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Advice to assist decision making on the public release of Body Worn Video (BWV) footage

This advice has been written in response to the appeal in August 2020 by the Police Federation of England and Wales for forces to be more proactive in publicising BWV footage. Following a number of high profile incidents in which video footage released by a member of the public has undermined public confidence in policing and police officers, the Police Federation have asked that we redress the balance by taking the action of releasing BWV footage at the earliest opportunity to provide a more complete account of events and protect officers from unfair vilification.

BWV footage can be used to give an insight into the whole spectrum of policing interactions with the public and in my view forces should be more proactive in identifying cases that can be shared in order to increase public transparency and build confidence in the legitimacy of our actions. The release of BWV footage into the public domain must always be for a **legitimate aim, lawful, necessary and proportionate**, in line with the [Body-Worn Video Principles introduced in 2014](#). For the majority of cases, the release of video footage held by the police is already covered by existing protocols in the [Engagement and Communication APP](#), with this advice intended to support the practical application of this within the context of BWV.

It is well established that footage can be released to the prosecution during a trial or for another genuine policing purpose such as an appeal, tracing wanted suspects, or locating people who have escaped or absconded from custody. There are also tried and tested routes of releasing BWV footage post-conviction, to illustrate the good work of the officers involved or when the case is of significant public interest. When releasing footage in these circumstances forces must make each decision on a case-by-case basis and should carry out early consultation with criminal justice partners where appropriate. This document will focus upon releasing footage in less well established circumstances which are therefore of arguably higher risk given the data protection considerations that need to be reviewed prior to footage being released, for example in response to publically filmed selective footage circulating online. Four case studies of when footage has been shared with the public or partners are included as an appendix, to demonstrate how footage can be shared in different ways to support public confidence in policing.

It is arguable that BWV footage in which people can be identified should be released in response to the circulation of publically filmed selective footage, where the release would be for a **legitimate aim and it is lawful, necessary and proportionate** to do so. The release of BWV footage should not be in an attempt to limit citizen journalism as a practice, rather it is to correct the harmful misinformation circulating online.

The release of BWV footage is not a tactic suitable on every occasion and consideration must be given to the use of less intrusive options prior to releasing footage. A decision regarding whether or not to release footage should be made using the National Decision Model, as part of which the following should be considered:

- 1. The lawful basis for sharing**
- 2. The investigative impact of sharing**
- 3. The community impact of sharing**
- 4. The impact of sharing on the police workforce**

This document provides advice on these key considerations and should be read alongside the APP on [Engagement and Communication](#) and [Information Management](#). While this advice is intended to provide an overview of the necessary considerations, it does not replace the need for specialist guidance to be obtained relating to the specific case in question.

1. The lawful basis for sharing

Police may share BWV footage that does not enable individuals to be identified, provided they are doing so for a policing purpose. This includes footage from distance, for example a recording showing the challenges faced by officers attending an incident, which could give insight into the circumstances in which their decisions were made. Transparent and proactive sharing such as this can build trust and confidence within our communities. However, there are far greater legislative constraints upon sharing footage which enables individuals to be identified.

The public release of BWV footage in which people can be identified must only be considered under exceptional circumstances and when deemed strictly necessary. The immediate need to release footage relating to an ongoing criminal or misconduct investigation must be based upon the prevention or de-escalation of serious violence or disorder and only completed where there is substantial public interest or a pressing social need met by the release of the material (for example would the release prevent further offences being committed). The threshold for release is therefore extremely high, but not an absolute barrier.

Human Rights Act

The Human Rights Act 1998 incorporates into domestic law the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR).

Article 8 ECHR states that everyone has the right to respect for their private and family life, their home and their correspondence. Article 8 ECHR also states there shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right, except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

The release of BWV footage will undoubtedly engage the Article 8 rights of those members of the public shown and identifiable in the footage. The decision to release should therefore have a clear documented rationale as to why the interference with Article 8 rights is justified on the basis that the release of the footage:

- (i) *Fulfils a legitimate aim,*
- (ii) *Is lawful (by reference to a basis in common law and/or statute),*
- (iii) *Is necessary, and*
- (iv) *Is proportionate with sufficient safeguards to fulfil the legitimate aim.*

Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR

The police must do all in our power to avoid what could be construed as an unwarranted infringement upon the privacy of those within the footage and therefore a data breach. The consequence of a breach could cause a detrimental impact upon the rights and freedoms of individuals (data subjects) and the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) may investigate which could lead to enforcement action, but it is also likely to be detrimental in terms of a loss of public confidence and trust.

