

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

1st January 2024

to

31st December 2024

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

EVALUATION OF THE WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

BODY WORN CAMERA SYSTEM

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Methodology	3
2. Introduction	4
3. Overview of the Scheme	6
4. Purpose and Scope of the CCTV Scheme	8
5. Changes in Operation, Management or Policies	11
6. Proposals for the Scheme	12
7. Statistical Analysis and Evaluation	13
8. Conclusion	23
Appendix ‘A’ Recorded Incidents	25
Appendix ‘B’ Usage of Cameras by TSOs	27

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.

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

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.

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

The body worn CCTV camera equipment will be used for:

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

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

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.

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

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 and this includes a review of the scheme's operation and working practices.

Audits have been undertaken during 2024 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 2024 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.

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

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 2024.

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

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

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.

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

The latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed that crime against individuals and households has generally decreased over the last 10 years with some notable exceptions, such as sexual assault.

The latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated 9.5 million incidents of headline crime (which includes theft, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse, and violence with or without injury) in the survey year ending (YE) September 2024. This was 12% higher than last year's survey (8.5 million incidents in YE September 2023), mainly because of a 19% rise in fraud (to around 3.9 million incidents). This was similar to levels of fraud estimated in YE March 2020.

Experiences of domestic abuse, sexual assault, stalking and harassment among people aged 16 years and over are presented separately in our statistics as prevalence estimates (the proportion of all people who were victims in the previous 12 months). Over the last decade, there has been a gradual decrease in domestic abuse, but an increase in sexual assault. Latest estimates from the CSEW for YE September 2024 showed no statistically significant change in these experiences compared with YE March 2023, except for stalking:

- 4.5% of people aged 16 years and over had experienced domestic abuse in the last year (approximately 2.2 million victims).
- 2.8% (around 1.4 million people) had experienced stalking, a 0.6 percentage point decrease from 3.4% (1.6 million victims).
- 2.2% (approximately 1.0 million people) had experienced sexual assault.
- 9.0% had experienced some form of harassment (around 4.4 million people; this estimate is not comparable with the previous year).

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 YE September 2024 showed that:

- The number of homicides decreased by 4% (to 550 offences) compared with YE September 2023 (572 offences).
- Offences involving knives or sharp instruments increased by 4% (to 55,008 offences) compared with YE September 2023 (52,969 offences).

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

- Offences involving firearms decreased by 17% (to 5,372 offences) compared with YE September 2023 (6,499 offences).
- Robbery increased by 4% (to 82,347 offences) in comparison with YE September 2023 (78,865 offences).
- Shoplifting offences rose by 23% (to 492,914 offences) compared with the previous year (402,220 offences) and is the highest figure since current police recording practices began for the year ending March 2003.

Since the mid-1990s, the CSEW has shown long-term decreases in violence with and without injury, theft offences and criminal damage. Fraud and computer misuse estimates are only available from year ending (YE) March 2017 onwards. While fraud levels have fluctuated over this time period, there has been a decrease in computer misuse.

The headline CSEW crime measure captures theft offences, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse, and violence with or without injury. There were an estimated 9.5 million incidents of CSEW headline crime in YE September 2024, a 12% increase compared with YE September 2023 (8.5 million incidents), mainly because of a 19% rise in fraud (to around 3.9 million incidents).

Providing context from a longer time period, CSEW headline crime remains lower than in the YE March 2017 survey (11.2 million incidents), when fraud and computer misuse were first included.

Police recorded crime covers more offences than the CSEW. It includes crimes against all people (including those aged under 16 years and those not permanently resident in households), businesses and organisations, and society (such as drug and weapons possession), that come to the attention of the police. Trends in police recorded crime are affected by improvements to recording practices and variations in police activity. These effects are more pronounced for some crime types.

In YE September 2024, police recorded 6.7 million crimes, which is the same as in the previous year. This is up from 4 million in YE March 2014. However, while increases over the last decade may include some genuine changes in trends in crimes that are reported to, and recorded by, the police, it will also be because of changes in police activity and recording practices. It therefore should not be used to say that overall crime has increased.

