

From: Peter Ayling ACC 46014582 [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 October 2020 18:51
To: Julie Beilby <Julie.Beilby@tmbc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: CCTV - TMBC

Julie,

Apologies for the delayed response to your e mail, the first one didn't hit my radar and I have just found this one in drafts with several others. I know through bitter personal experience to be cautious about police responses to matters of CCTV so I'm grateful for the opportunity to be sighted on the form of words. We do of course recognise the precarious financial picture for LAs and the need to review non-statutory services. At the same time I know the Chief will expect we make strong representations for the retention of live monitoring, especially at periods of peak demand. To do otherwise would risk setting a precedent for others to follow and is at odds with our ambition to invest further in policing of prominent public spaces (and using all available tools to do so). Therefore I have tweaked the words slightly but happy to discuss further.

Kent Police greatly value the CCTV networks across the County as an important tool for the prevention and investigation of crime and anti-social behaviour. There is a strong preference for live monitoring of the network which provides effective coordination to priority issues and has been shown to reassure the public. Kent Police continues to invest in visible, local policing, which includes the introduction of 56 more Town Centre officers since April 2019. We would strongly urge the retention of the CCTV infrastructure as part of an integrated response to issues of security, crime and anti-social behaviour. We do however recognise that provision of CCTV is a matter for Local Authorities, many of whom face significant financial challenges. As such it would not be for Kent Police to object to the cessation of live monitoring by TMBC.

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Sorry again for coming back to you so late.

Pete