

**ANNUAL EVALUATION
OF
WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED
AUTHORITY
SAFER TRAVEL**

1st January 2023

to

31st December 2023

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023

EVALUATION OF THE WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

BODY WORN CAMERA SYSTEM

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1.0 METHODOLOGY

In order to comply with the requirements of the British Standard BS7958:2019 ‘Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Management and Operation – Code of Practice’ and the recommendations contained in the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner’s ‘Surveillance Camera Code of Practice’ November 2021 and the Information Commissioner’s ‘CCTV Code of Practice’ October 2014, West Midlands Combined Authority commissioned Plass Solutions Ltd to conduct an evaluation of the use of body worn camera system by the Safer Travel Team.

Whilst the Information Commissioner’s CCTV Code of Practice and the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice mention that a review should be undertaken that assesses the effectiveness of the system, the Code of Practices are specific in the criteria required to be covered by such an evaluation. However, the afore-mentioned Codes of Practice agree that the results of the evaluation should be publicly available.

The topics required to be covered by the Code of Practices are as follows:

- a) a description of the scheme and the geographical area(s) of operation the schemes policy statement
- b) the purpose and scope of the scheme
- c) any changes to the operation or management of the CCTV scheme
- d) any changes that have been made to the policy
- e) any proposals to expand or reduce the operation of the scheme
- f) the aims and objectives for the next 12 months.

The Code of Practices also require the following information to be included within the review:

- a) the number of incidents recorded by the scheme
- b) the number of incidents reported to the police and where appropriate other bodies
- c) an assessment of the CCTV scheme’s impact on crime levels and types of crime in the area covered by the scheme.

As the West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel has achieved accreditation to the above-mentioned Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner’s ‘Surveillance Camera Code of Practice’, and is working towards BS7958:2019, the following evaluation will focus on the content of that Standard and Code of Practices as outlined above.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Overview

The West Midlands Safer Travel Partnership is a team dedicated to keeping the public transport network safe for both passengers and transport staff. The partnership is made up of employees from West Midlands Police, British Transport Police and Transport for West Midlands. The Safer Travel Team now include Transport Safety Officers (TSOs) who tackle antisocial behaviour on public transport. The TSOs are the first of their kind in the UK to operate across all three modes of public transport (bus, rail and tram).

The system is owned by West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), who is responsible for the management, administration and security of the system. WMCA will therefore ensure the protection of individuals and the public by complying with the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner's 'Surveillance Camera Code of Practice' and the Information Commissioner's CCTV Code of Practices and this document.

The scheme comprises of body worn CCTV cameras used by WMCA authorised operators (bus station staff and transport safety and engagement officers). It will enable WMCA staff and contractors to comply with the relevant legislation relating to video recording and outline the associated benefits to WMCA staff and the general public. It also documents best practice procedures with regard to legislation, integrity of data, images and video as well as its security and use.

The use of Body Worn Cameras can provide a number of benefits which include a deterrent to acts of aggression or verbal and physical abuse toward staff and the provision of evidence to support Police investigations, complaints made by the public and disciplinary investigations.

The primary role of the Transport Safety Officers (TSO) is to provide a visible presence on the Public Transport Network in the West Midlands, providing good Customer Service to Staff and Passengers to tackle low level Anti-Social Behaviour and improve the perception of safety for users of the transport network. The approach to be followed by the TSO's can be summarized as Engagement, Education, and where necessary Enforcement. They do this by using devolved powers given to the TSOs authorised by WMP under the Police Reform Act 2002.

Body Worn Cameras forms part of users Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and is provided solely for the use indicated in the Code of Practice. It will be used in an overt manner and emphasised by the wearing clear identification that it is a CCTV device. Prior to commencement of any recording, where possible, staff will give a clear verbal warning / hand signal that recording is taking place.

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The body worn CCTV camera equipment will be used for:

- Interaction - being seen.
- Engagement - Questions or conversation with.
- Warning - issuing warning.

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3.0 SCHEME DESCRIPTION

3.1 Body Worn Camera System

The Body Worn Camera system referred to in this document has been introduced for the purposes outlined in below. Whilst the scheme is owned by WMCA, its implementation and/or expansion is supported by the following bodies (the partners):

- Bus Station staff
- West Midlands Police
- British Transport Police
- Bus Operating Companies

The owner and all partners will work in accordance with the Codes.

