
BODY WORN VIDEO DEVICES

Version 3

1. Policy statement

PFEW supports the use of body worn video (BWV) devices for operational police officers. The use of BWV technology has the potential to improve significantly the quality of evidence gathered by police officers and to improve trust and confidence in the police by recording the actions of police officers. For instance, BWV improves the investigation of and contributed to an increase in charging rates for domestic abuse.

Police forces across England and Wales have seen a dramatic increase in the use of BWV technology over recent years. Estimates for the end of 2016 suggest that there will be over 55,000 BWV devices in operational use.

2. Responsibility

The INB is responsible for all policy formation.

3. Summary

PFEW supports the use of body worn video technology by operational police officers but with proper guidelines and training for best evidence gathering. BWV is a supplemental tool for evidence gathering and should not be seen as a replacement for officer integrity or impede officer discretion.

PFEW believes all officers who are subject of post incident procedure investigations should be afforded the opportunity to view BWV applicable to them or adjacent colleagues involved in an incident prior to making a stage 4 detailed account as a principle officer in order to facilitate the recording of best evidence, obtaining the truth and learning lessons.

We believe that BWV technology will demonstrate the professionalism of police officers and show the challenges that are faced by officers on a daily basis. It will help make the service more accountable, but also help explain the rationale for officers using discretion in exercising their role.

BWV will help to protect officers in terms of malicious and vexatious complaints and help reduce the cost and length of time taken to resolve complaints against police officers.

PFEW believe that the public disclosure of BWV footage in regard to the identity of police officers or staff should only be disclosed or disseminated sensitively by the police service, paying due regard to the wishes and welfare of the officers and staff involved on the grounds of security.

4. Procedures/implementation

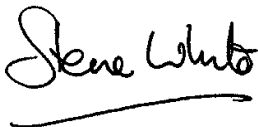
We will press the College of Policing and the National Police Chiefs Council to provide training and Authorised Professional Practice to officers to ensure that the best evidence is gathered and that BWV technology is utilised appropriately.

We will work with the NPCC and the Home Office to ensure that there is a joined up approach to avoid problems of inter-operability. There must be standardisation of the recording system to make sharing of the information between forces and other agencies as simple and efficient as possible. To this end, we will press Chief Constables to take account of Home Office guidance¹ on the procurement and deployment of BWV devices to ensure that they meet an appropriate minimum technical specification in order to achieve the best possible evidence.

Responsibility is delegated to the General Secretary and/or appropriate sub-committee.

	Author	Date	Review date	Change
Version 1	KP-EP	March 2015	March 2016	
Version 2	KP-EP	June 2016	June 2017	Minor amendments
Version 3	KP-EP	June 2017	June 2018	Amendments to take account of HO guidance issued October 2016

Signed by:



Chairman



General Secretary

¹ Technical guidance for BWV devices and Guidance on safeguarding BWV data (Home Office – CAST, October 2016)