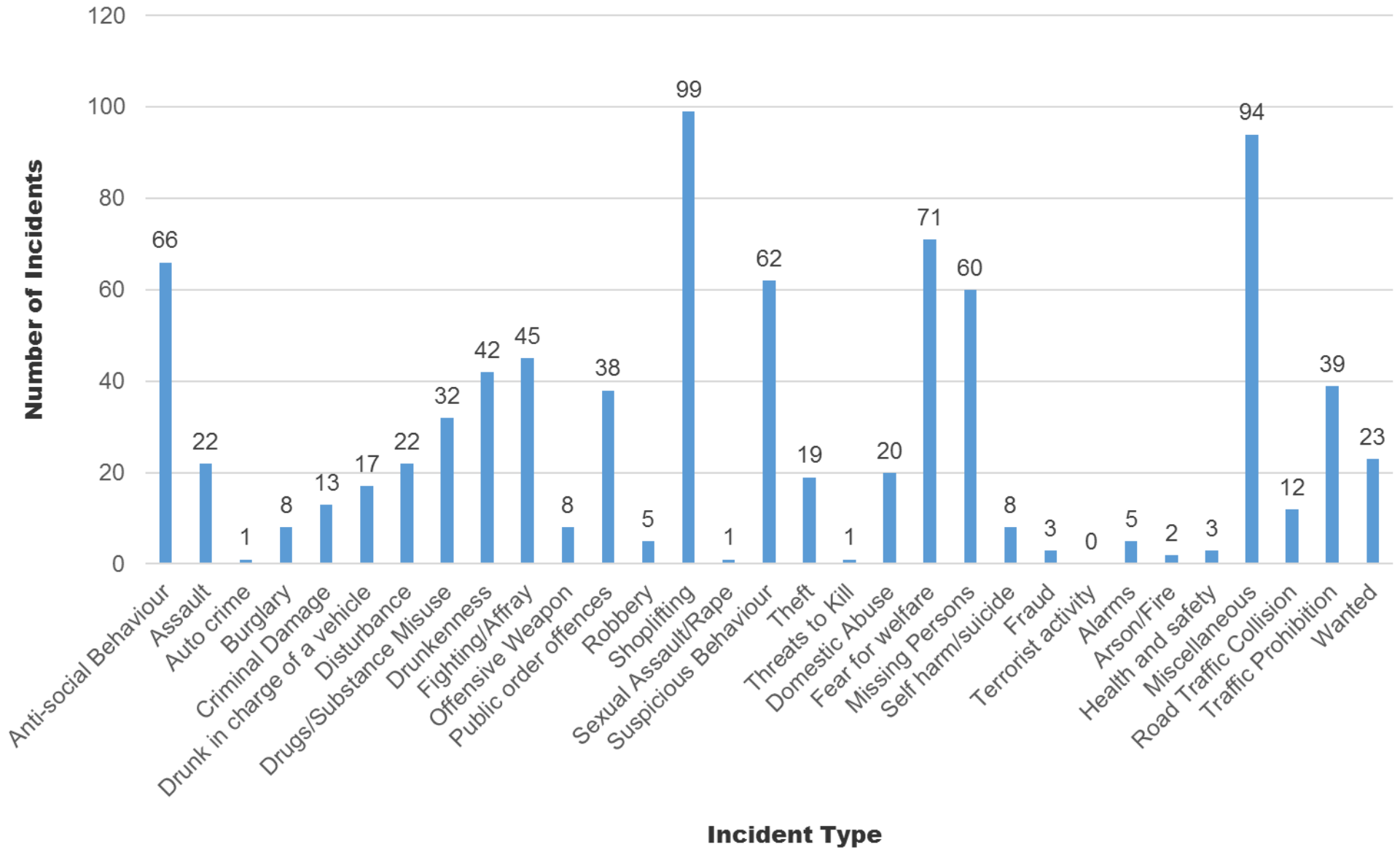
	Abingdon	Wantage
1	Shoplifting (98)	Fighting and Affray (20) Missing persons (20)
2	Miscellaneous* (86)	Miscellaneous* (8)
3	Anti-social behaviour (63)	Disturbance (6) Traffic Prohibition (6)

* Miscellaneous refers to monitored incidents that don't fit easily into categories that are listed e.g. A request from G4 security to monitor their staff attending a local bank.

