

Body-Worn Cameras in Norwegian Policing

A qualitative study of the consequences and contextual considerations of BWC in Norwegian Police Enforcement.

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Abstract

The use of body-worn cameras (BWC) has become increasingly common in law enforcement globally, driven by ambitions to enhance transparency, accountability, and public trust. While international research has shown both benefits and challenges with BWC usage, their potential role in Norwegian policing remains largely unexplored, since this technology has not yet been implemented and used in Norwegian Police. This study investigates the consequences of using BWC in a Norwegian context, with a particular focus on how the technology aligns with national values such as high institutional trust and strict privacy norms.

Using the Social Construction of Technology (SCOT) framework, this thesis explores how various stakeholder groups, including police professionals, legal experts, and data protection authorities, interpret the role and implications of BWC. Qualitative research design was employed, combining a systematic literature review as well as eight interviews. The findings reveal a complex set of intended and unintended consequences, including potential improvements in documentation, conflict de-escalation, and training. Concerns were also raised around surveillance, privacy, legal ambiguity, and operational burden.

The study emphasizes the importance of a context-sensitive approach to BWC use in Norway. Rather than advocating for or against the use of BWCs, this research aims to inform the public debate by offering a nuanced, stakeholder-informed perspective on the possible consequences of introducing surveillance technology into a high-trust policing environment.

Keywords: Body-worn cameras, Norwegian police, privacy, SCOT, public trust, qualitative study.

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Motivation for the Research

Technological advancements have increasingly influenced modern policing worldwide. Among these innovations, BWC have received significant attention as a tool for enhancing transparency, accountability, and trust between the police and the public. BWC are small, portable devices attached to officers' uniforms that can continuously or selectively record audio and video during law enforcement operations (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2015). The technology is used to document incidents more objectively, reduce conflict during interactions with the public, and support investigations and legal proceedings. Both international research and practical experience have emphasized that BWC can contribute to increased trust, improved evidentiary quality, and fewer complaints against the police (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2015).

Over the past decades, BWC have been implemented in several police forces across the world, including in the United Kingdom, the United States, Sweden, and Denmark. However, their introduction has proven challenging in practice, due to legal, technological, and ethical considerations. This highlights the need for more research that can assess how such systems should be adapted to different national settings- particularly in countries like Norway, where there is strong institutional trust and strict privacy standards. Despite the widespread international use of BWC, the technology has yet to be implemented on a large scale in Norwegian policing. In 2015, the Oslo Police District conducted a pilot project to explore how BWC might affect police work, particularly in relation to documentation, evidence collection, and conflict de-escalation (Farmen et al., 2016).

Although the pilot was limited in scope, as it covered only selected shifts and was not tested under high-pressure or large-scale crowd-control scenarios (see Chapter 2.1.5). It did however contribute to the national debate on BWC in Norwegian policing. While the initiative did not evolve into a permanent program, it has raised critical questions about privacy, data storage, operational impact and how such technology may alter police-citizen interactions. Research on BWC has grown significantly since the early 2000s, increasingly recommending the technology as a means of improving transparency, accountability, and trust in police-citizen interactions (Davies, 2022). Despite these longstanding theoretical recommendations, practical adoption has proven to be slower due to several critical issues. Among the key concerns are about privacy rights, institutional trust, and acceptance within police organizations (Poirier et al., 2023; Newell, 2020). This difference between theory and practice is particularly evident in countries with high institutional trust and strict privacy norms, such as Norway. International research underscores the potential of BWC to enhance transparency and accountability, fostering positive relationships between officers and the community, and providing valuable video evidence in legal proceedings (Davies, 2022; Petersen et al., 2023). Conversely, concerns about

privacy have significantly hindered broader implementation, as many law enforcement agencies remain hesitant to adopt the technology, fearing its impact on both officers' and citizens' privacy (Poirier et al., 2023; Newell, 2020). The Norwegian context, with its distinctive societal values of high public trust, strong emphasis on conflict de-escalation, and stringent privacy protections, amplifies these implementation challenges (Farmen et al., 2016). They differ from many countries where BWC have already been widely adopted. This raises important questions about how the technology should be tailored to the Norwegian legal and cultural environment and what limitations or adjustments may be necessary. In addition, the use of BWC involves ethical and legal trade-offs, where potential gains in transparency and accountability must be weighed against increased concerns about surveillance, data access, and the protection of individual privacy rights. There is a clear need to develop more knowledge about the consequences a broader implementation of BWC may entail in Norway, including both its potential benefits and unintended negative effects, as well as how the technology is perceived and managed by both police employees and the public.

Although public trust in the Norwegian police remains high, rising crime rates and individual incidents involving police use of force may challenge that trust over time. In particular, the increase in youth crime has raised concern among both experts and the general public. Moreover, high-profile incidents- such as the 2022 Kongsberg case, in which a police officer was charged with excessive use of force, have intensified the debate about the need for increased accountability and documentation in policing (Inderhaug, 2023). Such cases illustrate how technology like BWC may potentially enhance transparency and reinforce trust in situations marked by uncertainty and conflict. The debate surrounding BWC in Norway, is not solely about the operational functionality of the technology, but also about deeper legal, ethical, and societal issues. Privacy and data protection are central concerns, with a growing need for clear guidelines on how recordings should be used, stored, and deleted. There is also an ongoing discussion about whether the benefits of BWC, such as improved accountability and reduced use of force, outweigh potential disadvantages, such as increased surveillance or a chilling effect on interactions between police and the public.