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

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. This includes homicide, offences involving weapons, and robbery.

Further information on crime in England and Wales can be found on www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenlandandwales/yearendingseptember2024

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%).

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%).

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%).

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

During 2024 the recorded crime has decreased by 6%. There was an increase in Shoplifting (+30%), Anti-Social Behaviour (+16%), Other Crime (+12%), Drugs (+2%). Decreases were recorded in Theft from a Person (-26%), Public Order (-23%), Burglary (-16%), Robbery (-16%), Vehicle (-11%), Bike Theft (-11%), Violence and Sexual (-10%), Other Theft (-10%), Criminal Damage/Arson (-7%) and Weapons (-6%).

7.4.4 Analysis of Recorded Crime Levels – Bus Stations

The following is an analysis of crimes and offences committed during 2020 to 2023 compared with 2024.

Bus Station	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Bearwood	1	0	2	3	2
Bilston	4	14	24	36	10
Bradford Place	3	1	2	0	2
Coventry	25	77	131	85	87
Cradley Heath	0	1	2	5	1
Dudley	70	113	197	87	14
Halesowen	23	41	25	36	14
Merry Hill	12	23	30	20	16
Oldbury	0	0	3	0	0
Stourbridge	11	28	49	27	38
Walsall	29	89	119	86	110
Wednesbury	11	21	28	24	38
West Bromwich	56	92	116	100	72
Wolverhampton	40	127	203	102	92
Grand Total	285	427	931	611	496

During 2023 there were 611 offences recorded for the afore-mentioned Bus Stations, and this has decreased to 496 in 2024.

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 2024.

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

Railway Station	2022	2023	2024
Acocks Green Rail Station	6	17	9
Adderley Park Railway Station	4	7	2
Alvechurch Railway Station	4	2	4
Aston Railway Station	14	24	17
Barnt Green Railway Station	7	3	9
Berkswell Railway Station	15	8	8
Bescot Stadium Railway Station	21	26	18
Bilston Central Tram	0	0	1
Birmingham International Railway Station	55	104	112
Birmingham Moor Street Railway Station	55	58	46
Birmingham New Street Railway Station	716	895	921
Birmingham Snow Hill Railway Station	49	28	37
Black Lake TFWM Car Park	0	0	0
Blake Street Railway Station	3	6	2
Bloxwich North Station	6	3	1
Bloxwich Railway Station	16	8	13
Bordesley Railway Station	1	4	5
Bournville Railway Station	8	13	7
Bradley Lane Metro Station	3	4	6
Brindley Place Metro Station	0	0	3
Bromsgrove Railway Station	16	34	14
Butlers Lane Railway Station	4	4	2
Canley Railway Station	12	13	10
Cannock Railway Station	26	8	12
Chester Road Railway Station	20	11	17
Churchill And Blakedown Railway Station	1	3	2
Coseley Railway Station	16	22	14
Coventry Railway Station	153	173	247
Cradley Heath Railway Station	13	31	13
Danzeley Railway Station	2	0	0
Dorridge Railway Station	8	22	18
Duddeston Railway Station	9	9	8
Dudley Port Railway Station	9	6	8
Earlwood Railway Station	1	3	1
Edgbaston Village Metro Station	0	0	2
Erdington Railway Station	17	12	14
Five Ways Railway Station	10	11	15
Four Oaks Railway Station	24	23	21
Gravelly Hill Rail Station	22	26	19
Hagley Railway Station	1	6	15

