

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

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