Even though BWC are not currently used in Norway, and despite an extensive search we have found no existing research on this topic in the Norwegian context, there is a clear need for studies that explore not just the potential consequences of introducing this technology, but also what problems it is intended to address. In the Norwegian setting, it remains unclear how BWCs should be used, what specific policing challenges they are meant to solve, and how they may impact both officers and the public. Considering this, there is a pressing need to develop a more thorough understanding of the rationale behind a possible implementation of BWCs in Norwegian policing. As well as how the technology is perceived, experienced, and managed in practice. This knowledge gap contributes to the broader challenge of bridging the persistent gap between theoretical recommendations and real-world adoption. However, despite the recommendations in the research literature, implementation has been slower in practice, often

due to challenges related to privacy, institutional trust, and organizational acceptance. This gap between theory and practice underscores the importance of conducting context-sensitive and empirically grounded research. Particularly in countries like Norway, where the societal model and the role of the police differ significantly from many of the international cases often referenced in the debate.

1.2 Research Scope, Objectives, and Methodological Approach

This study aims to explore the consequences that the use of BWC may present in Norwegian policing. Although the technology has long been recommended in the academic literature to promote police accountability and transparency, its implementation has proven to be complex in practice. In the Norwegian context, there is a particular need for an assessment of how BWC can be introduced in a way that is technologically feasible, legally sound, ethically responsible, and socially acceptable. The study background in Section 1.1 shows the societal values play significant role into the adoption of this new technology. This study adopts the Social Construction of Technology (SCOT) as its theoretical perspective. The SCOT framework focuses on how social groups, values, and contexts influence the development and implementation of technology. A more detailed presentation of SCOT is provided in Chapter 2.2. The study addresses the consequences of using BWC. This includes consequences such as benefits like improved documentation, conflict prevention, and enhanced public trust. However, this technology also raises several concerns, including legal issues related to data storage and access, ethical dilemmas around surveillance, privacy, technical and organizational barriers to implementation. In this research, the term "consequences" refers to both intended and unintended consequences of using BWC. Intended consequences are the planned or desired effects of implementing the technology, such as increased transparency or accountability, while unintended consequences are the unexpected or unforeseen outcomes, which may be either positive or negative. To develop a comprehensive understanding of this topic, it is essential to gather insights from both existing academic research and from stakeholders with firsthand experience and practical knowledge about the use of such systems.

Based on this, the following research question has been developed:

What consequences may the use of body-worn cameras entail for the Norwegian police?

This research question is designed to capture the complexity of the issue and enables a multidisciplinary and experience-based analysis of BWC as a tool in the police. The objective is not to provide a definitive answer on whether the technology should be implemented in Norway, but rather to contribute to a broader understanding of the various factors that must be considered in such a decision-making process. There is no single correct solution or universal model for the use of BWC, this technology touches upon a range of values and interests that may be weighted differently depending on the context. Accordingly, this master's thesis does not seek to deliver a final conclusion for or against implementation or use of BWC. It aims to

illuminate different perspectives and contribute to a more nuanced and informed debate, grounded in available knowledge and stakeholder insight.

To answer the research question, a qualitative approach is employed, combining a systematic literature review with interviews conducted with relevant stakeholders. This combination provides a comprehensive understanding of the topic. Insights from existing academic research and empirical data together help clarify both the theoretical and practical aspects of BWC use in Norwegian policing. To complement the literature review, interview technique was carried out with key actors in the field, including representatives from the police, researchers, and experts in privacy. Chapter 2 presents the relevant literature on the topic, providing the theoretical foundation for the study. The findings chapter analyses the empirical data gathered through interviews. In the discussion chapter, the findings are interpreted considering the literature to explore key insights and implications.

1.3 Thesis Overview

Chapter 1 - Introduction

This chapter introduces the research topic, outlines the problem formulation, research objectives, and presents the structure of the thesis.

Chapter 2 - Background and related work

This chapter provides an overview of the theoretical and practical context of the study, including a review of relevant literature and related work.

Chapter 3 - Research method

This chapter details the methodological approach employed in the study, including research design, data collection methods, and analytical techniques, as well as a justification for the chosen methods.

Chapter 4 - Findings

This chapter presents the empirical results of the study, structured according to the research questions or themes that emerged from the data.

Chapter 5 - Discussion

This chapter discusses the findings in light of the theoretical framework and existing research, highlighting the contributions, implications, and limitations of the study.

Chapter 6 - Conclusion

This chapter concludes the thesis by summarizing the main findings, addressing the research objectives, and suggesting avenues for future research.

Chapter 7 - References

This chapter lists all the sources cited throughout the thesis, following the appropriate academic citation style.

Chapter 8 - Appendix

This chapter contains supplementary material that supports the main text.

Chapter 2 Background and Related work

This chapter is structured around four main themes that provide the foundation for this study. First, it introduces the context and background of BWC, including their adoption in different countries, the motivations behind their use, and the debates they have sparked. Second, it presents the theoretical perspective, with a focus on the SCOT, which guides the analytical lens of the thesis. Third, it offers a review of existing literature, highlighting prior research on BWCs, key findings, and the broader academic discourse surrounding their implementation. Finally, the chapter identifies research gaps and explains how this study aims to contribute to a more context-sensitive understanding of BWCs in Norwegian policing.