Recordings will not commence until the WMCA staff has issued a verbal warning, of their intention to turn on the Body Worn Cameras. Recordings will not be made whilst performing normal patrolling duties.

High quality Body Worn Cameras are in use. The physical and intellectual rights in relation to any and all material recorded by the systems shall at all times remain in the ownership of WMCA.

3.2 Ownership

The scheme is owned by West Midlands Combined Authority who is responsible for the management, administration and security of the system. West Midlands Combined Authority and its partners will ensure the protection of individuals and the public by complying with the Codes of Practice.

Should the public wish to make contact with the owners of the scheme they may write to:

Security & Policing Manager
Safer Travel
West Midlands Combined Authority
16 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3SD

The above contact point will be available to members of the public during office hours. Enquirers will be provided with the relevant documentation on request.

3.3 Policy Statement

The scheme aims to provide surveillance of the public areas within the specified location, in order to fulfil the purposes of the scheme.

Body Worn Cameras are worn so that they are clearly visible, and the public will normally, where practical, be given a clear verbal warning that the camera is in use. This will ensure that both the maximum deterrent value is achieved and that the public are fully aware that they are being recorded.

Staff members and/or contractors will wear Body Worn Cameras with signage stating that CCTV is operational and/or being recorded.

4.0 THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SCHEME

4.1 Purposes of the scheme

The following are the objectives for which The West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel body worn camera system was established:

- To protect members of staff and the public.
- To discourage physical, assaults, aggressive or abusive behaviour against staff.
- To deter and detect crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To assist in the identification of offenders leading to their arrest and successful prosecution.
- To reduce staff's fear of crime or aggressive or violent behaviour.
- To provide evidence in cases of alleged illegal activity or in disciplinary offences. This may amount to misconduct by members of staff.
- To help investigate breaches in Health and Safety incidents, investigate formal complaints or to resolve grievances.

4.2 Scope of the scheme

Body Worn Cameras are worn so that they are clearly visible, and the public will normally, where practical, be given a clear verbal warning that the camera is in use. This will ensure that both the maximum deterrent value is achieved and that the public are fully aware that they are being recorded.

Staff members and/or contractors will wear Body Worn Cameras with signage stating that CCTV is operational and/or being recorded.

Data will not be held for longer than necessary and disposal of information will be regulated.

This evaluation of the scheme is carried out annually and will be available to the public.

West Midlands Combined Authority and partners support the individual's right to privacy and will insist that all agencies involved in the provision and use of the Body Worn Camera system accept this fundamental principle as being paramount.

The scheme aims to provide surveillance of the public areas in order to fulfil the purposes of the scheme. Data will not be held for longer than necessary and disposal of information will be regulated.

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The schemes are registered with the Information Commissioner. The registration number is Z5897556. The schemes will be managed in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018, Human Rights Act 1998 and all other relevant legislation.

Reviews of Data Protection and Legal requirements are undertaken annually.

4.3 Personnel

All personnel involved with the monitoring of CCTV have or are in the process of being security screened in accordance with British Standards.

4.4 Training

All employees engaged in the monitoring and operation of body worn cameras have or are in the process of receiving training to the standards required by the Private Security Industry Act 2001. As a further requirement of the above Act all operators will be licensed by the Security Industry Authority.

4.5 Operation of the scheme

The system is operated in accordance with a recognized Code of Practice and Procedural Manual.

4.6 Audit

As mentioned in the introduction to this report the scheme is required to be independently monitored this includes a review of the scheme's operation and working practices.

Audits have been undertaken during 2023 prior to this evaluation report which considered the following:

- a) the level of attainment of objectives and procedures.

The level of attainment of objectives is covered in the main evaluation. The statistics relate to the 2023 period. Procedures are governed by the Code of Practice and Procedural Manual. These were reviewed and comply with relevant processes and legislation in particular the Data Protection Act 2018 and Human Rights Act 1998.

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b) random audits of the data log and the release of information

All administrative documentation, which incorporate the release of information and incident reports in connection with this scheme were examined and all appear to be completed in accordance with the Procedural Manual.

c) the review policy

The review policy is outlined within the Code of Practice. Procedures are reviewed on an ongoing basis in order to comply with procedures and legislation.

d) standard of costs for the release or viewing of material

The Information Commissioner confirms the cost should be free of charge. However, West Midlands Combined Authority may charge reasonable fees when responding to manifestly unfounded or excessive requests. There were no Subject Access Requests received and processed in 2023.

e) legislation

At the time of the above audit all legislative requirements appear compliant.

