



City Centre Initiative

City Centre Closed Circuit Television

Annual Report – Year 6

17 December 2006 to 17 December 2007



City Centre Initiative

On behalf of the Officers and Board of City Centre Initiative, I pleased to present this 6th Annual Report of the Closed Circuit Television system in Derry City Centre.

This 6th Annual report again demonstrates the positive contribution which the City Centre CCTV system makes towards a package of measures to improve community safety within the commercial heart of the City.

CCTV is an essential tool in managing what is a complex and difficult public space. Derry~Londonderry City Centre is the most important economic area in the North West. It is a centre for commercial and for tourism and it needs managed to ensure that it maximises its business, employment and investment potential. In order for this to be achieved, it is important that there is investment in clean, safe and friendly programmes.

CCTV continues to be a success thanks to our staff, our funding and governance partners including the PSNI, the Police Ombudsman's Office and individual traders and door staff has enabled the system to swiftly assist in intervening in incidents when they happen. Without their support, this important project would not be possible and would not be successful. CCTV cannot in itself resolve all the problems associated with modern City Centre's, but when combined with effective interventions, it is a highly powerful tool.

CCTV, whilst led by CCI, is a partnership. Its success remains possible because of this partnership approach. Whilst the City still faces community safety and crime problems, this project and others such as the City Centre assaults strategy and the partnership protocols on hate crimes has demonstrated that difficult issues can be address where there is a concerted and collective approach to bringing about change.

City Centre Initiative is pleased that Derry City Council have demonstrated that they want to improve the City Centre and deal with the issues that face all towns and cities across Britain and Ireland. Their support for the system is critical to the success and sustainability of the project.

I commend this report and look forward to working with you in making the City Centre a more clean, safe and friendly place.

Brendan Duddy
Chairman

Background

In 1999 a Community Safety Audit of Derry~Londonderry was commissioned by a cross sector group representing Derry City Council, North West Development Office and the Community and Business Sector. The audit involved extensive crime pattern analysis, action-planning workshops with key statutory and voluntary agencies, and surveys of businesses and the community using the city centre. The Community Safety Audit recommended that a CCTV Scheme be introduced into the city.

In May 2000, funding opportunities for CCTV Schemes arose via round two of the Town Centre CCTV Challenge Competition, launched by the former Police Authority for Northern Ireland (PANI).

One of the criteria for funding was that the bid be made by a public/private Partnership. After discussion at Council, it was recommended that Derry City Council establish such a partnership and enable City Centre Initiative to prepare a bid for funding.

Subsequently the Partnership was formed comprising of representatives from four agencies, namely Derry City Council, North West Development Office, City Centre Initiative and the Chamber of Commerce.

The bid was successful in securing £450,000 from PANI for a 26-camera scheme with an overall capital and 2 years operational budget of £720,000. The shortfall in funding was to be shared equally by Derry City Council, North West Development Office and local businesses.

The purpose of the Scheme was to create a safe and secure environment for all those who visit, live, work and do business in Derry-Londonderry City Centre by:

- Reducing fear of crime and reassuring the public
- Projecting an image as a safe city
- Helping to prevent crime
- Deterring and detecting crime
- Helping to identify, apprehend and prosecute offenders
- Providing evidence of criminal and civil action in the courts
- Helping to maintain public order
- Assisting in the management and policing of large-scale events
- Providing assistance to emergency services
- Assisting in improving the town centre environment

City Centre Initiative appointed a technical expert and ADT were selected as a suitable contractor for the supply and installation of the cameras and associated hardware.

Planning permission was sought and granted for the 26 cameras, following some debate regarding the visual impact of cameras within the city's Conservation area.

After considering various models, the CCTV Partnership engaged Remploy Ltd and its local partner Ulster Supported Employment (USEL) to monitor the city centre cameras. Remploy has vast experience in managing CCTV Schemes and also provided comprehensive training programmes for monitoring staff supplied by USEL, under their supported employment programme for local people with disabilities.

During 2001, CCI consulted with the public to assist in the compilation of the Code of Practice. This process involved:

- Advertisements in local newspapers
- Public Survey
- Website
- Consultation seminars with city centre residents, local community and voluntary groups, together with a number of at risk groups

The Code of Practice enshrines the principles of Human Rights legislation and was formally adopted by Derry City Council in September 2001.

Nick Ross, Journalist and Broadcaster successfully launched the CCTV Scheme on 10th December 2001, 18 months after the CCTV Partnership was formed,

Introduction

This Annual Report details the operation and management of the city centre closed circuit television (CCTV) scheme operating in Derry-Londonderry in Year 6 (December 2006 – December 2007). The scheme is owned and directed by City Centre Initiative in compliance with its CCTV Code of Practice first adopted in September 2001.

In its CCTV Code of Practice, City Centre Initiative (CCI) states:

“Annual Report on the Scheme should be published.” The Annual Report will be made available on www.cciderry.com

In fulfilling this commitment, CCI reiterates that it:

“places high priority on openness and accountability. The principle should be that every partner organisation should be accountable for their duty of care for the proper management of the CCTV Code of Practice.” (Para 11.1)

This Annual Report sets out to fulfil commitments made to people in Derry-Londonderry through Derry City Council in the CCTV Code of Practice, as follows:

- The Code of Practice has not been changed though 2007. Significant changes will be made throughout 2008 which will reflect changes imposed by the installation of updated equipment. The COP will be made available on www.cciderry.com.

CCI will go further in this Annual Report, providing an overview of the operation and management and indications of the scheme's impact on crime and disorder in the city centre. The Annual Report will:

- Analyse yearly operational statistical information;
- Review access by PSNI and the Police Ombudsman and compliance with the Code of Practice by these bodies;
- Provide details of evaluation of the system
- Assess available crime statistics for the city centre

While it is not intended that this report should be a 'root-and-branch' review of the scheme, it is intended to be an exercise in openness and transparency, recognising continued public interest and attention.

Managing the monitoring operation

As previously stated, City Centre Initiative sub-contracted the monitoring operations to Remploy and its local partner, Ulster Supported Employment Limited (USEL).

City Centre Initiative is the Data Controller of the CCTV Scheme and has registered the Scheme with the Information Commissioner (Registration Number Z9494553). CCI ensure that the scheme is fully and continuously compliant with the legal requirements of the Data Protection Act (1998), with the assistance of Remploy, who have extensive experience in managing CCTV monitoring operations.

CCI has developed a complaints procedure, which is included in the Code of Practice. The procedure complies with the Data Protection Act (1998). To this point, no formal complaints have been received by CCI.

The Code of Practice acknowledges that PSNI access will be bound by provisions under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), which gives PSNI authority to undertake surveillance operations. PSNI have not made any requests under RIPA.

Formal protocols have also been agreed with all Emergency Services should Monitoring Station staff view an emergency situation.

CCI have contracted Ulster Support Employment Ltd (USEL) to employ and supervise staff, with Remploy Ltd advising CCI on the provision of training required. During this period, USEL continued to employ 5 members of staff including a Monitoring Manager, under its supported-employment programme, aimed at people with disabilities.

CCI are happy to report that all staff passed the CCTV Induction Training Course and have attained the City & Guilds Foundation course in CCTV Operator Skills through Clydebank College.

CCI are committed to a programme of continuous competency training for all of those involved in the CCTV Monitoring Station. Staff completed City & Guilds qualification (Reference 7298) in 2003. Remploy and USEL will seek to enhance the competencies of the staff through adherence to the national standards in CCTV monitoring, through the National Vocational Qualification LEVEL 2 in CCTV monitoring. All fulltime members of staff have been successful in the City & Guilds exams.

Remploy has provided briefings to both the Police Ombudsman's officials and PSNI Officers, which led to the development of protocols in accessing CCTV, taped information. Station staff have facilitated viewings by PSNI, Police Ombudsman's office and third parties as directed by CCI. Staff have assisted in 'live' viewings by key interests including schools and youth organisations as part of awareness raising purposes.

The CCTV System and Monitoring Staff have played an important role working with emergency services to manage major public events such as the Halloween festival. The above remains the same and CCTV is recognised as an essential part of planning and management of these events.

