

Body Worn Cameras

BWC were introduced by G4S at Brook House in January 2016 for use by DCMs. The cameras were on general allocation and the use of BWCs was not enforced. The DEMs (?) stand alone computer was used to log the use of the cameras and download and store the footage, however this broke down around mid 2016 and from that period onwards the use of BWCs was not recorded and monitored in a separate log. Instead the footage was downloaded by the security department if it related to a use of force or self harm incident, but there was no specific log to record what BWC footage existed. Any other footage was deleted as there was no method to retain it. There are no records kept of which DCMs were issued with BWCs on any day nor records of who used them.

In addition to the computer system not being available, some of the cameras stopped working and therefore the use of BWCs reduced. Whilst DCMs could use BWCs, the non-use of the cameras was not challenged in the way it would be under current policy. It would have been possible for a user to delete the camera footage by plugging it into a computer with a camera lead.

Since October 2017 a new policy and new BWC equipment was introduced. All DCMs and DCOs have BWCs and are expected to use them for all incidents. This footage is retained in case of a future complaint or investigation. The non-use of a BWC will now be challenged by security staff.