5.0 CHANGES IN OPERATION, MANAGEMENT OR POLICY

As reflected in the Code of Practice, any major changes to the Code of Practice take place only after consultation with the relevant management group and upon agreement of the organisations with a participatory role in the operation of the system.

5.1 Major changes to the code are defined as changes which affect its fundamental principles and shall be deemed to include:

- additions and omissions of cameras to the system matters which have privacy implications
- additions to permitted uses criteria e.g. purposes of the scheme
- changes in the right of access to personal data, except statutory requirements
- significant legal implications.

5.2 Minor changes to this Code of Practice are defined as operational and procedural matters which do not affect the fundamental principles and purposes; these include:

- additions and omissions of contractors
- additional clarifications, explanations and corrections to the existing code
- additions to the code of practice in order to conform to the requirements of
- any statutory Acts and changes in criminal legislation.

A minor change may be agreed between the manager and the owner of the system.

There have been only minor changes to the Code of practice or procedures during the period under evaluation. These include insertion of the ICO registration number and clarification of compliance with Human Rights Act 1998, both in the Codes of Practice.

The Code of Practice is subject to annual review. A copy of the Code of Practice can be obtained by writing to:

Security & Policing Manager
West Midlands Combined Authority
16 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3SD

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6.0 PROPOSALS FOR THE SCHEMES INCLUDING AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel utilises the latest technology in body worn cameras. This is seen as being beneficial to all those who visit, reside and work in the area.

The aims and objectives remain the same and these are the prevention and detection of crime, to reduce the fear of crime and make the area a safe environment.

7.0 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

In order to achieve meaningful evaluation, the CCTV scheme must be assessed against specific performance indicators which are relevant to the objectives of the scheme. This can be achieved by utilising baskets of indicators which are divided into the categories of Contextual, Key and Support Indicators.

7.1 Contextual Indicators

Contextual Indicators relate to the circumstances or background surrounding the particular initiative. In this case the purposes of the Body Worn Camera are mainly for improving public safety and to prevent and detect crime. Indicators will include both British Crime Statistics and Police Recorded statistics for this type of crime.

7.2 Key Indicators

Key Indicators are closely related to the actual objectives of the particular initiative and attempt to measure its effect. This will include the total crime for the police area.

7.3 Support Indicators

Support Indicators are used to refute or verify the key indicators. The measurements will include the number of images seized by police which contain evidential value.

7.4 EVALUATION

7.4.1 Contextual Indicators

Contextual Indicators relate to the circumstances or background surrounding the particular initiative. In this case the purposes of the Body Worn Cameras are mainly to improve public safety and prevent and detect crime. Indicators will include both British Crime Statistics and Police Recorded statistics for this type of crime.

7.4.2 British Crime Survey

The responsibility for the publication of crime statistics transferred from the Home Office to Office of National Statistics (ONS) in April 2012, with the year starting on 1st July and finishing on 30th June. The following information has been taken from the ONS website.

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The latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed that there were an estimated 8.5 million offences in the year ending September 2023. While the latest figures do not show a statistically significant change in total crime compared with the year ending September 2022, they do follow a long-term downward trend and more recent falls since the beginning of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with total crime 17% lower than the year ending March 2020. Compared with the year ending September 2022, there was some variation for individual crime types:

- Fraud decreased by 13%, with notable reductions in advance fee fraud (33%) and other fraud (40%).
- Computer misuse increased by 30%, mainly because of a 36% rise in unauthorised access to personal information.
- Criminal damage decreased by 21%, including a 30% fall in criminal damage to a vehicle.

The CSEW remains the best estimate of long-term trends in crimes against the household population for the crimes included in the survey. However, estimates for the year ending September 2022 and September 2023 should be interpreted with caution. The CSEW estimates presented for the year ending September 2022 are based on lower than usual interview numbers following the gradual return to face-to-face interviewing from October 2021 (20,980 respondents). Both years are subject to lower response rates, which may affect the quality of the estimates. For more information, see the Office for Statistics Regulation's Temporary suspension of National Statistics status for estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales note.

Although police recorded crime does not tend to be a good indicator of general trends in crime, it can give more insight into lower-volume, but higher-harm offences reported to the police, including those that the survey does not cover or capture well. Data for the year ending September 2023 showed:

- The number of homicides decreased by 9% to 591 offences compared with the year ending September 2022 (651 offences).
- Police recorded robbery offences increased by 12% to 79,091 offences compared with the year ending September 2022 (70,792 offences), but they remained 12% lower than the year ending March 2020 (90,187 offences).