TYPE AND NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

The chart on page three shows the numbers and types of incident the CCTV Operators monitored from October 2018 to March 2019 across both towns.

Incidents by Type - 1st October 2018 - 31st March 2019

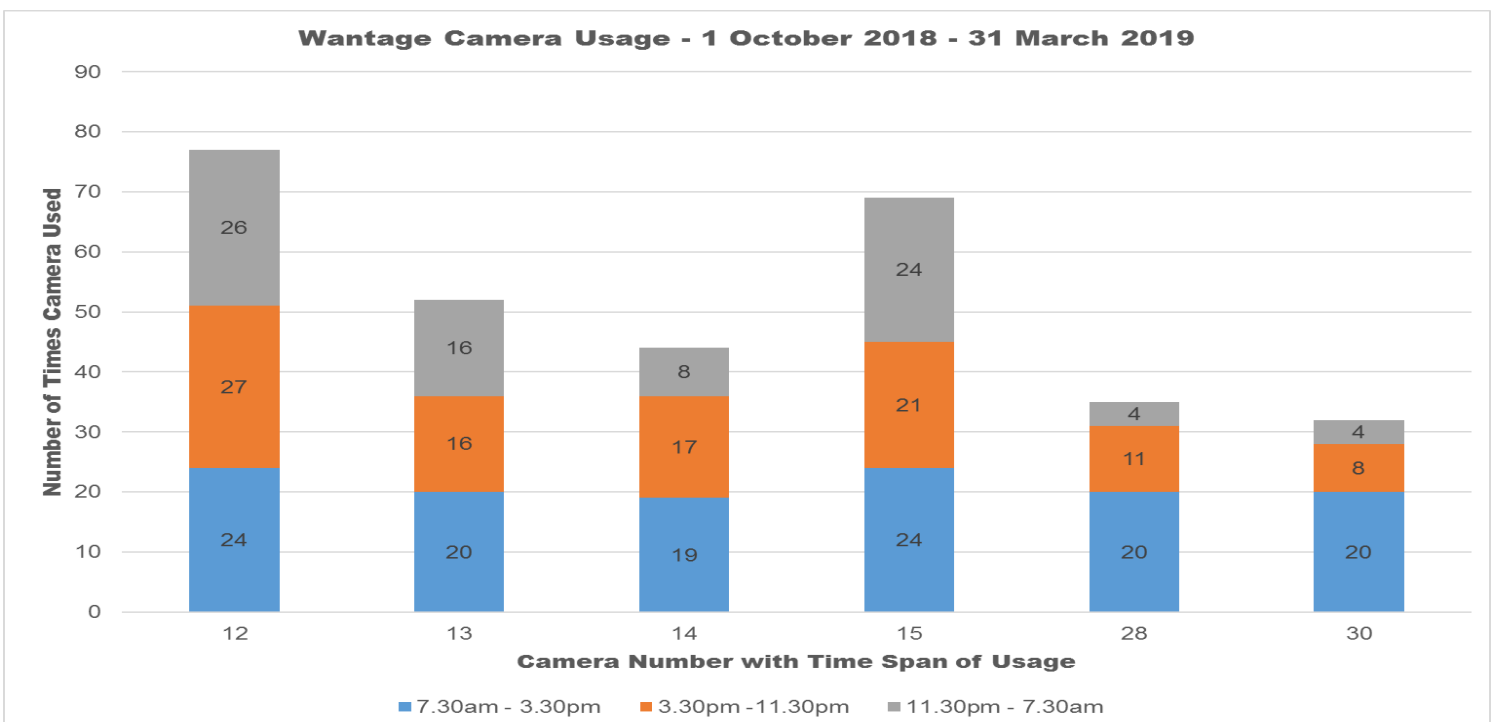
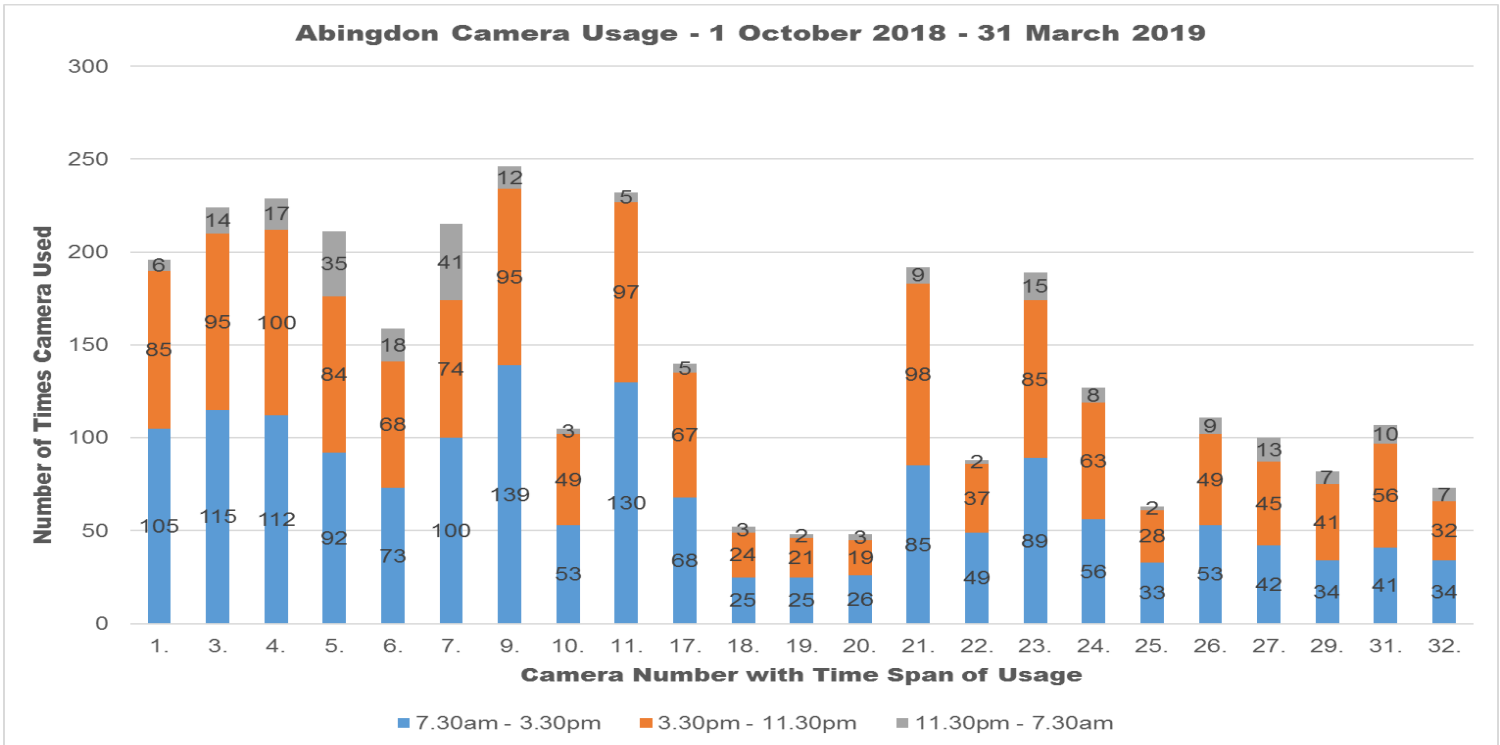


CAMERA USAGE

The following charts show camera usage for each town. These indicate the number of times that individual cameras are deployed in recorded, monitored events.

The number of times that each camera was used has been divided into three sections, covering a 24 hour period.

It is worth noting that for the period 11.30pm-7.30am, the vast majority of camera usage occurred between 11.30pm and 3.30am.