Monitoring Review

This review highlights the following:

- Reportable incidents detected by staff
- Links provided to PSNI, Strand Road
- Police requests to view CCTV tapes/discs (incidents)
- Number of evidential tapes/discs/discs produced following police viewings of CCTV tapes/discs/discs
- Reasons for request for CCTV tape viewing by PSNI
- Analysis of PSNI requests by crime under investigation
- Trends in relation to assaults, public offences and thefts and robberies
- Profile of time period of observed/recorded occurrences
- Average number of incidents per month by location of incidents observed/recorded

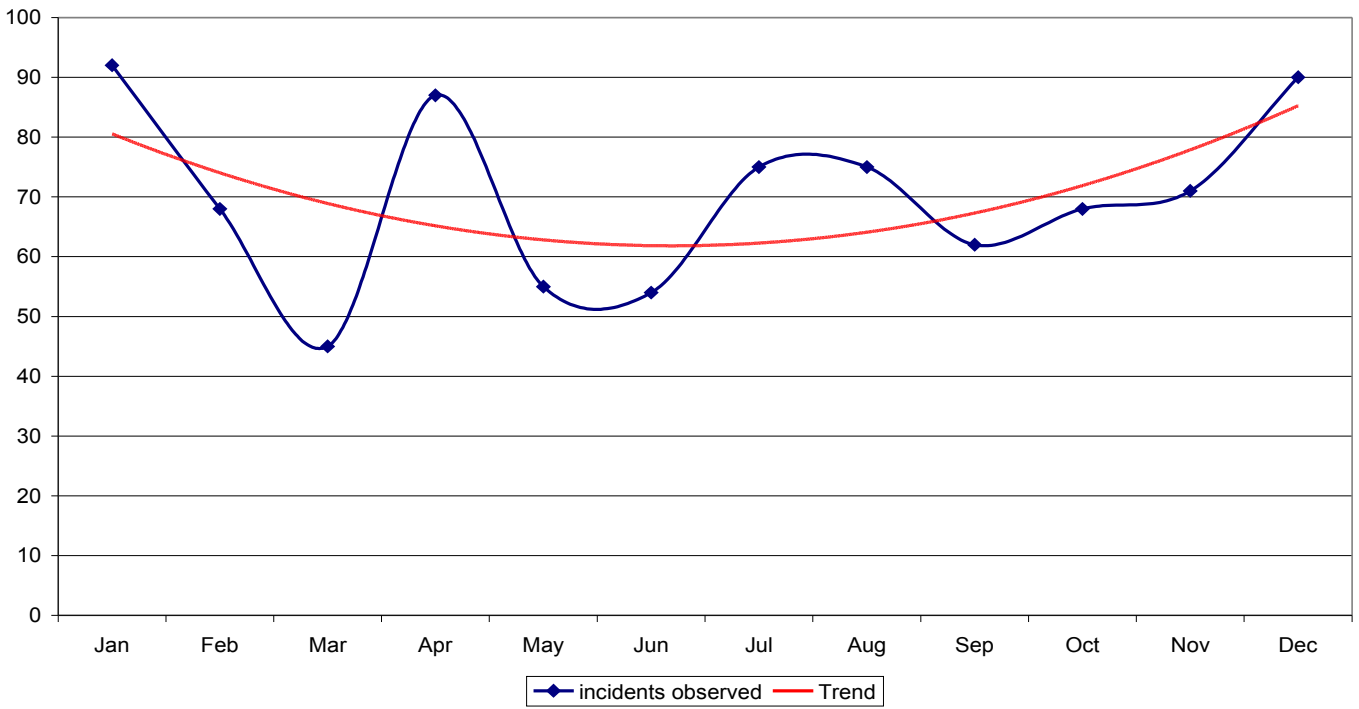
CITY CENTRE INITIATIVE LTD TOOK RESPONSIBILITY in July 2007 FOR MONITORING 8 ADDITIONAL "INTERFACE CAMERAS" ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AND PSNI. THESE DO NOT AFFECT ANY FIGURES SUPPLIED IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

The Monitoring Station observed 1,154 occurrences during the period December 2006 to December 2007 – about 22 occurrences on average per week. **This is only 2 occurrences less than last year.** (Previous year saw a 26% reduction).

These occurrences relate to 842 reportable incidents – an average of just over 16 per week. **This is up on the previous year by 96 incidents which equates to almost 13% more reportable incidents this year.**

Reportable incidents detected represent those incidents viewed by the CCTV Monitoring Station and subsequently reported to police.

Graph 1: Reportable incidents detected by Monitoring Station staff

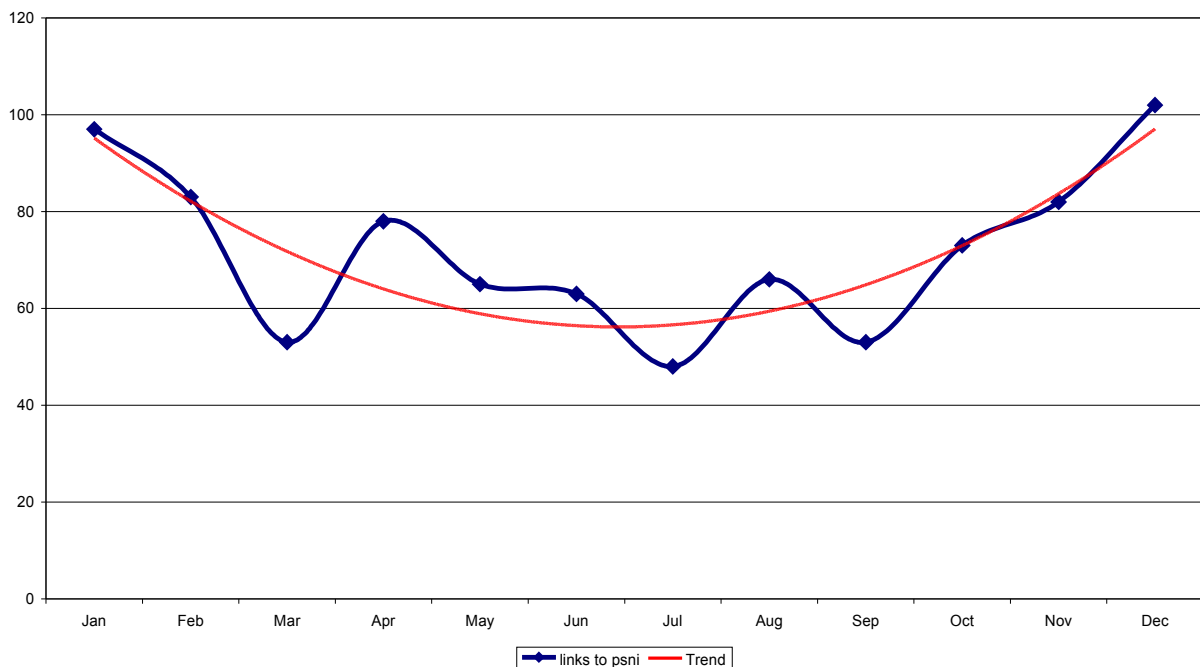


The 13% increase of reportable incidents over the year is more evidence that crime and problems within the City Centre seem to have levelled out after several years of the figures continually reducing. The partnership approach (by business, the PSNI, vintners, Council and others) to collectively manage and improve behaviour continues to have noticeable effects. There is a real sense of collective responsibility and improved and clear communication has enabled issues to be resolved and interventions put in place to prevent difficulties.

Links to PSNI

A view-only monitor has been placed in PSNI Strand Road Station to provide live pictures of incidents at the discretion of monitoring staff. **During the year, a total of 863 links were made to the PSNI (down 81 links which is almost 9% on the previous year)** – about 17 links per week on average (down from on average 18 in the previous year). Links are predominantly initiated by CCI CCTV Monitoring Station staff.

