



White Paper

Body Worn Camera Technology
In Our Community

traka
ASSA ABLOY

ASSA ABLOY, the global leader
in door opening solutions



Synopsis

**By Mick Haggerty,
Senior Product Manager Traka UK**

Thomas Jefferson once said: *“Whenever you do a thing, act as if the entire world were watching.”*

Interest in body worn cameras is growing fast. The introduction of the technology to improve safety for Police and Emergency Services, together with prison staff has been well documented, especially with the recent £3m recent investment by the Prisons Minister, Sam Gyimah.

What is less known is the trials continuing in schools, where body worn cameras are being used as a deterrent to resolve problems such as ‘background disorder in classrooms.’

The positives of such video surveillance in these environments have been shown to include: improved criminal convictions, better evidence and less complaints, accountability of behaviour with live and recorded capabilities. The greater transparency in fast-moving situations has also shown to be invaluable.

But the introduction of such a costly technology comes at a tentative time, with a difficult economic climate affecting Prisons, Emergency Services and even the formerly ring-fenced Education sector, alongside high-profile security issues such as Brexit and Terrorism.

To combat the concern, at the very least, sectors must demonstrate they have the necessary policies in place to protect the data and captured video. And proven equipment to protect the investment made to ensure efficient use.

However, use of body worn cameras has also brought fresh criticism with increasing fears of feeling monitored or adding to the creation of a Big Brother state.

Even with the introduction of BSI's BS 8593 Code of Practice for the Deployment and use of Body Worn Video (BWV,) concerns cited include the risk of too much use of intrusive technology, especially with future advanced possibilities of face matching and live streaming.

The question therefore is simple: "How do we best protect vulnerable staff adequately in their working environment?"

And within this:
"How can we ensure use of body worn camera technology is efficient, controlled and ensures accountability?"

The answers are complex and challenging but the issue is of real importance and by producing this discussion paper, Traka wishes to stimulate debate and encourage views and contributions from many voices.

To contribute your opinion, experience or comment, please email Lydia.lewis@traka.com.

About The Author

Mick Haggerty has spent his career at the leading edge of product design, manufacture and supply of innovative solutions to serve specialist market sectors. He currently holds the position of Senior Product Manager.

About Traka

As manufacturer of one of the world's first electronic key management systems, Traka is now used extensively cross-sector in the UK and in over 30 countries worldwide, supported by a network of distributors and resellers.

Today, Traka, as part of the ASSA ABLOY Group, is considered as a world leader in innovative technology for sophisticated, intelligent key management systems and equipment lockers solutions.

traka

ASSA ABLOY





Why Consider Body Worn Camera Technology?

*Statistics taken from "Smile you are on body worn camera, Part 1 – Local Authorities report by Big Brother Watch.

The full report is available for download: <https://www.bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Smile-you-are-on-Body-Worn-Camera-Part-1.pdf>

The idea of using cameras to record interactions isn't new, and has been mostly documented for the purposes of Police Departments.

Recently, attention has turned to body worn cameras (BWC) and associated technology to record interactions. This has stemmed from a wider scope than Police, to incorporate Prison staff, Emergency Services and even Teaching and Educational Learning Environments.

With latest Government funding, most recent statistics* suggest 227 Local Authorities are using, trialling or have used body worn cameras in at least one department, with over 3760 cameras purchased and £1.8M spent.

Driving the growth are many suggested benefits that go beyond accountability. They include worker safety, transparency, increased professionalism, more peaceful community interactions, and even potential cost savings on internal affairs and investigations into possible wrongdoing. This is as well as settlements stemming from the 'accused' use of excessive force or suggested 'disorder in classrooms.'

As quickly as interest in the technology has grown, so too have the questions surrounding the policies needed to govern a workable body worn camera programme, from installation through usage and storage. The technology needs to make recording and retaining these interactions a feasible and 'fair' solution, without impacting on the general public's ability to use community services.

The new BSI standard, BS 8593:2017: Code of Practice for the Deployment and Use of Body Worn Video (BWV) aims in some part to provide a balance between safety and security and privacy in the deployment of body worn cameras.