Due to the nature of the interactions captured, BWV footage will often contain Personal Data such as names and addresses, but may also contain Special Category Data, such as that revealing a person's racial or ethnic origin, political opinion, or religious beliefs.¹ The public release of the footage is a form of processing.

Personal data captured by BWV may be shared under the following processing conditions:

Part 3 Processing under the Data Protection Act:

- i. Necessary for the law enforcement purpose(s)
- ii. Sensitive processing under s.35 + Schedule 8 condition (para 1) – requirements of strict necessity for the law enforcement purpose(s), is necessary for the exercise of a function conferred on a person by an enactment or rule of law, and substantial public interest.

The release of BWV footage during an active criminal or misconduct investigation is an example of when a release under Part 3 might be applied, for the prevention or de-escalation of serious violence or disorder. With regard to the release being necessary for the exercise of a function conferred on a person by an enactment or rule of law, forces may seek to rely on the provisions within the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Police service could also process under GDPR (Part 2 of the Data Protection Act) where the processing is linked to increasing public confidence and not in relation to the prevention or de-escalation of serious violence or disorder. Under the conditions of:

- i. Art 6(1)(e) – public interest processing
- ii. Sections 10-11 DPA/Arts 9-10 GDPR - Special categories and criminal convictions data + Schedule 1 conditions (para 6)

¹ Special Category Data is data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs or trade union membership; genetic data, or biometric data, for the purpose of uniquely identifying an individual; data concerning health; data concerning an individual's sex life or sexual orientation (Art 10 Law Enforcement Directive; Art 9(1) GDPR).

The release of BWV footage following the conclusion of, or in the absence of, a criminal or misconduct investigation, is an example of when a release under Part 2 might be applied. The release of footage under such circumstances is commonly practiced by many forces and can in the right circumstances attract media coverage and public attention that helps to help build public confidence. The sharing of footage during an active criminal or misconduct investigation occurs far less frequently.

Immediately following publically filmed footage being circulated online and causing public concern, it is most likely that there will be ongoing consideration of criminal and conduct matters. Therefore, this advice focuses on the need to disclose solely for law enforcement purposes (Part 3 Processing) and the inherent risk this presents when disclosing material that may be, or may become, subject to a criminal or misconduct investigation. In such situations there is a high legislative threshold for the release of footage, that being the prevention or de-escalation of serious violence or disorder.

In order to determine the necessity of the footage being released, consideration must be given to utilising less intrusive tactics such as a written press release, social media messaging, liaison with established independent advisory groups or scrutiny panels, and wider community engagement. The release of BWV footage in which people can be identified is an additional option that can be considered alongside or in place of these less intrusive measures, when it is considered their use would not achieve the law enforcement purpose being addressed. This decision should be recorded as it provides an accountable explanation of the rationale as to why there was no less intrusive means of achieving the aim.

If there is no lawful, proportionate and necessary basis to release BWV footage that could identify all those shown within it, redaction must be conducted prior to the release being authorised. Therefore, the footage is likely to need redacted prior to distribution, for example to ensure the identity of third parties not directly involved in the incident is not inadvertently disclosed. In practice redaction can include clipping the length of the footage, concealing or masking identifiable objects or people, removing metadata, or removing / obscuring parts of the audio. [The Home Office Safeguarding Body Worn Video Data](#) publication provides further guidance on the redaction of BWV.

It is arguable that the processing of BWV footage through release is lawful in circumstances where a clip of the incident has already [manifestly been made public by the data subject](#). However, there must be certainty that it was the data subject that released the footage with the intention of it being in the public domain. Furthermore, it is unlikely the police would release BWV footage that does not show events in addition to those shown in the clip already released by the data subject. While in such circumstances there may potentially be a lesser need for redaction of the personal data of those involved in the incident, police must still justify the release.