Graph 2: Links provided to PSNI

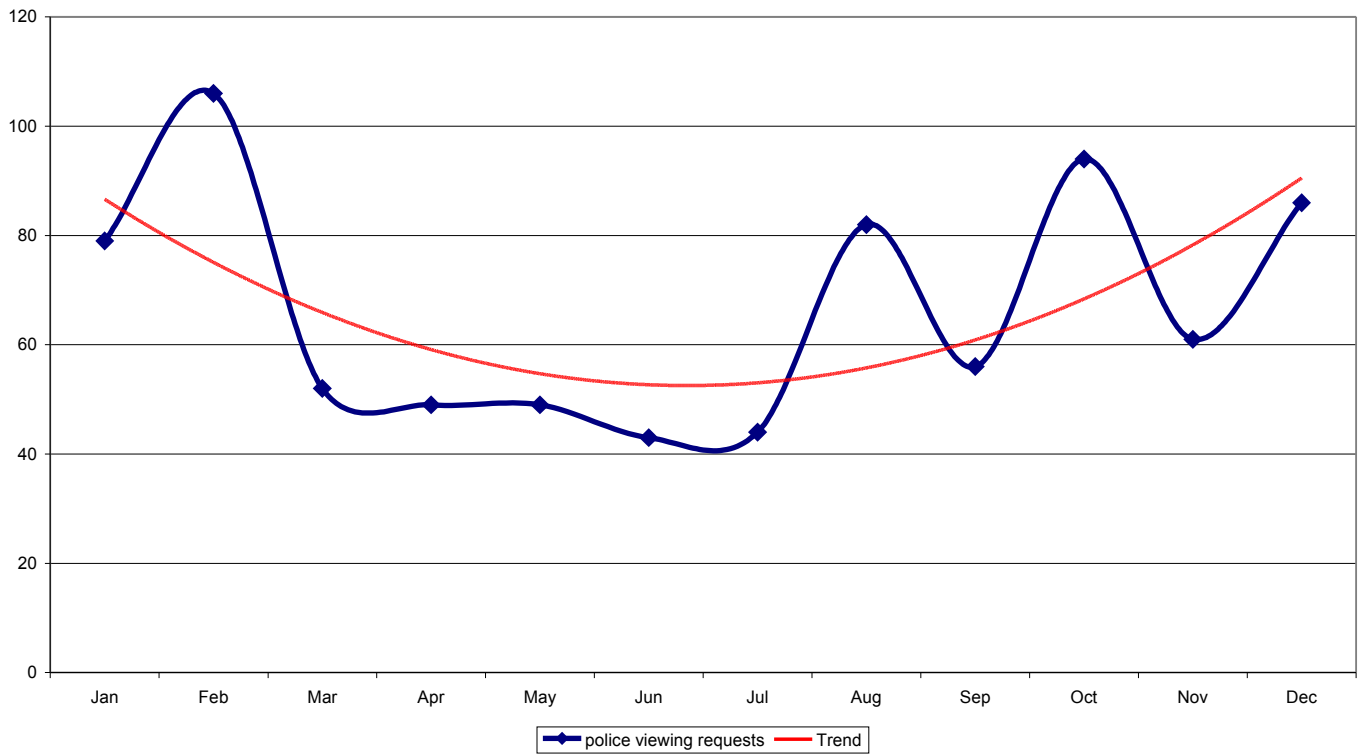


Viewing Requests

Police make requests to the Monitoring Manager to view CCTV tapes/discs in relation to their investigations. **Police viewing requests totalled 801. This is down by 17% (from 968) on the previous year.** This indicates confidence on the quality of CCTV footage as evidence by investigating officers and/or an increased dependence on CCTV as PSNI resources become more stretched.

It should be noted that several viewing requests may relate to one incident, covered by two or more cameras and the PSNI would make requests relating to incidents which may not have been captured by CCTV monitoring staff.

Graph 3: Police requests to view CCTV tapes/discs/discs

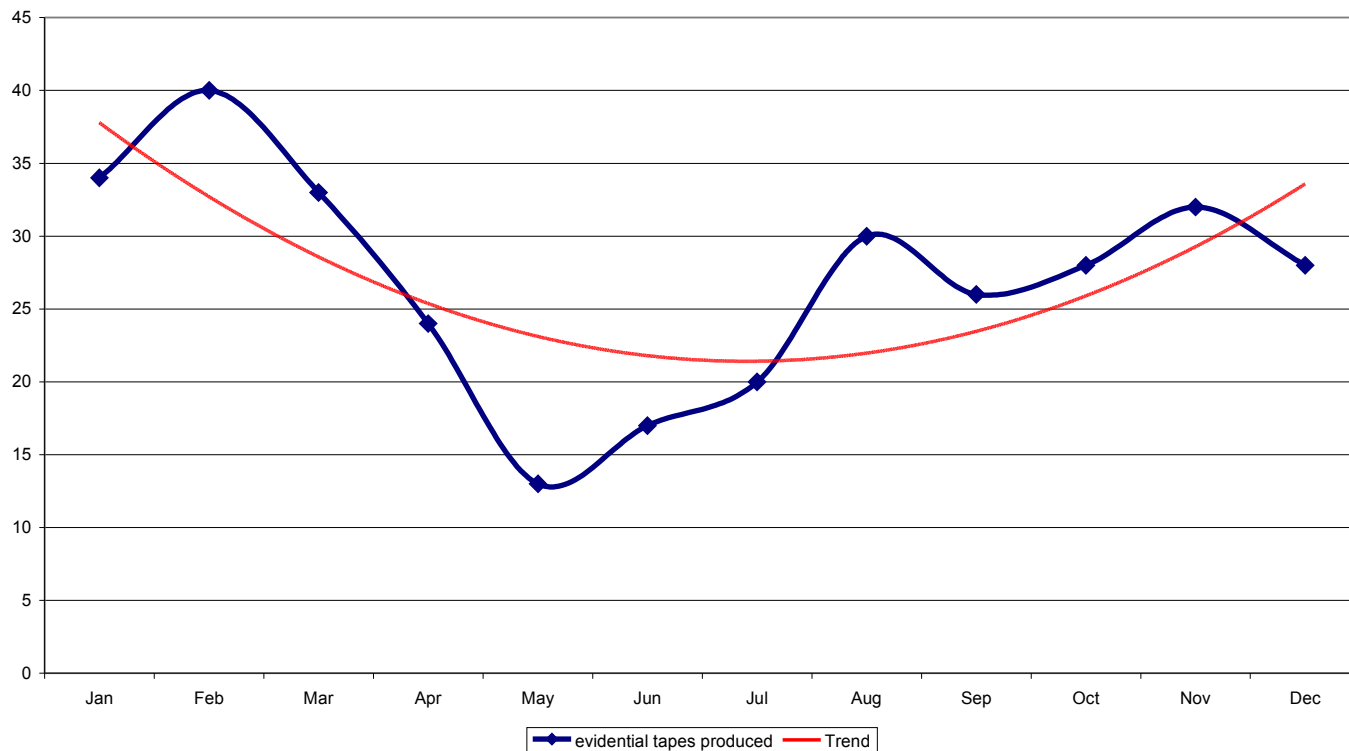


Evidential Tapes/discs/discs

325 evidential tapes/discs were produced for police an increase by just 1% on the previous year. It should be noted that crimes under investigation can result in more that one tape/disc being produced.

The regulations surrounding this process are governed by the Code of Practice, which complies with the Data Protection Act and Human Rights Act.

