
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

17 August 2021

Police Fire and Rescue Committee

Title: Police Scotland Consultation on Body Worn Video Cameras (second consultation)

Purpose: To advise the Committee of a request for submissions to a consultation on extending the use of Body Worn Video Cameras to all frontline police officers.

Recommendation: That the Committee agrees that the attached response is submitted.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Police Scotland issued a consultation request in February 2021 on its proposals to introduce the use of body worn video cameras for Police Officers. It was proposed at that time that the use of body worn video cameras would primarily relate to armed officers. The Council responded to that request and submitted a consultation response as reported to the last meeting on 17th May 2021.
- 1.2 Police Scotland are now consulting on extending the use of body worn video cameras to all frontline police officers and are seeking consultation responses to that proposal. It is proposed submit the response as detailed in Appendix 1 which mirrors that previously submitted.

2. Background

- 2.1 Police Scotland issued a consultation request on its proposals to introduce the use of body worn video cameras for Police Officers in February 2021. The Committee was requested to respond to the consultation request and a response was submitted.
- 2.2 Police Scotland are now undertaking a second consultation on a proposal to extend the use of body worn video cameras to all frontline officers and are seeking views on that proposal.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the response, attached at Appendix 1, which mirrors that submitted to the first consultation, is submitted in response to the consultation request on further extending the use of body worn video cameras.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That the Committee agrees to submit the response at Appendix 1 to the Police Scotland.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Human Resources

4.2 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

Legal

4.3 There are no Legal implications arising from this report.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 Police Scotland will assess the outcomes of the consultation exercise for equality, diversity and socio-economic outcomes.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 There are no Environmental implications arising from this report.

Key Priorities

4.6 The response to the consultation contributes to the Council's priorities of developing and promoting Aspiring Communities in North Ayrshire with active and strong communities where residents and communities are safe.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 There are no Community Wealth Building benefits arising from this report.

5. Consultation

5.1 Police Scotland will consult on any actions they propose to take in response to the consultation responses received from members of the public and strategic partners.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive

For further information please contact **Aileen Craig, Senior Manager, Legal Services**, on 01294 324322.

Background Papers

Appendix 1

Police Scotland

Body Worn Video Cameras - Consultation Survey (second consultation) Response from North Ayrshire Council - August 2021

Background and Consultation Request

Police Scotland are undertaking a survey and looking for responses from the public on the proposal that all frontline officers use body worn video cameras.

Response from North Ayrshire Council

This response provides some general or high-level feedback on the consultation request and proposal to adopt the practice of wearing body worn video cameras and extending the initial proposal to now include all frontline police officers. The Council recognises that all public services need to change and adapt to ensure that they are fit to serve and meet the needs of local communities and adopt new ways of working and technologies to improve and deliver services.

The Council offers the following comments for consideration:

- Recording of incidents would assist the police in investigation of complaints and provide evidence of events. The existence of video evidence may assist with the conduct of criminal trials and add value to proceedings.
- Recording may provide assurance to the public by way of transparently recording incidents which in turn would remove subjective accounts of events. It would improve police accountability to the public.
- The use of cameras may provide protection to police officers from false accusations and lead to fewer complaints against officers.
- A code of practice should be established to regulate operational practice and the subsequent use and storage of the data recorded. Data would require to be processed in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- Training of officers and civilian staff on operational requirements should be undertaken.
- Regular reviews of practice and procedure should be undertaken to inform best practice.

Conclusion

The Council considers that subject to the necessary training of officers, an operating code of practice and adherence to legislation in respect of data protection, the proposal would represent a valuable step forward providing increased transparency of police actions thereby helping to protect the police and public alike.

Appendix 1 – Body Worn Cameras

Aileen Craig
Head of Service, Democratic Services
North Ayrshire Council