

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

1st January 2022

to

31st December 2022

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2022 – 31st December 2022

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 Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner's 'Surveillance Camera Code of Practice' 2021 and the Information Commissioner's 'CCTV Code of Practice' October 2014, West Midlands Combined Authority commissioned Pluss 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 is working towards the accreditation to the above-mentioned Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner's 'Surveillance Camera Code of Practice', the following evaluation will focus on the content of that Code of Practice 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.

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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.

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:

Civil Interventions & Police Liaison Manager
Safer Travel
West Midlands Combined Authority
16 Summer Lane
Birmingham
B19 3SD

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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 2022 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 2022 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 2022.

e) legislation

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

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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:

Civil Interventions & Police Liaison 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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This is the first Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) to use a full 12 months of data from face-to-face interviews since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Comparing it with the year ending March 2020 gives a comparable estimate to the period before the coronavirus pandemic. It is important to note that because of the Crime Survey methodology, the latest figures include some experiences of crime that took place during social restrictions.

The latest figures from the CSEW for the year ending September 2022 showed that compared with the pre coronavirus pandemic year ending March 2020, total crime decreased by 10%. Focusing on individual crime types:

- The year ending September 2022 estimates showed that overall theft decreased by 20% compared with year ending March 2020.
- The year ending September 2022 estimates showed that fraud has now returned to pre-coronavirus pandemic levels (no significant change compared with the year ending March 2020); this suggests increases may have been specific to the coronavirus pandemic period, rather than a sustained change in trends.

While police recorded crime is not generally a good indicator of trends in crime, for some crime types, it can give more insight into lower-volume but higher-harm crimes, including those that the survey does not cover, or capture well. For such crimes, there have been increases in the last year (since the removal of social restrictions), though they remain below pre-coronavirus pandemic levels, for example:

- The number of homicides decreased by 8% to 663 offences compared with the year ending March 2020, where there were 719 offences; this compares with a 2% increase with the year ending September 2021.
- Police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments is down 8% to 50,434 offences compared with the year ending March 2020; this compares with an 11% increase with the year ending September 2021.
- The number of police recorded robbery offences also remained 21% lower (70,881 offences) than the year ending March 2020 (90,204 offences); more recently, robbery offences increased 15% compared with the year ending September 2021 (61,521 offences).

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Police recorded sexual offences have risen by 22% compared with the pre-coronavirus pandemic year ending March 2020. This increase to 199,021 offences was the highest annual figure recorded in England and Wales. When interpreting police recorded sexual offences, it is important to note that these figures may reflect a number of factors, including the impact of high-profile cases and campaigns on victims' willingness to report both recent and historical incidents. For a subset of forces supplying data to the Home Office Data Hub, 22% of all sexual offences in the year to September 2022 had taken place over a year prior to the incident being recorded.

From data gathered by both police recorded crime and the CSEW to September 2022, it appears too early to say whether or not the decreases seen in most crime types occurring during the coronavirus pandemic will come to represent a sustained change in long-term trends. The CSEW remains the best estimate of long-term trends, although it is also important to note that additional caution must be taken when using these data. Both CSEW and police recorded crime are not designated as National Statistics.

The year ending September 2022 refers to 12 months of data collection between October 2021 and September 2022. Data collected during this period include experiences of crime in the 12 months before the interview month, and therefore includes crimes committed during the coronavirus pandemic and as early as October 2020.

According to Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates for the year ending September 2022, adults aged 16 years and over experienced 9.1 million offences. This was a statistically significant decrease (10%) compared with the year ending March 2020 survey data. This was predominantly because theft offences decreased by 20% (from 3.3 million to 2.6 million offences). The latest CSEW figures included in this release are based on interviews conducted between October 2021 and September 2022, measuring experiences of crime in the 12 months before the interview. This means crimes recorded on the survey could have occurred as far back as October 2020 and as recently as August 2022. Crime survey estimates for the year ending September 2022 are not National Statistics. Caution should be taken when using these data because of the impact of lower response rates in the first months of fieldwork on the quality of the estimates. Since the mid-1990s, there have been long-term falls in overall CSEW crime estimates. Long-term trends also vary by crime types.

Police recorded crime levels in England and Wales have been substantially affected by the coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic and restrictions on social contact. In line with CSEW comparisons, police recorded crime levels are compared with pre-coronavirus pandemic levels in the year ending March 2020.