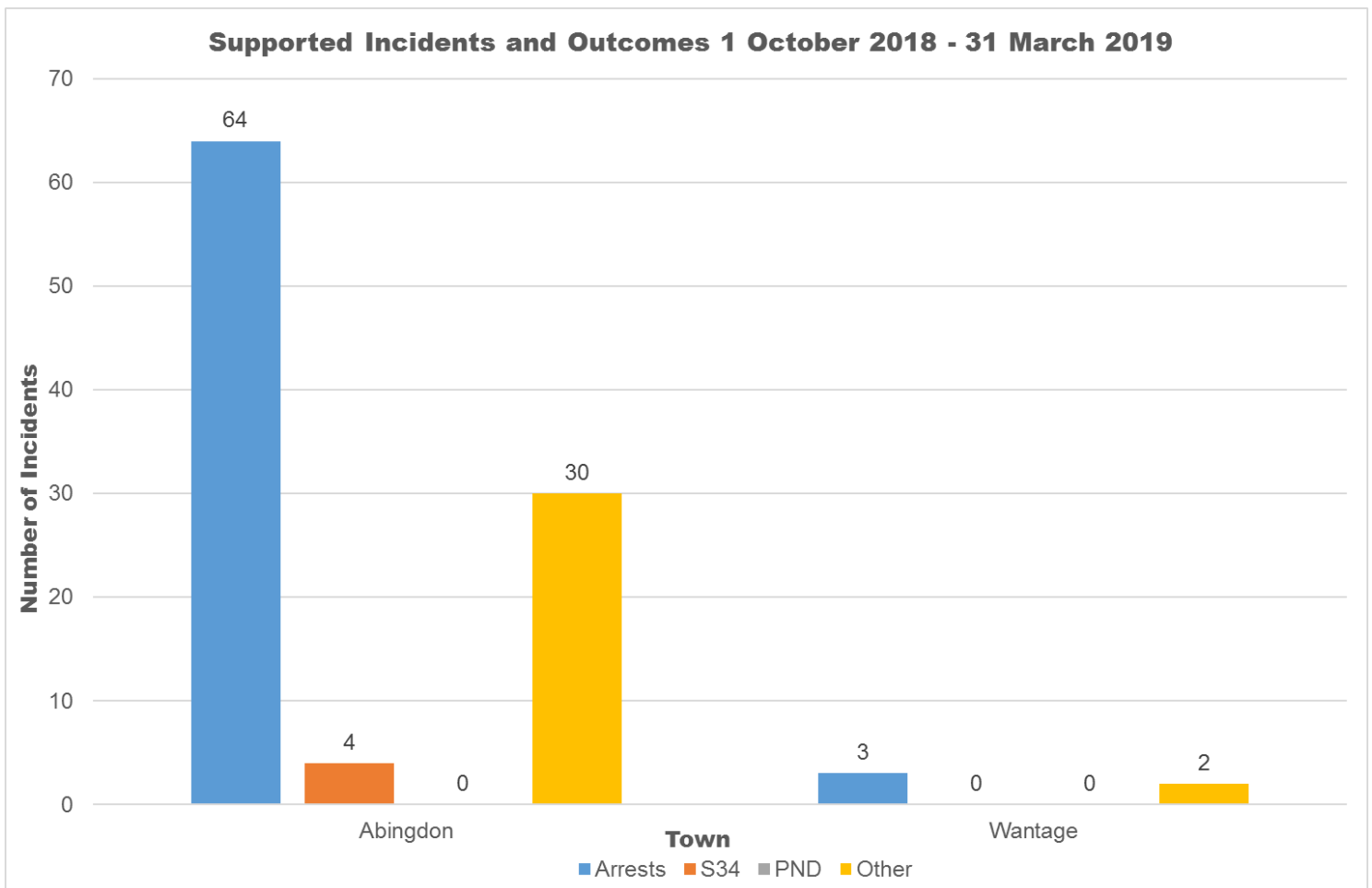


ARRESTS, SECTION 34S AND OTHER OUTCOMES

The chart below shows the outcomes the CCTV operators supported while involved in monitoring an incident. The police use their discretion on how an incident is resolved based on experience, the gravity of the offence, the resources that are available to them at that time and so on. Whilst we cannot always be certain whether CCTV was solely instrumental in an arrest or the serving of a Section 34 or a Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND), we do know the cameras alert police to incidents they may not have known about. CCTV also gives the police the ability to assess and allocate resources and priorities in real time e.g. should the situation allow, leaving CCTV to monitor incidents or offenders while officers attend other incidents.