2. The investigative impact of sharing

The investigative impact of releasing BWV footage in which people can be identified will be highly dependent upon whether or not there is an ongoing criminal or misconduct investigation, including referral to the IOPC. While there are instances when there may be no active criminal investigation, such as following a negative stop search, careful consideration will need to be given to ensure the release of footage does not prejudice any future criminal or misconduct proceedings and infringe upon the right to a fair trial as outlined in Article 6 ECHR. If there is an ongoing criminal investigation the appropriate Senior Investigating Officer should be involved in the decision making regarding the release of any BWV footage. Furthermore, in line with the [Body-Worn Video Principles](#), records

relating to the release of BWV images or footage may be subject to disclosure and therefore should be retained, recorded and revealed in accordance with the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996.

In line with the legislative considerations, the prevention or de-escalation of serious violence or disorder is the legitimate aim for releasing BWV footage in which people can be identified during an ongoing criminal or misconduct investigation. It is therefore possible that the release of BWV footage could be necessary to achieve this aim, but the footage may not necessarily show the police action in an entirely positive light. It is important the police are seen to be open and transparent when responding to allegations of wrong doing and therefore in such situation the BWV footage could still be lawfully released to achieve the legitimate aim, but consideration would have to be given as to how public confidence could also be maintained when doing so, for example through referral to the IOPC.

The existence of a local misconduct investigation is not an absolute bar to BWV footage being released. Furthermore, referral to the IOPC does not prevent the police from commenting or responding to enquiries from the public or media. The [NPCC & IOPC Protocol For Media Relations During Investigations By The Independent Office For Police Conduct](#) outlines the police role in such situations. Any police comment should be limited to matters of fact, which cannot become disputed during any subsequent misconduct proceedings. It is strongly recommended that consultation with the IOPC takes place.

3. The community impact of sharing

As outlined, the legal threshold for sharing BWV footage in which people can be identified is extremely high and therefore, it will not be lawful to share such footage in response to every request by the public or media. Police forces should be careful not to set an expectation that footage will be publically released upon request, as when a decision not to do so is made it could create a perception that the police are selectively choosing when to release footage to their advantage, thus potentially undermining public confidence. The release of BWV footage in which people can be identified should therefore be accompanied with an explanation of the exceptional circumstances that have led to this decision being made.

Releasing BWV footage in which people can be identified is a single option that exists alongside many others and is likely to be deployed in exceptional circumstances as part of a wider strategy of engagement and reassurance. To inform decision making, a community impact assessment should be considered and where practicable local stakeholders advised. In particular, sharing the footage with independent advisory groups or specific scrutiny panels under existing information sharing protocols should be considered, either as a less intrusive alternative to public release or as part of the wider strategy of engagement and reassurance being conducted alongside the public release of the BWV footage.

It should be recognised that sharing the footage may not alleviate all concerns and also does not provide details regarding the officer's subjective interpretation of the situation, which is of particular importance when considering any use of force. There is a risk that the officer's subjective perceptions may be discarded when the footage is viewed and undue weight placed upon the footage in isolation, which can be watched multiple times, paused, or played at slower than real time by the viewer. This does not mean that footage should not be released, but that consideration has to be given as to the other methods of communication that will be utilised alongside the release

and how these could provide details regarding the wider circumstances surrounding the footage or of the decision making process of those shown.

4. The impact of sharing on the police workforce

When acting in a professional capacity, police officers have a reduced right to privacy under Article 8 ECHR compared to a member of the public, albeit the impact on the officers shown within a video clip that is attracting significant public interest should not be underestimated. Those shown within the footage will likely feel their actions are under intense scrutiny and understandably could have concerns regarding the consequences this may have on their personal and professional life. This applies to the officers whose actions are the focus of any video clip and also to any assisting officers who appear present in the footage but whose actions are not the immediate focus of any scrutiny.

Consideration must be given to whether or not the release of BWV footage would place the officers involved at an increased risk of harm and how this can be minimised. If the officers involved may potentially be provided with anonymity during any subsequent criminal or misconduct proceedings, then this should be maintained via redaction of the BWV footage prior to release.