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Comparisons with the year ending September 2021 show patterns in crime since the easing of social restrictions. 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 2022 exceeded pre-coronavirus pandemic levels. The 6.6 million crimes recorded were 10% higher compared with the year ending March 2020 (6.1 million offences). This overall increase was largely driven by increases in the offence categories, which are most subject to changes in reporting and recording practices. Therefore, these estimates should be treated with caution as they may not reflect a genuine increase in crime. In the year ending September 2021, police recorded crime fell to 5.8 million offences, driven by national lockdowns and restrictions to social contact during this period. The impact that government public health restrictions had during the coronavirus pandemic on levels of police recorded crime can be clearly seen when looking at quarterly figures.

Since the year ending September 2021, police recorded crime has increased by 14% in the year ending September 2022. Police recorded crime includes crimes against people, households and businesses in both residential and non-residential settings, such as non-domestic burglary, societal crimes such as drug taking, and crimes against children. Police recorded crime volumes are higher than those committed against individuals only.

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 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%).

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The recorded crime data for 2021 could not be fully obtained. West Midlands Police have made a statement on their website “Due to recent major system changes, the force is unable to provide Crime and Stop and Search data from April 2021 onwards. The force aims to rectify this issue as soon as possible in the coming months.” The data below, therefore, is for a period of 5 months from January to May 2021.

The recorded crime has 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%).

During 2022 the recorded crime has 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%).

7.4.4 Analysis of Recorded Crime Levels – Bus Stations

The following is an analysis of crimes and offences committed during 2020 and 2021 compared with 2022.

Bus Station	2020	2021	2022
Bilston	4	14	24
Coventry	25	77	128
Dudley	70	113	193
Halesowen	23	41	25
Merry Hill	12	23	29
Stourbridge	11	27	49
Walsall	29	85	114
Wednesbury	11	21	27
West Bromwich	56	92	114
Wolverhampton	40	127	198
Grand Total	241	493	703

During 2021 there were 493 offences recorded for the afore-mentioned Bus Stations, and this has increased to 703 in 2022.

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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 and 2022.

Railway Station	BTP 2021	BTP 2022	WMP 2021	WMP 2022
Acocks Green Rail Station	8	6	0	0
Adderley Park Railway Station	5	4	0	0
Alvechurch Rail Station	2	2	0	0
Alvechurch Railway Station	3	2	0	0
Aston Railway Station	11	12	5	2
Barnt Green Railway Station	2	7	0	0
Berkswell Railway Station	1	6	0	0
Berkswell Station	3	8	0	0
Bescot Stadium Railway Station	2	8	3	13
Birmingham International Railway Station	29	55	0	0
Birmingham Moor Street Railway Station	38	55	5	0
Birmingham New Street Railway Station	548	716	0	0
Birmingham Snow Hill Railway Station	23	33	13	16
Blake Street Railway Station	4	3	0	0
Bloxwich North Station	4	6	0	0
Bloxwich Railway Station	12	15	2	1
Bordesley Railway Station	0	1	0	0
Bournville Railway Station	6	8	0	0
Bradley Lane Metro Station	1	3	0	0
Bromsgrove Railway Station	14	16	0	0
Butlers Lane Railway Station	3	3	0	1
Canley Railway Station	7	10	4	2
Cannock Railway Station	12	26	0	0
Chester Road Railway Station	9	14	0	6
Churchill And Blakedown Railway Station	1	1	0	0
Coseley Railway Station	6	9	0	7
Coventry Railway Station	100	123	3	30
Cradley Heath Railway Station	22	10	2	3
Danzey Railway Station	0	2	0	0
Dorridge Railway Station	2	6	0	0
Duddeston Railway Station	12	9	0	0
Dudley Port Railway Station	6	8	0	1

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Earlswood Railway Station	6	1	0	0
Erdington Railway Station	17	13	1	4
Five Ways Railway Station	8	10	0	0
Four Oaks Railway Station	8	18	3	6
Gravelly Hill Rail Station	25	20	2	2
Hagley Railway Station	5	1	0	0
Hall Green Railway Station	6	7	0	0
Hampton In Arden Railway Station	4	9	0	0
Hamstead Rail Station	3	4	0	0
Hatton Railway Station	0	4	0	0
Hednesford Railway Station	9	16	0	0
Henley-In-Arden Railway Station	2	0	0	0
Jewellery Quarter Railway Station	8	4	0	0
Kidderminster Railway Station	24	24	0	0
Kings Norton Railway Station	20	19	3	11
Landywood Railway Station	6	6	0	0
Langley Green Railway Station	5	4	4	1
Lapworth Railway Station	1	0	0	0
Lea Hall Railway Station	2	5	1	0
Leamington Spa Railway Station	23	35	0	0
Lichfield City Railway Station	7	15	0	0
Lichfield Trent Valley Railway Station	9	14	0	0
Longbridge Rail Station	20	34	0	0
Loxdale Metro Station	3	4	0	0
Lye Railway Station	3	10	0	3
Marston Green Railway Station	6	12	4	8
Metro Depot	0	1	0	0
Midland Metro Bilston Central Tram Stop	3	1	0	0
Midland Metro Black Lake Tram Stop	5	1	0	0
Midland Metro Corporation Street Tram Stop	0	3	0	0
Midland Metro Dartmouth Street Tram Stop	2	3	0	0
Midland Metro Dudley Street Tram Stop	5	0	0	0
Midland Metro Handsworth Tram Stop	0	2	0	0
Midland Metro Kenrick Park Tram Stop	6	2	0	0
Midland Metro Lodge Road Tram Stop	6	4	0	0
Midland Metro Priestfield Tram Stop	5	8	0	0
Midland Metro Soho Benson Road Tram Stop	0	1	0	0
Midland Metro St Georges Tram Stop	2	6	0	0
Midland Metro St Pauls Tram Stop	1	1	0	0

