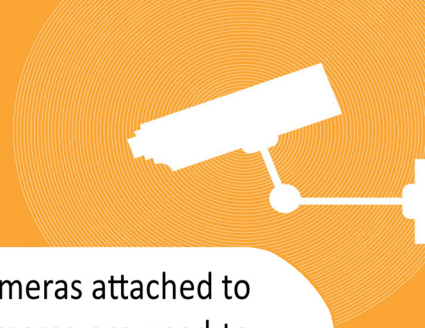


Body Worn Cameras Privacy Factsheet



BODY WORN CAMERAS, also known as body worn video, are small cameras attached to the clothing or headwear of a police officer or public official. The cameras are used to film and record interactions between the officer or official and the general public. Footage from the cameras can be used as evidence in court.

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How do body worn cameras work?

Body worn cameras are:

- Worn on the chest, shoulder or helmet/hat.
- They record both video and audio.
- Some have a front facing screen so the person being filmed can see what the camera is capturing.
- Most have a light which shows when the camera is recording.
- Some encrypt the footage in the device, which keeps it safe should the camera be stolen or hacked.

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Who uses body worn cameras?

The use of **body worn cameras** began with the police but are now being adopted by a range of other authorities.

Currently using body worn cameras:

- Police
- Council officials
- Traffic and parking wardens
- Fire services
- Nightclub door staff
- Hospital security attendants
- The transport police
- Train guards
- Universities

Currently trialling body worn cameras:

- Football match attendants
- Prison staff

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Are body worn cameras on all the time?

No, body worn cameras when used by the police are switched on and off at the officers' discretion.

Police officers must make it clear when they are turning the camera on before they begin to film, or if the camera is already recording.

How the cameras are used by other officials or security guards however is not clear.

There is currently no law, advice or official guidance for officials on how to use the cameras.

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Are body worn cameras regulated?

There are no specific laws or regulations covering the use of body worn cameras.

A code of practice has been produced by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner and the Information Commissioner which anyone or any organisation should refer to before using a body worn camera.

The police also follow the College of Policing guidance to ensure best practice.

Body Worn Cameras

Privacy Factsheet



What happens to the footage?

Any footage should be uploaded and stored on a secure internal system.

The police got into hot water by holding footage in an insecure private cloud provided by one of the camera manufacturers.

Footage should not be kept for longer than is 'necessary' for the purpose it was taken for.

College of Policing guidance recommends that footage should not be retained for longer than a month, unless it is needed for a court case.

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I've been filmed by a body worn camera, can I see the footage?

Yes, you can use a subject access request.

You must make the request within 31 days of the incident, if you wait longer the footage may have been deleted.

if the footage features other people you may be refused access.

For more information about how to make a subject access request read our factsheet.

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What are the privacy concerns of body worn cameras?

Body worn cameras record sound as well as images. That makes them more intrusive than other surveillance cameras. They often film a person in a sensitive situation and may contain personal information like name and address, or the inside of homes.

Without legislation or regulation anyone could use a body worn camera without having to follow the strict guidance of the police not to film all the time.

Durham Police use their body worn cameras to build profiles of known suspects which is an extension of their purpose.

Selective filming may only present part of a picture.

If footage is not encrypted and held securely it is vulnerable to hacking, theft or data breach.

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Don't Forget

- The police must tell you if they are filming.
- There is no regulation or legislation for body worn cameras.
- Cameras are used by a wide range of authorities and officials.
- You can use subject access request to access footage.
- Police cameras are not recording all the time.
- Footage should not be kept longer than is 'necessary'.