Graph 4: Number of evidential tapes/discs produced following police viewings of CCTV tapes/discs



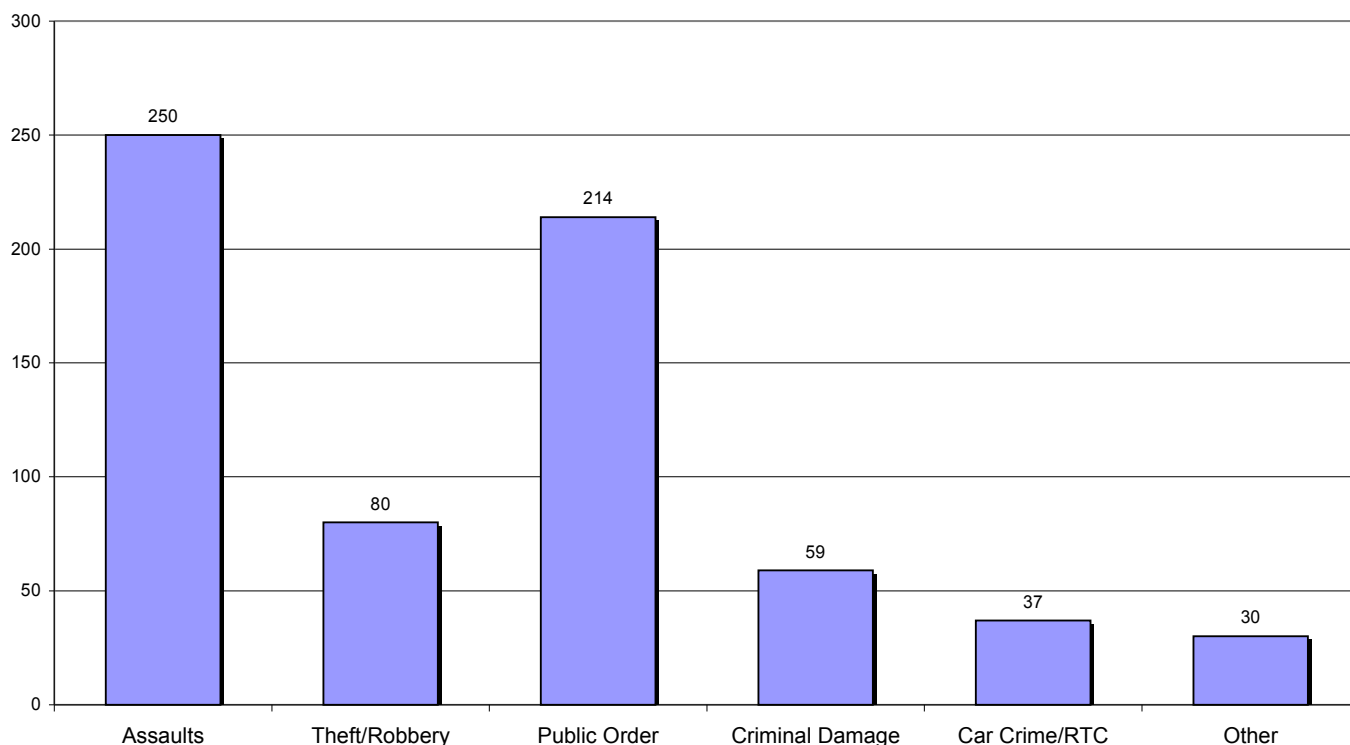
The quality of material obtained by our civilian staff continues to be essential in providing clarity and certainty in police and ombudsman investigations. It is important to note that some incidents may have been recorded on several cameras and require several tapes/discs.

Individual Crime Areas

In the following tables, the figures for Assaults relate to enquiries received from the PSNI in conjunction with reports of assault made to the PSNI. These reports are people, or their legal representatives making a complaint of an assault, which the PSNI are required to investigate. Public order requests relate to incidents such as bottle throwing, urination in public etc. So, the assaults figures relate to complaints made by people approaching the PSNI and public order relate to the PSNI or CCTV witnessed an incident.

All the figures relate solely to areas covered by the CCTV system and not the entire police sector.

Graph 5: Reasons for request for CCTV tape viewing by PSNI



(The 'Other' column relates to a combination of incidents including sexual crimes, use of weapons, drugs, murder, attempted suicide, cruelty, arson, person found injured, unfit driver, malicious 999 call or suspicious behaviour)

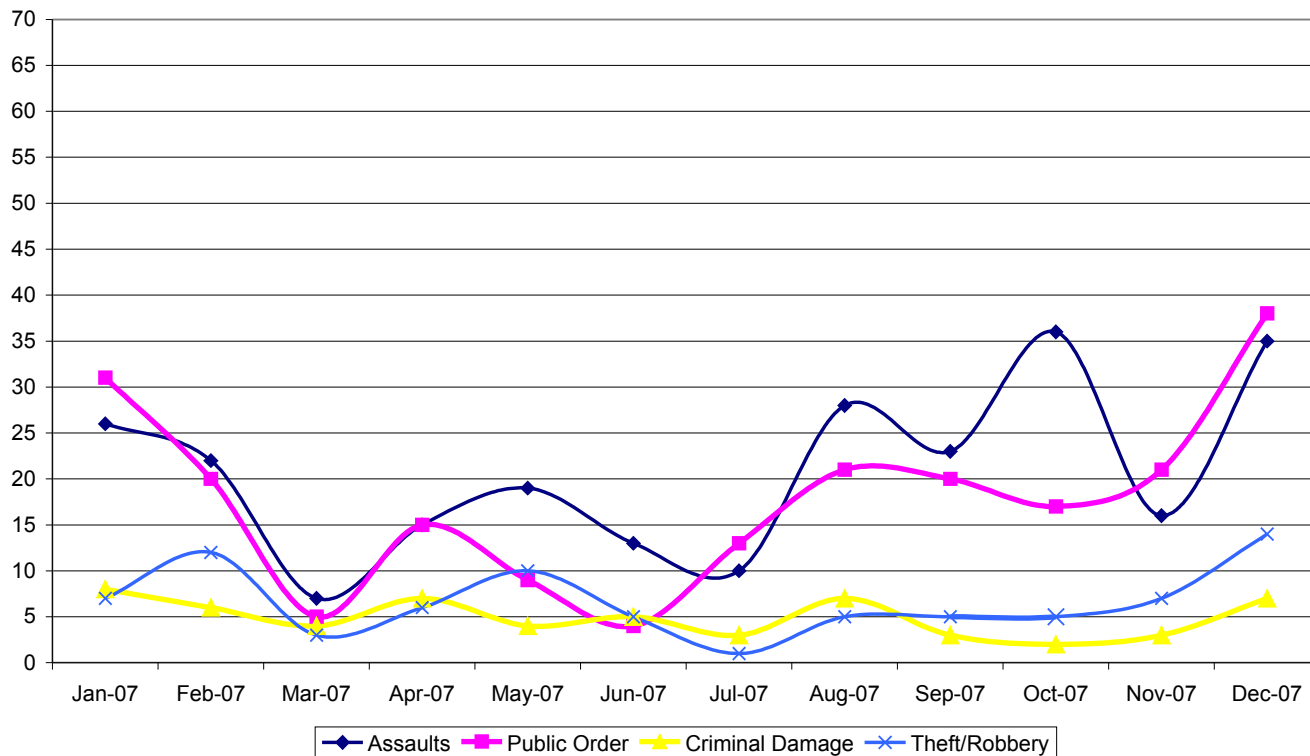
The PSNI requests for CCTV tapes/discs for investigations into allegations of assault are down 25%. There are also significant drops in requests relating to Thefts and Robberies (down almost 53%), Public Order investigations (down over 29%) and Criminal Damage investigations (down 30%).

The following graph compares the figures in relation to the 4 most common crimes.

Trends

The interesting analysis of this graph is the rise in incidents investigated around celebrations and other significant dates.