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- Offences involving knives or sharp instruments (excluding Greater Manchester Police and Devon and Cornwall Police) increased by 5% (to 48,716 offences) compared with the year ending September 2022 (46,367 offences), but remain 5% lower compared with the year ending March 2020 (51,228 offences).
- Offences involving firearms (excluding Devon and Cornwall Police) increased by 3% (to 6,233 offences) compared with the year ending September 2022 (6,024 offences).
- Theft offences increased by 9% to 1.8 million offences compared with the previous year, this was largely a result of a 32% increase in shoplifting offences.
- There was a slight increase (2%) in vehicle offences compared with the previous year, which included an 8% increase in theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle compared with year ending September 2022 and a 17% increase compared with the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic year ending March 2020.

According to Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates for the year ending September 2023, people aged 16 years and over experienced 8.5 million offences, no significant change compared with the year ending September 2022 (9.1 million offences). However, this follows a long-term downward trend and more recent falls since the beginning of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with total crime 17% lower than the year ending March 2020 (10.2 million offences).

The latest CSEW figures are based on interviews conducted between October 2022 and September 2023, measuring experiences of crime in the 12 months before the interview. This means these crimes could have occurred any time between October 2021 and August 2023. Similarly, the year ending September 2022 will include crimes committed during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and as early as October 2020. Crime Survey estimates are not currently designated as National Statistics. Please use these data with caution because of the potential impact of lower response rates on data quality. Since the mid-1990s, there have been long-term falls in overall CSEW crime estimates. However, long-term trends vary by crime type.

For crimes that come to the attention of the police, police recorded crime has wider coverage than the CSEW as it includes offences against all people (including those aged under 16 years old and the non-household population), and businesses, as well as victimless crimes, such as drug taking.

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Improvements to recording processes and practices by the police, expansions of the recorded crime collection to include new offences, variations in police activity, more victims reporting crime, and genuine increases in some types of crime, have each made substantial contributions to rises in recorded crime over recent years. This effect has been more pronounced for some crime types. For some types of offence these figures do not provide reliable trends in crime.

Police recorded crime in England and Wales in the year ending September 2023 was relatively stable with a 1% increase on the previous year. Overall, 6.7 million crimes were recorded in the year ending September 2023 compared with 6.6 million in the year ending September 2022. Notable increases were observed in shoplifting and fraud offences against businesses and other organisations (which are not included in the CSEW). Information on the investigative outcomes of crimes recorded by the police can be found in the Home Office's Crime outcomes in England and Wales publication.

7.4.3 West Midlands Police crime and offence statistics

As previously mentioned, contextual performance indicators are closely related to the background and environment of the particular initiative, it is therefore advantageous to examine the context in which the cameras operate. This will include the total crime for the police area. There is an argument that the number of recorded offences would be reflected in the levels of incidents created by the CCTV operators.

During 2019 the recorded crime had decreased by -0.2%. There was an increase in Weapons (+28%), Drugs (+25%), Violence (+22%), Public Order (+19%), Other Crime (+17%) and Robbery (+8%). Decreases were recorded in Bike Theft (-18%), Anti-Social Behaviour (-17%), Burglary (-15%), Other Theft (-15%), Shoplifting (-11%), Vehicle (-11%), Theft from a Person (-4%) and Criminal Damage/Arson (-2%).

During 2020 the recorded crime had increased by 7.5%. There was an increase in Public Order (+41%), Anti-Social Behaviour (+40%), Violence (+25%), Other Crime (+25%), Weapons (+8%) and Drugs (+3%). Decreases were recorded in Theft from a Person (-33%), Shoplifting (-30%), Burglary (-22%), Robbery (-22%), Other Theft (-21%), Vehicle (-19%), Criminal Damage/Arson (-14%) and Bike Theft (-9%).

During 2021 the recorded crime had increased by 22%. There was an increase in Public Order (+66%), Weapons (+61%), Violence (+49%), Criminal Damage/Arson (+48%), Other Crime (+41%), Drugs (+24%), Other Theft (+7%), Bike Theft (+4%) and Robbery (+1%). Decreases were recorded in Burglary (-19%), Anti-Social Behaviour (-16%), Vehicle (-5%), Theft from a Person (-3%) and Shoplifting (-3%).