2.1 Context and Background

BWC are a technology implemented across diverse regions and police agencies, each with its own social structures and values. Therefore, it is essential to first provide a comprehensive overview of what BWC are, how they are used, and the contexts in which they are employed. This foundation will then allow us to connect this understanding to our research question and theoretical framework.

2.1.1 Background on BWC

As earlier mentioned BWC is a small camera attached to a police officer's uniform, typically placed on the shoulder or chest, that is capable of both video and audio recording. These cameras are designed to capture events as they unfold, and store, or transmit recordings for later retrieval (Thomsen, 2020). Over the years, this technology has been adopted worldwide, with various benefits and concerns highlighted in its use (Thomsen, 2020). While BWC have been adopted in numerous countries worldwide, the most extensive implementation and research have taken place in the United States and the United Kingdom, which together provide the majority of available empirical data.

However, countries more comparable to Norway in terms of legal systems, policing structures, and societal norms, such as Sweden and the Netherlands, have also introduced the technology. This offers valuable insights for assessing its potential relevance in the Norwegian context. The introduction of BWCs has sparked both enthusiasm and skepticism. Supporters point to the valuable evidence that BWCs can provide in criminal prosecution cases and complaints against police conduct. On the other hand, critics argue that their use might violate privacy rights or be perceived as disrespectful by both police officers and citizens (Thomsen, 2020). This technology has evolved significantly since its introduction in the mid-2000s, when initial pilot programs were conducted, particularly in the UK. These early trials were designed to assess both the technical feasibility and operational effectiveness of BWCs (Bowling, 2019). Over the past decade, various police agencies globally have implemented BWCs as part of their daily operations.

2.1.1.1 BWC in British police force

BWC were first introduced in the British police force in 2005, with initial trials conducted by the Metropolitan Police in Devon and Cornwall (CSE Crosscom, 2022). In the years that followed, the use of BWCs expanded gradually, and in 2014, a large pilot program was launched in which 500 cameras were distributed to police officers in 10 boroughs of London (CSE Crosscom, 2022). The purpose of the cameras was to provide video evidence in criminal cases, which could contribute to faster court proceedings by encouraging more defendants to plead guilty once they were informed that video recordings existed (CSE Crosscom, 2022). Today, approximately 80,000 BWC are used by police in England and Wales (Cowan, 2021).

2.1.1.2 BWC in U.S. Police Force

The United States began implementing BWC for police officers in the early 2000s, but their use gained significant attention after a highly publicized incident in 2014 (Whitehurst, 2023). This led to widespread protests and a national debate on police use of force (Whitehurst, 2023). The goal of the cameras was to increase transparency and accountability, while also reducing both excessive use of force and false accusations. Over time, more police departments have adopted them as a standard tool in their operations (Whitehurst, 2023). The use of BWC among U.S. police forces has significantly increased in recent years. By 2020, all police departments in the U.S. serving populations of at least one million people were reported to be using BWC, with 79% of police officers nationally working in departments with such programs (Daly, 2024). The justification for their use is based on several assumed benefits, such as improved officer safety, increased evidence quality, reduce civilian complaints, and as well as agency liability (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2015).

2.1.1.3 BWC in Swedish Police Force

In Sweden, BWC have been introduced as part of initiatives aimed at increasing transparency and improving the working environment for police officers. In the spring of 2018, a pilot project was launched in Police Region Stockholm, where approximately 300 cameras were distributed to officers in the districts of Botkyrka, Rinkeby, and Södertälje (Marklund & Tollin, 2020). The primary objective was to reduce officers' exposure to threats, violence, and harassment in the line of duty. Initial evaluations showed a reduction in certain forms of aggression, such as stone-throwing, use of lasers and bangers, as well as sexual harassment directed at female officers. However, other types of physical violence, such as pushing and kicking, remained largely unchanged (Marklund & Tollin, 2020). While BWC footage was expected to serve as an important source of evidence, its use in legal proceedings was relatively limited. During the first year of the pilot, camera recordings were retrieved in 178 preliminary investigations, leading to 81 verdicts. In 22 of these cases, footage was used as evidence in court, resulting in 20 convictions (Marklund & Tollin, 2020). Despite the modest impact on legal outcomes, the cameras were generally well received as a preventive and protective tool for officers. However,

the report also emphasizes that the results were not as significant as expected, especially given the investment involved. As of the publication of the 2020 evaluation, there was no indication of large-scale national implementation beyond the pilot program (Marklund & Tollin, 2020).

2.1.1.4 BWC in Dutch Police Force

In the Netherlands, BWC were introduced not primarily to protect citizens from police misconduct, but rather as a tool for monitoring and regulating citizen behavior, particularly in response to an increase in citizens filming the police (Houwing & Ritsema van Eck, 2020). This contrasts with the U.S. approach, where BWCs are typically framed as tools for enhancing transparency and police accountability. A central concern raised in the Dutch context is the one-sided nature of the recordings. Because the camera is worn by the officer and can be turned on or off at their discretion, the technology offers a skewed perspective, one that emphasizes the officer's viewpoint while limiting the citizen's ability to contest the narrative captured on film (Houwing & Ritsema van Eck, 2020). In practice, this often means that interactions are framed in a way that may amplify perceived threats and diminish citizen agencies. Although both parties theoretically have access to the footage, in reality, police maintain control over how and when recordings are used, and access by citizens can be difficult to obtain. The authors argue that BWC in the Netherlands risk reinforcing existing power imbalances between police and civilians rather than acting as neutral accountability tools. To move toward a more balanced form of surveillance, termed *equiveillance*, they advocate for stricter regulations, enhanced transparency, and meaningful public access to recordings (Houwing & Ritsema van Eck, 2020).