But besides the attributes and usage of the camera themselves, there are also consequential issues such as video storage and data, dispatch, records and evidence management systems, and of course, security, support and training.

Establishing a clear focus for the use of body worn camera technology and storage of any data collected, is key to the success of their implementation in each sector; and to be accepted as necessary to protect staff from verbal or physical abuse without impacting on privacy concerns.

Body Worn Camera Technology: Police & Prisons

With the majority of front-line Police equipped with body worn cameras, the UK now has the highest density of camera per Officer. Unsurprisingly, the move has received extensive media attention.

These subtle devices are believed to achieve several aims, including; reducing Police use-of-force and complaints against Officers, enhancing Police legitimacy and transparency, increasing prosecution rates and improving efficient evidence capture by the Police.

The 'Camera Revolution', can also ensure Police are doing the right thing, especially in fast-moving situations. This is vital to ensure trust is maintained between the Public and Police to win "trust and confidence", and avoid the 'difficulties and distrust', following fatal shootings in recent years that has led to rioting.

Privacy campaigners cite a leak of sensitive information and complacency as being a key concern, especially as cameras used are not necessarily 100 percent encrypted. Here is where strict protocol on retention, use and management of body cameras can offer peace of mind the technology is being used appropriately.

Reliance on audit trail capability is also important. This is not only to show who has used the camera and why, but also for processing evidence and to guard against leaks. On both sides, Police and any criminal enquiry, the significance of becoming accountable and traceable has proven to make a difference.

Storage of body worn cameras is significant. While forces buy their own gear, they have a duty of care to protect their substantial investment, and this is especially true as they do not operate with their own force borders. When a major incident takes place, Officers are drafted in from other Forces, bringing their own equipment.



Body Worn Camera Technology: Prison Environments

Management and storage is especially critical within a Prison environment, where every Prison Officer across England and Wales now has access to a body worn camera. With the video screen on show and prisoners realising (and are advised) they are being filmed, the objective is to promote behaviour of a more compliant nature.

With such vital evidence at stake, ensuring only authorised personnel have access to sensitive equipment is key to ongoing success in maintaining safety and security in prisons for both those serving and those guarding.

At the same time, in a prison environment, body cameras themselves must be carefully stored to ensure they are fully charged and ready to be instantly mobilised by authorised personnel only, to capture a fast-moving incident and ensure they do not fall into the wrong hands and any footage or 'evidence' gained, risks abuse.





Body Worn Camera Technology: Emergency Services

With recent evidence suggesting a rise in assaults on other Emergency Services to Police, including Paramedics and Ambulance staff, introducing body worn cameras is one solution to tackle the issue.

The initiative has been called for, not to act as CCTV, but used in caution as a deterrent and also a means of accountability and transparency, to ensure successful prosecution of anyone who does assault Emergency Services staff.

Incidents are only recorded where staff are in danger and not in all emergency cases. Paramedics who opt to wear the cameras will start recording if they feel at risk or are threatened, warning people they are being filmed. Vision can then be used as evidence for Police investigations and prosecutions.

The aim is to educate people to let them know the impact these incidents have on people working to protect them.

However, when it comes to the health sector, the use of cameras must be carefully balanced in accordance with significant patient privacy concerns, coupled with the invasion of privacy.

The recording of a patient encounter itself is not prohibited under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA.) And body camera recordings are typically used for “treatment” (documentation of patient condition, mechanism of injury, etc.) and “healthcare operations” (quality assurance) purposes.

HIPAA permits these activities and does not require patient authorisation when properly collecting and using patient information for these purposes. So, whilst the act of making the video and using it for treatment is not of concern, what is done with the video files after the encounter and proper management and use has been cited.

Policies and necessary equipment must be in place to account for the protection of all data, and captured video is just another layer that must be accounted for and protected.

Body Worn Camera Technology: Education

*Survey carried out by Times Education Supplement and appeared in TES magazine on Friday 10 February 2017

A recent survey* revealed two-thirds of teachers would feel safer in the classroom if they were wearing a body camera. The results come amid concern amongst teachers about the levels of violence they face in their jobs.

