

Derby City Council – Response
ID Reference FOI292129928
Date 28/10/2025

Information Requested

1.I would like to request Derby City Council's policy on recording conversations, particularly the use of bodycams for recording in someone's property and at Derby City Council

Response

Extract from the Data Protection Impact Assessment for Body Work Cameras

The Public Protection Team is responsible for enforcing a wide range of legislative requirements in relation to crime, environmental crime and anti-social behaviour. Their enforcement activity is aimed at improving quality of life for residents and businesses to ensure cleaner and safer neighbourhoods across Derby.

The Public Protection Team engage extensively with members of the public to prevent and enforce against unlawful behaviour. At times these engagements can be aggressive and challenging. On occasions officers have been verbally abused or threatened during operational activity, which highlights the need for practicable personal safety measures to be put in place, e.g. body worn video camera (BWVC). Benefits to the Council BWVCs have been utilised by nearly all UK police forces and many council enforcement teams for over a decade, and are now an important tool in being able to prevent and detect crime, anti-social behaviour and environmental crime; whilst also protecting staff and vulnerable people. The use of BWVCs by officers will help strengthen legal cases against those who commit anti-social behaviour and environmental crime across the City. The use of BWVC could increase the number of fines paid and/or the number of early guilty pleas of criminal and civil offences, as defendants realise evidence of offences has been captured on our BWVCs. This will look to reduce the Council's workload for preparing case files and taking legal action – reducing costs for the Council. BWVCs are a useful protection measure for officers who may find themselves in danger whilst on duty. BWVCs can both act as a deterrent measure for unlawful behaviour and can help with prosecution against potential attacks against officers. It is hoped that this will reduce any potential verbal/physical attacks on our staff. Capturing relevant footage will also help improve service standards in relation to enforcement. The recording will provide reassurance to the public and our supervisors that officers conduct themselves in a professional and fair manner; whilst enabling the Council to better handle malicious complaints. Individuals/Members of the Public Increased confidence in the Public Protection Team, as enforcement activity is being captured on BWVCs and retained according to the team's information inventory and retention schedule. Benefits to Other Organisations Derbyshire Police, HM Courts Service, UK Border Agency, Gangmasters Licensing and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) – Where requested officers will provide these agencies with video/audio footage in the prevention and detection of crime and disorder. Reveal Media Limited's Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) will enable Derbyshire Police to remotely obtain footage from the Council. Derbyshire Police have DEMS, an internal link is sent by the Council's administrator through DEMS to Derbyshire Police. This will save costs for Derbyshire Police from having to physically send an officer to retrieve body worn footage from a Council location. What Data Will Be Collected The use of BWVC devices will result in the collection of new data as detailed below:

- Audio and video footage of members of the public being investigated by Public Protection Officers, in accordance with their legislative powers and to protect the public and staff.
- Audio and video footage of third parties in the vicinity of the investigation. Whilst these individuals will not be the subject of the recording, their personal data could be captured. DEMS 360 can redact images captured of any personal identifiers such as unrelated bystanders, audio and licence plates.
- Audio and video footage of Council Public Protection Officers carrying out their operational duties during an investigation. BWVC data will only be accessible by Public Protection Team officers and supervisors on two council domain computers, which require login to the council network, then access is through a secure link to Reveal Media Limited's Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS). DEMS contains a full audit trail, which can be monitored by the Council's System Administrator to ensure privacy standards are maintained. Separate roles have been set up on DEMS for individual users' access rights, the relevant roles are as follows:
 - Public Protection Officer – Can only view footage they have captured by entering a pin into the BWVC or logging into the two standalone computers in the PPO Office. Any officer activity on DEMS 360 is monitored by the supervisor.
 - Public Protection Management Team – The Public Protection Team management team have full administrative rights to DEMS 360. They can playback footage, transfer footage to internal and external agencies, watch live stream in exceptional circumstances and ensure retention rates are adhered to. The Management Team can suspend/delete officer accounts if necessary.
 - Trading Standards – Images or footage will be sent via council email to assist in the prevention and detection of Trading Standards offences.
 - Food and Safety – Images or footage will be sent via council email to assist in the prevention and detection of Food and Safety offences.
 - Housing Enforcement – Images or footage will be sent via council email to assist in the prevention and detection of housing related offences.
 - Community Safety and Partnerships – Images or footage will be sent via council email to assist in the prevention and detection of crime and disorder.

Information Flows The diagram at Appendix A - attached - identifies the information flow for the use of these devices.

The following steps will be taken when handling personal data obtained through the BWVCs:

- 1) Prior to using BWVCs all officers are provided with one to one training by a supervisor which covers the operation of BWVCs.
- 2) Authorised officers will book out their BWVC device from the pool of devices located in the Stores Road Office. This ensures the usage of BWVC is recorded for audit purposes.
- 3) During operational duties, the allocated BWVC device will only start recording when activated by an authorised officer. When recording an officer will first verbally announce their intention to record with the intended target. In addition a flashing red light will be visible to the intended target on the BWVC.
- 4) Footage is captured on the reveal D5-Series Camera. Encryption is activated on all cameras and requires a pin for playback. Only the officer knows this pin and prevents unauthorised access by other officers or members of the public if lost or stolen.
- 5) At end of each duty, BWVC is inserted into the Reveal Docking Station within the Stores Road Office by each officer.
- 6) Footage is automatically transferred via the Reveal Media Ltd Docking Station to Reveal Media Ltd's Digital Evidence Management Platform (DEMS 360) cloud software on one of two dedicated standalone computers for body worn video. Footage from the cameras is automatically deleted from the camera following upload.
- 7) Footage is retained on the secure cloud server for 28 days. However this will be extended to 12 months to take into account the potential for appeals/representations following court/tribunal case outcomes. PPO Team may also keep the footage beyond a year should there be a legitimate reason to do so, e.g. evidence to support a murder trail.
- 8) Derbyshire Police may request footage through DEMS for investigatory purposes with regard to investigating an incident of ASB or criminal activity. An internal link will be sent to Derbyshire Police through DEMS 360 so that they can access the footage remotely.
- 9) All other teams listed in this DPIA, internal and external, will receive relevant information through council email for the purposes of the prevention and detection of crime and disorder.
- 10) In addition supervisory officers can view real time images from BWVs for the purposes of protecting staff in emergency situations.

Please note, the following applies, if the response includes council officers (or other officers) names.

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference. You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.