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During 2022 the recorded crime had increased by 8%. There was an increase in Other Crime (+1043%), Shoplifting (+42%), Drugs (+29%), Public Order (+29%), Violence and Sexual (+19%), Criminal Damage/Arson (+13%), Vehicle (+2%) and Bike Theft (0%). Decreases were recorded in Other Theft (-14%), Weapons (-21%), Burglary (-36%), Robbery (-40%), Anti-Social Behaviour (-66%) and Theft from a Person (-67%).

During 2023 the recorded crime has decreased by 5%. There was an increase in Shoplifting (+45%), Anti-Social Behaviour (+17%), Robbery (+7%). Decreases were recorded in Drugs (-3%), Other Crime (-3%), Weapons (-4%), Burglary (-5%), Other Theft (-5%), Vehicle (-7%), Criminal Damage/Arson (-7%), Violence and Sexual (-9%), Bike Theft (-12%), Theft from a Person (-14%), and Public Order (-24%).

7.4.4 Analysis of Recorded Crime Levels – Bus Stations

The following is an analysis of crimes and offences committed during 2020 to 2022 compared with 2023.

Bus Station	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bearwood	1	0	2	3
Bilston	4	14	24	36
Bradford Place	3	1	2	0
Coventry	25	77	131	85
Cradley Heath	0	1	2	5
Dudley	70	113	197	87
Halesowen	23	41	25	36
Merry Hill	12	23	30	20
Oldbury	0	0	3	0
Stourbridge	11	28	49	27
Walsall	29	89	119	86
Wednesbury	11	21	28	24
West Bromwich	56	92	116	100
Wolverhampton	40	127	203	102
Grand Total	285	427	931	611

During 2022 there were 931 offences recorded for the afore-mentioned Bus Stations, and this has decreased to 611 in 2023.

7.4.5 Analysis of Recorded Crime Levels – Railway and Metro Stations

The following is an analysis of crimes and offences committed and recorded by West Midlands Police and British Transport Police during 2021 to 2023.

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Railway Station	BTP 2021	BTP 2022	BTP 2023	WMP 2021	WMP 2022	WMP 2023
Acocks Green Rail Station	8	6	17	0	0	0
Adderley Park Railway Station	5	4	8	0	0	0
Alvechurch Railway Station	5	4	2	0	0	0
Aston Railway Station	11	12	18	5	2	7
Barnt Green Railway Station	2	7	3	0	0	0
Berkswell Railway Station	3	15	8	0	0	0
Bescot Stadium Railway Station	2	8	17	3	13	9
Birmingham International Railway Station	29	55	115	0	0	0
Birmingham Moor Street Railway Station	38	55	60	5	0	0
Birmingham New Street Railway Station	548	716	893	0	0	0
Birmingham Snow Hill Railway Station	23	33	28	13	16	14
Blake Street Railway Station	4	3	6	0	0	0
Bloxwich North Station	4	6	3	0	0	0
Bloxwich Railway Station	12	15	8	2	1	0
Bordesley Railway Station	0	1	4	0	0	0
Bournville Railway Station	6	8	11	0	0	2
Bradley Lane Metro Station	1	3	3	0	0	0
Bromsgrove Railway Station	14	16	34	0	0	0
Butlers Lane Railway Station	3	3	3	0	1	1
Canley Railway Station	7	10	10	4	2	0
Cannock Railway Station	12	26	8	0	0	0
Chester Road Railway Station	9	14	6	0	6	5
Churchill And Blakedown Railway Station	1	1	3	0	0	0
Coseley Railway Station	6	9	8	0	7	14
Coventry Railway Station	100	123	155	3	30	22
Cradley Heath Railway Station	22	10	25	2	3	6
Danzey Railway Station	0	2	0	0	0	0
Dorridge Railway Station	2	6	22	0	2	0
Duddeston Railway Station	12	9	8	0	0	0
Dudley Port Railway Station	6	8	5	0	1	1
Earlswood Railway Station	6	1	3	0	0	0
Erdington Railway Station	17	13	10	1	4	2
Five Ways Railway Station	8	10	11	0	0	0
Four Oaks Railway Station	8	18	16	3	6	7
Gravelly Hill Rail Station	25	20	21	2	2	5
Hagley Railway Station	5	1	6	0	0	0
Hall Green Railway Station	6	7	11	0	0	1
Hampton In Arden Railway Station	4	9	1	0	0	0
Hamstead Rail Station	3	4	7	0	0	0

