

Armed police to wear body cameras in London

15th January, 2014



Armed police in London will soon be wearing body cameras when they respond to incidents. This is to ensure greater transparency and reduce speculation when police shoot

people. The move came in response to the fatal shooting of a 29-year-old Londoner in North London in 2011. London police stated that its officers were attempting to arrest the man, Mark Duggan, on suspicion of planning an attack, and that he was in possession of a handgun. The killing led to widespread clashes with the police and escalated into riots across London and other cities. Mr Duggan's family and friends campaigned for years claiming he was unlawfully killed. A public inquiry decided on January the 8th that the killing was lawful.

London's senior police officials hope the body cameras will provide greater clarity and proof surrounding any future shootings. The head of the police pointed out that it was relatively rare for London police officers to open fire. Regular police officers patrolling the streets do not carry guns, unlike police in many cities around the world. Between 2010 and 2012, there were 12,721 times when armed police responded to incidents. Shots were fired on just four occasions. Neil Basu, head of the police's specialist firearms unit, said: "These are professional officers who want to be believed and want the public to trust them. If [wearing body cameras is] what it takes, then that is what they will do."

Sources: *The Evening Standard* / *The Guardian* / *Wikipedia*

Writing

What are the pros and cons of police officers wearing body cameras?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

armed / respond / transparency / arrest / handgun / riots / campaigned / inquiry / senior police officials / clarity / rare / open fire / firearms / professional / trust

True / False

- London's armed police will soon wear cameras 24 hours a day. T / F
- The cameras follow the controversy over the police shooting someone. T / F
- The police said the man they shot was carrying a rifle. T / F
- The man's family campaigned that his killing had been unlawful. T / F
- It is rare for police in London to open fire with guns. T / F
- All London police officers carry guns, hidden under their shirts. T / F
- Police fired over 12,000 shots in London between 2010 and 2012. T / F
- Police officers want to wear the cameras to get the public's trust. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. respond | a. policing |
| 2. incidents | b. deadly |
| 3. transparency | c. drew attention to |
| 4. fatal | d. disturbances |
| 5. unlawfully | e. instances |
| 6. proof | f. answer |
| 7. pointed out | g. faith |
| 8. patrolling | h. illegally |
| 9. occasions | i. openness |
| 10. trust | j. evidence |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of the fact that most U.K. police do not carry guns?
- What would the drawbacks be of police officers wearing body cameras?
- Is it better for police to have a gun or not have one?
- Would you feel safer if your house was full of cameras?
- Will cameras be everywhere in the world one day?
- Why are many people against things like body cameras?
- Will body cameras result in better policing?
- What questions would you like to ask London's police chief?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. ensure greater transparency | a. to trust them |
| 2. on suspicion of | b. inquiry |
| 3. escalated into riots | c. unit |
| 4. claiming he was unlawfully | d. takes |
| 5. public | e. planning an attack |
| 6. provide greater | f. and reduce speculation |
| 7. police officers to open | g. killed |
| 8. specialist firearms | h. fire |
| 9. want the public | i. across London |
| 10. what it | j. clarity |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of body cameras?
- Do you think all police officers should wear body cameras?
- How will body cameras help the police?
- Are there any ways body cameras might be bad for the police?
- How would the world be different if we all wore body cameras?
- What happens in your country if the police shoot an innocent person?
- Would body cameras have stopped the police shooting Mr Duggan?
- How would a body camera help you in your life?

Spelling

- when they respond to ticindnes
- ensure greater parsyantencr
- in response to the aatlf shooting
- on nipicouss of planning an attack
- drepsaweid clashes
- family and friends cpgadainem for years
- senior police osfliiifa
- ougrdniruns any future shootings
- lleetvriay rare
- on just four aocsoiscn
- the police's isliasecpt
- ferirasm unit

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. h
6. j	7. c	8. a	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – School classrooms

You think school classrooms are the best places to have a camera. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): the front and back of cars, police uniforms or your front door.

Role B – The front and back of cars

You think the front and back of cars are the best places to have a camera. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): school classrooms, police uniforms or your front door.

Role C – Police uniforms

You think police uniforms are the best places to have a camera. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): the front and back of cars, school classrooms or your front door.

Role D – Your front door

You think your front door is the best place to have a camera. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): the front and back of cars, police uniforms or school classrooms.

Speaking – Wearable tech

Rank these.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| • body cameras | • blood-pressure monitor |
| • credit-card ring | • translation ear-phones |
| • heated shirt | • clothes that change colour |
| • TV watch | • "You're full" eating alarm |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.