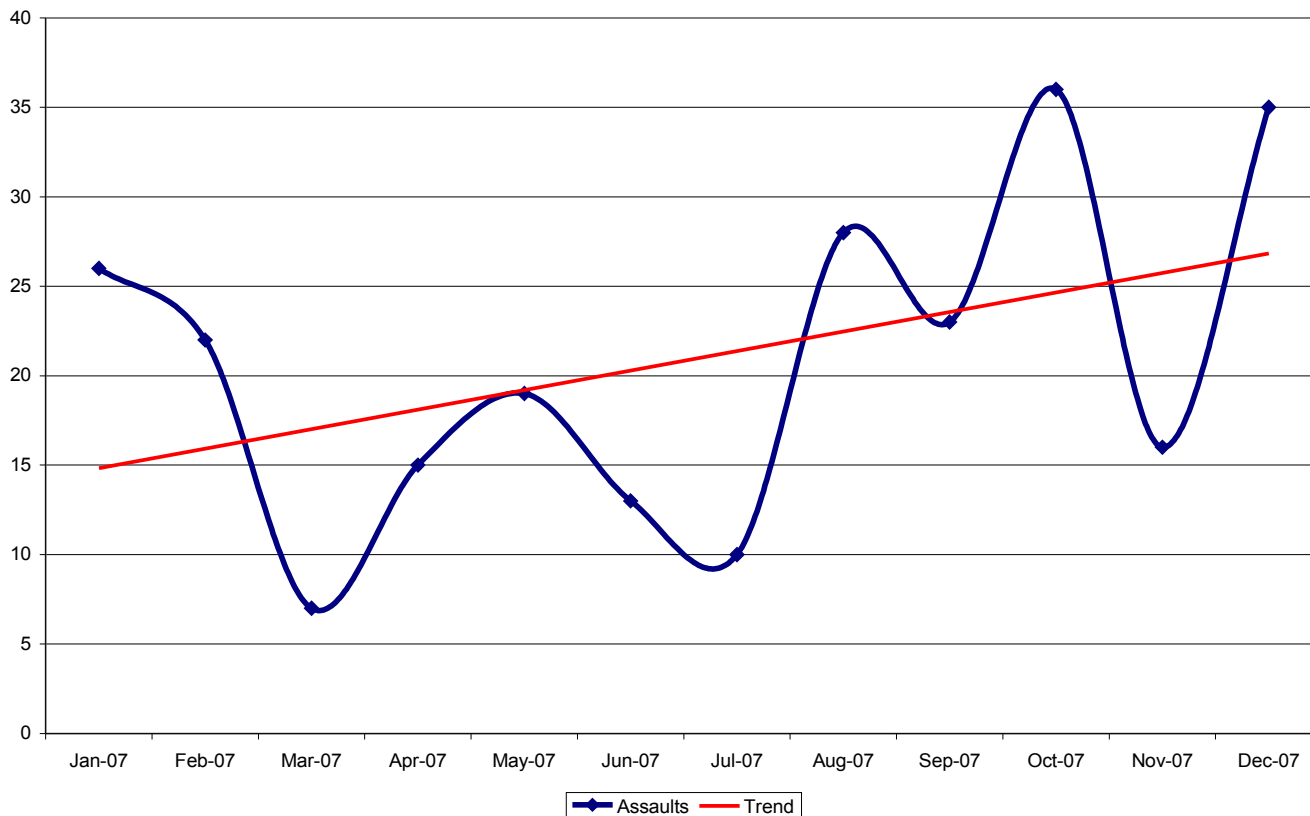
Graph 6: Analysis of PSNI requests by crime under investigation for the four largest crimes



In order to get some sense of the behaviour within the city, to remove the distortion brought about by the peaks and troughs, CCI has further analysed these figures to gather trends in relation to particular city centre crimes under investigation by PSNI. CCI highlights three-monthly trends for the following:

- Assaults
- Public order offences
- Theft/robbery

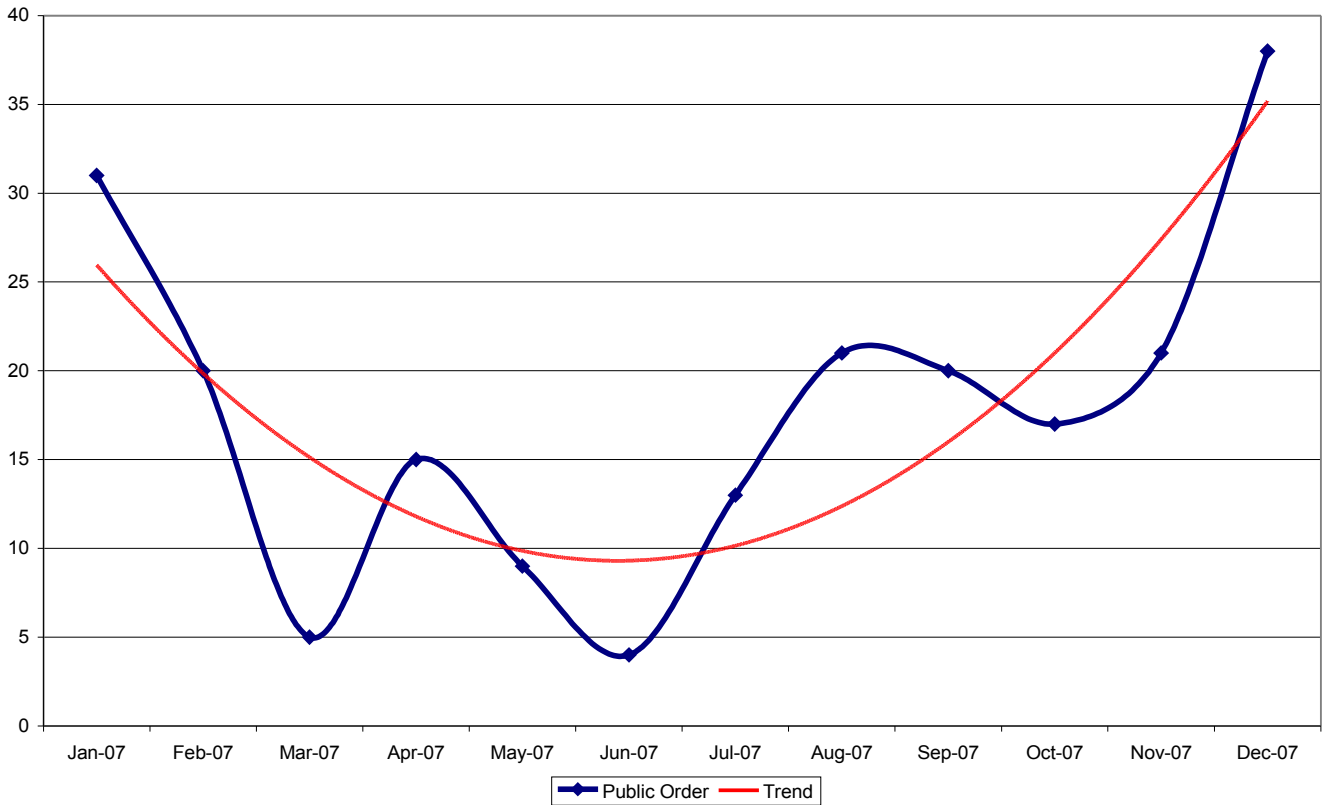
Graph 7: Trend in relation to assaults under investigation by PSNI for which CCTV evidence was requested



Requests for tapes/discs relating to allegations of assaults have largely remained static during this reported year. November had the least requests having seen a real 'spike' in previous years. This reflects the much improved management of the Halloween Festival in 2007.