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

Hall Green Railway Station	7	12	4
Hampton In Arden Railway Station	9	0	4
Hamstead Rail Station	4	7	6
Hatton Railway Station	4	0	3
Hednesford Railway Station	16	7	10
Henley-In-Arden Railway Station	0	5	2
Jewellery Quarter Railway Station	4	27	11
Kidderminster Railway Station	24	28	24
Kings Norton Railway Station	30	48	23
Landywood Railway Station	6	12	3
Langley Green Railway Station	5	5	0
Lapworth Railway Station	0	0	3
Lea Hall Railway Station	5	5	9
Leamington Spa Railway Station	35	49	69
Library Metro Station	0	0	2
Lichfield City Railway Station	16	20	28
Lichfield Trent Valley Railway Station	14	7	25
Longbridge Rail Station	34	0	0
Loxdale Metro Station	4	5	0
Lye Railway Station	13	1	6
Marston Green Railway Station	19	16	8
Metro Depot	1	0	0
Midland Metro Bilston Central Tram Stop	1	0	0
Midland Metro Black Lake Tram Stop	1	0	0
Midland Metro Corporation Street Tram Stop	3	0	0
Midland Metro Dartmouth Street Tram Stop	3	0	0
Midland Metro Dudley Street Tram Stop	0	0	0
Midland Metro Handsworth Tram Stop	2	0	0
Midland Metro Kenrick Park Tram Stop	2	0	0
Midland Metro Lodge Road Tram Stop	4	0	0
Midland Metro Priestfield Tram Stop	8	0	0
Midland Metro Soho Benson Road Tram Stop	1	0	0
Midland Metro St Georges Tram Stop	6	0	0
Midland Metro St Pauls Tram Stop	1	0	0
Midland Metro The Crescent Tram Stop	1	0	0
Midland Metro The Hawthorns Tram Stop	8	1	0
Midland Metro The Royal Tram Stop	2	0	0
Midland Metro Trinity Way Tram Stop	0	0	0
Midland Metro Wednesbury Gt Western St Tram Stop	12	0	0
Midland Metro Wednesbury Parkway Tram Stop	6	0	0
Midland Metro West Bromwich Central Tram Stop	11	0	0

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

Midland Metro Winson Green Tram Stop	2	0	0
Northfield Railway Station	24	50	17
Old Hill Railway Station	4	6	1
Olton Station	10	7	6
Perry Barr Railway Station	7	16	9
Prestfield TFWM Car Park	8	0	0
Redditch Railway Station	27	20	23
Rowley Regis Railway Station	10	14	18
Rugeley Town Railway Station	5	5	4
Rugeley Trent Valley Railway Station	15	10	11
Sandwell And Dudley Railway Station	17	27	27
Selly Oak Railway Station	21	26	22
Shenstone Railway Station	3	1	3
Shirley Railway Station	6	8	11
Small Heath Railway Station	11	6	13
Smethwick Galton Bridge Railway Station	24	7	17
Smethwick Rolfe Street Railway Station	4	8	4
Solihull Railway Station	28	31	29
Spring Road Railway Station	5	3	2
Stechford Railway Station	9	9	3
Stourbridge Junction Railway Station	23	29	18
Stourbridge Town Railway Station	4	1	1
Stratford-Upon-Avon Parkway Railway Station	0	5	5
Stratford-Upon-Avon Railway Station	13	15	18
Sutton Coldfield Railway Station	33	19	18
Tame Bridge Parkway Railway Station	14	15	9
Telford Central Bus Station	1	0	0
The Hawthorns Railway Station	9	12	27
The Lakes Railway Station	3	0	1
Tile Hill Railway Station	14	16	20
Tipton Railway Station	5	17	5
Town Hall Metro Station	0	0	1
Tyseley Railway Station	12	10	15
University Railway Station	20	17	21
Walsall Railway Station	57	66	45
Warwick Parkway Railway Station	6	3	8
Whitlocks End Railway Station	3	7	5
Widney Manor Railway Station	1	4	3
Wilmcote Railway Station	0	1	0
Witton Railway Station	3	5	10
Wolverhampton Railway Station	162	206	265

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

Wolverhampton St George’s Metro Station	0	0	1
Wood End Railway Station	0	0	1
Wootton Wawen Railway Station	0	1	0
Wylde Green Railway Station	6	8	15
Wythall Railway Station	6	2	3
Yardley Wood Railway Station	16	15	11
Grand Total	2320	2636	2610

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 2024 there were a total of 2051 usages of the body worn cameras, compared to 1582 usages in 2023. This is an average of 82 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 opposed to relying on crime and incident analysis.