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Midland Metro The Crescent Tram Stop	5	1	0	0
Midland Metro The Hawthorns Tram Stop	7	7	0	1
Midland Metro The Royal Tram Stop	3	2	0	0
Midland Metro Trinity Way Tram Stop	6	0	0	0
Midland Metro Wednesbury Gt Western Street Tram Stop	4	12	0	0
Midland Metro Wednesbury Parkway Tram Stop	5	6	0	0
Midland Metro West Bromwich Central Tram Stop	3	11	0	0
Midland Metro Winson Green Tram Stop	1	2	0	0
Northfield Railway Station	10	24	0	0
Old Hill Railway Station	3	3	0	1
Olton Station	9	7	3	3
Perry Barr Railway Station	1	7	0	0
Redditch Railway Station	19	26	0	1
Rowley Regis Railway Station	13	9	1	23
Rugeley Town Railway Station	9	5	0	0
Rugeley Trent Valley Railway Station	8	15	0	0
Sandwell And Dudley Railway Station	17	14	4	3
Selly Oak Railway Station	16	18	0	3
Shenstone Railway Station	3	3	0	0
Shirley Railway Station	11	4	0	2
Small Heath Railway Station	3	11	0	0
Smethwick Galton Bridge Railway Station	18	22	2	2
Smethwick Rolfe Street Railway Station	4	4	0	0
Solihull Railway Station	14	23	7	5
Spring Road Railway Station	18	5	0	0
Stechford Railway Station	10	9	0	0
Stourbridge Junction Railway Station	21	17	0	3
Stourbridge Town Railway Station	5	3	0	0
Stratford-Upon-Avon Parkway Railway Station	8	0	0	0
Stratford-Upon-Avon Railway Station	15	13	0	0
Sutton Coldfield Railway Station	13	33	0	0
Tame Bridge Parkway Railway Station	13	10	0	2
Telford Central Bus Station	0	1	0	0
The Hawthorns Railway Station	10	8	0	0
The Lakes Railway Station	0	3	0	0
Tile Hill Railway Station	5	5	4	9
Tipton Railway Station	2	3	1	2
Tyseley Railway Station	5	12	0	0
University Railway Station	8	20	0	0

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Walsall Railway Station	49	44	6	13
Warwick Parkway Railway Station	3	6	0	0
Whitlocks End Railway Station	4	3	0	0
Widney Manor Railway Station	1	1	0	0
Witton Railway Station	3	3	2	0
Wolverhampton Railway Station	129	148	22	15
Wylde Green Railway Station	3	5	0	1
Wythall Railway Station	2	6	0	0
Yardley Wood Railway Station	11	14	1	2
Grand Total	1691	2117	108	208

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 2022 there were a total of 1470 usages of the body worn cameras and this is an average of 67 usages for each of the 22 cameras. An analysis of the number of uses for each body worn camera can be found in Appendix 'B'.

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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.

During 2022 there were 10 reviews conducted by the police and the WMCA ASB Team. 8 DVDs were issued to the Police and 3 DVDs and 6 stills issued to the WMCA ASB Team. There were no 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:

Civil Interventions & Police Liaison 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. One compliment was received from WM Metro in relation to the support received from the TSOs with traffic control.

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7.5.5 Privacy Impact Assessments

During 2022 there have been no additional body worn cameras introduced, therefore the Privacy Impact Assessment does not require updating.

8.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Introduction

This body worn camera evaluation focuses on the 22 body worn cameras used by the TSOs, which are owned by West Midlands Combined Authority.

