



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Office

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Our Ref: FOI2020/07287 RFI:185/20

Date: 17th August 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: BODY WORN CAMERAS.

We refer to your e-mail of 29 June 2020, which was acknowledged on the same date.

We are treating your e-mail as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your e-mail you requested the following information:

“I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information about your force’s use of BWC.

1. Does your force use body worn cameras?

If the answer is yes please indicate whether this is part of a trial or if the technology has been adopted on a permanent basis ?

2. How many body worn cameras has your force purchased?

3. How much has your force spent on body worn cameras?

4. Please provide the make, model and manufacturer of the body worn cameras you have purchased?

5. How many times has the evidence gained from body worn cameras been used in court?

Please breakdown between the following:

i. The number of successful cases

ii. The number of unsuccessful cases.

iii. Where and for how long is the footage held?

iv. Please provide documentation relating to the results of trial of body worn cameras that your force has undertaken.”

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

1. Does your force use body worn cameras?

If the answer is yes please indicate whether this is part of a trial or if the technology has been adopted on a permanent basis ?

Yes. Initially trialled but now adopted and used at a limited number of stations where MDP are based.

2. How many body worn cameras has your force purchased?

The force has not purchased any Body Worn Video Cameras.

3. How much has your force spent on body worn cameras?

The total cost is unknown as the cameras were provided at nil cost to the MDP by the customers at the locations where they are in use (i.e Navy).

4. Please provide the make, model and manufacturer of the body worn cameras you have purchased?

The information held is: Reveal – D – Series and Legacy RX2

5. How many times has the evidence gained from body worn cameras been used in court?

Please breakdown between the following:

i. The number of successful cases 19

ii. The number of unsuccessful cases. Nil

iii. Where and for how long is the footage held?

Non-evidential data is automatically deleted by the software after 30 days. Evidential material is retained on the Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) on the Standalone based on the Retention period dictated by the College of Policing APP on the Management of Police Information.

iv. Please provide documentation relating to the results of trial of body worn cameras that your force has undertaken.

In respect of this part of Question 5, the information you have requested is subject to the following exemptions: Section 26(Defence) and Section 31(Law Enforcement) and is therefore withheld.

Sections 26 and 31 are qualified exemptions and subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 26(1) has been applied because the trial report, if released, could lead to the compromise of ongoing and future operations which are required to protect the security or infra-structure of the defence estate and may increase the risk of harm to defence and those that work on the defence estate.

Section 31(1) has been applied because disclosing the results of the trial of body worn cameras may hinder the law enforcement capability of the MDP and would enable those intent on committing offences to disrupt the forces ability to deter, detect and prevent crime.

In favour of release of this information is the presumption towards disclosure under FOI as providing the report relating to the body worn camera trial would demonstrate the Departments commitment to transparency and openness. Furthermore disclosure would demonstrate how the police service is able to use such technology to assist with law enforcement which could potentially reduce crime.

On balance, the public interest favours maintaining the exemptions and withholding this information.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

MDP Sec Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office