It is vital that appropriate support is put in place for the officers involved prior to any footage being released. The officers shown in the footage should be informed of the intention to release the footage and support should be put in place as appropriate via their supervisory officers, the Police Federation, Police Staff trade unions, and police support associations. Furthermore, there may be situations where the officers involved want their BWV footage to be released, but a decision is made not to do so. In such situations it is important that this decision is explained to the officers concerned, including the extremely high threshold for releasing footage in which people can be identified and why this threshold was considered not to be met on this occasion.

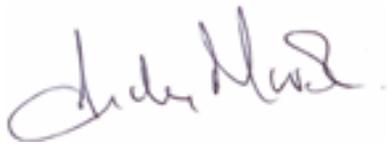
Sharing the footage

Forces should be more proactive in identifying BWV footage that can be shared in order to increase public transparency and build confidence in the legitimacy of our actions. The release of BWV footage must be for **a legitimate aim, and be lawful, necessary and proportionate**. On each occasion that the release of BWV footage is considered, professional judgement must be applied on a case by case basis, as no two scenarios will ever be the same. The rationale for the decision made should be documented for reference at a later stage if required. Forces may now therefore wish to consider the necessity to develop their own procedural guidance on this topic, which should be subject to an equality impact analysis.

The threshold for the release of footage in which people can be identified during an ongoing criminal or misconduct investigation is extremely high, but this is not an absolute barrier in the right circumstances, when the release is for **a legitimate aim and it is lawful, necessary and proportionate** to do so. Releasing BWV footage in these circumstances is a transparent act that can achieve a legitimate aim, while also increasing trust and confidence in the communities we serve, but consideration must be given as to the investigative, community and workforce implications of doing so.

The release of BWV footage in which people can be identified during an ongoing criminal or misconduct investigation is therefore an option for responding to misleading citizen journalism, but

it does not exist in isolation and must only be used in exceptional circumstances where less intrusive options do not meet the legitimate aim.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Andy Marsh'.

Chief Constable Andy Marsh QPM

NPCC Body Worn Video Lead

Appendix 1: Case Studies of sharing BWV footage

- 1.1 [Sharing footage with key community leaders - Avon and Somerset Police, May 2020](#)
- 1.2 [Redacting footage to remove personal data – West Midlands Police, September 2020](#)
- 1.3 [Releasing BWV when footage is circulating on social media – Avon and Somerset Police, November 2020](#)
- 1.4 [Showing the challenges officers faced - Metropolitan Police, July 2020](#)

1.1 Sharing footage with key community leaders - Avon and Somerset Police, May 2020

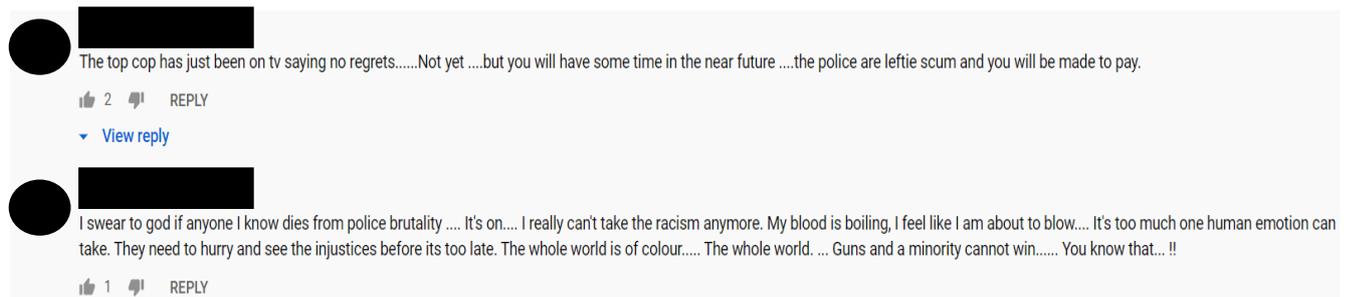
On the evening of 29th May 2020 a large scale disorder occurred involving up to 15 people fighting, some of whom had weapons. Police attended and dispersed a large group, some of which were still fighting on their arrival. No-one would engage with officers and no arrests were made at this point.