8.2 Recorded Incidents / Crime

During 2022 there were 435 recorded incidents on the public transport monitored by the Safer Travel Team of which 53 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 2022 there were a total of 1470 usages of the body worn cameras and this is an average of 67 usages for each of the 22 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 2022 analysis indicates that there was an average of 34 uses for the 22 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 2022, there were 10 reviews conducted by the police and the WMCA ASB Team. 8 DVDs were issued to the Police and 3 DVDs and 6 stills issued to the WMCA ASB Team. There were no 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.

A TSO survey was created to receive public/staff perception on the Transport Safety Officers. It was distributed from the 3rd August 2022 for 2 weeks to the general public via ST social media pages and circulated via email to NX/TFWM staff. The survey consisted of questions regarding their powers, uniform, opinion, awareness and additional comments of the new entity on the network. 58% of respondents were NX and TFWM staff, with 42% being the general public.

The quotes below show a snapshot of comments from the open-ended questions asked in the survey:

“They are deployed across the West Midlands bus, rail and tram network to deal with low-level nuisance and antisocial behaviour based on reports that have been received from transport staff or the public through the text service.”

“Boots on the ground. Enforcement on ASB and ticket issues. Another valuable partner to the police.”

“Transport safety officers that work on tackling anti-social behaviour on public transport.”

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"To cover areas and routes that have persistent low-level nuisance and disturbance with the aim of disrupting and preventing it."

"They have some powers which allows them to fine and warn individuals involved in aspects of ASB."

"The TSO's work among the different safety hubs in a respectively educational/enforcement role."

"Know they hope to provide a visible presence to reduce ASB and reassure passengers."

"The assist with Police operations either with officers or on their own."

"We have met all TSO's and they are very professional and do a great job."

"Assisting the public and helping reduce ASB."

"Out tackling low level nuisance."

It is a recommendation that the Body Worn Camera system continues to be evaluated on an annual basis. This will ensure future compliance with the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice, which will be assessed each year. It will also provide compliance with legislation and ensure continuous measurement.

APPENDIX 'A'
RECORDED INCIDENTS 2022

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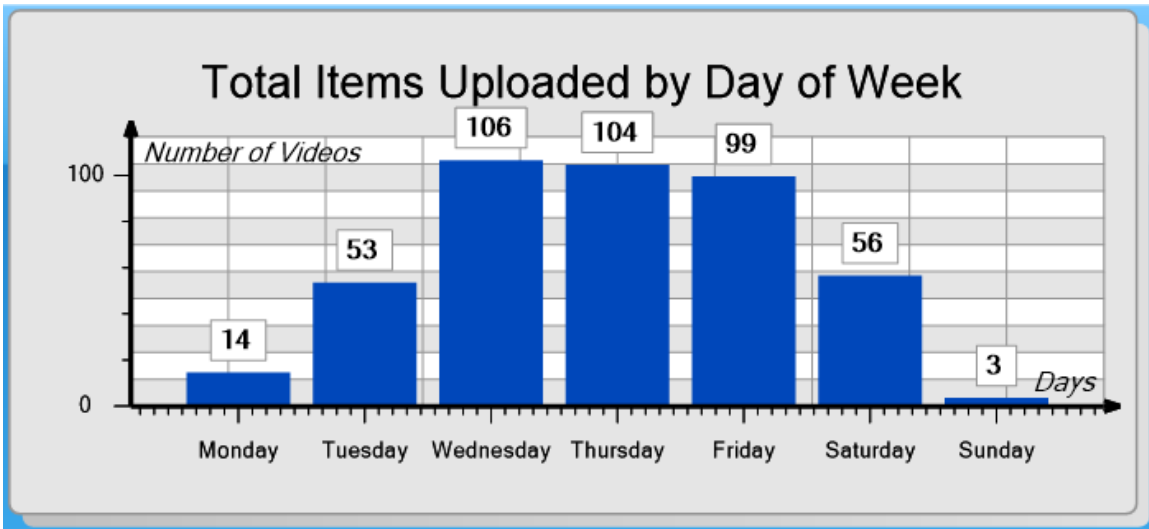
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APPENDIX 'A'

UPLOADING DATA

NON EVIDENTIAL	EVIDENTIAL
382	53
Total 435	

TOTAL NUMBER OF UPLOADS FOR 2022:



APPENDIX 'B'
USAGE OF BODY WORN CAMERAS

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APPENDIX 'B'

BODY WORN CAMERA USAGE

Camera	2022
N33306	2
N33399	41
N33806	23
N34004	344
N34052	280
N34128	361
N34218	35
N34240	31
N34423	250
N34530	31
N56634	1
N56756	1
N56765	26
N56951	1
N57034	1
N57543	29
N57730	1
N57734	1
N57778	1
N57831	1
N58484	1
N58518	8
TOTAL USAGE	1470