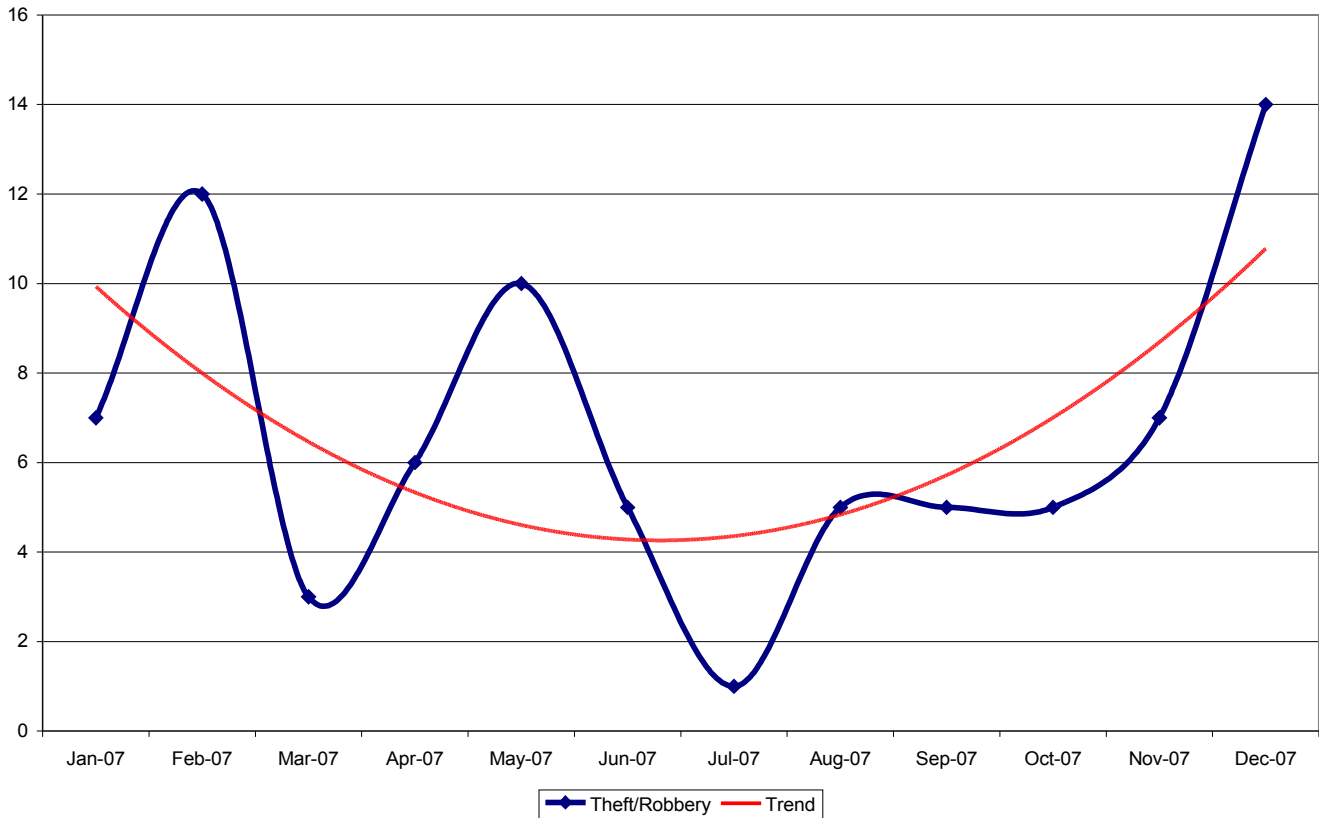
Graph 8: Trend in relation to public order offences under investigation by PSNI

for which CCTV evidence requested



Requests relating to Public Order incidents were down 19% across the year. Again, April, August and December saw significant 'spikes' which included 11 tapes/discs relating to sectarian fighting along the city centre interface area.

Graph 9: Trend in relation to theft and robberies under investigation by PSNI for which CCTV evidence requested



Requests relating to Thefts and Robberies were comparable the previous year. The usual peak December is relates to the Xmas/New Year Sales but the peak in June relates to schools leaving and/or study leave from local schools.

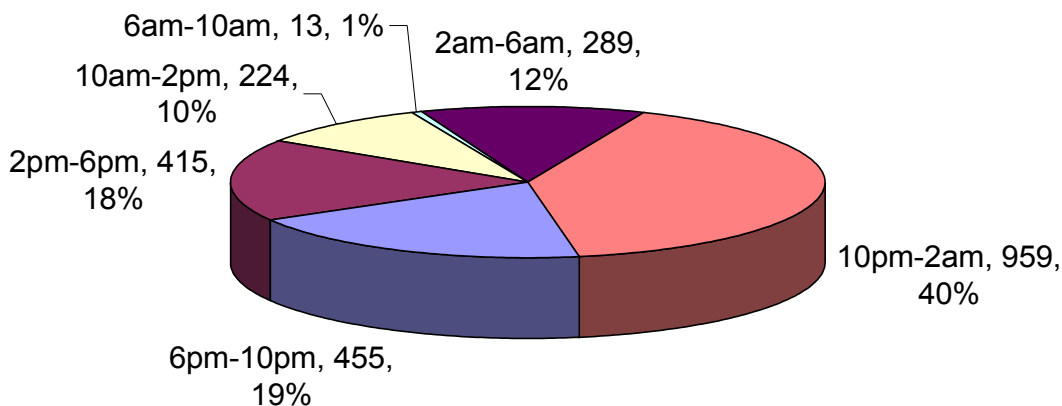
It is significant to note that the CCTV system operates with the support of the Shop Alert radio scheme, which connects now almost 60 City Centre retailers, and the control rooms of Foyleside and Richmond Centre with the CCTV monitoring system.

This co-operation has increased over the last couple of years and retailers recognise the important input that the CCTV monitoring staff have in alerting about potential trouble and indeed ensuring the safe recovery of stolen property.

Time Profile

Monitoring staff have recorded the time of observed/recorded incidents for the 12 month period. The profile of this is outlined by the diagram below:

Graph 10: Profile of time period of observed/recorded occurrences



There is no significant change in this profile from the previous year.

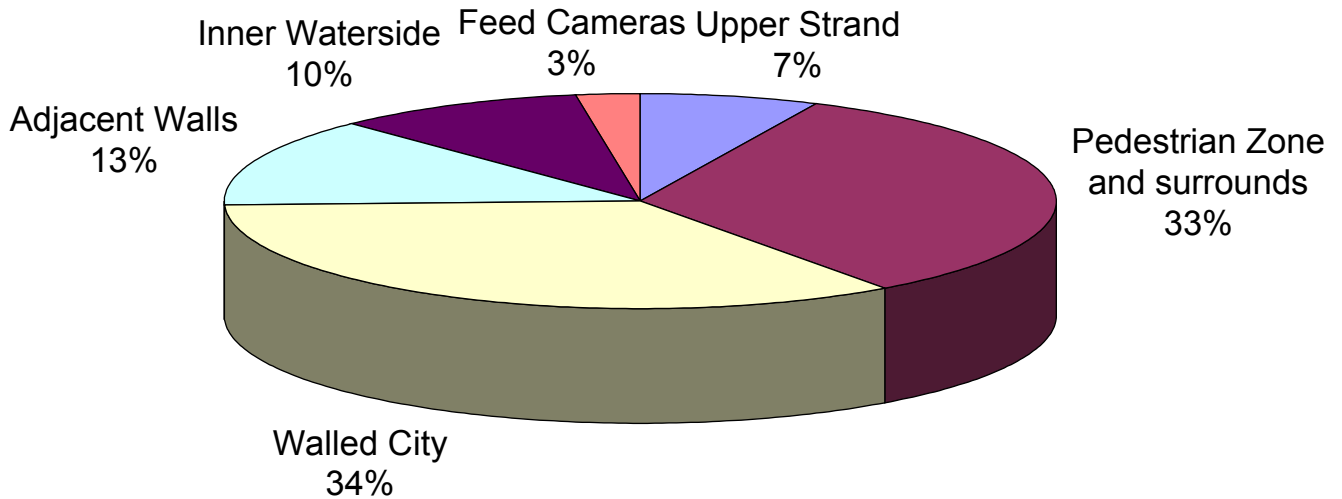
Location Profile

The following pie chart gives an indication of the locations of activities observed by our monitoring staff. We have compiled the cameras into geographic areas for ease of understanding:

Area	Camera Location
Upper Strand	Clarendon Street Queens Quay Rock Road
Pedestrian Zone and surrounds	Little James Street Sackville Street Waterloo Place William Street Waterloo Street Shipquay Place Guildhall
Walled City	Shipquay Gate Castle Street Society Street London Street The Diamond (x 2) Ferryquay Street
Adjacent to Walled City	Foyle Street Orchard Street Bridge Street Hawkins Street

	Wapping Lane
Inner Waterside	Duke Street Barnwell Place Simpsons Brae Clooney Terrace
Feed Cameras * paid monitoring or co-operation with control rooms	Foyleside Centre Richmond Centre DVCB Templemore Sports Complex

Graph 11: Distribution of observations for areas of the City



The graph illustrates areas of the City and the related percentage of recorded incidents. It may be significant to note an 8% increase in overall incidents. All areas with the exception of Upper Strand increased. This is of concern, especially considering the designation of the Walled City as a signature tourism project for Northern Ireland.

The long awaited rejuvenation of the pedestrian zone has been announced and is in planning. This will have a positive effect on not only the economic performance of the area, but also the community safety environment.

