

Glasgow Body-worn Video Project Feedback

Purpose

To provide assistance to Strathclyde Police over the Christmas and New Year period, 17th Dec 2010 to Jan 3rd 2011. The aim was to use the technology to reduce the incidence of violence and challenging behaviour in Sauchiehall Street and other key locations.

Timeframe

Chief Inspector for Safer Communities, George Nedley asked if it were possible to get everything in place prior to the proposed launch date of the Mon 20th December 2010. This timeframe significantly reduced when he asked if it could be brought forward to the 16th of December. He wanted to include "Black Friday" into the coverage. "Black Friday" is the last working Friday before Xmas, and one of their busiest times of the year, as workers finish early to enjoy a festive drink. Despite the pressure of these additional time constraints, the four participating companies were equal to the challenge.

Specialists companies

Four Body-worn video specialist companies provided the equipment free of charge to Strathclyde Police. It was agreed that any successes delivered by the group would be shared equally as they had no control over where their cameras were deployed. They also agreed to fund the project co-ordinators on an equal basis.

Project co-ordinators were responsible for liaising with the Police, ensuring the Police were aware of, and accepted responsibility for, issues surrounding Data Protection. A report into the individual camera's operational performance, was to be a matter of the highest confidentiality between the providing company and the project co-ordinator.

Crime Figures

The crime figures produce **a reduction of approx 20%**. Not only that, the cameras led to three **immediate pleas of guilty** one of which was for a person spotted carrying a knife. The person was filmed with the knife and monitored by the door supervisor until the Police arrived and placed him under arrest. This incident and the others led to a **considerable saving in costs**, in regard to the investigation, preparations for trial, the trial itself, without any guarantee of a conviction under normal circumstances.

All of the above has to be set against a huge rise in reported crime since the introduction of Radios on to licensed premises in 2010. The percentage increase across all other crime indicators during the project period was 57%. Consequently the actual fall in numbers represents **a fantastic result** and is why George said it was unique, and Inspector Martin Rutland (Safer Communities) stated that on this basis it was considered a success. This project achieved its stated objective.

Customer Focus

Of the venues covered over half said **the camera gave them more confidence**. It also gave their colleagues some additional confidence. Three of the managers stated they would be interested in purchasing the equipment. The effect it had on customers was as expected, and **had a calming effect**. The customer had been exhibiting challenging behaviour at the door, and once it was explained to them they were on camera their behaviour altered immediately. Again this corresponds with the findings in other research on this topic. The cameras' were deployed to do a job which they did well. Most door supervisors felt the camera made a difference to the way customers responded.

CARMACAM-RS2 Feedback

The CARMACAM-RS2 was considered the best in terms of its presentation. It was considered best in terms of the screen being visible to the potential aggressor. It was considered best in terms of its securing mechanism (Klickfast) and overall the **most popular camera** from the venues' point of view.