

Use of the Body Camera (field trial)

Background

1. To enhance the effectiveness of frontline officers in discharging their duties and to safeguard the navigation safety of vessels, the Marine Department (“MD”) considered introducing use of a small, light and portable body camera which can be used to assist in investigations and evidence collection in enforcing marine legislation, or to record the on-site sea situation during the major event at sea.

2. MD staff will conduct a six-month field trial at sea from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 in the waters around Victoria Harbour to evaluate the effectiveness of the body cameras. Thereafter, the Department will evaluate and review the test results. If the test results are effective, the body camera will be widely used by the MD's staff to enhance the capability and accuracy of evidence collection in the course of their duties, so as to provide practical information for future investigations and better assist in the execution of the work of the Department.

3. To optimize use the body worn video camera, MD has initially set out guidelines and control measures. In short, the use of the body camera should be lawful, it is overt, not covert, and the recording must be incident-specific. When discharging their duties, MD officers are required to put on their uniforms and mount the body cameras in a conspicuous position on their bodies (as illustrated in the example below), and as far as reasonably practicable, notify the person concerned in advance before the commencement of the recording.

Storage and Access to Data Collected

4. MD, as a data user, will take all necessary steps to comply with the requirements of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (“PDPO”) when handling the collected personal data. Video footage that does not carry any investigative or evidential value or constitute any other legitimate purpose will be deleted after 31 days from the date it was recorded to ensure that no excessive personal data will be kept. If any person being video-recorded requests access to the data, the MD will handle and follow up the request in accordance with the provisions of the PDPO. For data access requests, please contact the Harbour Patrol Section of the MD at 2385 2791 (24 hours) or visit the MD’s website at (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/tc/access-to-information/personal-data-access-or-correction-requests/index.html>).



Mounting on the Uniform



Mounting on the Boiler Suit



With Red Slide Switch Down Body Camera and Screen on