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Hatton Railway Station	0	4	0	0	0	0
Hednesford Railway Station	9	16	7	0	0	0
Henley-In-Arden Railway Station	2	0	5	0	0	0
Jewellery Quarter Railway Station	8	4	26	0	0	0
Kidderminster Railway Station	24	24	27	0	0	0
Kings Norton Railway Station	20	19	34	3	11	15
Landywood Railway Station	6	6	12	0	0	0
Langley Green Railway Station	5	4	5	4	1	0
Lapworth Railway Station	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lea Hall Railway Station	2	5	3	1	0	2
Leamington Spa Railway Station	23	35	50	0	0	0
Lichfield City Railway Station	7	16	20	0	0	0
Lichfield Trent Valley Railway Station	9	14	7	0	0	0
Longbridge Rail Station	20	34	0	0	0	0
Loxdale Metro Station	3	4	5	0	0	0
Lye Railway Station	3	10	1	0	3	0
Marston Green Railway Station	6	12	10	4	7	7
Metro Depot	0	1	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Bilston Central Tram Stop	3	1	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Black Lake Tram Stop	5	1	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Corporation Street Tram Stop	0	3	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Dartmouth Street Tram Stop	2	3	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Dudley Street Tram Stop	5	0	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Handsworth Tram Stop	0	2	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Kenrick Park Tram Stop	6	2	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Lodge Road Tram Stop	6	4	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Priestfield Tram Stop	5	8	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Soho Benson Road Tram Stop	0	1	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro St Georges Tram Stop	2	6	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro St Pauls Tram Stop	1	1	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro The Crescent Tram Stop	5	1	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro The Hawthorns Tram Stop	7	7	1	0	1	0
Midland Metro The Royal Tram Stop	3	2	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Trinity Way Tram Stop	6	0	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Wednesbury Gt Western St Tram Stop	4	12	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Wednesbury Parkway Tram Stop	5	6	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro West Bromwich Central Tram Stop	3	11	0	0	0	0
Midland Metro Winson Green Tram Stop	1	2	0	0	0	0
Northfield Railway Station	10	24	50	0	0	0
Old Hill Railway Station	3	3	4	0	1	2
Olton Station	9	7	2	3	3	5

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Perry Barr Railway Station	1	7	16	0	0	0
Redditch Railway Station	19	26	19	0	1	0
Rowley Regis Railway Station	13	9	13	1	1	1
Rugeley Town Railway Station	9	5	5	0	0	0
Rugeley Trent Valley Railway Station	8	15	10	0	0	0
Sandwell And Dudley Railway Station	17	14	20	4	3	7
Selly Oak Railway Station	16	18	24	0	3	1
Shenstone Railway Station	3	3	1	0	0	0
Shirley Railway Station	11	4	5	0	2	3
Small Heath Railway Station	3	11	5	0	0	1
Smethwick Galton Bridge Railway Station	18	22	7	2	2	0
Smethwick Rolfe Street Railway Station	4	4	8	0	0	0
Solihull Railway Station	14	23	25	7	5	6
Spring Road Railway Station	18	5	3	0	0	0
Stechford Railway Station	10	9	9	0	0	0
Stourbridge Junction Railway Station	21	17	28	0	2	0
Stourbridge Town Railway Station	5	3	1	0	1	0
Stratford-Upon-Avon Parkway Railway Station	8	0	5	0	0	0
Stratford-Upon-Avon Railway Station	15	13	15	0	0	0
Sutton Coldfield Railway Station	13	33	18	0	0	1
Tame Bridge Parkway Railway Station	13	12	12	0	2	3
Telford Central Bus Station	0	1	0	0	0	0
The Hawthorns Railway Station	10	8	11	0	1	1
The Lakes Railway Station	0	3	0	0	0	0
Tile Hill Railway Station	5	5	5	4	9	11
Tipton Railway Station	2	3	6	1	2	11
Tyseley Railway Station	5	12	8	0	0	2
University Railway Station	8	20	17	0	0	0
Walsall Railway Station	49	44	52	6	13	15
Warwick Parkway Railway Station	3	6	3	0	0	0
Whitlocks End Railway Station	4	3	3	0	0	4
Widney Manor Railway Station	1	1	4	0	0	0
Witton Railway Station	3	3	5	2	0	0
Wolverhampton Railway Station	129	148	180	22	14	25
Wootton Wawen Railway Station	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wylde Green Railway Station	3	5	7	0	1	0
Wythall Railway Station	2	6	2	0	0	0
Yardley Wood Railway Station	11	14	10	1	2	5
Grand Total	1691	2047	2410	108	208	228

7.5 Support Indicators

7.5.1 Incident Reports

An incident is an activity that raises cause for concern that the safety or security of an individual may be compromised or that an offence has been, is being or is about to be, committed, or that an occurrence has taken place warranting specific action by WMCA authorised officers.