According to the ATL Teaching Union which carried out the survey, using a poll of 600 teachers, 4 out of 10 teachers have experienced violence from pupils in recent years. The proportion is even higher among Teaching Assistants.

Some teachers in mainstream classrooms are now using body cameras to resolve problems such as 'background disorder in classrooms,' which impacts ability to teach and learn.

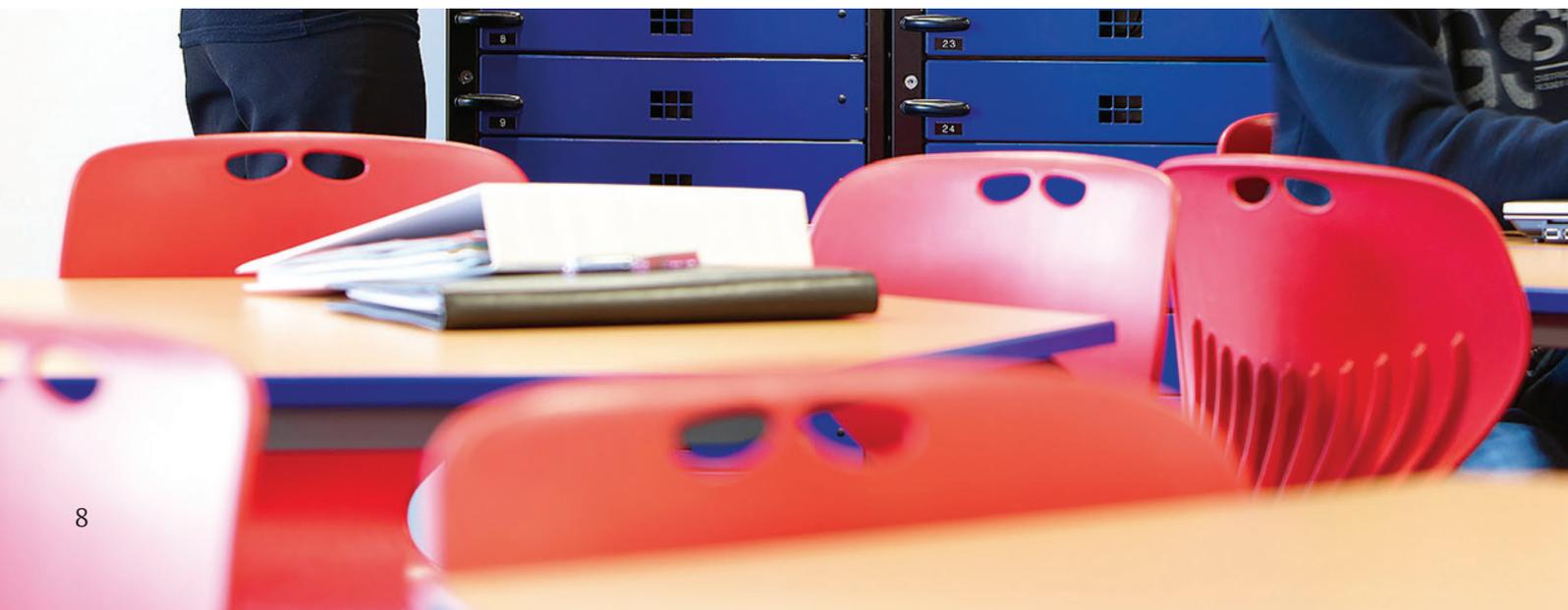
In an educational facility, such devices as body worn cameras, used correctly, can also ensure that precise records are kept and can be fully demonstrated to officiators such as Ofsted inspectors with a detailed and highly accurate audit trail.

But the use of body cameras within the school environment has to be considered carefully, balancing the assurance to pupils, parents, staff and visitors, that filming is not constant and only carried out 'when legitimate, proportionate and necessary.'

Cameras would only be switched on during an incident, where there is a perceived threat to a member of staff or pupil. Encrypted footage is only saved once the teacher hits the record button and could be used to provide evidence for disciplinary action and / or as a "self-reflection" tool for students.

Any more would alter the relationship between teacher and pupils, and rulings may even go against the school in use of intrusive technology. It is the duty of schools to keep parents and pupils informed of camera usage and any footage stored, used or deleted.

