

**Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety
Partnership**

Policing Committee

Tuesday 29th November 2016, 4.30pm

Lavery Room, City Hall, Belfast

Political Members

Councillor Geraldine McAteer (Chair)
Councillor Declan Boyle
Councillor Deirdre Hargey

Independent Members

Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz (VC)
Michael Boyle
Aidan Hughes
Richard Kennedy
Paul McDonnell

Statutory Designated Bodies

Christine Hunter, PBNI
Dermot Magorrian, YJA

Chief Inspector Robert Murdie
SC Michael Roberts, NIFRS

Belfast City Council Staff Present

Suzanne Gowling Safer City Coordinator
Saranne Gallagher Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon
Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, welcomed all Members to the Policing Committee Meeting of the South Belfast DPCSP and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. Chief Inspector Robert Murdie introduced Inspector Jonny Graham. He advised Members that Inspector Graham would be attending the meeting as an observer in order to gain an insight into South Belfast DPCSP. He also introduced Inspector Paul Jackson to make the presentation about body worn cameras that PSNI were now using.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. Members were asked to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting
- ii. No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Presentation on Body Worn Cameras

- i. Inspector Paul Jackson provided Members with information on the PSNI's Body Worn Video equipment. He advised Members that the Body Worn Video Equipment had been operational in Belfast since the 16th November 2016.
- ii. Members were advised that the devices were capable of continuous recording for 8 hours during both day/night-time conditions and that the information was securely transferred via a docking station to a media storage facility and then deleted if not required as part of an investigation.

- iii. Members were informed of the evaluation findings from their use in Scotland, and the privacy implications that had been addressed as part of the PSNI's use of the system. The Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) undertaken would also be published on the PSNI website.
- iv. Inspector Jackson advised Members that trials showed that the public were reassured by the use of the cameras, and that the number of complaints against Officers reduced, however they were not a proven deterrent.
- v. Members raised the following queries in relation to the presentation:
 - a) Question: Does the PSNI Officer have to inform the PSNI control room that the body worn camera is switched on?
Answer: Inspector Jackson confirmed that the PSNI Officer does not have to inform the PSNI control room that the body worn camera is switched on. He advised Members that the PSNI Officer would make a note in his log book when the device had been switched on.
 - b) Question: How long is footage stored for?
Answer: The PSNI will adhere to national guidelines which currently allow non-evidentiary data to be kept for 31 days before being wiped/deleted – this will be done automatically by the systems software. If footage is marked as evidential; it will be retained under the Management of Police Information (MoPI) regulations.
 - c) Question: Have any updates been received regarding the operational use of the cameras in L/Derry and Strabane?
Answer: To date the reports received have been positive regarding the use of the body worn cameras. Inspector Jackson advised Members that PSNI Officers have reported to be more confident in their duties when they have use of the body worn cameras. He further commented that the cameras have proven useful in incidents of domestic violence.
 - d) Question: How is data transferred back to the station, and is the camera tamper proof?
Answer: Following use of the camera, it is returned to the docking station in the PSNI Station at which point the recordings are uploaded to the system and the camera is wiped. The uploaded recordings are then marked as evidentiary or otherwise deleted.
The camera itself is tamper proof and encryption ensures that if lost or stolen, the data would not be of use as it must be returned to the docking station for information to be obtained.
 - e) Question: Can complainants access the footage? And if yes, when can they access the footage? And, who is the footage shared with?
Answer: Complainants can make a subject access request to see the footage. However, there are rules that need to be adhered to before the footage can be released. Inspector Jackson confirmed that the footage is shown at an appropriate time during interview. He further advised that the footage can be shared with the Public Prosecution Office.

f) Question: How many cameras are operational in Belfast? And will an evaluation be conducted on the implementation process of the cameras?
Answer: There are currently 400 cameras operational in Belfast and yes, a post implementation evaluation of the cameras will be conducted.

g) Question: How much did the cameras cost?
Answer: Inspector Jackson confirmed that the cost for the implementation of body worn cameras over a five year period for the entire police service would be £1.5m and to date a total of £700,000 had been spent on cameras.

4. Close

- i. The Chair thanked Inspector Paul Jackson for his informative presentation.

- ii. She further thanked Members for their attendance and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.