

Testing the effect of BWV in the WMP: An RCT

This project is a dual site RCT testing the effect of body worn video (BWV) on Use of Force, Complaints, criminal justice (CJ) outcomes, officer legitimacy and public perception.

Key details

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Status | Complete |
| Lead institution | University of Cambridge |
| Principal researcher(s) | Inspector Darren Henstock research.map@college.police.uk |
| Police region | Eastern |
| Project start date | June 2014 |
| Date completed | December 2014 |

Hypothesis

Compared to not wearing cameras, wearing body worn video by patrol officers will:

- decrease number of recorded incidents of use of force
- decrease number of citizens complaints
- increase satisfaction of members of the public coming into contact with the police
- improve self-legitimacy of police officers
- increase rate of prosecution/charge/early guilty pleas

Geographical area

Birmingham South; Wolverhampton Local Policing Unit, West Midlands Police.

Target sample size

430 officer shifts.

Participants - inclusion criteria

Response officers from Local Policing Units (LPU).

Birmingham South - two units - personal issue

Wolverhampton - five Units - pool issue

Interventions

Level 5 Maryland Scale - RCT

Study design

- Randomised shifts, experimental shifts assigned by Cambridge monthly.
- Cameras/no Cameras.

Summary of findings

[Testing the Effects of Body Worn Video on Police Use of Force during Arrest: A Randomised Controlled Trial](https://production.copweb.aws.college.police.uk/research/projects/testing-effect-bwv-wmp-rct)