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

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 2024 there were 31 reviews conducted by the Police compared to 8 in 2023. 12 DVDs and 19 Stills were issued to the Police, compared to 2 to the Police and 4 to the WMCA ASB Team in 2023. 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 3 compliments formally received during 2024; key trends identified included the support of TSOs during a police incident and road closures.

7.5.5 Privacy Impact Assessments

During 2024 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 2024 there were 2024 recorded incidents on the public transport monitored by the Safer Travel Team of which 122 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 2024 there were a total of 2051 usages of the body worn cameras and this is an average of 82 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 2024 analysis indicates that there was an average of 41 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 2024, there were 31 reviews conducted by the police. 12 pieces of evidence and 19 Stills were issued to the Police. 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:

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

“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.

APPENDIX 'A'
RECORDED INCIDENTS 2024

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

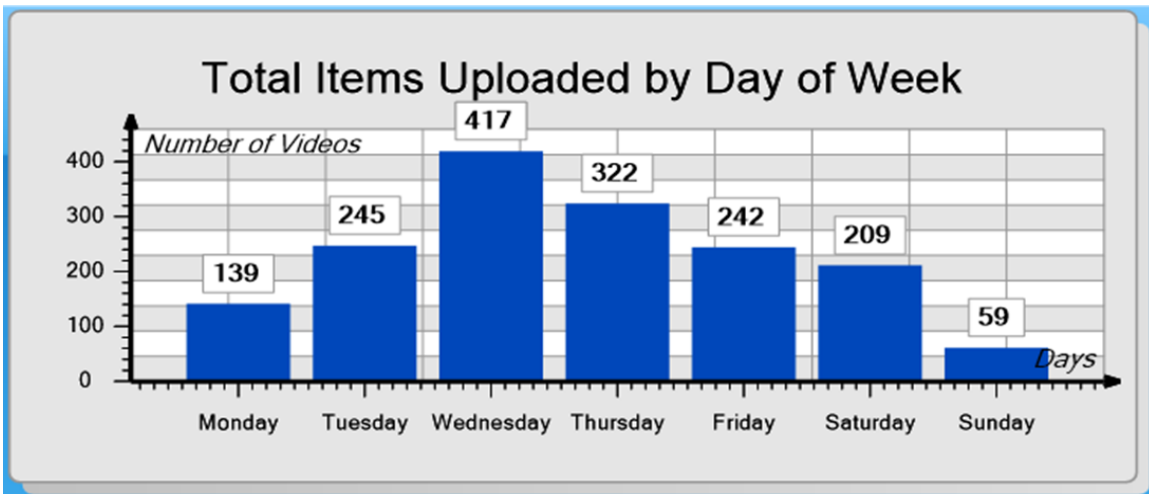
1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

APPENDIX 'A'

UPLOADING DATA

NON EVIDENTIAL	EVIDENTIAL
3144	122
Total 2024	

TOTAL NUMBER OF UPLOADS FOR 2024:



**APPENDIX ‘B’
USAGE OF BODY WORN CAMERAS**

West Midlands Combined Authority – Safer Travel

1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024

APPENDIX 'B'

BODY WORN CAMERA USAGE

Camera	2024
N33306	132
N33399	71
N33806	105
N34004	0
N34052	121
N34128	200
N34218	106
N34240	11
N34423	0
N34530	57
N56634	79
N56756	15
N56765	80
N56951	102
N57034	0
N57543	205
N57730	0
N57734	229
N57778	197
N57831	63
N58484	178
N58518	100
N58674	0
N56815	0
N57753	0
TOTAL USAGE	2051