

Research on Body-Worn Cameras

Requested By: DCE Strategy Mark Evans

Prepared By: Dr Judy Li & Sergeant Ross Hendy

Reviewed and approved By: Dr Melissa Smith Date: 18 April 2018

This Terms of Reference outlines the proposed research aim, objectives, approach, timeframe and resources, and expected output.

1. Aim

In April 2018, DCE Strategy Mark Evans tasked Research and Evaluation (R&E) at the Evidence-based Policing Centre to undertake a research project on body worn cameras (BWC).

2. Previous research

A recent rapid literature review conducted by Research and Evaluation in 2017 identified that a prospective meta-analysis of ten multi-site, multi-national randomised control trials covering 8 police forces in 6 jurisdictions reported two relevant findings. Ariel *et al.* (2016) found that despite the conflicting findings across sites, the combined results suggest that the use of BWC did not alter the rate of police use of force. Second, the combined results suggest that the use of BWC increased the risk of assaults on officers: the rate of assaults against police officers was 14% higher during the experimental condition, when compared with the control condition (25 vs 22 assaults per 1000 arrests). These findings contradicted the 'perceived wisdom' that BWC were an effective tool to reduce officer-related harm.

3. Research scope objectives

The research seeks to:

1. Identify the global use of BWC by policing agencies, including those agencies which have discontinued using BWC;
2. Collate and synthesise the empirical evidence around the impact of use of body worn cameras by police officers, e.g. officers' safety, officers' acceptability, and public perception;
3. Understand how BWC are used by other justice sector/regulatory agencies in New Zealand, and overseas;
4. Explore the evidence outlining the utility and functionality of BWCs in operational contexts;
5. Identify the legal, ethical, and cultural issues around the use of BWC in New Zealand.

4 Approach

The proposed approach will involve:

1. Collaboration and consultation with relevant groups

Given the nature and implications of this research to the operational environment, a collaborative approach will be taken. As a first step, Research and Evaluation will discuss the research objectives with the Response and Operations group to determine the formation of a consultation panel who will support, inform and review the research findings.

2. Review and synthesis of the literature and operational reports

The research will involve collating and synthesising published literature and unpublished reports. Literature and reports will be identified through a systematic search using academic databases and other electronic databases (e.g. google), news article searches, and making direct contact with organisations that may hold the relevant documentation. KAI will be tasked to source material.

Operational Reports by police agencies outside New Zealand will be sourced through formal channels of Police Liaison Officers in London and Washington, and informal channels through international evidence-based policing networks.

3. Potential review of legal and cultural considerations

Discussions will be held with other Police workgroups (identified through the consultation panel) to canvas the potential implications of introducing body-worn cameras at New Zealand Police. This may include a discussion of the legal and cultural considerations.

4. Consideration of alternative technologies

There may be relevant emerging technologies that could complement or replace BWC.

5. Timeframe and resourcing

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|---|----------------|---|
| Scoping | Apr 2018 | 0.25 Senior Researcher: Ross Hendy |
| Consultation group membership and terms of reference determined | May 2018 | 0.25 Senior Researcher: Ross Hendy |
| Literature and report searching | May-Jun 2018 | 0.20 Senior Researcher: Ross Hendy 0.25 Research Assistant: Matt Cashman |
| Evaluation and synthesis | Jul-Aug 2018 | 0.25 Senior Researcher: Ross Hendy 0.10 Senior Researcher: Judy Li |
| Report drafting | Sep – Nov 2018 | 0.50 Senior Researcher: Ross Hendy 0.10 Senior Researcher: Judy Li |
| Interim report discussion DCE Strategy and Consultation Panel | Sep 2018 | |
| Final report | Dec 2018 | 0.25 Senior Researcher Ross Hendy |

6. Output

An interim report will be provided to the consultation panel for review and to the DCE Strategy by 30 September. The final research report will be provided to the Executive by 14 December 2018, which will outline findings relevant to the research objectives and provide recommendations on next steps.



