

Body Worn Video Project Review

A document entitled “**Body Worn Video Projects in Aberdeen and Renfrewshire – Evaluation Report**” has recently been published by ODS Consulting. It is a comprehensive and ultimately fascinating report which should assist any organisation intending to start or expand their body worn camera programmes. Below is a summary of this report along with a comment from us. The full report can be viewed on our website www.revealmedia.com

Overview:

In Renfrewshire, 38 body worn video cameras were introduced in June 2009. This programme was reviewed by Strathclyde Police for the eight months between June 09 to Jan 10.

In Aberdeen, 18 body worn video cameras were introduced in June 2010 and reviewed after three months. The programme has been extended since.

Objectives:

- Contribute to targets:
 - reduction in crime;
 - increase in early guilty pleas;
 - quicker resolution of any complaints about the police or wardens;
 - reductions in assaults on officers; and
 - reduced fear of crime in local communities.
- Introduce body worn cameras with all necessary policy, procedures and legislation understood.

Costs:

Renfrewshire: £40,000 for 38 cameras and software. £2400 initial setup and training. £950 estimated ongoing annual costs.

Aberdeen: £16,000 for 18 cameras and software. £2400 initial setup and training. £1000 estimated ongoing annual costs.

Results for measured area:

- 60% reduction in Serious Assault
- 27% reduction in Minor Assault
- 29% reduction in Vandalism
- 19% reduction in Breach of the Peace
- **26% reduction total** (compares to reduction of 1% in area as a whole)

In Renfrewshire, cases where body worn cameras were used were 80% less likely to go to the Sheriff court. In Aberdeen no cases involving body worn cameras went to court compared to the normal 18% of all cases that do.

There were seven complaints against the Police where body worn video was used. The footage recorded vindicated the officers in all cases.



In the nine months since the BWV project began, 61 officers not wearing cameras have been assaulted and just one wearing body worn cameras were assaulted. (Statistically it would be expected to be 18)

In Aberdeen, 76% of people supported the use of body worn cameras and 57% said they believed it would make their community safer.

Value of changes:

The 26% reduction in crime in the measured area in Aberdeen is estimated to have saved £346,000 in three months (£1,386,472 per year)

Reveal Media comments:

We wholeheartedly applaud the attempt at putting some financial value on the use of body worn cameras which as far as we are aware is a first. The report does not suggest that all of the reduction in crime and costs are attributable to the use of cameras but the comparisons indicate a very strong correlation. The benefits versus costs are clearly enormous and if this technology was properly used by all frontline officers then the results would be staggering. In an age when the Police and local authorities have to make cost reductions as well as improve crime statistics, body worn cameras offer manna from heaven to all Police chiefs and politicians alike – when will they finally wake up and take this technology seriously?