



Belfast Health & Social Care Trust Meeting Template Sheet (v11.25)

Purpose of paper For Approval

If other purpose please specify Please enter text here

Meeting TB Public

If other meeting please specify Please enter text here

Presenter Colin McMullan

Date of meeting 8th January 2026

Title of paper (Maximum of 300 characters) Approval of papers prior to commencement of Public Consultation on Body Worn Cameras

Background (Maximum of 1500 characters)

Approval is sought to commence a 12 week public consultation with regard to the proposal to:

- Introduce the use of body worn cameras (BWCs) in the Emergency Departments at the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) and Mater Hospital (MIH) for a six month pilot
And
Having evaluated and learnt from the pilot, consider the implementation of body worn cameras (BWCs), in other areas, when appropriate for the purpose of preventing, reducing and managing violence and aggression against staff.

A significant and increasing challenge is the marked rise in acts of violence and aggression against staff particularly in our Emergency Departments. The Body Worn Cameras Steering Group has been working to commence a six month pilot of BWCs in the Royal and Mater Emergency Departments and to introduce this intervention Trust wide where appropriate and approved to help promote Zero Tolerance and protect staff.

The purpose of introducing BWCs is to deter, de-escalate and document aggression and violence.

Any proposal to use or expand the use of BWCs beyond our two Emergency Departments will be proportionate, necessary and legitimate and will be compliant with legal obligations including duties to engage, equality screen and our data protection responsibilities.



BWCs will be worn voluntarily by staff and turned on only in situations when staff experience violence or aggression. BWCs will not be used in toilets, bedrooms or when someone is receiving personal care. Public Notices will be visible across a variety of platforms.

The following 4 papers will be released for Public Consultation:

- Consultation Paper
- Data Protection Impact Assessment
- Equality Impact Assessment
- FAQs

An Easy read version of appropriate documents using TILII Translates (service user led translation service) will be proactively produced and made available.

In line with the Trust's Involvement and Consultation Scheme, an involvement plan will be developed. This will build on engagement undertaken during the pre-consultation phase. A minimum 12-week consultation period will be undertaken in line with best practice. A range of communication methods will be undertaken to raise awareness and encourage participation, including staff case studies highlighting experiences of violence, aggression and abuse. Engagement methods during the consultation will include:

- Staff briefings for team meetings
- Public engagement sessions promoted via the Trust Involvement Network, Patient Client Council (PCC), NICVA etc
- Briefing papers for political representatives
- Dedicated stakeholder meetings with external organisations, including NIAS and PSNI

<b>Date considered at Exec Team (If Applicable)</b>	8 December 2025
<b>Options for consideration (Maximum of 1500 characters)</b>	N/A
<b>Recommendations (Maximum of 1500 Characters)</b>	Trust Board to approve papers in advance of a proposed 12 week public consultation, commencing January 2026.
<b>Proposed Onward Consideration</b>	Remove from Agenda
<b>If other</b>	

***Any papers accompanying this template should not exceed 10 pages in length.***

***Please ensure when submitting papers that***

- (1) Orientation of paper is set so that the content of the paper can be read***
- (2) Embedded documents should be [provided a separate attachments***
- (3) Append any papers to this coversheet starting on the next page***

Insert/Copy/Paste any additional information from this point