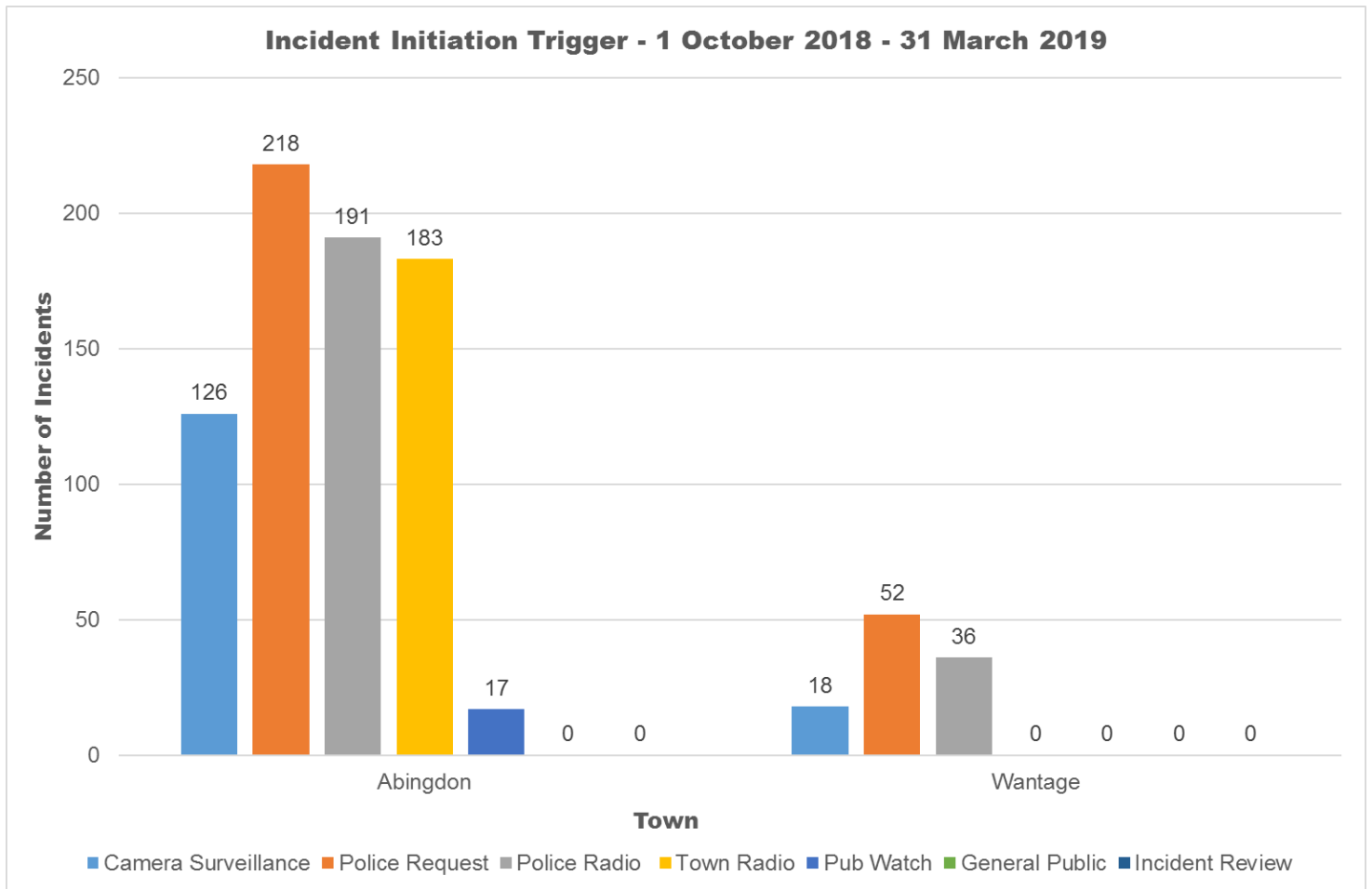
A Section 34 allows the police to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they believe the person poses a risk of anti-social behaviour disorder. A PND is an 'on the spot fine'

Actions on the chart designated 'other' usually means that the police either gave verbal advice or admonition or a non-recordable sanction, for example; replace items in a bin that had been kicked over.



