


GMP Violent Disorder Case Study



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Greater Manchester Police use Kinesense in major operation following the mass fan protests at one of the world's most iconic football stadiums

Greater Manchester Police is the third largest police force in England and Wales with around 7,000 police officers and another 4,000 police staff and community officers. It is responsible for policing an area of approximately 1,300 square kilometres and a population of 2.7 million people.

The Kinesense video analytics solution is used by the Major Incident Team and the CCTV Hubs, which are a part of Forensics.

MIT has 8 syndicates, with approximately 8 officers on each and deals with 200 cases per year, predominantly murder investigations. The VERA unit, within MIT, has 8 investigative staff who are dedicated to the trawl, retrieval, viewing and analysis of CCTV for major investigations and has been using Kinesense LE for many years, including for the investigation and successful conviction following the murder of Sian Roberts in 2017, which involved compiling 1,660 CCTV clips.

The CCTV Hubs has 5 geographic hubs with a total of 21 staff and deals with almost 10,000 requests per year, and all types of crime from shoplifting to murder. The hubs have their own video specialists with the technical expertise and knowledge to help officers retrieve, view, and present footage.

Operation Dolomite

Operation Dolomite in 2021 was a high-profile Public Order and Violent Disorder investigation that took place at the Old Trafford football stadium and other locations in and around Manchester. This was a large scale disturbance with many hundreds of individual offences, some carried out by the same people in different locations. There was considerable damage to property and public disturbance that went on for several hours in the afternoon. It initially started out as a peaceful protest outside the stadium against the Glazer family's ownership, following the announcement that Manchester United would be one of several big clubs joining the European Super League.

GMP Violent Disorder Case Study continued

GMP Statement during the course of events:

“ Early this afternoon, groups of protesters began to gather at Old Trafford and separately at The Lowry Hotel, Salford where the United players were staying. By late afternoon around 200 protesters had gathered outside the Lowry and over 1,000 at Old Trafford ”

It initially started out as a peaceful protest outside the stadium against the Glazer family's ownership, following the announcement that Manchester United would be one of several big clubs joining the European Super League.

Officers continued to closely monitor the situation, engaging with those present, but as the groups grew in size it became clear that many of those present were not intending to exercise their right to peacefully protest. Flares were let off and protesters outside the stadium became especially aggressive and antagonistic towards the police, with bottles thrown at officers. A group of about 100 illegally forced entry inside the ground and onto the pitch, resulting in some Manchester United staff having to lock themselves in rooms in fear of their safety.

Those inside the stadium were eventually evicted by officers but outside on the forecourt hostility grew, with bottles and barriers being thrown at officers and horses; two officers were injured, with one being attacked with a bottle and sustaining a significant slash wound to his face that required emergency hospital treatment.

How GMP used Kinesense to help with this investigation

Because of the large volumes of people and continuous crowd movement, search filters were not necessary for this type of investigation, but where Kinesense really excelled was the ability to tag and annotate and create detailed Image Reports.

It is conservatively estimated that 480 hours of video needed to be reviewed and analysed, from a mixture of CCTV (mostly MP4 HikVision, Dallmeir AVI), police body worn video (standard MP4) and even footage from Sky TV's Hi-Definition cameras.

Utilising the Kinesense toolkit, investigators were able to follow individuals' movement and activity across multiple cameras, tag them and record their description in the tags and then annotate the events, which made cross referencing across the different video sources very easy.

How Kinesense saved time on this investigation

Whilst not a lot of time was saved on using filters to search the video, what this investigation did demonstrate was how valuable and important the Kinesense Report tools are, as these are often massively underappreciated. It was more of a tagging, exporting and media management exercise, but it saved the team having to create spreadsheets and MS Word documents that would easily have become unwieldy. The user-friendly interface allowed for non-technically minded officers to view and produce reports quickly and easily and all parties, especially Crown Prosecution Service, were happy with how the evidence was presented and how quickly any alterations or amendments could be carried out.

To quote one of the main investigators on this operation *“there's no other way we could think of to manage cataloguing the movements of many individuals over many different pieces of footage”*.

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