

Fast Facts

It is accepted that CCTV alone cannot reduce or detect crime. But used proportionately, and in conjunction with other appropriate crime and disorder stakeholders, it can greatly assist in the detection of offenders.

In December 2007, a London local authority public space CCTV operators spotted a male with a fire arm , he was seen firing the weapon in the area. Police were informed and resources deployed. The CCTV operators monitored the suspect until he got into a car the details of which were passed to the police. Shortly after, he was arrested.

During the last three months in 2008 CCTV operators have helped police arrest 35 people in an area administered by [South Oxfordshire District Council](#). A council spokesperson said the cameras had been used to help officers deal with more than 150 incidents in that area during that period. The footage resulted in 35 arrests, and resulted in 26 evidence packs being produced for court cases.

A Surrey local authority released figures showing that between April 2008 and March 2009, 1,100 incidents were detected by their public space CCTV cameras operating in their area. Police attended on over 750 occasions and made 280 arrests.

During a Suffolk Police's investigation into the murders of 5 prostitutes in the Ipswich area, the Senior Investigating Officer commented that CCTV played a crucial part in locating the offender within the Ipswich red light district on critical nights and, supported by other forms of conventional forensic evidence, led to his conviction.

Hartlepool's public space CCTV system is proving a winner at beating crime. Figures show that in an 18 month period more than 500 people were arrested after being captured on their public space CCTV cameras. Studies also show that the people of Hartlepool are right behind the CCTV network – and most of them wish they could have a CCTV camera near their home.

In May 2007, a mother-of-two was found dead on a towpath beside a river in the centre of Colchester. She had suffered 22 separate injuries and had also been indecently assaulted. Police scoured hours of CCTV footage from cameras in the town centre. Eventually, they found her killers, one of whom was only 13 years old. The police said they were shocked to discover the age of the suspects, considering the injuries the victim had sustained. The 13 year old and his 16-year-old friend both denied killing the lady. But they were both convicted at Chelmsford Crown Court. Passing sentence, the judge stated that the perpetrators were only brought to justice because of CCTV. He said- ***"opponents of surveillance should take note."***

Three CCTV operators have been commended by Camden police for their help in convicting drug dealers in Camden Town. The trio collected the evidence showing drug deals taking place, which was vital in securing the convictions of the dealers. A local councillor said "I would like to commend the work of the CCTV operators who worked with the police to gather vital evidence. The Council and the police are committed to keeping drugs out of Camden Town, and this operation shows how working in partnership produces excellent results."

In May 2006 a Metropolitan Police Special Police Constable, was stabbed once in the groin area and later died at Northwick Park Hospital. The attack took place at her home. Searches within the range of the house resulted in a 10-inch kitchen knife being found in a street drain outside a tile shop. Forensic examination of the knife revealed the victim's blood but nothing that would identify the attacker. Enquiries were made at the tile shop and CCTV was retrieved. Footage of this CCTV revealed that within minutes of the

