



# North Essex Parking Partnership

**DASHCAMS**

**Your questions answered....**

## **1. Why is North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) using dashcams in its vehicles?**

Dashcams are being used to assist in serving as a deterrent to acts of aggressive driving practices, to help protect NEPP officers and other road users, to enhance health and safety standards whilst capturing images.

The footage will be used to provide evidence to support internal and internal investigations (complaints), prosecution cases and to assist in the investigation of unfounded allegations of inappropriate driving conduct by officers.

## **2. Is there evidence to suggest that the use of dashcams will be realistically beneficial?**

They can assist to encourage all road users to drive safely.

Police frequently use them in prosecutions and have developed the National Dashcam Safety Portal (NDSP) to encourage motorists to download footage.

Insurance companies frequently use the footage as evidence in their investigations.

## **3. How will NEPP Officers use these dashcams?**

Dashcams will be installed in all NEPP vehicles. Once the engine is switched on the dashcam will automatically record video footage without sound until the engine is switched off.

## **4. Can less privacy intrusive solutions achieve similar objectives?**

The short answer is no, however dashcams are designed to capture video footage of the road ahead of the vehicle (when placed in the front windscreen as all of NEPP dashcams will be fitted), they are not designed to capture footage of pedestrians or drivers.

## **5. What could be done to minimize intrusion for those that may be recorded, particularly if specific concerns have been expressed?**

The cameras are mounted in the front windscreen and aimed at the road ahead whilst it is recognised that footage may be recorded of pedestrians and or other drivers at close quarters, such as when the vehicle is stationary in traffic this is unavoidable as the system is automatically recording. It is not feasible or legal to expect drivers to switch the dashcam on or off when in charge of the vehicle in transit.

***In certain circumstances people who are found to be contained within footage as an innocent bystander will be blocked out***

## **6. What will NEPP be doing with recorded images?**

Recorded images and audio will be used to review incidents of abuse against our officers or in the case of accidents/incidents. For incidents where the Police have not been in attendance a decision will be made on whether a referral is appropriate.

All data not deemed necessary or not required by the Police/insurance company for investigations or for possible prosecution will enter a secure short term archive database and will be deleted on a monthly basis.

Any data retained will only be kept until all investigations have been completed or prosecution has taken place.

Footage can only be viewed by authorised personnel and will only be done so if a an officer instructs NEPP management of an accident/incident or a complaint is received regarding the alleged conduct of an officer.

## **7. How will members of the public be able to view recorded data?**

Any request to view captured video by a member of the public, or their legal representatives, should be made in writing to the North Essex Parking Partnership Manager at Colchester Borough Council.

Requests may also be made through the Subject Access Request procedure.

## **8. Will dashcam footage be used as supporting evidence for the issue of Penalty Charge Notices by Civil Enforcement Officers?**

Absolutely **not**. Dashcams will not be used to gather evidence for the purposes of Parking Enforcement under any circumstances.

The cameras are being introduced purely as part of the Personal Protective Equipment under Colchester Borough Council's Health & Safety policy for Parking Enforcement.

## **9. Who can access the recorded data and what would happen if a device was lost?**

The user of the dashcam can access recorded data with immediate effect if necessary to provide evidence to the police. Each video has the date and time stamped on every frame.

All dashcams are secured to vehicle uniform and not removed from the vehicle until the end of the officers shift thus reducing the threat of loss of equipment/data.

## **10. Who ensures that NEPP follows the correct and proper use of the dashcams and footage?**

NEPP will continue to work within the guidelines set out by the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's (SCC) office. The SCC is a Government appointed independent Commissioner responsible for all guidance in relation to surveillance camera systems.

As part of this process NEPP have followed and complied with all legislation and guidance published in the following

- Data Protection Act 1998
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Home Office Surveillance Camera Code of Practice
- Information Commissioners Code of Practice

We will consult the Surveillance Camera Commissioner on any updates or amendments to the policies and operational guidance before they take place.

