

Body-worn Video Camera: Information for stakeholders



Officers of the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (Southern IFCA) may be seen wearing small video cameras (body cameras), with inbuilt microphones, on their person during patrols and inspections. This document explains the reasons why, when and of whom recording will most likely be carried out, and who will be informed that recording is taking place.

Why do officers require video and sound recording?

Officers will use video and sound recording to enhance evidence capture, to protect officers and to improve the accountability and transparency of their conduct. Cameras may be attached to officers' clothing or equipment and can be switched on during the boarding of vessels, shore-based inspections or at any point when an officer feels a colleague or their own safety is being put at risk.

In what circumstances will a video camera be operated?

Body worn cameras will never be used in a covert manner. Just because a camera is worn does not mean that it will be recording. Officers will use their own judgement as to whether to start recording or not.

Officers will take reasonable steps to inform those in the surround area if a recording is about to start, which will normally be in the form of a verbal announcement

Who can view or listen to a video camera recording?

Only Southern IFCA officers, or a person acting in a legal capacity on behalf of Southern IFCA, will be allowed to routinely view or listen to recordings. However, during the course of an investigation, recordings may be shown to relevant persons involved in a case, including the Defence in a prosecution. It may be presented as evidence during court proceedings.

How are recordings kept?

The cameras used by Southern IFCA record all data to an encrypted inbuilt memory. All recordings will be downloaded to our secure servers. Once a recording is copied from the body worn camera it is immediately deleted from the device.

How long are recordings kept?

Non-evidential recordings which feature stakeholder interactions, or identifiable personal information are destroyed within 31 days of capture. Recordings that are retained for use in evidence and if forming part of a prosecution case, will be deleted and/or securely destroyed as soon as practicable from the date of acquittal or, in the case of a court conviction, as soon as practicable from 21 days after the date of the conviction.

How can I request a recording?

If you believe you have been recorded by officers wearing body worn cameras you have the right to request a copy of this data. To request this data contact the office. Contact details can be found ([link to contact details](#)). Please note, we may need to alter the video and or sound recordings to protect the personal information of other people, such as blanking out their faces, or muting the sound.

For more information about how we handle your data please click ([link to privacy policy](#))