



# SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS FROM AGGRESSION AND VIOLENCE

INTEGRATED BODY-WORN CAMERA  
SOLUTIONS FOR POLICE





## OVER 30,000 POLICE OFFICERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES WERE ASSAULTED IN 2019/20<sup>1</sup>

It's a worrying fact that over 100 reports of assaults against officers were made each day in England and Wales in 2020<sup>2</sup>, a 20% rise from the previous year. In neighbouring Scotland, assaults were up nearly a quarter on the five-year average, to 20 assaults a day<sup>3</sup>.

### A RECENT NATIONAL POLICE STUDY HAS SHOWN THAT, OF THOSE SURVEYED<sup>4</sup>

**65%**

felt that it was 'fairly' or 'very' likely they'd be assaulted on duty.

**82%**

of PCSOs worked on their own 'often' or 'always'.

**88%**

of police officers had been assaulted during their service.

**35%**

were threatened or assaulted on a daily or weekly basis.

<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904523/police-officers-assaulted-201920-england-wales.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904523/police-officers-assaulted-201920-england-wales.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/31/assaults-on-police-in-england-and-wales-rise-above-100-a-day-during-pandemic>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/assaults-scots-police-officers-and-staff-grow-20-each-day-2935484>

<sup>4</sup> [https://whatworks.college.police.uk/Research/Documents/National\\_police\\_safety\\_survey.pdf](https://whatworks.college.police.uk/Research/Documents/National_police_safety_survey.pdf)



## 4 WAYS BODY-WORN CAMERAS CAN SUPPORT POLICE OFFICERS

### **COST & TIME SAVING**

Body-worn cameras have been proven to reduce the need for officers and members of the public to attend court, or for officers to be on suspended duties pending investigations

### **MODERATE BEHAVIOUR**

Body-worn cameras have been proven to minimise verbal and physical attacks, as people's behaviours change when they know they are being recorded.

### **PROVIDE AN INDEPENDENT WITNESS**

Video evidence helps to resolve complaints and disputes by providing transparency and reducing false accusations.

### **SECURE CONVICTIONS**

Footage gathered on body-worn cameras increases the likelihood of swift and fair convictions.

# THE PERSONAL CHALLENGES OF POLICING

## VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION

As statistics show, police officers risk violence, abuse and confrontation on a daily basis, more so than any other front line worker in the UK. That risk is then increased when working alone, which it is estimated the majority of UK officers do regularly. Data indicates that 16% of officers who died while on duty between 2008 & 2019 lost their lives as a result of a criminal act or intent<sup>5</sup>, while further research indicates that the likelihood of officers being assaulted, and of officers being injured, increased when they were single-crewed, compared to when they were crewed with an officer who did not use force. The ability to deter aggression and capture evidence while in the field, whether alone or crewed, is imperative to the safety of police officers.

## FALSE CLAIMS AND ACCUSATIONS

In 2018/19, there were over 31,000 recorded complaint cases in England and Wales, and over 58,000 allegations made<sup>6</sup>. Research shows that officers wearing BWCs have significantly fewer complaints lodged against them than officers who are not wearing BWCs<sup>7</sup>. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) stated a 9% reduction in complaints against officers and a 10% decrease in allegations since the introduction of body-worn cameras<sup>8</sup>. Reducing complaints and false allegations directly impacts man hours spent logging and investigating allegations, as well as having a positive impact on the mental health of those involved.

## MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

With almost 1 in 5 police officers and staff suffering from PTSD<sup>9</sup>, a figure almost five times higher than in the UK population, it's clear that the daily exposure to aggression and violence faced by our law enforcement officers, in addition to other trauma experienced, is taking its toll. Repeated exposure to trauma can increase the risk of long-term physical illness, with statistics showing an increase in the likelihood of cardiovascular disease, gastrointestinal issues and immune disorders, fatigue and trouble sleeping. All of which have a knock on effect on staff retention, employee satisfaction and days of sick leave. Data shows that, in 2020, 4815 officers were on recuperative duties (equating to 4% of officers) due to an injury, accident, illness or medical incident in England and Wales alone<sup>10</sup>. Preventative measures, such as technology that decreases the personal risk associated with police duties, can help to reduce the initial causes of trauma related to aggression and violence.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.polfed.org/media/16072/cop-npcc-officer-staff-safety-review.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/statistics/complaints\\_statistics\\_2018\\_19\\_v2.pdf](https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/statistics/complaints_statistics_2018_19_v2.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://whatworks.college.police.uk/About/News/Pages/BWVC.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.policeombudsman.org/PONI/files/0b/0b46b087-1f7f-4366-8b82-6dab63c0ccce.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cam.ac.uk/policeptsd>

