Body Worn Video

Type of Document: Policy
Version: 1.4
Registered Owner: ACC TORR
Author: T/Insp 2444 S ALLEN
Effective Date: 30th January 2015
Review Date: 30th June 2015

Not Protectively Marked

Not Protectively Marked
Functional owner

Date: 30th January 2015

T/Insp Simon Allen
Regional Project Manager (Body Won Video)

Authorised (Senior Business User - Derbyshire)

Date:

Supt G McLaughlin

Authorised (Senior Business User - Leicestershire)

Date:

C/Insp Sally Chivers

Authorised (Senior Business User - Lincolnshire)

Date:

Supt David Lynch

Authorised (Senior Business User - Northamptonshire)

Date:

C/Insp Dave Spencer

Authorised (Senior Business User - Nottinghamshire)

Date:

C/Insp Shaun Ostle
1. **Background**

1.1. Body Worn Video is seen by the Government, Police and Crime Commissioners and the Police as a vital tool in the fight against crime. Body Worn Video can be utilised in all aspects of Policing and partnership work and brings with it opportunities to offer an improved service to the public, better quality and more robust evidence in cases and can work to make the Police ever more efficient through behaviour modification in the presence of Body Worn Video, victimless prosecutions, fewer assaults on Police and a reduction in the use of force (Rialto, 2013).

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1.2. The East Midlands Policing Region, consisting of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire Police Forces are seeking collaboration opportunities in this area of Policing.

2. About This Policy

2.1. This policy explains the approach to the use of body-worn video (BWV) and is aimed at all staff and members of the wider police family involved in the criminal justice system within the East Midlands region, and to help inform the wider community of the strategic aims of the use of body worn video.

2.2. Body-worn video users, their supervisors and managers are expected to comply with the regional body-worn video policy, procedure and any individual force standard operating procedures (SOPs) and training in its usage.

3. General Principles

3.1. The Forces making up the East Midlands Region are committed to making the best use of their resources. A key area of this strategy is to transform service delivery by taking full advantage of new technology. Body-worn video is an overt tool by which officers can capture better quality evidence at the scene of an incident or crime.

3.2. Public reassurance is important to the East Midlands Forces, and through a Privacy Impact Assessment and on-going monitoring of complaints and public satisfaction, the impact of body-worn video on public reassurance will be monitored.

3.3. The Forces making up the East Midlands Region will follow the seven body-worn video principles laid down by the Home office and College of Policing (2014). These are:

3.3.1. The use of body worn video is lawful
3.3.2. Data will be processed and managed in line with the Codes of Practice on the Management of Police Information, APP on Information Management and the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

3.3.3. The normal use of body worn video will be overt.

3.3.4. The operational use of body worn video must be proportionate, legitimate and necessary.

3.3.5. Use of body worn video will be incident specific. Officers will use common sense and sound judgement when using body worn video, in support of the principles of best evidence.

3.3.6. Body worn video does not replace conventional forms of evidence gathering (such as written statements and Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) interviews), it supports them.

3.3.7. Forces will consult locally with their communities on the use of body worn video.

3.4. The East Midlands Police Forces will seek to exploit collaborative opportunities within the group to increase any perceived or real opportunities to increase efficiency and drive down waste.

3.5. The East Midlands Police Forces will also look to optimise the relationship between them and suppliers and seek to opportunities to foster a culture of partnership to enhance front line benefits of body-worn video.

4. **Statement of Policy**

4.1. The aim and objective is for body-worn video to support Forces Policing Priorities by:

4.1.1. Enhancing opportunities for capturing best evidence
4.1.2. Providing an optical evidence solution that will ultimately save time by increasing early guilty pleas, reducing officer
case preparation and court time, improve sanction detections and speed up the criminal justice process.

4.1.3. Reducing challenges to evidence in court.
4.1.4. Reducing the reliance on victim evidence particularly those who may be vulnerable or reluctant to attend court.
4.1.5. Reducing incidents of violent crime by modifying behaviour.
4.1.6. Assisting police officers and staff to control anti-social behaviour.
4.1.7. Promote Public reassurance by enabling public scrutiny of data captured.
4.1.9. Reducing protracted complaint investigations by providing impartial, accurate evidence and increasing public confidence in the complaints process.
4.1.10. Improving the professionalism of the service and in the professional development of officers.

4.2. Body-worn video users are directed to the regional body-worn video procedure and local SOPs for guidance on the use, maintenance, and evidential chain of body-worn video and any footage taken.

4.3. Body-worn video does not alter the provisions held in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). Body-worn video may enhance a circumstance to which PACE is applied, but its presence or use does not interfere with statutory obligations. Local SOPs and training will reflect this.

5. Monitoring And Evaluation

5.1. The adherence to and the effectiveness of this policy and associated procedure will be monitored by the body-worn video regional strategic lead.

6. Review

6.1. The BWV regional strategic lead will undertake to review the policy on an annual basis, or sooner if legislation or procedural change dictate.