



Chief Officer Team Update Report

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Title: Progress Report for Body Worn Video

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Report Details

Body Worn Video Project

Current position

2000 Body Worn Cameras have been purchased from Reveal Media for issue on a pool basis to all front line operational staff, excluding Specials Constables in the first instance. The rollout began in May 2016 and is due to complete in April 2017. The cameras are fully encrypted and all data is held on the DEMS (Computer system) back office system housed on WYP servers. Non evidential footage is deleted after 31 days. Evidential footage is retained in line with Force policy and National guidelines. Once the cameras are docked, they automatically download, wipe and charge. DEMS is accessible from any Force terminal.

Users undergo a comprehensive training package which includes:

- A 30 minute pre read on elearn
- A 3 hour classroom based session with the cameras
- On line support with links to help and advice

The training covers all aspects of the law including data protection and human rights legislation. It also covers Force policy on when to film including appropriate warnings and disclosure rules. The hands-on camera training includes filming, uploading, clipping and downloading footage.

The policy and training were developed within WYP after extensive consultation with community groups, The College of Policing, The IPCC, The Information Commissioners Office and the The Surveillance Commissioners Office.

Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Protective Services Operations are fully rolled out. Cameras have also been fully rolled out to all non-firearms TASER officers and Off Road motorcyclists in Leeds and Wakefield. The rollout begins in Leeds in January 2017 and is followed by Wakefield and Protective Services Crime. Approximately 700 cameras are currently deployed.

An additional 40 cameras with extended memory were purchased for personal issue to Hostage negotiators given their specific requirements.

The cameras are generally well received by officers and the public alike. As with PRONTO Manager (Electronic Pocket Notebook software), DEMS is proving to be an exceptional tool for gleaning intelligence. After a recent serious incident, a number of crucial pieces of evidence were located on Body Worn Video (BWV) footage after performing a simple search. There have been a number of examples where complaints have been quickly resolved or withdrawn as a result of its existence.

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It is too early to see specific evidence of where the cameras have influenced early guilty pleas or victimless prosecutions. However, feedback from both the Crime Prosecution Service (CPS) and Courts have both been very positive.

Hurdles and barriers

The project suffered from a number of software and hardware technical issues which led to a delay in the initial implementation. The critical issues concerned the retention or possible loss of data and it was crucial that the supplier rectified these issues prior to going live.

Once the Body Worn Delivery Board was satisfied, rollout began in May 2016. During the rollout, a battery issue came to light which caused significant numbers of cameras to overheat. The rollout was immediately halted at the point where both Bradford and Calderdale were live. A fault was diagnosed in the manufacturing process of the battery. The risk to officers and staff was assessed and mitigation put in place to enable existing cameras to continue to be used.

The supplier offered to upgrade all 2000 WYP cameras to a version with a greater battery capacity and crucially from a different supplier. This was at no additional cost to WYP. However, the supplier was unable to adhere to the original timeline and there was a further three month delay in the rollout as a result.

Once sufficient replacement cameras had been delivered and swapped out in Calderdale and Bradford, the rollout began again with a revised schedule to equip all non-firearms Taser officers initially, and then Protective Services Operations and Kirklees. This began in early November.

Firearms Officers do not currently use BWV as when worn, the current device is positioned in such a way that when used in conjunction with a firearm it would fail to record the relevant footage and would also hinder the Officer wearing it operationally. Following National Police Chief Council recommendations concerning BWV being used by Firearms Officers, a Yorkshire and Humberside regional project team was formed. The team are working towards a solution that can be both body and head mounted. The team have been consulting nationally with other Police Forces to help identify a suitable option. Later this year suitable companies will be invited to WYP to showcase and demonstrate their products. This will lead to a shortlisting and a trial to identify the best product to meet the relevant specific requirements of a Firearms Officer.

The Future

The rollout of the full quota of cameras is due to be completed in April 2017. A PhD student has been recruited utilising regional funding to specifically look at the benefits of BWV. The devices themselves along with the software are being closely monitored for faults.

The supplier have undertaken to deliver NICHE integration with DEMS in 2017. This will allow officers and staff to access footage directly from a link in the crime report.

In a separate project, IT are working on a digital portal which will enable footage to be sent securely under encryption to the CPS and other third parties such as defence solicitors. At present officers still have to download footage to unencrypted disks for Court purposes. This will be resolved shortly.

As with the Digital Mobile Device, Special Constables will be considered once the current mandated rollout is complete.

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