



Body Worn Video

Cleveland Police is preparing to launch 100 Body Worn Video cameras across the Cleveland Force area by April 2015. The introduction aims to maximise crime fighting potential whilst demonstrating transparency and accountability.

Initially, one team of twelve operational frontline officers based at Kirkleatham will be equipped with the cameras before a role out across to other frontline officers in other areas in the Force. The cameras will be pooled rather than personal issue.

The cameras have been funded by the Ministry of Justice Victim Fund through the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger, who supports victims of domestic violence through his Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

The Reveal Media RS3SX cameras are already being used by 24 other Forces up and down the country. Training will be provided to identified 'super-users' who will then be able to cascade the training to the operational officers using the cameras.

The aim is to use them primarily for incidents of domestic violence, however, other areas of crime will also be captured. The recording provides an immediate and exact record of any incident and the emotional effect on the victim and their family or other immediate witnesses. This assists police in their responsibility to maintain law and order; to protect members of the public and their property, and prevent, detect and investigate crime.

BWV can provide evidence that supports grounds for an arrest and, where a victim or witness is reluctant to provide a written complaint, it may also be useful in determining when to proceed with a case without the victim's support. It should be pointed out that BWV will be used to supplement traditional written statements rather than replace them and that users will not rely on BWV for providing their evidence.

It can also assist in the management of complaints and it is also hoped that the introduction will assist public confidence in our officers and the Force.

As soon as is practicably possible, officers will make a verbal announcement regarding the use of BWV to those people who may be recorded. The cameras are not to be worn in a hidden or covert manner, ensuring maximum impact on prevention and escalation of an incident. The officer will also make a verbal announcement to indicate the reason for ending the recording.

All the footage recorded will be subject to legal safeguards and guidance set by the Information Commissioner and the Home Office.

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The cameras are downloaded and non-evidential recordings are automatically deleted after 31 days. Footage considered to be evidential is retained in line with current legislation.

FAQ's

Which officers are using BWV?

Front line emergency response officers will be using the cameras.

Why use BWV at all?

BWV provides an additional option for officers to gather evidence at incidents and it is a tool to demonstrate transparency and accountability.

It is acknowledged that the cameras will not capture everything that happens. As such they will only form part of the evidence.

The use of BWV may moderate the behaviour of people present at incidents, resulting in less need for the use of force by officers and reduced complaints against police. It is hoped that the use of the cameras will assist in reinforcing the public's confidence in police actions.

Will it be always be switched on?

No - the use of BWV will be 'incident specific' and should be proportionate, legitimate, necessary and justifiable.

It is anticipated that officers will record interactions at stop and search incidents, domestic violence and use of force, vehicle stops, arrest enquiries, premises searches, safety risk to user/others and giving statutory directions or if they feel that there would be evidential value in recording the incident.

Officers will, when practicable, tell those present when they are recording and when they are about to switch off the camera. They will usually only switch the camera off when the incident has concluded or where there is no further evidential value to be had in continued recording.

It is our belief that to have the cameras 'always on' may deter members of the public speaking to officers and providing information and we do not want to lose that type of valuable interaction.

How does BWV work?

The BWV camera is a video and audio recording device. The Reveal Media RS3SX model that Cleveland is adopting is attached on the body armour.

The camera records to an encrypted storage device. The footage can then be downloaded to the DEMS system.

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Can the police record me in my home?

It is widely recognised that members of the public are likely to have a strong expectation of privacy, especially in their own homes. Indeed this is contained with Article 8 of the ECHR (a right to respect for a private and family life) and under normal circumstances BWV should not be used in private dwellings. However if a police officer is present at an incident in a private dwelling and is there for a 'genuine policing purpose' and this equipment is able to address a 'pressing social need' then the police can consider making a BWV recording in the same way in which any other incident is recorded.

What about my right to privacy?

It is understandable that some people may be concerned about officers recording their interactions with the public at incidents. They may be worried that footage concerning them may be held on police data servers.

This is a key reason why officers will not indiscriminately record all interactions and activity. This is to ensure that any intrusion into private lives is kept to the minimum level necessary.

All footage recorded on BWV is subject to legal safeguards and guidance set by the Information Commissioner and the Home Office.

Footage that is not likely to be of evidential value will be removed automatically from the system within a very short time - the current guidance is within 31 days.

Footage that is retained is subject to regular review in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner.

People who have been recorded have the right to see footage of them. Recorded material is police information and can be accessed on request in writing in accordance with the FOIA (unless an exemption applies)

What if someone does not want to be recorded?

In principle, users are not required to obtain the expressed consent of the person(s) being filmed. Members of the public should be advised that:

- Any non-evidential material is retained for a maximum of 31 days only (in accordance with the DPA and MoPI)
- This material is restricted and cannot be disclosed to third parties without the subject's express authority, unless prescribed by law
- Recorded material is police information and can be accessed on request in writing in accordance with the FOIA (unless an exemption applies)

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It is then for the user to consider on a case-by-case basis whether or not to switch the BWV off.

How long will the police keep footage of me?

Data is uploaded to a secure system and it is automatically deleted after 31 days. After this time there will only be a copy of the information if it has been requested by the court.

How did the police pay for the cameras?

The cameras have been funded by the Ministry of Justice Victim Fund through the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Barry Coppinger, who supports victims of domestic violence through his Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

How are Cleveland Police going to keep footage of me secure?

When capturing information on these devices, police officers will only do so in order to fulfil a policing purpose. The legitimate policing purpose behind the use of this equipment is to prevent and detect crime and prevent public disorder. When information is captured, it will firstly be assessed as to whether it constitutes evidential or non-evidential material. Any material, which is deemed as evidential, could then be shared with the Crown Prosecution Service, Defence professionals and the Courts to support a prosecution, however, sharing of the information outside these parameters is generally not permitted. Any information is deleted automatically after 31 days.

I am not happy with the way police have recorded me, how do I make a complaint?

You can complain if you are not satisfied with the service you have received from the police. There are several ways to make a complaint to Cleveland Police:

- In person at a local police office
- By email to Professionalstandardsdepartment@cleveland.pnn.police.uk
- In writing to Cleveland Police, Professional Standards Department, Police Headquarters, Ladgate Lane, PO Box 70, Middlesbrough, TS8 9EH
- By calling 101

Further information on our complaints procedure can be found at:

<http://www.cleveland.police.uk/contact-us/Complaints-Procedure.aspx>

How do I give feedback or find out more?

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Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner welcomes feedback from the public on their feelings around BWV. Feedback can be forwarded to: The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Police Headquarters, Ladgate Lane, PO Box 70, Middlesbrough, TS8 9EH, alternatively send an email to PCC@cleveland.pnn.police.uk or call 01642 301446. The deadline for any comments is Friday 13th March 2015.