A short while later a victim was located on a residential street with a serious-looking head injury. Officers attended and attempted to take details, with the victim suggesting he had fallen from his bike. However, members of the public on the street, including members of his family, stated that a named SUSPECT had attacked him.

A short while later the SUSPECT was located walking on a residential street and an officer attempted to arrest him for assault (GBH). A Taser was drawn by the officer in response to the SUSPECT's initial demeanour when confronted. The SUSPECT then rushed at the officer and struck him to the face a number of times before trying to make off. He was sprayed with PAVA and officers eventually managed to detain him. The SUSPECT continued to violently resist and it required several officers to subdue him and secure his detention. This activity drew a large crowd of people, a number of which were hostile towards the police and many recorded footage on their mobile phones.

The SUSPECT was detained and swiftly conveyed to custody to de-escalate the situation. A number of officers remained to engage with the crowd and explain what had taken place. The injured officer was conveyed to hospital where he was confirmed to have multiple fractures to his jaw area.

Mobile phone footage was later uploaded to social media. Some of these posts, and subsequent comments, likened the detention of the SUSPECT to the recent arrest and subsequent death in police custody of a black male in Minneapolis, USA.



The screenshot shows two social media comments. The first comment, from a user with a black profile picture, reads: "The top cop has just been on tv saying no regrets.....Not yetbut you will have some time in the near futurethe police are leftie scum and you will be made to pay." Below the text are icons for 2 likes, a thumbs-down icon, and the word "REPLY". A blue link "View reply" is visible below the icons. The second comment, also from a user with a black profile picture, reads: "I swear to god if anyone I know dies from police brutality It's on.... I really can't take the racism anymore. My blood is boiling, I feel like I am about to blow.... It's too much one human emotion can take. They need to hurry and see the injustices before its too late. The whole world is of colour..... The whole world. ... Guns and a minority cannot win..... You know that... !!". Below this text are icons for 1 like, a thumbs-down icon, and the word "REPLY".



May 30 · 🌐

...

Late last night I was sent video footage of the arrest of a young black man who is well known to me in St Paul's. Myself & [REDACTED] were contacted by the police this morning and we have asked for an urgent briefing on what the hell happened. As I watched the footage I was immediately reminded of the footage of the murder of [#georgefloyd](#) at the hands of Minneapolis police. My heart sank.

We need to know the facts of this incident but there can be no justification for the amount of force that was exerted on this young man by officers in the video. NONE!

An early review of this matter took place by local policing leads including the collation of BWV to establish the timeline and facts of events. A large amount of BWV footage was taken of the incident by a number of officers present.

An early release was provided to Independent Advisory Group members outlining details of incident and providing additional context. A meeting also took place on 30th May with Neighbourhood Policing leads, key community leaders, a local pastor, members of the local authority and the Independent Chair for the Force's Lammy Review Group. An agreement was made to show the BWV footage to select key stakeholders and community influencers – this was to provide transparency, reassurance and to de-escalate tensions within the community.

From 1st-3rd June BWV footage of the incident was shown in person under controlled conditions to seven key individuals. Immediate feedback was recorded which was largely positive in support of the police action taken. There was an agreement for a joint statement to be made by the collective viewing members. This statement was made on social media on 6th June on behalf of the group reassuring the community that "proportionate" force had been used. This coincided with a police statement confirming the process had taken place. In addition to this statement, each member provided feedback within their community influence to provide reassurance and de-escalate tensions. The joint statement was as follows:



June 6 · 🌐

...

"Statement re St Pauls Incident - 29th May 2020"

Video footage has been circulating on social media of an arrest in St Pauls last Friday evening. The footage and the event that led up to the arrest have been the cause of considerable concern in the community.

It is very important that people do not draw premature conclusions from the footage or allow themselves to be led astray by the various interpretations that are being shared on social media. Not all the relevant information is in the public domain.

A number of people from the community have been given the opportunity to view the body worn camera footage and read the transcripts of the audio recordings of the communications between police and staff following the initial 999 call. This covers the arrest and the events leading up to the arrest.

When arresting a suspect, police officers may only use proportionate force. There are many questions that need to be answered by all of the parties involved in the arrest, including what led up to it? and what has followed? But on balance we are, at this time, satisfied that the police acted proportionately. We respect the right of all parties to make a complaint or take legal action if they believe otherwise.

