

Body worn video cameras

Body worn video (BWV) cameras are a standard part of the Public Housing Safety Officer's (PHSOs) equipment.

The cameras have been introduced to foster greater relations between our PHSOs, our public housing tenants and the public.

Who will be using the body worn video (BWV) cameras?

PHSOs wear BWV cameras as part of their standard equipment.

The cameras are not being used for covert recording and you will be notified when the camera is on.

Why is this necessary?

BWV cameras help with safety concerns and allow for more accurate recording of incidents and interactions between PHSOs, tenants and the public.

I'm a good tenant. Will I be recorded?

The cameras are running whenever PHSOs attend a public housing premises or complex.

You will be told when you are being recorded.

Will you record me in my home?

Recording in a home will only happen if the PHSOs have consent, from the tenant, to enter the premises. PHSOs will tell you when they are recording in your home. If you do not want to be recorded in your home, you can ask for the cameras to be turned off.

When will Public Housing Safety Officers start recording?

The cameras may be running when a PHSO attends a public housing premises. Outside of this, PHSOs can record when they feel an interaction is, or is likely to present a risk to the safety of the people present or when PHSOs may be required to use force against a person. They may also begin recording when PHSOs use a statutory power under the *Housing Act 1982*, such as giving a direction to leave premises or disposing of alcohol, or seizing a dangerous item on behalf of CEO (Housing).

Can I ask you to stop recording?

Yes, you can ask PHSOs to stop recording. PHSOs may choose to continue recording if they are capturing evidential material of an incident, and they should tell you their reason for doing so.

How will I know if I am being recorded?

PHSOs will tell you when you are being recorded. Private conversations that PHSOs are not a part of, will not be recorded.

Will my visitors be recorded?

PHSOs will notify a tenant, visitor or any other person that they are being recorded.

What will the recordings be used for?

Footage will be used to assist in substantiating complaints of antisocial behaviour as well as providing an accurate record of events.

Can I have access to the footage?

You can apply for the footage taken by the PHSOs, under the *Information Act 2002*, however any third parties captured on the footage will be blurred out.

Your privacy and personal information is protected at all times, unless it is required by law. If legal action is taken, footage can be subject to summons or subpoena by a court.

What happens to the footage?

Footage will be uploaded to a secure evidence system. It can only be accessed by authorised users.

How long is the footage kept for?

Depending on what the footage is, it may be kept for a period of time. Footage that has no evidential value will not be kept.

Can anyone access the footage under freedom of information, or only persons involved in the incident?

All material recorded by BWV cameras is restricted and will only ever be disclosed to a third party in accordance with the law.

A person must have a vested interest in the footage that has been recorded. The footage can then be subpoenaed for legal purposes.

How can I be assured my privacy is protected?

Only certain senior staff are authorised to access footage for investigation purposes if a complaint is made, after seeking the permission of the person who is the subject of the recording (tenant, visitor or other person). If permission is not obtained, then all personal information will be obscured to protect identity.

All footage is subject to the same privacy principles and legislation as any other personal information collected by the Northern Territory Government.

Where can I get more information?

To find out more, visit the website nt.gov.au or contact your local Housing office:

Office	Phone number
Alice Springs	(08) 8951 5344
Arafura Region	(08) 8995 5122
Greater Darwin	(08) 8999 8814
Katherine	(08) 8973 8513
Nhulunbuy	(08) 8987 0533
Palmerston	(08) 8999 4767
Tennant Creek	(08) 8962 4497