

1) What are West Midlands Police's policies regarding the photographing/videoing of police officers and police staff in the course of their duties?

West Midlands Police follows the College of Policing approved professional practice which states: *Reporting or filming from the scene of an incident is part of the media's role and they should not be prevented from doing so from a public place. Police have no power or moral responsibility to stop the filming or photographing of incidents or police personnel. It is for the media to determine what is published or broadcast, not the police. Once an image has been recorded, the police have no power to seize equipment, or delete or confiscate images or footage without a court order.*

Where police have designated a cordoned area, the media must respect it in the same way as the public, unless a media facility within a cordoned area has been authorised by police. The best possible vantage point for media should be considered, providing it does not compromise operational needs.

2) What guidelines/instructions have been issued to police officers regarding dealing with people using cameras in public places?

Please see answer to question 1.

3) Do guidelines/instructions differ depending on whether the person with the recording equipment has a certified press pass or is a citizen journalist?

The guidelines do not differ but bona fide members of the media may be given additional access to scenes as and when appropriate.

4) Are West Midlands Police officers required by their policies to disclose their name and collar number when they are requested to by a member of the public?

Officers are obliged to provide their collar number at the time of stop and search, searching persons and premises and potentially upon arrest.