We are determined to see that justice and fairness is achieved for everyone involved in this case. And we are determined to ensure the peace and safety of our young people, our community and wider Bristol is safeguarded. At any point, if we are dissatisfied we will be very clear in raising our points with the police and will talk to the community.

ENDS

1.2 Redacting footage to remove personal data – West Midlands Police, September 2020

On 27th August 2020 Covid-19 related legislation was updated to include a power for police to issue £10,000 fixed penalty notices to those responsible for organising or facilitating a gathering of more than 30 people. On 25th September West Midlands Police issued a £10,000 fine to a Solihull hotel manager after they hosted a funeral party with hundreds of attendees.

Nine calls were made to the force to report the large gathering and loud music being played at the hotel. Officers attended and found more than 200 people in attendance, who were all then dispersed. Officers then spoke to staff at the hotel in a bid to contact the owner or event organiser, with the venue having breached legislation on several occasions previously. In addition to the £10,000 fixed penalty notice, an application for an immediate licencing review was submitted to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council asking for an immediate suspension of the hotel owner's personal licence pending a full review. This was granted by the licencing panel.

The BWV of attending officers was redacted to remove personal data via the use of blurring and then shared on the [force website](#), social media and [YouTube](#). The stance of West Midlands Police is that imagery should always be used to illustrate a story as if one isn't provided then the message simply doesn't get read as users will just scroll to the next more visually interesting story or piece of information. The decision to release body camera footage on this occasion was so that the public are able to see first-hand what officers are faced with when they attend calls for service of this nature. In this instance, they weren't able to talk to the licensee or manager and so also tried to illustrate that issuing fines is not a quick process.

The BWV illustrated the number of people present and the fact they weren't socially distancing, albeit the blurring meant they couldn't be identified by the viewer. It also showed the personable approach of the officers present who were indeed engaging and encouraging. This provided a good example internally to their officers and staff on using the right tone and also reassured their communities regarding their approach.

West Midlands Police continue to use BWV footage to promote Covid-19 related enforcement and adherence to the regulations – it is real footage. Their news desk staff have direct access to the BWV system and can edit the footage, following which it goes through an approval process to ensure personal data isn't disclosed.

1.3 Releasing BWV when footage is circulating on social media – Avon and Somerset Police, November 2020

At 22:35 on 31st October 2020, Avon and Somerset Police were made aware of an unlicensed music event taking place in Yate, South Gloucestershire. Officers arrived on scene within 12 minutes and found hundreds of people had already gathered. The officers present courageously attempted to prevent more members of the public from accessing the site, but were met by a large and hostile crowd.

Due to the nature of the incident mutual aid was sought from neighbouring forces. A secure cordon was in place by 04:00, which prevented a further 250-300 people accessing the event. This was despite officers being significantly outnumbered and subjected to violence and hostility, with fireworks and bottles among the items being thrown. The event in progress was reported in national and regional media, with it taking place only days before England was due to enter a second national lockdown to help control the COVID-19 pandemic. Footage from inside the event began to be shared on social media, including via live streaming.

The event was shut down the following morning, equipment was seized and eight arrests made. An investigation into the event was commenced and within a week two people were issued with £10,000 fixed penalty notices for organising it.

Immediately following the issuing of the first fixed penalty notice and with the investigation ongoing, [two clips of BWV were released](#), one a compilation of footage from attendance overnight and a second showing officers clearing the site and preventing equipment being taken away. The footage was redacted to remove personal data, but clearly showed the hostility of the crowd and the professional approach of the officers involved.

The BWV was released on Avon and Somerset Police social media channels alongside a written explanation of the events that had taken place. By the next morning the footage had been viewed over 82,000 times with over 34,000 engagements (clicks, replies, shares, reactions), including being shared by councillors, MPs, journalists, and members of the public. Such interest was generated by the release, that it was also covered by national and regional media channels.