Independent Inspection

The preface to the Procedural Manual states, "CCTV is, arguably, one of the most powerful weapons ever to be introduced in the fight against crime. It may equally be regarded by some as the most potent infringement of people's liberty and right of privacy". Public perception of CCTV is coloured by the press and media in their insistence on referring to 'spy cameras' and 'big brother'. City Centre Initiative is very aware of the potential for misuse of CCTV and the need to retain the support of the public for its activities.

The CCTV Code of Practice states:

"Derry City Council will invite members of the public to become members of an Independent Inspection Panel. These Panel Members, in groups of three people, have a right of access to records and control room at least 6 times every year without notice. Panel members will receive training from Derry City Council in pursuing their inspection role. No members of the Inspection Panel should have responsibility for the CCTV Scheme and should be completely independent of its operation and management." (Para. 16.4)

Derry City Council formally agreed to establish the Independent Inspection Panel at its meeting of full Council in February 2002. They agreed that the panel would be set up under the proposed Community Safety Partnership. However, due to a delay in enabling legislation, (The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 2002) Derry City Council was not in a position to establish the local Community Safety Partnership until June 2003.

In the absence of the Community Safety Partnership and reluctance of the NI Human Rights Commission to undertake independent inspections, CCI formed an interim Inspection panel of people drawn from the civil service, business, education and the community sectors. Independent Inspectors for the CCTV System are selected from volunteers. They are persons who are totally independent from City Centre Initiative and the CCTV System.

The Interim Independent Inspection Panel made their first inspection in June 2003 to inspect the arrangements at the Monitoring Station. The panel visited 4 times. They had no concerns about the monitoring suite security, control room procedures, environment and equipment, operator compliance with Human Rights and Data Protection legislation, documentation storage and collection and the content on recorded media. The members of the panel made a recommendation on minor alterations to tape filing system, which was immediately adopted.

CCI has continued to lobby the Community Safety Partnership to form a formalised Inspection Panel as agreed in 2003. After discussion with the Community Safety Co-ordinator and directly with the Community Safety Partnership, we were informed in May 2005 that *"the CSP have agreed that it would be practical to set up the Independent Inspection Panel with the current interim members. As Council do not have additional resources for this task, by utilising the existing members we would save on costs in relation to advertising, recruitment and training."*

City Centre Initiative are pleased to say that during this reporting period, 4 inspections took place in Year 6. Some minor recommendations were made to paper based procedures which were instantly adopted to improve record keeping systems.

Relations with PSNI

As per the Code of Practice, Strand Road PSNI designated 2 Constables as CCTV Liaison Officers. No other PSNI Officers have the authority to access the Monitoring Station. The Liaison Team has built up an effective working relationship with Monitoring Station staff, working closely to develop robust systems, which maintains the independence of the CCTV scheme and also meets the investigation needs of police. An officer from the CCTV Liaison Office sits on the CCTV Project Team, which is co-opted onto the CCTV Sub-Committee.

A CCTV Liaison Officer submits Request Forms to view tapes/discs/discs with specific dates, locations and reasons for requesting access. At the discretion of the Monitoring Manager, tape fragment/s for the precise request is shown to the Liaison Officer. If evidence is identified, the Monitoring Manager will make a disc of the incident only for the officer and log the details as outlined in the Code of Practice.

The master tape will then be sealed by City Centre Initiative should it be required for future proceedings.

Police made **0 requests** to view public order 'live' in the city centre, down from 6 in the previous year. A CCTV Liaison Officer attended the Monitoring Station, in line with the Code of Practice, on these days and kept in close contact with officers 'on the ground'. The periods and days in question were normally:

- July – Somme Memorial Parade
- July – Orange Order Parade
- August – Apprentice Boys Parade
- October – Halloween Carnival
- November – Christmas Lights Switch On
- December – Apprentice Boys Parade

This dramatic change illustrates the trust placed in the Monitoring Station and the daily liaison with PSNI which ensures that any incidents are promptly reported and a live link transmitted to Strand Road as required.

Foyle District Command Unit (DCU), through the CCTV Liaison Office, has produced an internal policy regarding obtaining vide

Relations with Police Ombudsman Office

Remploy has provided briefings to the Police Ombudsman's officials, which led to the development of protocols in accessing CCTV, taped information in line with PSNI viewings. Again the Monitoring Station staff has built up an effective working relationship with 2 named CCTV Liaison Officers from the Ombudsman's Office. The Liaison Officer brings request forms to view tapes/discs with specific dates, locations and reasons for requesting access. At the discretion of the Monitoring Manager, tape fragment/s for the precise request is shown to the Liaison Officer. If evidence is identified, the Monitoring Manager will make a tape/disc of the incident only for the officer and log the details as outlined in the Code of Practice. The master tape/disc will then be sealed by CCI should it be required for future court proceedings.

The Monitoring Staff facilitated 18 requests and visits by the Police Ombudsman Office to view incidents during the year using the agreed protocol. 11 evidential tapes/discs were produced.

Relations with Members of the Public

If an individual believes that the CCTV System may hold images of them, and wishes to apply for access to their personal data, they can make a 'Subject Access Request' as illustrated in the CCTV Code of Practice, Appendix 1. This process is strictly governed by the Data Protection Act 1998.

It should be noted that personal data supplied to the subject might need to be edited in order to ensure that no data on other subjects is contained within the data supplied i.e. of images of other people are captured, then the explicit permission of these people are required before the data is released. The alternative is to use pixilation.

Whilst there were a number of enquires, there was no formal requests for a third party (subject access) viewing during the year.

Amendments to the Code of Practice

There were **no amendments** to the Code of Practice during Year 6. Substantial alterations have been made in year 7 to accommodate changes to recording equipment. (The existing 7 year old equipment was out of date and prone to faults. It no longer provided the recording quality now commonly available).

Complaints Procedure

The CCTV Code of Practice has included a formal Complaints Procedure to outline the process by which an individual may make a complaint (Appendix 5, CCTV Code of Practice, Derry~Londonderry, September 2002). The Procedure complies with the 1998 DPA. **City Centre Initiative received no complaints during Year 6 or indeed since the beginning of the CCTV project.**

Finance

City Centre Initiative received the full financial commitment from Derry City Council and the local business community. In addition, we received payment for monitoring external cameras as the DVCB and Templemore Sports Complex.

The sustainability of the project remains a considerable concern. However, we have agreed a charging scheme with the PSNI and the Police Ombudsman's Office for recordings supplied. This began in April 2007.

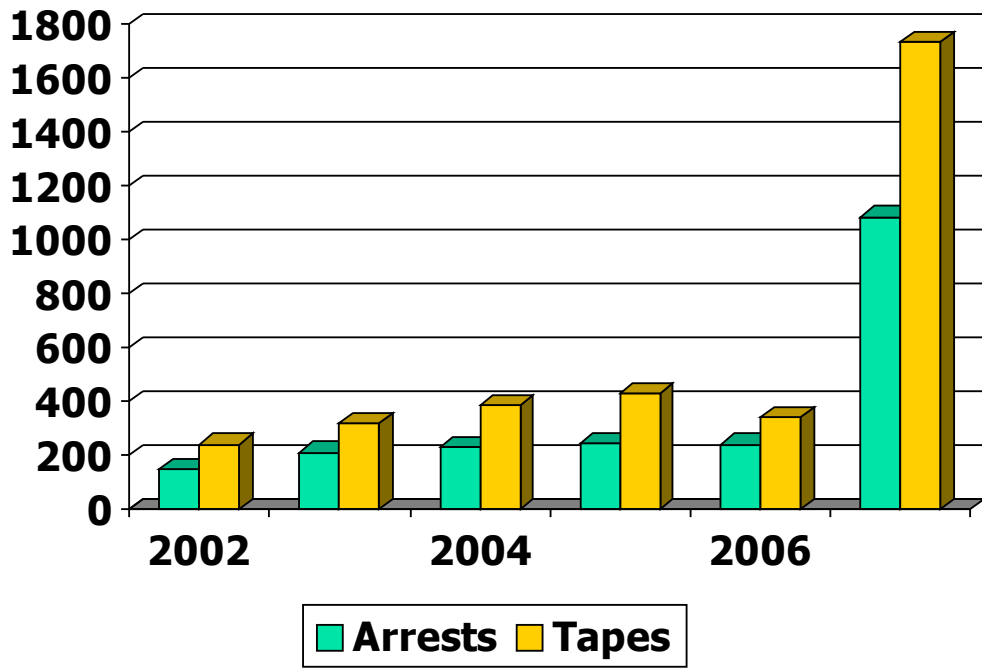
There is urgent need for investment in capital equipment. The expected lifespan of the existing equipment is 3 year, but we have already entered our 6th year of operation. There is a continual fight to maintain the equipment so we require investment to upgrade the recording equipment and screens as well as some of the cameras. There has been