2.1.1.5 Summary of BWC Implementation

While BWC has been adopted in various countries, their purposes, implementation strategies, and interpretations differ significantly. In the UK, the focus has primarily been on evidence collection and expediting legal processes. In the U.S., the technology is framed around increasing transparency and reducing both excessive use of force and false accusations. In contrast, Sweden has emphasized officer safety and working conditions, whereas the Netherlands has used BWCs as tools to monitor public behavior in response to increased citizen surveillance of police. These similarities and differences highlight that BWCs are not neutral tools; rather, they are interpreted and shaped within specific legal, institutional, and cultural contexts. This diversity in meaning and use supports the application of the SCOT framework, which will be introduced in section 2.2, as it allows for an analysis of how BWCs are socially constructed by different groups with varying interests and perspectives.

2.1.2 Applications of BWC

BWC has a wide range of applications in law enforcement, reflecting their potential to support various operational, evidentiary, and oversight functions. This section is based on the framework and analysis presented in *Automated Policing: The Case of Body-Worn Video* by Ben Bowling and Shruti Iyer (2019). BWC has a wide range of applications in law enforcement, reflecting their potential to support operational, evidentiary, and oversight functions. These can

be broadly categorized into surveillant, investigative, probative, and regulatory functions (Bowling & Iyer, 2019).

Surveillant Functions: One of the primary uses of BWCs is real-time surveillance. Officers use them to document public interactions, monitor events such as protests, and record unfolding incidents. BWCs provide a first-person perspective, and unlike fixed CCTV systems, they bring surveillance into more intimate and private settings, including homes. This extended visibility can be valuable for later review and accountability, but it also raises concerns about state surveillance and privacy, particularly in vulnerable moments such as domestic violence incidents (Bowling & Iyer, 2019, p. 145–146).

Investigative Functions: BWCs also serve as investigative tools that enhance the accuracy and efficiency of criminal investigations. The cameras can record crime scenes, capture witness statements, and document suspect behavior (Bowling & Iyer, 2019, p. 146).

Probative Functions: BWC footage plays a significant role in legal proceedings by corroborating officer statements, supporting charges, and influencing plea negotiations. Bowling and Iyer (2019, pp. 147–148) warn that footage may introduce “camera perspective bias” and overemphasis on visual evidence. This might distort how events are interpreted in court, particularly when video replaces or reshapes officers’ written reports or recollections. Although efficiency may increase, fairness and context can be compromised.

Regulatory Functions: BWCs are often implemented to promote transparency and police accountability. They are believed to deter misconduct, provide clear documentation in cases of complaint, and strengthen public trust. However, their effectiveness depends heavily on policy and practice. Studies cited by Bowling and Iyer (2019, pp. 149–150) show mixed results; some departments saw a reduction in complaints and use of force, while others reported no meaningful change. Importantly, when officers retain discretion over when to activate cameras, regulatory benefits are weakened.

This shows that BWC are multifunctional tools that serve several critical roles within modern policing. As illustrated in Figure 1: Key functional applications of BWC in policing, outlined by Bowling and Iyer (2019), their applications span four main domains: surveillance, investigation, probative use, and regulation. These categories, adapted from Bowling and Iyer (2019), reflect the diverse and sometimes conflicting purposes BWCs serve, ranging from enhancing police accountability to facilitating evidence collection and courtroom efficiency. Understanding these overlapping functions is essential to evaluating both the potential and the limitations of BWCs in law enforcement.

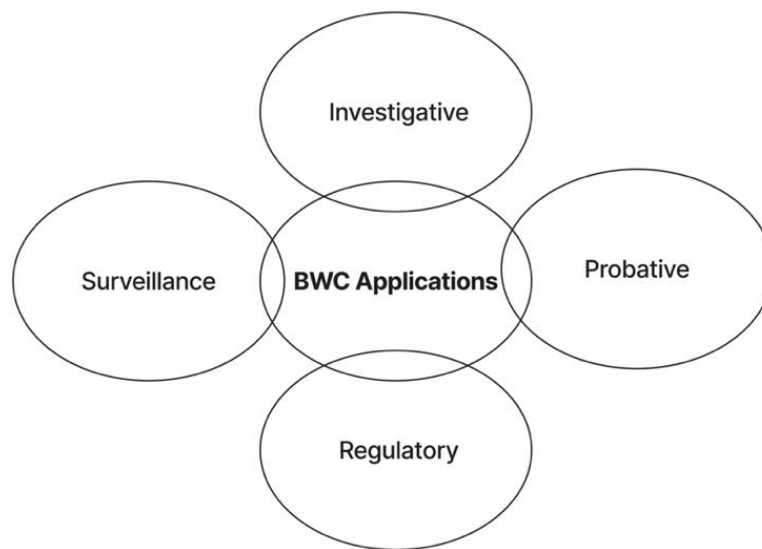


Figure 1: Key functional applications of BWC in policing, outlined by Bowling and Iyer (2019).