The success of a body worn camera scheme relies, to a considerable extent, on the proactive use of the system by the officers. It is necessary therefore to ascertain if the system is being used to its full potential by those operating the cameras and one method of establishing this is to analyse the incidents. Details of incidents dealt with by officers are passed to the relevant authority.

7.5.2 West Midlands Combined Authority Body Worn Camera System

It is necessary to be able to justify the existence of each camera which forms part of the Body Worn Camera scheme and the only measurement is when it has been used during an incident.

In 2023 there were a total of 1582 usages of the body worn cameras, compared to 1470 usages in 2022. This is an average of 63 usages for each of the 25 cameras. An analysis of the number of uses for each body worn camera can be found in Appendix 'B'.

Using a formula employed by a number of organisations, all cameras with less than half the average number of usages would be regarded as being 'at risk' of further consideration. However, most of the body worn cameras have specific and/or unique operational requirements, which include the security and safety of staff and people using the public transport facilities. It is therefore suggested that in future a more customer based analysis be adopted to establish the perceptions of those using the facility, as apposed to relying on crime and incident analysis.

7.5.3 Viewing and Seizure of evidence

The viewing and subsequent copying/seizure of recorded images can act as an indicator to support or refute the effectiveness of the scheme in obtaining meaningful evidence. However, it is difficult to ascertain from police records whether the images viewed have been used as evidence to obtain a conviction at court, assisted in any other clearance process or been used for intelligence purposes.

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During 2023 there were 8 reviews conducted by the Police and the WMCA ASB Team compared to 10 in 2022. 2 DVDs and 1 Still were issued to the Police and 4 DVDs and 3 Stills issued to the WMCA ASB Team, compared to 8 to the Police and 3 to the WMCA ASB Team in 2022. There were no other third party requests.

7.5.4 Complaints

A member of the public wishing to make a complaint about the system may do so through West Midlands Combined Authority's complaint procedure. A copy of the complaint procedure is available by writing to:

Security & Policing Manager
Safer Travel
West Midlands Combined Authority
16 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3SD

A complaints procedure has been documented. A record of the number of complaints or enquiries received is maintained together with an outline of the action taken. During the period of evaluation there have been no recorded complaints concerning the scheme in question. However, there were 30 compliments formally received during 2023; key trends identified included the support of TSOs during police incidents, traffic issues and bus station incidents.

7.5.5 Privacy Impact Assessments

During 2023 there have been no additional body worn cameras introduced, therefore the Privacy Impact Assessment did not require updating.

8.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Introduction

This body worn camera evaluation focuses on the 25 body worn cameras used by the TSOs, which are owned by West Midlands Combined Authority.

8.2 Recorded Incidents / Crime

During 2023 there were 1554 recorded incidents on the public transport monitored by the Safer Travel Team of which 52 were evidential. Refer to Appendix 'A' for the breakdown of non-evidential and evidential data.

8.3 Body Worn Camera Use and Incidents logged by Officers

It is necessary to be able to justify the existence of each body worn camera which forms part of the Body Worn Camera scheme and the only measurement is when it has been used during an incident.

In 2023 there were a total of 1582 usages of the body worn cameras and this is an average of 63 usages for each of the 25 cameras.

Using a formula employed by a number of organisations, all cameras with less than half the average number of usages would be regarded as being 'at risk' of further consideration. As previously mentioned, the 2023 analysis indicates that there was an average of 32 uses for the 25 cameras, however, most of the body worn cameras have specific and/or unique operational requirements, which include the security and safety of staff and people using public transport. An analysis of the number of uses for each body worn camera and those at 'risk' can be found in Appendix 'B'.

8.4 Police and WMCA ASB Team Reviews of Footage

Another important indicator is the number of reviews conducted by the police and the WMCA ASB Team. During 2023, there were 8 reviews conducted by the police and the WMCA ASB Team. 2 DVDs and 1 Still were issued to the Police and 4 DVDs and 3 Stills issued to the WMCA ASB Team. There were no other third party requests or subject access requests.

