Sir,

The article, in which Chamber of Trade members are reported as referring to some members of the public, rightfully using the public steps of the Guildhall, as "undesirables" and "yobbas" was a rather large "off the cuff remark reported out of context" don't you think? (Letters, September 19).

It is, surely, the moral duty of a body such as the Chamber to take care over how it is reported in the press, especially over a subject that has, quite rightly, provoked such strong replies. I see nothing correcting such inciting remarks.

I wrote to the Town Council, last spring, to ask for better facilities and help for the older generation when I submitted my report on CCTV, which has never been considered by council.

I was put on the Town Council sub-committee on CCTV by the then mayor, Cllr. Derek Gadsby, and did a lot of research.

I became alarmed at the way CCTV was being pushed through with no thought of the long term consequences on such a small town as this, with one of the lowest crime figures in Britain, and which according to the police, are falling.

I was alarmed that 35 people writing in to the council and 15 letters in this newspaper opposing CCTV were merely dismissed, falsely, as "from one and the same pressure group."

But consider how many other 20th century technological marvels were at first greeted as being fantastic aids to humanity, but which contained huge unforeseen problems.

There are no statutory controls in law on CCTV, only codes of practice. Abuses are constantly emerging. The National Council for Civil Liberty's "Liberty" are very concerned.

What are we letting ourselves in for? How will CCTV promote community feeling, especially as the first suggested use in Cardigan is to deter some people from partaking in normal society?

The "six month" rule is now up, so I call upon Cardigan Town Council and Ceredigion County Council to review the decision to spend thousands of pounds of our community's money and so line us up for all sorts of future costs, both financial and social.

Up to £20m will be spent in Britain on CCTV, for use in public places, this coming year. Nearly all from taxes, fueling an industry that is not sustainable and likely to bring mega problems in its wake.

Concerning insurance premiums; the Guardian March 13, 96, "the pressure for commercial centres to have CCTV is fuelled by an insurance industry which cuts premiums where it is in operation."

As the song says, "United we stand, divided we fall, one and all," Think about it. Please.

BOB DOYLE
23 St Mary St.
Cardigan.