2.1.3 Debates on Advantages and Disadvantages of BWC in Literature

The adoption of BWCs in police forces has generated widespread interest, accompanied by both high expectations, critical scrutiny and debates. While much of the academic literature and publicly available reports emphasize their potential to enhance transparency and accountability, a broader body of research, including peer-reviewed studies and practitioner-oriented articles, presents a more nuanced picture. This section outlines the most recognized advantages and disadvantages of BWCs, as identified across both scholarly sources and credible professional publications.

Advantages

Increased Transparency and Accountability: BWCs have become symbolic of a broader movement toward police reform, particularly following high-profile incidents of police violence (Davies, 2022; Lum et al., 2019). Video documentation of police-citizen encounters is seen as a tool to ensure accountability, support misconduct investigations, and reduce false complaints (Thomsen, 2020). Empirical findings show that BWC footage can lead to faster resolution of complaints and may increase public trust in law enforcement.

Improves Behavior and Professionalism: A frequently cited benefit is the "civilizing effect," where both officers and citizens alter their behavior due to awareness of being recorded (Lum et al., 2019). Studies from Australia and Sweden report reduced incidents of verbal abuse, sexual harassment, and minor physical aggression against officers following BWC implementation (Davies, 2022; Marklund & Tollin, 2020).

Evidentiary Value in Court Proceedings: BWC footage has proven useful in securing convictions, especially where video corroborates officers' accounts. Prosecutors report using footage to strengthen evidence, support charging decisions, and encourage guilty pleas (Petersen et al., 2023).

Training and Organizational Learning: Footage can serve as a valuable training resource, allowing agencies to review officer performance and debrief critical incidents. Some jurisdictions have used recordings to support de-escalation strategies and improve procedural compliance (Thomsen, 2020).

Protection against False Allegations: From the perspective of police unions and officers, BWCs offer protection against wrongful accusations. In contexts where officers feel increasingly surveilled by the public (via smartphones), BWCs are seen as a way to “tell their side of the story” (Poirier et al., 2023; Axon, 2024a).

Disadvantages

Privacy Concerns - Officers and Citizens: One of the most significant ethical challenges involves privacy. Officers express concern about being constantly monitored, which may undermine trust and create additional stress. Citizens, especially victims of crime or individuals in sensitive situations, may feel reluctant to speak openly when being filmed (Poirier et al., 2023; Newell, 2020).

Impact on Officer Well-Being and Performance: Constant surveillance may lead to increased burnout, emotional strain, and hesitation in discretionary decisions, commonly referred to as “de-policing”. Officers may become overly cautious or avoid complex situations, fearing post-hoc scrutiny (Poirier et al., 2023; Newell, 2020, Thomsen, 2020).

Limited or Mixed Effects on Police Conduct: While early studies suggested reductions in use-of-force and complaints, later research has yielded more nuanced or inconclusive results. The impact appears highly dependent on local policy, culture, and enforcement mechanisms (Lum et al., 2019; Kang, 2023).

Selective or Biased Interpretation of Footage: Video is often perceived as objective evidence, but studies show that viewers interpret footage differently depending on context, including race, narrative framing, and prior beliefs. This raises concerns about “camera perspective bias” and judicial reliance on footage over testimony (Jones et al., 2017; Pezdek et al., 2022).

Resource Demands-Storage, Management, and Legal Processing: While BWC promise greater transparency, they also generate vast amounts of data that must be securely stored, reviewed, and managed. This creates significant operational burdens. Adams et al. (2020) highlight the high costs and time required for video review and storage. Petersen et al. (2023) found that delays in footage transfer, and poor video quality reduce the evidentiary value in court proceedings. Poirier et al. (2024) emphasize that managing BWC data can strain daily police operations, and Thomsen (2020) notes that without strong policies on data handling and privacy, the technology’s benefits may not materialize.

2.1.4 The Technology of BWC

Before selecting or implementing BWC systems, law enforcement agencies are encouraged to assess how the technology aligns with their operational needs, legal responsibilities, and organizational capacity. To support this process, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), in collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the FBI, has developed detailed technical guidance (NIJ, 2022). This includes a framework listing core operating characteristics and their associated functionalities, based on criminal justice requirements for video evidence and field conditions (NIJ, 2022). These characteristics help agencies evaluate which commercial solutions meet their standards for reliability, security, and performance. Axon is currently a global leader in BWC technology and digital evidence management. Their comprehensive product guidance outlines technical features that have become standard expectations for law enforcement agencies worldwide (Axon, 2024b). Drawing from both public-sector guidance and private-sector expertise, the following are considered essential components of modern BWC systems:

- **High-Quality Video Capture:** Cameras should record clear, high-definition video (1080p) with a wide field of view to fully document incidents. This improves evidentiary value and supports transparency in high-pressure encounters (NIJ, 2022; Axon, 2024c).
- **Secure Data Storage:** Encryption and tamper-proof storage are critical to protecting the integrity of recordings. Footage must be uploaded securely and managed according to data protection laws (Axon, 2024c).
- **Extended Battery Life:** Devices are expected to operate throughout an entire shift, often 12 hours or more, without interruption, reducing the risk of data loss during critical events (NIJ, 2022).
- **User-Friendly Interface:** Officers should be able to activate and monitor camera status easily, even in stressful or low-light conditions. Simple controls and clear indicators reduce operational errors (Axon, 2024c).
- **Durability and Environmental Resistance:** Cameras should be water-resistant, impact-tested, and capable of functioning in extreme temperatures. According to Axon, resistance to dust, rain, and physical strain is necessary to maintain continuous performance in unpredictable and often volatile law enforcement scenarios (Axon, 2024c).
- **Integration with Evidence Management Systems:** Modern BWCs are integrated with digital evidence platforms, allowing footage to be securely uploaded, categorized, shared with prosecutors, and archived. This integration streamlines case preparation and ensures chain of custody (NIJ, 2022; Axon, 2024c).

