

**Why is the Service giving body-worn cameras to its police officers?**

Body-worn cameras provide an unbiased, independent account of police/community interactions. They are an investment in the commitment to delivering accountable and transparent policing services. Whether they are used to legitimize an engagement between an officer and a member of the public, provide evidence in court, or offer an unbiased alternative to allegations of misconduct, every frontline police officer will be equipped with a body-worn camera.

**When will the body-worn camera be turned on and turned off?**

A police officer will turn on the body-worn camera prior to arriving at a call for service; when they start investigating an individual; or when they are asking a person questions for the purpose of collecting their information. A police officer will turn off the body-worn camera when the call for service or investigation is complete or when the officer determines that continuous recording is no longer serving its intended purpose.

**How will I know if a body worn camera is “on” during my encounter with a member of the St Thomas Police Service?**

All officers will have the body worn camera in plain view, and the camera has lights and notices indicating it has been activated. Officers are trained to give notice as soon as reasonably possible that a body worn camera is in operation. The timing of this notice may vary depending on the context of the encounter.

**How do the police manage a request to turn off the body-worn camera?**

The only time a request to turn off a body-worn camera will be actioned is when a police officer has been given permission to enter a private home and the person granting permission has made the request. This can happen before the officer enters the private home or at any time during the officer’s presence in the private home.

**Is there a policy or procedure that governs how officers use the body-worn camera?**

Yes, a procedure has been approved and it provides officers with operational direction that includes but is not limited to recording in private and public places; retention and security of videos; and responsibilities for supervisors.

**What happens if an officer does not follow procedures?**

Like any other allegation of misconduct, complaints can be made to the Office of the Independent Police Review Director. Once investigated, officers may face any number of disciplinary actions.

### **How long will the body-worn camera data be stored?**

Some retention periods are governed by legal requirements. The body-worn camera data will be stored according to the set retention times automatically allocated for the call types and categorization.

### **Where will the body-worn camera data be stored?**

The body-worn camera data will be stored in a Canadian-based cloud system. This means data stored in the cloud will remain in Canada. As part of the procurement process, a Privacy Impact Assessment was completed by the St. Thomas Police Service and shared with the Information & Privacy Commissioner.

### **How will the data from the body-worn cameras be downloaded?**

At the end of every shift, a police officer will take their body-worn camera and dock it at one of the porting stations in the police station. Once docked, the data will automatically be uploaded to the cloud.

### **Who will be able to access the body-worn camera data?**

Recorded data cannot be altered or deleted at any time. It can be viewed in real-time by the recording officer on their Connected Officer device. It can also be viewed by the officer and their supervisor once it has been uploaded to the cloud.

### **Who is permitted to edit the body-worn camera data?**

Only certain staff will be permitted to edit/vet the body-worn camera data, as per Service procedures covering video recordings. The original, unedited version will always be available.

### **What provisions will exist to vet/edit any recording prior to disclosure in court?**

All body-worn camera data will be considered as part of the standard process for disclosure as dictated by *R v Stinchcombe*, meaning body-worn camera data will be part of the full and fair disclosure the Crown Attorney is obligated to provide to defense.

### **What is the Service's policy on officers having the opportunity to watch the video before making notes?**

An officer will make their notes in compliance with standard operating procedures. If, after reviewing the video, an addition to the notes is needed, an addendum can be done that includes a reference to the review of body-worn camera footage.

**What is the battery life of the body-worn camera?**

The battery in a body-worn camera will last an entire 12-hour shift.

**Does the technology have voice-to-text capabilities?**

Yes, the technology does have transcription capabilities.

**Does the technology have facial recognition?**

No. The technology does not automatically identify individuals using facial recognition, or compare images to any database.

**What are the long term health risks associated to wearing a body-worn camera?**

The health impacts of wearing a body-worn camera are similar to carrying any cellular device. There are no studies that show a direct link between wearing a body-worn camera and health impacts.

**How do the police manage the privacy interests of a complainant or victim of crime?**

The Body-Worn Camera Working Group has been working closely with the Information & Privacy Commissioner of Ontario on various issues of privacy. Police officers are trained on how to manage situations that may be sensitive in nature. Appropriate vetting and editing of body-worn camera data will be done for disclosure purposes, as required.

**How do the police manage the initial contact with a victim, patient, uninvolved staff or other member of the public?**

Officers will be trained to be aware of interactions with the public that may be sensitive in nature, such as when children are present, during a sexual assault or domestic violence investigation, or when a person is in a state of undress. Body-worn cameras will typically not be used in hospitals, places of worship, schools, etc. Recording in private locations is only permitted in exigent circumstances.

**What safeguards are in place to ensure the privacy rights of people who have been recorded?**

The St. Thomas Police Service has taken significant steps to ensure the security of the video once recorded. These include, but are not limited to:

- recordings are encrypted when captured
- recordings cannot be edited, altered, or deleted from the camera

- secure and encrypted uploading from the camera to storage
- security authentication steps in place to ensure only those with authorized access can view recordings once uploaded
- automatic purging of videos based on established retention schedules
- redaction abilities for recordings required for disclosure purposes

**If I have been recorded, can I ask to see the video? Can I ask to have it deleted?**

Any request to view or edit the data must be made through the relevant provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). Videos will only be deleted in accordance with retention periods.

**What if I am an innocent bystander and a body worn camera records me?**

Officers will make every reasonable effort to capture only the relevant incident for which the body worn camera is in operation. Machine learning is used to blur out parts of the video which could compromise the privacy of members and the public.

**Will the video captured by the body worn camera be used for any secondary purposes, such as training materials for police officers?**

It is expected that some materials captured by the body worn cameras could be used by the St. Thomas Police Service to improve performance and to provide necessary training. However, any video that is used in this way will be vetted to ensure the privacy of all individuals.

**Will the St. Thomas Police Service release video from the body-worn cameras to the media/public?**

Unlike the United States, there are significant privacy implications in Canada that govern the St. Thomas Police Service's ability to release video from the body-worn cameras. If it was determined that a video may protect the public and/or further an investigation, it may be vetted for release in the same way security videos are released. In every case, the privacy of victims and uninvolved members of the public will always be considered.