The following are examples of the comments made by councillors, MPs, journalists, and members of the public in response to the BWV footage being shared:

That count down.....and then the jumping up and down on the spot followed by - oh - I didn't do anything. 🤔 There's bravery in this video and it's not in that crowd.
[#ThinBlueLine](#)
[#BeProudofWhatYouDo](#)

BREAKING: A man has been fined £10,000 for organising the illegal rave in Yate, nr Bristol, on Saturday night that saw a mob attack police and 700 people break Covid regulations
The video here is shocking

Shocking footage from police after they arrived at the illegal rave in Yate on Saturday evening. A man has been fined £10,000 for organising the event.

What a terrible use of police time and frightening incident to attend in current pandemic. Details for further info in the thread

Please watch and retweet - our police force need our support.

Replying to [@ASPolice](#)
Well done [@ASPolice](#) on resolving this. Thank you to all the brave officers who attended.

👉 See the thread. Excellent policing skills by [.@ASPolice](#) police dealing with a very volatile group of violent individuals. Professionalism, determination, dedication and courage. As for those out of control selfish 'customers' shame on them.
[#police](#) [#leadership](#) 👍

Credit to the officers who had to deal with this - incredibly disappointing that this is why Yate is in the news at the moment.

Watching this makes me fume! How can people behave like that ever let alone now 🤔 Well done to those officers attending that takes serious guts 🙌

The violence towards the police on Saturday night was appalling - this thread updates on the strong action being taken by them in response

Utterly shocking. 😞

1.4 Showing the challenges officers faced - Metropolitan Police, July 2020

With the backdrop of Covid restrictions and BLM protests, public and media attention on policing was extremely high. The weekend of the 18th and 19th July saw multiple Unlicensed Music Events (UMEs) across London, causing disruption to local communities. Police interventions frequently resulted in officers being pelted with bottles and street furniture by those being dispersed.

The Gold Commander for the week decided to publicise the challenges faced by officers, releasing a blog titled 'Could you? Would you?' Simultaneously, a clip of officers' Body Worn Video footage from a UME in Hackney was released, showing first-hand the barrage of abuse and missiles faced by officers.

The Met had in the days prior to this incident received many complaints from members of the public about UMEs across London, and there was criticism in the media and on social media that the police were either ineffective in dispersing crowds or too heavy handed in trying to break up the UMEs.

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, and Independent Advisory Group members were spoken to for their views. Care was taken to ensure the footage did not show faces of members of the public.

Used in conjunction with the blog, the footage was an effective tool in highlighting the challenges faced by the police on a daily basis.

The blog - 20 July 2020:

"Could you? Would you?"

Last night, supported by an outstanding team, I was proud to lead the policing operation to keep London's communities safe. It is always humbling to see the work of my colleagues, who tirelessly attended call after call last night to help some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

In the last 24 hours, we have had 7501 emergency calls, 5335 non-emergency calls and just over 1000 online reports of incidents and crime from London's communities. Each one of those calls was from a person requesting our help. I'm glad we were able to respond to these and to help the communities and individuals, often in crisis, who we care deeply about. Doing this is unquestionably what my colleagues and I joined the police service to do.

On top of this, despite asking people not to organise unlicensed music events because of the high risk of violence and the public health risk of COVID-19, they regrettably did take place across the capital. To ensure we were in a position to deal with this upwards of 600 officers were taken away from local boroughs to be available. I reminded myself as I write this that there is no extra box of officers. In order to respond as we need to means officers are taken away from their local communities, often having their days off cancelled or shifts changed.

Last night we deployed officers to the Woodberry Down Estate N4 after we received upwards of 30 calls from residents asking for help as they witnessed about 200/300 youths fighting and smashing up property. These residents were scared to leave their homes and scared about what they would face outside their front doors in the morning. It is always an anxious moment for us as we deploy our officers into such situations but I draw confidence from my knowledge of the outstanding training they receive. As I waited for news last night I hoped that residents and officers were okay.

I wanted to share with you the footage from a colleague's body worn camera which shows what they faced upon arrival, and I ask the question 'could you or would you want to do their job?'

Finally, I want to say a 'thank you' to those residents who trusted us and called us to come and help. I also wanted to say 'thank you' to all my colleagues that still run towards those incidents which most people would naturally wish to run from."

Avon and Somerset Constabulary Privacy Notice, which relates to the use of personal information, can be viewed via the force website <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/privacy>