Although these sources are based in the United States, they remain highly relevant to the Norwegian context due to the extensive empirical experience and large-scale implementation

efforts that have taken place in the U.S., providing valuable insights into both opportunities and challenges with the technology.

2.1.5 BWC Status in Norway

While BWC have been widely implemented and studied in other countries, Norway has yet to adopt the technology into standard police operations. The potential of BWCs has not gone unnoticed. In 2015, the Oslo Police District conducted a pilot project to test the feasibility and impact of using BWCs in frontline policing. The project involved equipping a small group of officers with cameras during their shifts to evaluate the technology's practical utility, legal implications, and reception among officers and the public (Farmen et al., 2016). The primary aims of the pilot were to assess how BWCs might contribute to improved incident documentation, facilitate evidence collection, and reduce conflicts during police-public encounters. Officers who participated were tasked with providing feedback through structured debriefs and questionnaires. The project found that officers generally experienced increased situational awareness and believed the cameras had a preventive effect on potential aggression (Farmen et al., 2016). However, the scope of the pilot was limited: it covered only selected shifts and was not tested under high-pressure or large-scale crowd control situations, as mentioned in chapter 1. This partly due to operational constraints and the project's exploratory nature. The trial involved only a small number of officers from specific patrol units in downtown Oslo, and participation was voluntary, which reduced the representativeness of the sample. Additionally, the short timeframe of the project, just a few weeks in autumn 2015, meant that the cameras were not deployed in a sufficiently wide range of scenarios to draw comprehensive conclusions.

Moreover, the data generated were not systematically analyzed for evidentiary use (Farmen et al., 2016). Although the project served as an initial step toward exploring the use of BWC, it did not lead to permanent implementation. Instead, its findings provided a foundational basis for continued debate about the relevance and effectiveness of such technology within the Norwegian policing context. Since then, the Norwegian Police Directorate has announced a national pre-project set to begin in 2025–2026, with the aim of evaluating BWC implementation (Inderhaug & Grindem, 2025).

The academic discussion in Norway remains limited, but a key contribution is the chapter *“Kroppskamera og norsk politiarbeid”* by Phelps and Simensen (2019). Their work critically examines the assumptions surrounding BWC use and challenges the uncritical transfer of international experiences to the Norwegian context. They argue that Norwegian police operate within a unique sociopolitical model characterized by high public trust, low levels of violence, and a strong emphasis on de-escalation and conflict resolution. These features may limit the relative benefit of BWCs as accountability tools, which are often justified in more adversarial or low-trust environments like the U.S. (Phelps & Simensen, 2019). Phelps and Simensen adopt a balanced and reflective approach, identifying four potential functions of BWCs: (1) documentation of police work, (2) behavioral change in both officers and the public, (3)

legitimacy and public trust, and (4) training and institutional learning. While acknowledging possible benefits, such as reducing unfounded complaints or enhancing transparency, they emphasize the need for clearly defined objectives, legal frameworks, and an ethical foundation. They also highlight potential downsides, including privacy intrusions, data mismanagement, and a shift in how public interactions are perceived when constantly surveilled (Phelps & Simensen, 2019).

The current Norwegian discourse surrounding BWCs is also shaped by recent incidents that have reignited public debate. For instance, a case in Kongsberg (2022), where a police officer was charged with excessive force, demonstrated the critical role of video evidence, albeit from a fixed surveillance camera. Critics argued that access to footage from the officer's perspective could have provided crucial context and potentially altered public perception of the event (Inderhaug & Aarseth, 2024). Rising youth crime in major cities has also intensified the debate. There has been a sharp increase in violence committed by individuals under 18, particularly in Oslo (Oslo politidistrikt, 2023). The 2023 youth crime report by the Oslo Police District revealed a 55% increase in reports of violence among boys aged 15-17 compared to 2022, and a 31% rise compared to pre-pandemic years (Oslo politidistrikt, 2023). These developments have been cited as further justification for technologies that can document interactions, deter misconduct, and serve as reliable evidence in legal proceedings. However, substantial legal and ethical concerns persist. The Norwegian Data Protection Authority (Datatilsynet) has cautioned that BWCs constitute a form of surveillance with significant privacy implications. They stress that any future implementation must adhere strictly to data protection regulations and include robust policies for storage, access, and deletion of recordings. Without such safeguards, there is a risk that BWCs may erode rather than build trust (Datatilsynet, 2024).

