



## **Met Briefing Note: Body Worn Video (BWV)**



To see an interactive map detailing how the body worn camera works, please click on the link below:

<http://www.thinglink.com/scene/520889205841199104>

May 2014 saw the launch of a Metropolitan Police Service pilot of 500 Body Worn Video cameras (BWV) across 10 London Boroughs. The pilot will be the largest of its kind in the world to date and aims to maximise crime fighting potential whilst demonstrating transparency and accountability.

Two response teams on 10 boroughs across the capital will be equipped with the cameras - approximately 50 per borough.

Jointly funded by the Home Office and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the cameras will also be tested by our Specialist Firearm Command, SCO19, as part of their training.

The pilot is set to last 12 months and will be audited and reviewed by MOPAC's Strategic Research and Insight Unit and the College of Policing.

They will be looking to measure body-worn video use and how it affects performance in a number of areas, including criminal justice outcomes, complaints management, public confidence and satisfaction.

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

The pilot, which is thought to be the largest single evidential experiment of its kind in the world, will be our opportunity to establish the benefit of cameras.

This ground breaking initiative is integrated with the Met's Total Technology Strategy which will make smarter use of new technologies to transform the Met's fight against crime making us more effective and efficient and further improve our support for victims.

BWV cameras have already been used in the MPS and in other forces to good effect. The cameras can capture evidence of criminal behaviour and can help to 'set the scene' for the court at a later date.

By capturing this evidence, officers can spend less time writing statements and completing paperwork at the station. This allows them to spend more time patrolling and responding to incidents in the community.

In future, key police encounters such as stop and search and domestic violence incidents will now be routinely recorded allowing us to maximise crime fighting potential whilst demonstrating transparency and accountability.

Pilots in other forces in the UK have found that where BWV is key evidence, the numbers of guilty pleas at the first opportunity have risen significantly, meaning reduced burdens across the whole Criminal Justice System, not just in policing.

Evidence from other pilots has shown that the use of BWV has reduced the number of complaints against Police Officers, and has increased the public's confidence in policing actions.

The cameras are downloaded daily and data will be deleted after 31 days unless required for evidence. For information on how the recordings are stored and when the files are deleted, please see the FAQ's below.

The boroughs involved in the pilot are: Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Camden, Croydon, Ealing, Havering, Hillingdon and Lewisham.

## **FAQs**

### **Which officers are using BWV?**

Front line emergency response officers on 10 London Boroughs will be using the cameras in accordance with previously agreed guidelines.

### **Why use BWV at all?**

BWV provides an additional option for officers to gather evidence at incidents.

Similar devices are already in use in some parts of the MPS and in other forces. The cameras have been used to capture evidence of criminal behaviour and can help to 'set the scene' for the court at a later date. It is acknowledged that the cameras will not capture everything that happens. As such they will only form part of the evidence.

It has also been shown that, where BWV provides key evidence, guilty pleas at the first opportunity at court rise significantly - this means reduced burdens across the Criminal Justice System, not just in policing.

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. This is one area that will be looked at as part of the evaluation.

It is hoped that the use of the cameras will assist the MPS in reinforcing the public's confidence in police actions.

### **Will it be 'always on?'**

No - the use of BWV will be 'incident specific'. 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, stop & account, 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 long will it last?**

The pilot is scheduled to last one year.

### **What is the pilot going to measure?**

The pilot will be measuring a number of outcomes including their effect on complaints against police, use of force by police, amount of time saved in administration tasks and the impact on public confidence through the use of cameras.

The pilot will compare the performance of those officers issued with the cameras against those without cameras. It is hoped that the pilot will be able to demonstrate improvements in these key areas.

## **How does BWV work?**

The BWV camera is a video and audio recording device. Depending on the model, the device is either mounted on the body or worn on a head mounting. The camera records footage onto an internal and secure hard drive. Footage recorded can then be uploaded to MPS servers for use as evidence at court or other proceedings.

## **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 in the MPS 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 automatically removed 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 that has been retained by the MPS. See <http://content.met.police.uk/Article/Making-a-subject-access-request/1400005855548/1400005855548> for details on how to obtain this footage.

## **How do I give feedback or find out more?**

A key consideration for the MPS pilot is to gauge feedback from the public and London's communities about their feelings around BWV. You can give your feedback and/or comments in writing at:

General Enquiries  
Metropolitan Police Service  
New Scotland Yard  
Broadway  
London  
SW1H 0BG

or online at <https://secure.met.police.uk/enquiries/>

or by email at: [BodyWornVideo-.YourFeedback@met.police.uk](mailto:BodyWornVideo-.YourFeedback@met.police.uk)

## **You've been using cameras for ages why is this pilot different - why do you need it?**

This pilot will be our opportunity to establish the benefit of cameras and will meet the HMIC criteria of establishing the cost benefit. It will be the largest single evidential experiment of its kind in the world. It will be academically reviewed by MOPAC's Strategic Research and Insight Unit and the College of Policing and will hopefully confirm the growing body of evidence that body-worn video is a vital policing tool.

### **MPS Press Release:**

<http://content.met.police.uk/News/MPS-pilots-bodyworn-cameras/1400023947524/1257246745756>