8.5 Future Evaluations

The Information Commissioner's CCTV Code of Practice makes the following requirement:

“If you are already using a surveillance system, you should regularly evaluate whether it is necessary and proportionate to continue to use it”

“You should review regularly whether the use of CCTV continues to be justified. It is necessary to renew your notification with the ICO annually, so this would be an appropriate time to consider the ongoing use of such systems.”

...there should be a periodic review, at least annually of the system’s effectiveness to ensure that it is still doing what it was intended to do. If it does not achieve its purpose, it should be stopped or modified.”

Information Commissioners Code of Practice 2014

The purposes and scope of the systems are detailed in section four of this report and these include the prevention and detection of offences. Whilst it is not possible to make an assumption that the Body Worn Camera system is actually preventing offences, it is a component part of the preventative package. To remove or modify the use of the Body Worn Camera system may also detract from a further identified purpose, this being to reduce the fear of crime.

It is a recommendation that the Body Worn Camera system continues to be evaluated on an annual basis. This will ensure continued compliance with the British Standard, which is assessed each year and it will also provide compliance with legislation and the Surveillance Camera Codes.

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APPENDIX 'A'
RECORDED INCIDENTS 2023

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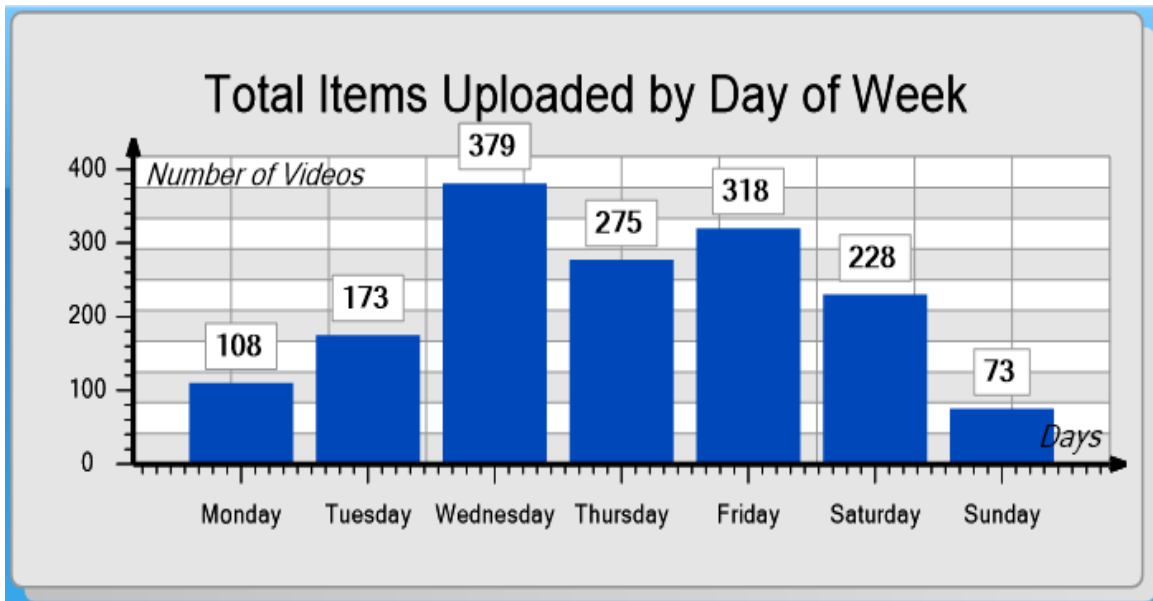
1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023

APPENDIX 'A'

UPLOADING DATA

NON EVIDENTIAL	EVIDENTIAL
1502	52
Total 1554	

TOTAL NUMBER OF UPLOADS FOR 2023:



APPENDIX 'B'
USAGE OF BODY WORN CAMERAS

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APPENDIX 'B'

BODY WORN CAMERA USAGE

Camera	2023
N33306	50
N33399	53
N33806	192
N34004	45
N34052	228
N34128	146
N34218	81
N34240	40
N34423	0
N34530	39
N56634	0
N56756	0
N56765	253
N56951	0
N57034	0
N57543	324
N57730	0
N57734	0
N57778	0
N57831	0
N58484	0
N58518	131
N58674	0
N56815	0
N57753	0
TOTAL USAGE	1582