2.2 Theoretical Perspective

To analyze the potential adoption of BWC in Norwegian policing, this study adopts the theoretical lens of the SCOT. SCOT, developed within the field of science and technology studies (STS), provides an analytical framework for understanding technology not as a neutral or deterministic process, but as a socially constructed product, shaped through interpretation, negotiation, and power relations among different groups in society (Klein & Kleinman, 2002).

First introduced by Trevor Pinch and Wiebe Bijker in 1987, the SCOT framework is outlined by Klein and Kleinman (2002) through four key conceptual components.

1. **Interpretive flexibility:** Technological development is not predetermined. Technological artifacts are underdetermined and subject to multiple interpretations by various social groups. As such, the design and function of technology emerge from differing understandings, rather than from inherent technical logic (Klein & Kleinman, 2002, p. 29).
2. **Relevant social groups:** These are collectives of actors who share a common interpretation of a technological artifact. According to SCOT, technology evolves

through interactions among such groups, each with its own perspective on the artifact's purpose. The final design stabilizes only once these groups reach a form of consensus (Klein & Kleinman, 2002, p. 30).

3. **Closure and stabilization:** A technology becomes "closed" when debate and conflict surrounding it diminish or cease. Klein and Kleinman explain two mechanisms by which this occurs: *rhetorical closure*, where it is declared that the problem is solved, and *problem redefinition*, where an unresolved issue is reframed to no longer be perceived as problematic (Klein & Kleinman, 2002, p. 30).
4. **Technological frames:** This concept, introduced in Bijker's later work, refers to the cognitive structures and shared assumptions that shape how social groups perceive and work with technology. Technological frames include goals, problem definitions, theories, and exemplars that influence both understanding and decision-making (Klein & Kleinman, 2002, p. 31).

SCOT is particularly relevant to this study because it offers a framework for understanding technology not as a fixed or purely technical entity, but as a product of ongoing social negotiation. The potential implementation of BWC in Norwegian policing cannot be fully understood without examining the broader social, legal, and institutional context in which such a technology would be introduced. BWCs are not merely devices; they are embedded in questions of trust, surveillance, transparency, and accountability. In Norway, where law enforcement is characterized by a high level of public trust, and where privacy is strongly protected both culturally and through legislation, BWCs are likely to be interpreted and contested differently than in countries where mistrust of the police or normalized surveillance practices are more prominent. SCOT provides a lens for exploring how such contextual differences shape not only the meaning attached to the technology, but also its design, legal framing, and operational use. Using SCOT, this study analyzes how different social groups attribute meaning and value to BWCs, and how their positions influence the trajectory of the technology:

- *Police actors* may see BWCs as practical tools for enhancing safety, ensuring accountability, and documenting events during operational duties.
- *Privacy authorities* and legal experts are likely to approach BWCs with a focus on compliance with data protection laws such as the GDPR, and with broader ethical concerns about surveillance and informational rights.
- *Technology providers* help shape both the technical features and the implementation model of BWCs, influencing how the technology is integrated into police workflows.
- *The public and civil society* may interpret BWCs as either strengthening democratic oversight of policing or, conversely, as potential instruments of state surveillance.

SCOT thus offers an analytical structure for examining how these groups negotiate competing interpretations and expectations of the technology.

2.2.1 Limitations in SCOT

While SCOT offers valuable insights into how technologies are shaped socially, Klein and Kleinman also highlight its limitations. They critique SCOT's strong focus on agency and micro-level processes, which often overlook structural dynamics such as institutional power, unequal access to resources, and societal hierarchies. They write:

“SCOT assumes that groups are equal and that all relevant social groups are present in the design process. This fails to adequately attend to power asymmetry between groups.” - (Klein & Kleinman, 2002, p. 30).

Thus, they argue that SCOT should be expanded to include perspectives from organizational sociology and political economy in order to explain how broader structural forces shape who gets to define technological outcomes, and who does not (Klein & Kleinman, 2002, p. 31–33). This thesis addresses the limitations of the SCOT framework, particularly its limited attention to power imbalances, by adopting a broader and context-sensitive approach. It includes perspectives from relevant stakeholders such as police representatives, legal experts, and privacy authorities, showing how different professional groups interpret and influence the use of BWC. By placing the analysis within the Norwegian context, characterized by high institutional trust and strict privacy regulations, the study brings attention to structural and institutional factors that SCOT often overlooks.

2.3 Thematic Synthesis of Concepts

This section presents a thematic synthesis of the reviewed literature. The systematic literature review approach and methodology can be found in Chapter 3, where we come up with the concepts identified in the concept matrix. The analysis focuses on four core aspects frequently addressed in relation to BWC: technological, ethical, regulatory, and cognitive. Each aspect is presented in its own subsection, along with a summary table of relevant studies. The aim is to provide a structured overview of how these dimensions shape the opportunities and challenges associated with BWC implementation.

2.3.1 Stakeholders

The stakeholder concept was applied to map which actors are addressed in the selected literature on BWC. The identified categories include police institutions, individual officers, the general public, and legal professionals such as prosecutors and courts. Most of the reviewed articles focus on how BWCs influence police behavior, organizational accountability, and internal policy (Kang, 2023; Miranda, 2022; Lum et al., 2019). Several studies also explore the experiences and perspectives of individual frontline officers, particularly related to decision-making, stress, and memory processes (Adams et al., 2020; Pezdek et al., 2022; Jones et al., 2017). A smaller group of articles addresses how BWCs are perceived by the general public, often in relation to trust, legitimacy, and concerns about surveillance and privacy (Newell, 2020). Finally, some studies focus on judicial stakeholders, particularly in relation to how video

evidence is used in legal proceedings and what implications it has for due process and fairness (Thomsen et al., 2021). Overall, the literature is primarily oriented toward law enforcement perspectives, with less empirical focus on public and judicial actors.