HOW CCTV MONITORING WAS INITIATED

The chart below shows how many of the incidents monitored by CCTV were as a result of the following: a direct request from the police (police requests); the CCTV operator hearing about an incident on a police radio (police radio); request to review footage at the time of an incident (incident review); or initiated by the operator proactively patrolling the cameras (camera surveillance). Only Abingdon has a shop radio scheme.



REVIEWS AND EVIDENCE PACKS

When not tasked by police, the operators patrol all the cameras and focus on 'hotspot' areas. All cameras are recording 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are set in 'default' positions which are agreed with the police as the areas most likely to experience problems.

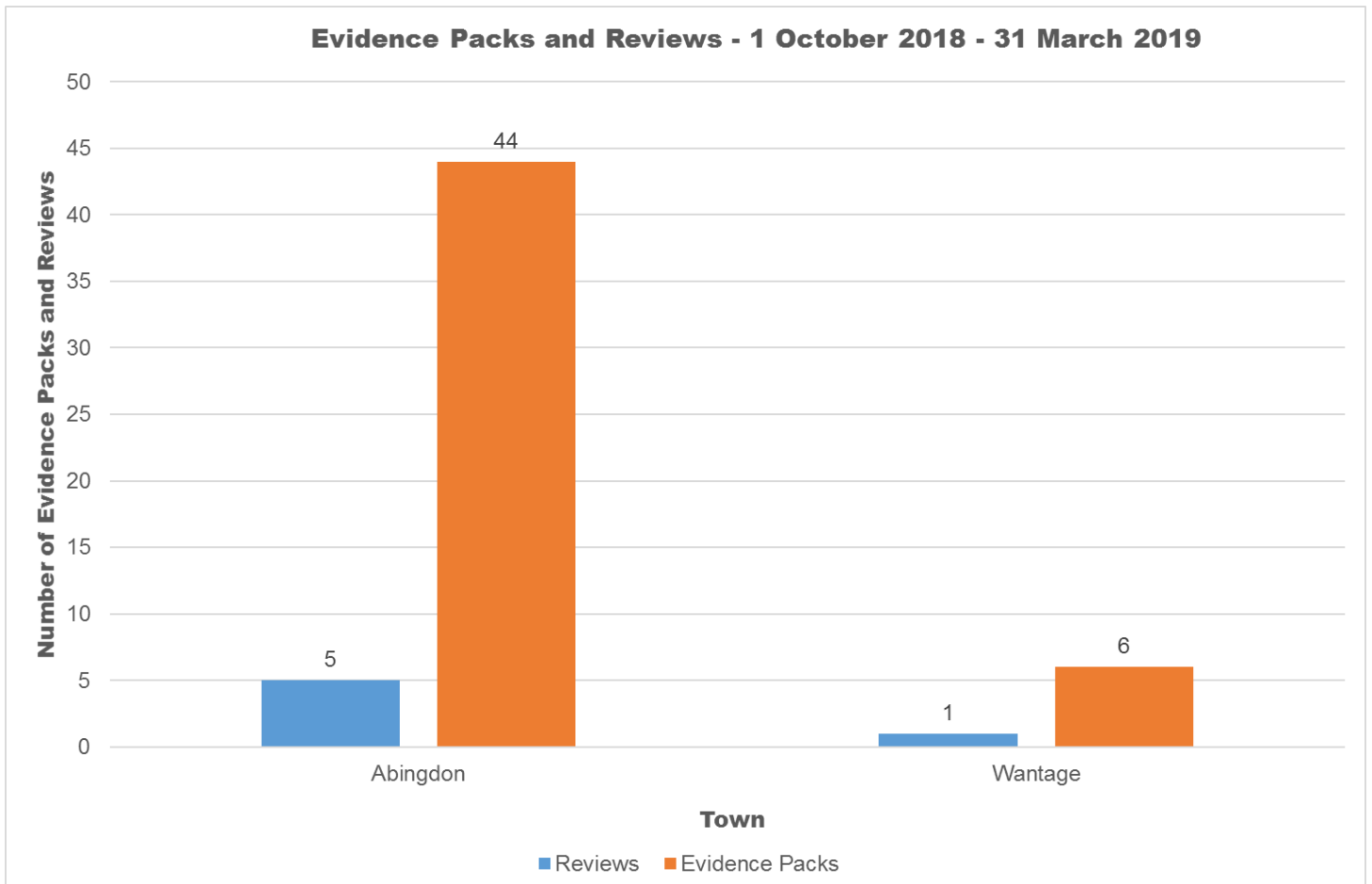
CCTV operators and the CCTV supervisor also respond to requests from members of the public and third parties under data protection legislation and subject access requests. The most common request is to examine car park or road cameras for evidence of 'non-stop road traffic collisions' in which the complainant's car has been damaged. All such requests are actioned and replies given. These are not included in the data below.

