



Penelope Schofield  
HM Senior Coroner, Coroner's Office  
West Sussex Record Office  
Orchard Street, Chichester  
West Sussex, PO19 1DD

[REDACTED]  
Chief Constable

20<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Penelope,

Thank you for your letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> November relating to the inquest into the death of Jade Hutchings. The Regulation 28 report issued to me on 31<sup>st</sup> October is progressing, and we intend to have a full reply submitted to you as soon as we are able.

You highlighted a further issue in respect of body worn video (BWV) cameras and their batteries. I have made enquiries about this matter and am keen to provide you with a response to those points.

Since the sad death of Ms Hutchings Sussex Police has completed a roll out of a more modern BWV platform, as well as refreshing policy on BWV usage by officers and staff. This new system allows colleagues to swap out a camera with low battery life for a new one with a fully charged battery within seconds, this is very different from the previous system which were personal issue cameras which relied upon officers and staff charging their own cameras. This system allows officers to have the best available camera in terms of battery life. The new cameras also have an audible low battery alert giving officers notice that they will be required to swap their current camera for a new one as soon as possible.

Additionally our BWV managing team run a weekly "bad battery" report to determine cameras that may have battery issue to allow them to be removed from service and a fix to be made. This feeds into the contract that we have with the supplier to ensure that new batteries are covered under the warranty ensuring they are fixed in a timely way.

Finally our new style of BWV camera are constantly recording as when an officer or staff member activate the camera it begins the recording 15 seconds prior to the officer pressing the record button. Therefore I am confident that this new platform now means that officers and staff have no cause to not turn their cameras on to preserve battery life, which will prevent any issues such as the one you raised being a concern in the future.

I am grateful to you for raising this issue, and hope that this reassurance is sufficient.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief Constable, Sussex Police

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