

Body Worn Video briefing Paper

The initial pilot in Aberdeen Division commenced on 1 June 2010, where 16 BWV were introduced.

These were introduced within the Mastrick and Northfield CPT's, with two additional organised Operations where they were deployed within the City Centre as part of the Weekend Policing Plan.

(All legislative aspects, security issues, consultation with COPFS, Information Security Officer, Federation and training courses/packages were completed and introduced prior to the commencement of the pilot).

Quantitative benefits identified in relation to crime statistics were,

Table 1 - Northfield & Mastrick Local Policing Area's

Offence	01/06/2010 - 31/08/2010 (Trial Period of Body Worn Video)		01/06/2009 - 31/08/2009		Comparison of offences in BWV Period
	Number of Offences (Detected)	Detection Rate %	Number of Offences (Detected)	Detection Rate %	Percentage Change
Breach of the Peace	158 (97)	61.4%	195 (146)	74.9%	-19.0%
Vandalism	132 (37)	28.0%	187 (46)	24.6%	-29.4%
Minor Assault	138 (69)	50%	190 (124)	65.3%	-27.4%
Serious Assault	4 (4)	100%	10 (9)	90%	-60%

Weekend Policing Plan crime statistics

	WPP 14/08/2010; 21/08/2010; 28/08/2010	WPP 15/08/2009; 22/08/2009; 29/08/2009	Comparison (Percentage up or down)
Breach of the Peace	7	11	-36.4%
Consume alcohol in designated places	2	4	-50%

Other additional benefits that were highlighted within the pilot over the period 1 June - 31 August 2010, have been:

Of the 30 cases that were reported to COPFS, only 1 was required to progress to a formal court trial, a guilty verdict being the outcome. Early guilty pleas were tendered in relation to the other 25 cases, prior to any trial, (4 cases being no **proceeding**);

Therefore 98% of the cases where BWV footage has formed part of the evidence have resulted in a guilty pleas prior to any court trial;

Note; It is important to highlight that these figures only relate to a three month period and only in relation to 18 BWV's. There are now 330 BWV's across Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire and Moray Division, with additional BWV being used by Operational Support officers, these have been deployed since 20120, the benefits will now be considerable higher.

These early guilty pleas have resulted in 96 Officers not being required to attend Court. In addition, 20 (83%) of the guilty pleas were tendered prior to any need for COPFS to request Police and civilian statements, saving additional paperwork preparation. (528 hours of Officers time saved with a Non-Cash saving of £15,634). This has assisted the Force in meeting the demands of its communities;

The early guilty pleas also resulted in 51 civilian witnesses not having to attend court and give evidence, which can be a very traumatic experience, requiring time off work.

Only 2 Officers have reported being physically assaulted whilst wearing a BWV. There has been in excess of 10,000 deployments. From a consultation with all Aberdeen Operational Officers, a number highlighted instances that had they not been wearing a BWV, they believe the level of aggression they were facing would have escalated to physical violence;

There have only been four police complaints made against Officers wearing BWV. Three of these were immediately found to be unsubstantiated on viewing the footage, saving protracted police time on further formal investigation. The fourth required further investigation, although the aspects captured on BWV footage, found that to be unsubstantiated;

Additional welfare benefits have been less Officers having their shifts changed or rest days cancelled to attend Court, due to the early guilty pleas submitted in relation to BWV cases, improving work/life balance.

Note: During a communities consultation process in Aberdeen, using Aberdeen City Council's City Voice questionnaire, in relation to the police use of BWV's. 76% supported the use of BWV's, 37% also stated that the BWV made them feel safer, with less than 1% stating the BWV made them feel less safe. 57% stated they believed the use of the BWV would make their community safer, with just 0.1% stating the use of BWV would make their communities less safe. The use of BWV can clearly be seen to enhance safety and confidence for the communities and their residents.

The CCTV is presented to COPFS as a production, as per any other CCTV evidence.

Within the Aberdeen Pilot and subsequent legacy Force roll out, the BWV and back office ICT has been networked to the Force computer system, this is unlike any other BWV pilot I am aware of. Once the Force bandwidths and ICT systems allow, the footage will be able to be electronically submitted to COPFS for instance viewing before any custody/court hearing and uploaded onto the disclosure website, (not sure if this is up

and running yet), for instant viewing by the defence.

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