The chart below shows the number of evidence packs the CCTV operators put together and the number of evidence reviews undertaken as a result of formal written requests.

Evidence reviews are checks through historical material. The evidence packs are the recordings and statements which the CCTV operators produce for police, solicitors and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Activity that monitors past footage but does not result in an evidence pack being produced is termed 'a review'. This may be, for example, that the footage does not show an event clearly enough to warrant making a permanent DVD copy for evidential use.

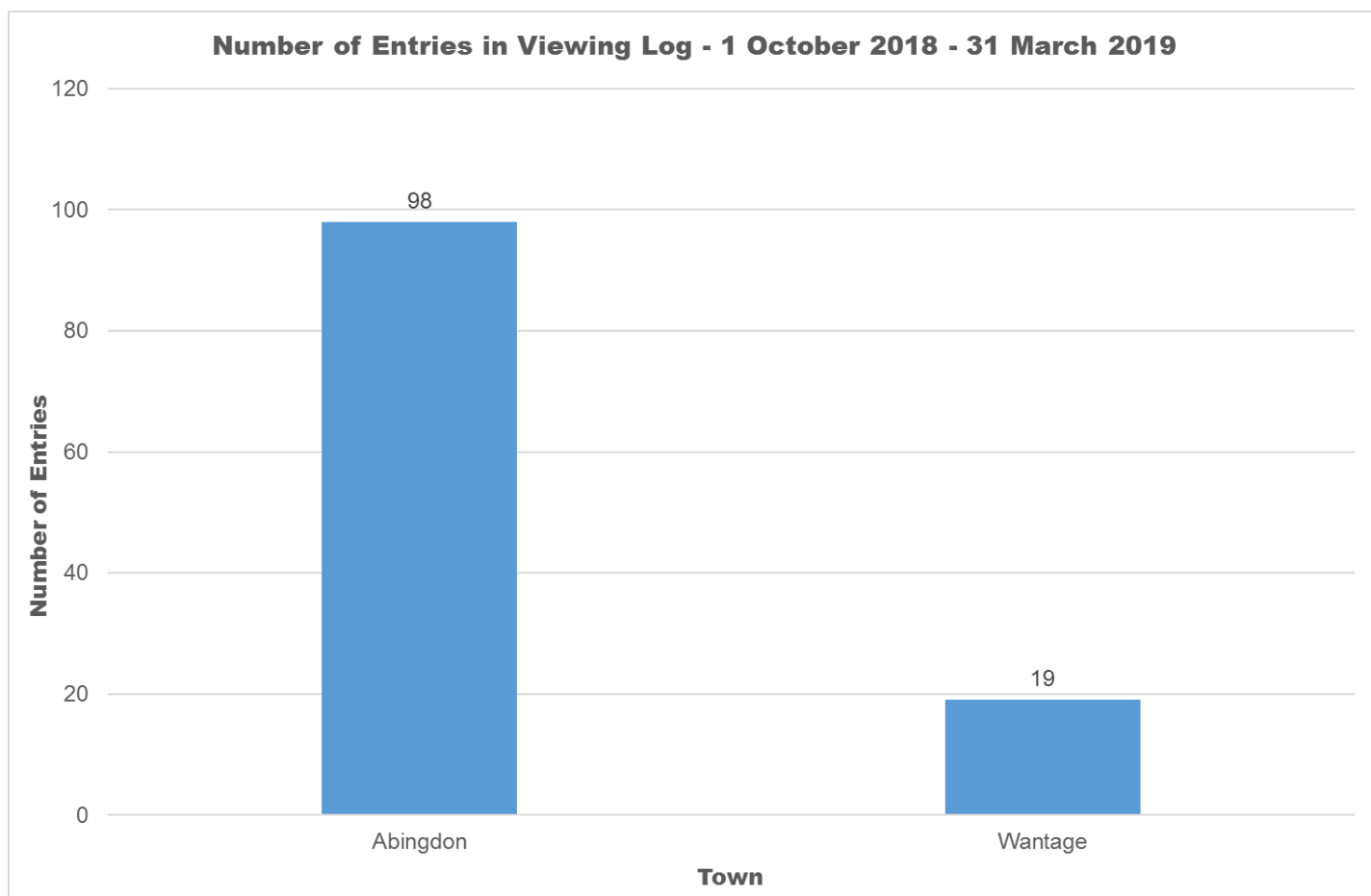
One of the greatest advantages of CCTV footage is in obtaining a guilty plea at the early interview stage. For many offences this early admission is due to the offence being captured clearly on camera and saves the expense of full trial at either magistrates or crown court.