Terms of Reference: Body-Worn Cameras Research

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1. Aim

The aim of this research is to determine the evidence base on the rationale, use and effectiveness of body worn cameras, both nationally and internationally. The output of this research will be a report to Inform the New Zealand Police Executive's decision making on the potential use of body worn cameras (BWC).

2. Research objectives

The research seeks to:

1. Identify the global use of BWC by policing agencies, Including those agencies which have discontinued using BWC;
2. Collate and synthesise the empirical evidence around the impact of use of BWC by police officers, e.g. officers' safety, officers' acceptability, and public perception;
3. Understand how BWC are used by other justice sector/regulatory agencies in New Zealand and overseas;
4. Explore the evidence outlining the utility and functionality of BWCs in operational contexts;
5. Identify the legal, ethical, practical and cultural issues around the use of BWC in New Zealand.
6. Explore potential alternative technologies that may complement or substitute BWC.

3. Approach

The proposed approach will involve:

1. Collaboration and consultation with relevant groups

Given the nature and implications of this research to the operational environment, a collaborative approach will be taken. As a first step, Research and Evaluation will discuss the research objectives with the Response and Operations group (and other relevant work groups -to be confirmed) to determine the membership of an advisory group. This group will support, inform and review the research findings.

The advisory group will also help identify relevant work already undertaken with New Zealand Police across the various groups on BWC (this will include work such as Research and Evaluation team's (2017) BWC rapid literature review). The work identified at this stage will form part of an initial stocktake and will be summarised in the final report.

2. Review and synthesis of the literature and operational reports

Both published literature and unpublished reports on rationale, use and BWC effectiveness will be collated and synthesised into the final report. Literature and reports will be identified through a systematic search using academic and other electronic databases (e.g. google), news article searches, and through direct

contact with organisations that may hold the relevant documentation. Police's Knowledge and Information services (KAI) will be tasked to source material.

Operational reports by police agencies outside New Zealand will be sourced through Police Liaison Officer channels in London and Washington, and international evidence-based policing network channels.

3. Potential review of legal, ethical, cultural and practical considerations In the New Zealand context

Depending upon the nature of the findings established In step 2 above, discussions may be held with other Police workgroups (identified through the advisory group) to canvas the potential implications of introducing BWC at New Zealand Police. This may include a discussion of the legal, ethical, cultural and practical (e.g. storage) considerations. These considerations will be summarised In the final report.

4. Consideration of alternative technologies

There may be relevant emerging technologies that could complement or provide a substitute for BWC, for example victim video statement technology or Taser technology. The implications of using these alternative technologies to complement or substitute BWC will be discussed in terms of potential costs and benefits in the final report.

4. Timeframe and resourcing

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|---|----------------|---|
| Scoping | Apr 2018 | Senior Researcher: Ross Hendy |
| Advisory group membership and terms of reference determined | May 2018 | Senior Researcher: Ross Hendy |
| Stocktake of completed BWC New Zealand Police work drafted | | |
| Literature and report collation | May-Jun 2018 | Senior Researcher: Ross Hendy Research Assistant: Matt.Cashman |
| Literature and report evaluation and synthesis | Jul-Aug 2018 | Senior Researcher: Ross Hendy Senior Researcher: Judy Li |
| Potential review of ethical, legal, cultural and practical considerations | | |
| Exploration of alternative technologies | | |
| Report drafting | Sep – Nov 2018 | Senior Researcher: Ross Hendy Senior Researcher: Judy Li |
| Advisory Group review and feedback on Interim report | Sep 2018 | Senior Researcher Ross Hendy |
| Interim report discussion with DCE Strategy | | |
| Final report completed | Dec 2018 | Senior Researcher Ross Hendy |

5. Output: Interim and Final Reports

An interim report will be provided to the advisory group for review and to the DCE Strategy by 30 September. The final research report, outlining research objective findings and recommendations on next steps, will be provided to the Executive by 14 December 2018.