PSNI crime statistics

PSNI indicated that taped evidence has been used in on-going criminal cases, leading to a number of arrests, and convictions. In the period of **1st January to 31st December 2007 a total of 959 viewing requests were made this resulted in 345 evidential tapes/discs/discs being produced and 243 arrests.** The total number of requests and evidential tapes/discs/discs has fallen slightly from the previous year however the number of and arrests have remained largely similar. This reflects the quality of service provided by the Monitoring staff.

PSNI statistics illustrate monthly trends and hotspots. This information is conveyed to monitoring station staff to assist them in their monitoring role.

Over the course of the 6 years reported to date, there have been 1,777 evidential tapes/discs produced for investigations and court and 1,085 arrests were made as a direct result of CCTV.



Evaluation

The Code of Practice states that a full evaluation will be carried out every 2 years.

As indicated in last years report, Professor Martin Gill of the Perpetuity Group commented on our system being “set-up where you are located is sensitive in a way that is rarely known” and that a full evaluation, as outlined in the Code of Practice would cost in the region of £50,000. Indeed they commented that “The requirement for a 'full' evaluation appears to call for a large-scale study similar to one PRCI did for one of the London Boroughs in 2003/2004.” They further commented that “I must say that it is most unusual in our experience for such a large-scale study to be conducted on any CCTV system even once, let alone every two years”.

The CCTV Sub-Committee, recognising the financial restraints on the project, decided to review the Code of Practice with particular reference to the proposed evaluation. We want to get to a position which delivers a report which is useful and economically viable and as yet, no firm conclusions have been met.

As reported last year, the CCTV system was evaluated and reviewed by the CCTV Users Group, the UK body which provides advice, training and input to UK strategies on the use of CCTV. Their main conclusions were:

We recognise many of the elements of 'Best Practice' inherent in the Derry~Londonderry CCTV System and were particularly pleased to have noted:-

- *A publicly available, personalised Code of Practice as required under the Data Protection Act together with Subject Access leaflets and forms*
- *Good liaison and communication with PSNI, the Council and local businesses in a controlled manner appropriate to the local circumstances*
- *The detail and standard of the system documentation*
- *The professional training by a nationally recognised training company accredited by City and Guilds and ASET and recognised by the SIA*

Additional Comments

We do however comment that in our view, for such an excellently managed and operated system, it is highly unfortunate that more stability cannot be found in assured funding and that this should be addressed by the Council.

We have absolutely no hesitation in awarding our highest level of award, the Gold Standard.

For ease of reference, the following was the main statistical findings of the last evaluation published in year 2.

Main Findings

- *87% knew that a CCTV system was operating in the city's main shopping streets;*
- *Nearly 80% of those surveyed believed that the system had been installed in order to catch or deter criminals;*
- *A mere 7% believed that the cameras had been installed in order to spy on people;*
- *Two-thirds believed that the CCTV had not been installed so as to spy on people;*
- *59% believed that the cameras had been installed in order to make people feel safer;*
- *69% believed that a CCTV system could be abused by the wrong people;*
- *69% believed that CCTV did not invade privacy;*
- *83% of respondents believed that people who obey the law have nothing to fear from CCTV;*
- *54% agreed that the CCTV system had reduced violence;*
- *54% believed it had reduced anti-social behaviour;*
- *20% of traders remained very concerned about commercial burglary. This compared to 44% who felt that they were 'not very concerned' or 'not at all concerned';*
- *The majority of traders felt that CCTV had reduced shoplifting (56%), criminal damage (70%), and commercial burglary (76%) and assaults (66%);*
- *80% of traders strongly supported the CCTV system. An additional 18% stated that they supported the system. A mere 2% stated that they did not support the CCTV system.*

Conclusions

City Centre Initiative is satisfied that this 6th Annual Report meets the commitments made in the CCTV Code of Practice to be open and accountable in the management of CCTV monitoring of the city centre.

As you will have read, this report demonstrates the continued improvement in the City Centre environment by day and by night and the role which CCTV plays in supporting actions to bring about this positive change.

Our relationship with Ulster Supported Employment Limited continues to bring success. Our experienced staff continue to provide a quality service and identify incidents more quickly calling for intervention and providing the PSNI and Ombudsman's office with evidence if required. CCI thank the staff for their continued high quality performance and support.

While maintaining independence and autonomy, CCI has been careful to support both the PSNI and the Police Ombudsman's office in on-going investigations. Indeed, CCTV evidence is increasingly being used in order to bring prosecutions. In this report, we have highlighted that 1,770 evidential tapes/discs have been provided for investigations and the Courts, with 1,085 arrests being attributed directly to CCTV. As indicated previously, we are pleased that these tapes/discs are being used not only for prosecution, but also for defence – assisting justice to be served for victims and indeed the accused.

CCI are pleased that the Community Safety Partnership has begun a series of Independent Inspections. As previously reported, we do not feel that it is appropriate for CCI to inspect the CCTV system. Inspections should be independent. Their independent review of our system has allowed for improvements to be made to record keeping systems and have been fully implemented.

The long-term sustainability of the system continues to be a concern and indeed, led to the loss of some of the £2m capital grant money available for improving our system and monitoring arrangements. Our system needs urgent capital investment to replace and renew tiring equipment. The recent approval for charging the PSNI and the Police Ombudsman's Office has put us on a more stable revenue stream and we hope that this will give confidence to allow us to attract capital investment.

However, we have received the same amount of money from Council since the beginning of this project. In real term, the level of this investment is reduced year on year and we would seek Council's support of index link this contribution each year. Our costs rise with inflation, but our income from Council remains static.

The long awaited Interface Cameras will help improve management at interface areas. Whilst it is more important to deal with the causes of sectarianism in our City, management is required. CCI will monitor these cameras providing the same level of protection, independence and compliance with Human Right and Data Protection rules as provided by the City Centre systems Code of Practice.

City Centre Initiative agreed to manage the CCTV operation for the City for a period of 2 years, but this is our 5th years report. The Board of CCI has indicated that it would be prepared to continue to host CCTV as a project in the absence of an alternative body being willing to undertake the project. However, it remains to be a drain on resources, particularly staff time, for no reward. All CCI core staff and Directors time is not charged towards this project. We agree to do this as this is a vital project for the City, however, it does deflect us from other important work.

We have in the past been critical of the local media for sensationalised reporting. It is pleasing to see that there has been a change and, whilst not ignoring serious issues and serious stories, for the most part there appears to be a more responsible and less dramatic approach to informing readers, listeners and viewers of events and activities. It is vitally important that our local media do not make people fearful and indeed assist with positively promoting the regeneration of the City.

We are pleased that Derry City Council has adopted a "clean, safe and friendly" strategy as part of their corporate plan. Indeed, it has been CCI's strategy for some time so there is further demonstration of a joined up approach to improving and investing in our own City. Successful, prosperous and engaging town and city centres clearly invest in strategies and actions that lead to a clean, safe and friendly environment. We firmly believe that CCTV continues to be an important tool for Council to support in helping deliver its own strategy.

It is clear from this report that CCI and its partners have successfully fulfilled our commitment to implemented CCTV in an open and transparent manner. CCTV continues to make a significant contribution to dealing with crime and the fear of crime and has become an essential part of strategies and activities designed to improve the environment and response to issues in the City.