

Stratford District Council Body Worn Video (BWV) Impact assessment

1.0 What will the organisation be doing with the images?

The images and audio will be used to review incidents of verbal/physical abuse against Civil Enforcement Officers and to provide evidence in court to provide a detailed record of the incident.

2.0 Who will take legal responsibility under the data protection Act?

The Data Controller is Stratford District Council. David Buckland is the nominated representative for Stratford and updates the Information Commissioners' register. The Head of Technical Services will be legally responsible for the day to day running of the scheme and for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the legislation and the BWV policy.

3.0 What is the organisation's purpose for using CCTV?

Stratford District Council's Parking Services department will use the images and audio for the prevention and detection of crime relating to the health and safety of Civil Enforcement Officers. This will be done through the gathering of intelligence including use of images and sound as evidence in criminal or civil proceedings.

4.0 What are the problems it is supposed to address?

Incidents of verbal/physical abuse against Civil Enforcement Officers

5.0 What are the benefits to be gained from it's use?

BWV has the potential to significantly reduce the number of incidents of verbal and physical abuse of Civil Enforcement Officers. Where incidents do still occur BWV will improve the quality of evidence provided by the Civil Enforcement Officers.

6.0 Can CCTV technology realistically deliver these benefits?

Yes, recordings that include image and audio evidence has been used (nationally) in numerous court cases to provide clear evidence and achieve successful prosecutions.

7.0 Can less privacy intrusive solutions achieve the same objectives?

The Civil Enforcement Officer will use a variety of methods of gathering evidence and will use discretion when deciding which method to gather the evidence i.e. a pocket notebook.

8.0 Do you need images of identifiable individuals or could the scheme use other images not capable of identifying the individual?

The images of identifiable individuals helps in cases where the offender was verbally or physically abusive.

9.0 Will the particular equipment/system of work being considered deliver the desired benefits now and remain suitable in the future?

The BWV system delivers the desired benefits currently. An annual review of the equipment will be carried out to ensure that the equipment is fit for use.

10.0 What future demands may arise for wider use of images and how will you address these?

The BWV will only be used for the purposes as stated in 3.0 and 4.0

11.0 What are the views of those that will be under surveillance?

BWV is not to be used for surveillance purposes it is to be used strictly for recording specific incidents.

12.0 What could you do to minimise intrusion for those that may be monitored, particularly if specific concerns have been expressed?

If a Civil Enforcement Officers becomes involved in a situation where recording is considered necessary they will, as far as is reasonable possible, focus the recording on the perpetrator(s) of the incident.