

Latest Report on VIIDO

1. Executive Summary

- ¹ [redacted]
- VIIDOs provide a professional CCTV service to negate this risk
- ² [redacted]
- [redacted]
- Victim Support London have emphasised that victims expect CCTV to be viewed
- For every 1000 cameras in London, less than one crime is solved per year BUT research has shown that the Op Javelin approach can increase detections for Tier 1 & 2 offences by up to 20% at a fraction of the cost of DNA
- Even on VIIDO boroughs, the use of low quality staff to deal with CCTV evidence & poor supervision of identification dockets undermines the processes developed

2. CCTV - The public have a high expectation of CCTV and are frequently told they are captured on camera three hundred times per day, with the Government spending £500 million on cameras. Op Javelin estimates that there are around one million cameras in London. Despite this, in 2008 less than 1000 crimes were solved using CCTV.

3. VIIDOs - These units can make significant improvements and have three key roles:

3.1 CCTV Scenes of Crime Officers - Acting as CCTV "SOCOs" and searching scenes for CCTV images for offences designated by the borough SMT. This is usually street robbery, but some boroughs have added other Tier 1 & 2 offences. This has a dramatic impact on the detections resulting from CCTV. In 2006, the first ever survey of the use of CCTV to solve volume crime was prepared by what was to become the Op Javelin Project team. The Untapped Well of Detections report focused on street robbery and highlighted that CCTV evidence was dealt with in an unstructured manner. The report demonstrated that in one month, across all 32 boroughs, only 8 of 269 robbery detections could be attributed to CCTV.

³ [redacted]

⁴ [redacted]

⁵ [redacted] For bad publicity poor use of CCTV can produce see:
www.croydonguardian.co.uk/news/4151761.vital_cctv_evidence_wiped_before_baseball_bat_thugs_identified/

3.3. Providing a local Video Lab – In addition to assisting officers with "slow time" CCTV needs, this function has developed into providing the Borough CID and SMT with a professional CCTV service, which negates the risk of future criticism and results in offenders being brought to justice. ⁶ [redacted] VIIDO has dealt with the following cases, but all VIIDOs have provided similar examples:

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4.1 MetCU - The MetCU provides the only structured police image identification system in the world. The unit now holds 10000 images of offender committing crime on camera (80% submitted by VIIDOs). Instead of relying on individual officers in the case and local briefing systems, all images have the same opportunity to be identified:

- Phase 1 – Caught on Camera is circulated to all members of the MPS & partners
- Phase 2 – Posters are circulated around police stations and to partners
- Phase 3 – A national circulation involving use of Police Gazette, CrimeStoppers, MPS Internet site, media (local & national)

4.2 Publishing of images in the public domain reassures the public that CCTV is being used to catch criminals and tells offenders that being caught on camera has a consequence. Recently one suspect saw himself on the CrimeStoppers website and handed himself in to Greenwich police. The use of media is currently being studied by the Project Team.

4.3 There is a risk as only 25% are currently identified and not all boroughs are directed to use the MetCU, circulating images only locally (if at all). Additional staff and a database for images are urgently required.

5.1 How to make CCTV produce detections – the Ten Point CCTV Plan

“VIIDO detections” mean investigations where the images is seized and identified. It does not include offences where CCTV is just part of the enquiry. It must be understood that a VIIDO alone does not solve crime. To make CCTV work post-incident, it requires the following:

1	VIIDO – less than 1% of borough staff	6	Police officers trained to use CCTV evidence
2	Performance culture & end-to end tracking	7	Communication strategy (see below)
3	Partnership with all CCTV providers	8	Lawyers trained to use images
4	Systematic identification process (MetCU)	9	Courts able to play footage
5	Strong supervision of dockets	10	Technology fit for purpose

5.2 Too often, technology has been seen to be the solution to CCTV issues. ¹¹ software has been pushed as the solution. ¹²

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6.1 VIIDO & Public Confidence Target - Further research identified there has been a significant rise in the level of complaints from the public, where it is perceived that police have not viewed CCTV. This is now approaching 100 per year. The rise appears to coincide with the debate on the "Surveillance Society", where the press has claimed that people are caught on camera 300 times per day, yet when they are the victim of crime, the police state "there is no CCTV". This could have a major impact on the public confidence target.

6.2 Victim Support South & SE London were consulted. Volunteers emphasised that victims were not necessarily concerned with the offender being caught. Victims wanted police to pursue all reasonable leads, including CCTV (of which victims have high expectations) and be able contact the OIC. There has been a view in the police that CCTV detections are difficult to obtain, so targets should be achieved primarily by focusing on "low hanging fruit" (named suspects and the like). The comments from VSS should force a re-think. A senior volunteer stated that her daughter had been robbed twice on a bus, but the CCTV "was not working."

7.1. Why VIIDOs should be rolled out to all boroughs

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The SMT and improved CCTV investigation can significantly assist the public confidence target. There have been several cases of the MPS being vulnerable because of failure to deal with CCTV effectively.

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8.1. Project Requirements

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