

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information pertaining to the use of body-worn videos (BWVs), also known as body-cams, by your Force.

1. Use

1.1. Does your Force make use of BWV?

Yes

1.2. When did your Force begin to use BWV

West Midlands police has been using body cameras since March 2013, on a small trial basis.

1.3. Do you have plans in place to begin to use BWV?

N/A

2. Stock

2.1. The number of BWVs owned

Please see relevant link

http://foi.west-midlands.police.uk/digital-policing-10951_16/

2.2. The number of BWVs in operational use

Please see relevant link

http://foi.west-midlands.police.uk/digital-policing-10951_16/

2.3. Whether plans are in situ to invest in a greater number of BWVs. If applicable, how many and when.

Please see relevant link

http://foi.west-midlands.police.uk/digital-policing-10951_16/

3. Policy and training

3.1. The specific Force policy for BWVs. Please provide the necessary policy document.

We do not hold a policy at this time.

3.2. Force policy for which officers are required to wear and operate BWVs. Please provide the necessary policy document.

As above

3.3. Details of the training given to officers on BWVs. Please provide details of duration and frequency of training.

Training is given to officers when they are issued a camera. This training is given either by a super user or a Special Point of Contact

http://foi.west-midlands.police.uk/digital-policing-10951_16/

4. Technical information

4.1. Manufacturer details/ model of BWVs owned

Please see relevant link

http://foi.west-midlands.police.uk/body-worn-camera-9879_16/

4.2. The software used to transfer and view footage from BWVs to a computer
Google Chrome accesses the evidential system called evidence.com

4.3. The position on the body that an officer is to wear a BWV- No precise position is stipulated as every person is unique (height and torso shape). However, it is advised to wear it on the chest mount for the best evidence.

5. Transfer and retention of footage

Please provide:-

5.1. The form and degree of encryption used on the BWV files. Section 31 (1) (a)

5.1.1.1. Encryption algorithm details – Section 31(1) (a)

5.1.1.2. Key length (if any) - Section 31(1) (a)

5.1.1.3. and/or version of software used for encryption – Section 31 (1) (a)

5.2. The duration for which BWV footage is typically retained on computer before a decision regarding deletion or retention is made - footage is kept for 31 days. If it is deemed to be evidential, it is stored in line with MOPI (Manage of police Information Guidelines)

5.3. The process by which footage is deleted e.g. by a manual process or by specialist software - Footage cannot be deleted by a user. It will automatically delete after the retention period has expired

5.3.1.1. The process by which footage is tagged for deletion - Automatic

5.3.1.2. The process by which footage is tagged for retention - Officers and users tag the footage as evidential

5.3.1.3. The decision maker as to whether footage is to be deleted or retained
The recording or investigation officer will make this decision

6. Complaints

For the period 1 January 2010 to 18 November 2016:-

6.1. The number of complaints made to your force from members of the public concerning the use of BWVs –

We don't have a complaint category covering this topic. We have completed a word search for all complaints for the words; footage/camera/body cam/body worn/head cam/video .From 2014 until the data of your request, prior to this date we do not have any recorded information.

5 complaints were investigated

6.2. If applicable, the natures of these complaints e.g. malfunction, inappropriate usage, DPA issues, confrontations not recorded etc. –

3 complaints were in relation to officers wearing Body Worn Camera's, 1 complaint relates to information not recorded, 1 complaint relates to the destruction time footage is retained for.