VIEWING LOG

When authorised personnel (e.g. police officers) visit the CCTV room to view footage, the details are entered into a viewing log. The following chart reflects the number of times this occurred between October 2018 and March 2019 across the two towns.

N.B. These visits may or may not be followed by a formal written request for footage.



CASE STUDIES

The following examples of incidents dealt with by CCTV operators from October 2018 to the end of March 2019 were initiated by police requests, police radio monitoring, shop/pub watch radio reports and operator surveillance.

Abingdon

Our operator was able to identify and locate two men who had just shoplifted from a town centre business. Details were passed to the police control centre and officers in the vicinity were alerted. Despite several attempts to avoid being detained, the two men were caught with several items that they couldn't account for and were arrested on suspicion of shoplifting.

Our operator heard of a fight taking place in a location outside the town centre and was able to monitor the ongoing situation. Officers arrived on scene and were able to calm the perpetrators. Our operator was able to review the camera footage and relay an exact account of what had happened to the officers via the police air waves. As a result, one man was arrested.

In the course of routine monitoring, our operator noticed a man in the town centre drinking alcohol from an open can and shouting at passers-by. From information given to us by the police our operator was able to confirm that the man was breaking a behaviour order served against him on a previous occasion. The police control centre was alerted, officers attended and the man was arrested.

Wantage

The police control centre had received a report of a man in the Market Place who was displaying threatening behaviour. From the details given, our operator was able to locate the man and monitor his movements until officers arrived on scene. Under guidance from our operator, the officers located the man in a local shopping arcade and he was detained.

During the course of routine monitoring, our operator recognised a man who was wanted in connection with a previous offence and alerted the police control centre. The man made off when he saw police officers attending but after a prolonged pursuit, with running commentary from our operator and officers on the ground, the man was detained and arrested.

The police control centre requested that our operator locate a vehicle parked in the town centre. The vehicle had been reported to be parked dangerously close to a pedestrian crossing. Our operator was able to pass details of the vehicle and confirm that it was parked on zig-zag lines. By reviewing camera footage and confirming that the vehicle had been there for approximately an hour, we were able to assist the police in making further inquiries.

Date of report: April 2019

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