

# Video transcript:

## Managing Body-Worn Cameras

### Audit objective

In this audit, we examined how Victoria Police uses and governs body-worn cameras.

### Background

Victoria Police introduced body-worn cameras in 2018. Frontline police officers wear them when they're on duty. These cameras record footage when activated.

### Who and what we examined

We audited Victoria Police and examined how police officers capture and manage footage. We also assessed if Victoria Police is tracking and achieving the cameras' intended benefits.

### What we concluded

We found that Victoria Police has fit-for-purpose policies and training materials for these cameras and appropriate controls to protect the recordings.

However, Victoria Police doesn't consistently track how all police officers use the cameras. This means it doesn't know how compliant police officers are with its requirements for activating them.

While Victoria Police uses the recordings to help resolve complaints and legal proceedings, it doesn't track these uses or measure their impact.

It also hasn't tracked if it is achieving the intended benefits for the cameras since it finished rolling them out.

Victoria Police is unlikely to improve how it uses body-worn cameras unless it actively monitors performance and drives better practice.

### Activation requirements

Police officers must record footage when they exercise police powers. They should also record if it will help them collect evidence or make an interaction with a member of the public more transparent.

## Issue 1: Activation rates

We analysed data for the month of March 2021 and found that police officers recorded footage in 83.6 per cent of instances they were required to.

However, the 16.4 per cent of unrecorded interactions create a higher risk of:

- weaker evidence for investigations
- reduced transparency in how Victoria Police handles complaints
- and damage to Victoria Police's reputation.

## Issue 2: Monitoring activation

Victoria Police doesn't know how reliably police officers record footage because it doesn't consistently measure their overall compliance with activating the cameras. This is partly due to weaknesses in its information systems and data.

It has some manual processes and a dashboard to help monitor how police officers use cameras and footage. However, these processes are time-consuming and give limited insights into Victoria Police's overall compliance.

## Issue 3: Achieving intended benefits

When it introduced body-worn cameras Victoria Police wanted them to:

- improve available evidence for legal matters
- help investigate complaints about police officers
- and support family violence victims by capturing statements on video.

Victoria Police has used footage for some of these purposes. However, it can't show how much impact the cameras are having because it doesn't measure how and when it's used footage.

## What we recommend

We made 8 recommendations to Victoria Police, including:

- 6 about capturing, monitoring and managing footage
- and 2 about achieving and tracking intended benefits.

## More information

For more information, or to read our full report, go to [audit.vic.gov.au](https://audit.vic.gov.au)

To access the complete video, please go to <https://youtu.be/vTo0HmyNeIU>