<sup>10</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/955182/police-workforce-mar20-hosb2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955182/police-workforce-mar20-hosb2020.pdf)





# INCREASE THE SAFETY OF POLICE OFFICERS

The following features of the Motorola Solutions VB400 body-worn camera enhance evidence gathering in the field.

## RUGGED AND INTUITIVE DESIGN

The toughened exterior of the VB400 resists rain, snow and dust, and can be easily cleaned. Tested to military standards, the result is a body-worn camera that works when you need it. The large central button and robust side switch are positioned for easy operation, even when wearing gloves.

## HIGH QUALITY VIDEO

In instances where footage is required for evidence, the camera's wide angle, 1080p HD lens captures high-quality video from the wearer's viewpoint - providing accountability, protecting people and proving professionalism. And, with an array of accessories, police officers can attach the VB400 to any uniform or clothing, without risk of it becoming detached.

## PRE / POST-RECORDING

Context is vital. With pre / post-recording enabled, capture important interactions leading up to and after the main event. Pre / post-record captures a continuous loop of audio and video, providing up to two minutes of recording ahead of and after the record function has been activated.

## LONG BATTERY LIFE

Capturing interactions can mean the difference between conviction and acquittal. With recording time up to 12 hours on a single charge - the VB400 enables better protection for police officer who may be working for extended periods of time.

## INTEGRATION

The VB400 seamlessly integrates with your Pronto Digital Policing Application, providing officers with the ability to link key body-worn camera footage to associated forms and reports. Additionally, the VB400's recording can be activated by select Motorola Solutions radios by simply pressing the radio's emergency button - meaning officers have one less thing to do in a time-sensitive incident.



# USE CASE: THE VB400 FOR POLICE OFFICERS

## STARTING AND ENDING A SHIFT

The police officer scans their ID card at the start of their shift. The VideoManager system automatically assigns a VB400 body-worn camera to them, which identifies itself in the docking station with a solid red LED. From this point on, all footage captured on the VB400 will be assigned to that officer. The police officer wears the VB400 throughout their shift, attached securely to their uniform. At the end of the shift, the officer returns the VB400 to a docking station. All stored footage is securely offloaded to VideoManager, and erased from the camera. The VB400 is un-assigned from the officer, and its battery is charged.

## RESPONDING TO AN INCIDENT

If the officer becomes involved in an escalated situation or responds to an emergency incident, they warn the member of the public that they are activating their body-worn camera, if appropriate to do so. When the power/record button on the camera is pressed, the VB400 vibrates and the LED is illuminated, indicating the camera is recording. Optionally it can trigger an alert for fellow officers and stream video over Wi-Fi®. With a press of the bookmark button on the camera, a

specific moment of footage is marked as 'important'. If the officer is in the vicinity of another officer who is also wearing a VB400 camera which has been approved by their Force to utilise Peer-Assisted Recording, the other officer's device will be activated, providing a second viewpoint of the incident. It is also possible to activate the record function on a VB400 through the emergency button of select radios, or by unholstering a weapon. Footage can be tagged as evidence for future use should the incident escalate. It will be retained as an 'incident' within VideoManager and all other footage will be systematically deleted as required. Incidents can be audited centrally, and securely shared.

## INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

The bookmarked footage is offloaded right away, to be reviewed by an authorised user ahead of the other recordings that are stored within the VideoManager software system. Administrators of the VideoManager software will be able to review the footage captured on the officer's camera just before they hit record, thanks to the pre / post-record function initiated on their VB400, so as not to miss any vital moments.



For more information, please visit: [www.motorolasolutions.com/BWC/Police](http://www.motorolasolutions.com/BWC/Police)

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