Concerns have also been raised about the potential for misuse by management. Schools must ensure proper policy, and equipment is in place to manage and protect use of body worn cameras and any footage held; so as not to impact on the safety and security of the learning environment for pupils, staff and visitors.





Summary

The use of body worn camera technology is fast becoming a common solution in a number of sectors, to both act as a deterrent and improve accountability and transparency.

But individuals' safety and privacy interests must also be weighed against such goals in considering whether body cameras are a real net benefit to community interests.

Following analysis of just three sectors where usage of body worn cameras are becoming a popular reaction, it is clear the technology should only be enacted if they are supported by communities and include clear objectives around their use, with strong privacy protection policies in place.

- Cameras must be managed and stored correctly to ensure they are available for instant use in a fast-moving situation, including being fully charged.
- Body worn cameras should only be used by authorised and trained personnel who understand the policies surrounding use of the technology.
- Body worn cameras policy should include a provision outlining when cameras can be activated. These should be a reflection of the sector requirements, community members involved.
- Body worn camera usage must be preceded or accompanied by additional policies that support a community-centred cultural shift and increased accountability and transparency.
- There must be clear procedures in place for access to body camera footage, which both protect the privacy of individuals captured on body cameras and ensure public accountability to those filming.

Starting with this understanding and appropriate management equipment and policies in place, use of body worn camera technology can be deployed effectively and encourage trust and confidence between communities and frontline services across the UK.

Conclusion

“Video captures events in a way that can’t be represented on paper in the same detail, a picture paints a thousand words, and it has been shown the mere presence of this type of video can often defuse potentially violent situations without the need for force to be used.”

– Metropolitan Police Commissioner,
Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe

It is inevitable the future of our community services, from Police to Education, will involve technology to add a level of protection to vulnerable staff in their working environment.

But for body worn camera technology to be considered successfully and have a role to play, the public should be assured of its transparency and accountability. This is right from an initial decision to capture an event to storing the footage, both to benefit both those using the body worn cameras and society alike.

Action Point

Whilst this paper has been designed to discuss use of body worn camera technology, it can only be treated as an introductory outline. To add your voice to the debate, please email Lydia.lewis@traka.com





Appendix

Traka is the industry leader in intelligent key and equipment management systems, offering bespoke systems that utilise cutting edge technology to better protect keys and equipment.

Traka can ensure only authorised personnel have access, and present audit control capability that is instantly available through specialist software.

As part of ASSA ABLOY Group, the global leader in door opening solutions, Traka has expertise in offering bespoke systems to meet sector specific requirements, including proven intelligent solutions for Emergency Services, Prison Environments and learning establishments.

Most recently, Traka has partnered with dedicated body camera technology suppliers, presenting locker systems that not only ensure body cameras are safely secured, but also that all equipment is charged and instantly ready to use whilst in storage.

Designed to meet the growing demands on high profile organisations significantly investing in the technology, Traka's Body Worn Camera Lockers allows a more efficient equipment management system, ensuring organisations can operate a 'pool' system rather than having to invest in a device per member of staff.

The all-encompassing locker system also presents restricted access, by authorised personnel only together with instant audit control capability. All footage can be downloaded as and when required, ready to share with an associated Video Management System.



For more information on Traka's range of locker solutions designed to store, manage and protect body worn camera technology, or to find out about Traka's range of intelligent key management solutions, please visit www.traka.com

ASSA ABLOY is the global leader in door opening solutions, dedicated to satisfying end-user needs for security, safety and convenience

traka
ASSA ABLOY

Traka
ASSA ABLOY Limited
30 Stilebrook Road, Olney,
Buckinghamshire
MK46 5EA, UK
info@traka.com
+44 (0) 1234 712345
traka.com

Traka USA
448 Commerce Way,
Suite 100, Longwood
FL 32750
USA
sales@trakausa.com
+1 877 34 TRAKA
trakausa.com

Traka Assa Abloy Nederland
Leeuwenhoekstraat 1
2652 XL Berkel en Rodenrijs
NL
info@traka.nl
+31 (0)10 2570010
www.traka.nl