

IS CCTV REALLY THE ANSWER?



Five separate studies have found that CCTV has no effect on violent crimes. It does not reduce fear of crime, and might in fact increase crime.

*Home Office Study 252 'Why are fear and distrust spiralling in twenty-first century Britain?'
Joseph Rowntree Foundation, October 2008*

Despite billions of pounds being spent on kit, CCTV solves only 3% of crimes.

Detective Chief Inspector Neville, Metropolitan Police (Security Document World Conference, London)

From 1996 to 1998 three quarters of the Home Office Crime Prevention was spent on CCTV, yielding an overall reduction in crime of 5%. Good street lighting was found to give a reduction of 20% *'To CCTV or not to CCTV', report by NACRO (Crime Reduction Charity)*

Where the problem is violent or disorderly behaviour it is often fuelled by alcohol and people are not thinking rationally - they get angry and CCTV is the last thing they think about.

Deputy Chief Constable Graeme Gerrard, (Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead on CCTV. Evidence to House of Lords Constitution Committee, 16/01/08



Soaring costs of surveillance technology have been a major contributor to inflation-breaking council tax rises.

Times/Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy survey of more than 250 local authorities

There are alternatives to CCTV, and this is good investigative police work, which normally obtains the same results.

Police Inspector Paul Morgan. Minutes of Totnes Full Council Meeting 1st September 2008

"We've got no chance of solving this one, Brian - the CCTV isn't working!"

If CCTV acted as a deterrent to crime, police detection of violence would have decreased. Instead, it has increased.

*'Effect of urban closed circuit television on assault injury & violence detection'
Violence Research Group, University of Wales*

CCTV has been found to have no significant effect on victimisation

'The Cambridge Evaluation of the Effects of CCTV on Crime', Farrington, Bennett and Welsh, 2007

Evidence does not suggest that there is any significant effect on the rates of crime, or any kind of crime prevention.

CCTV Evidence to Home Affairs Committee, 28/11/07

Quotes produced in March 2008 for the Cowley Road scheme estimate the cost between £68,600 and £102,700, more if light poles need replacing. There will also be ongoing maintenance and running costs. The city centre CCTV system cost over £1.5 million.



NO CCTV

Get Informed, visit <http://no-cctv.org.uk>

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