2.3.2 Aspects of BWC Usage

Identifying and categorizing the key aspects associated with BWC implementation is central to this literature synthesis. These emerging aspects reflect the different layers of complexity surrounding the use of BWCs in policing and their broader societal implications. Although each aspect is discussed separately in the analysis, the literature shows that they are often closely interrelated. For example, technical limitations, such as poor video quality or camera angle (technological aspect), can influence how an incident is perceived (ethical aspect), raise questions about evidentiary value in court (regulatory aspect), or affect the way officers remember or interpret an event (cognitive aspect). In other words, a challenge that appears to be technological may have ethical and psychological consequences, and vice versa.

Furthermore, not all studies explicitly classify their findings under these categories. In some cases, aspects were inferred based on the issues raised. For example, Newell (2020) discusses public concerns about surveillance and institutional trust. While not labeled as “ethical” in the article, the discussion clearly touches on ethical dimensions related to legitimacy and fairness. Similarly, Pezdek et al. (2022) describe how reviewing BWC footage can alter an officer’s memory, which ties directly to cognitive concerns even if the term is not used explicitly. While additional concerns such as emotional responses, social legitimacy, or organizational culture were also noted in some articles, they are largely embedded within the four main aspect types mentioned above. For instance, organizational practices around camera activation can be seen as both ethical (discretion and fairness) and regulatory (policy compliance). The following sections will explore each aspect in more depth. An overview of the aspect types and their definitions is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Key aspect types

Aspect Type	Description
Technological	Covers the design, functionality, and limitations of BWC systems, including video/audio quality, battery life, data handling, and usability etc...
Ethical	Encompasses fairness, legitimacy, discretion, transparency, and the perception of BWC footage as objective or biased.
Regulatory	Involves legal frameworks, data protection, access rights, retention policies, and institutional accountability.
Cognitive	Concerns how BWCs influence memory, attention, perception, and behavior.

2.3.3 Technological Aspects

Technological aspects refer to the functional and operational characteristics of BWC, including their technical limitations, system design, and how these affect real-world use. While the technology is often portrayed as a neutral or purely objective tool, several studies in the reviewed literature challenge this assumption by highlighting how various system-related constraints can undermine the reliability, accessibility, and evidentiary value of BWC footage. Table 2: The technological aspects summarizes the key technological themes identified in the literature, along with their associated challenges and relevant sources. A frequently addressed theme is the issue of system reliability. Technical limitations such as short battery life, restricted storage capacity, or poor audio and video quality can significantly affect what is recorded, and what is lost. Phelps and Simensen (2019) note that these limitations may lead to missing critical moments, thus weakening the usefulness of the footage in both operational and legal contexts. User-friendliness is another concern, particularly related to stress during activation and difficulties navigating the system in high-pressure situations. Miranda (2022) describes how officers may fail to activate the camera manually due to stress or distraction, while Kang (2023) discusses performance pressure related to camera use. This ties into the broader discussion of automatic vs. manual activation, where inconsistent procedures may cause uncertainty and variability in use (Lum et al., 2019). The literature also highlights limitations in surveillance coverage, particularly due to camera placement or the fixed field of view. Since BWCs only capture events from the officer's perspective, they may omit important contextual information, which in turn affects interpretation and decision-making (Jones et al., 2017; Pezdek et al., 2022). Although technical aspects are often presented as secondary to legal or ethical concerns, these factors are foundational to the effectiveness, credibility, and fairness of BWC implementation.

Table 2: The technological aspects

Technological Theme	Description	Articles Mentioned
System reliability	Challenges with battery life, storage capacity, and recording quality.	(Phelps & Simensen, 2019), (Lum et al., 2019).
User-friendliness	Stress or confusion when manually activating or managing the BWC system.	(Miranda, 2022), (Kang, 2023).
Manual vs. automatic activation	Inconsistent activation procedures may lead to unrecorded events or confusion.	(Miranda, 2022), (Lum et al., 2019).
Limitations in surveillance coverage	Field of view or camera angle may exclude important contextual information.	(Jones et al., 2017), (Pezdek et al., 2022).

2.3.4 Ethical Aspects

Ethical aspects refer to the normative challenges raised using BWC, particularly those relating to fairness, accountability, privacy, and the interpretation of video evidence. The literature reveals that although BWCs are often introduced to improve transparency and trust, they can also introduce new risks and misconceptions that may undermine these goals. Table 3: The ethical aspects summarizes the key ethical themes identified in the literature, along with their associated challenges and relevant sources. A recurring theme is selective recording, where officers retain discretion over when to activate or deactivate their cameras. This creates the risk of incomplete or biased documentation, potentially favoring the interests of the recorder (Jones et al., 2017; Miranda, 2022). In contexts where no footage exists of a critical moment, trust in the BWC system may be undermined (Phelps & Simensen, 2019). Another widely discussed concern is the so-called "objectivity illusion". Although video evidence is often perceived as neutral and conclusive, several studies show that viewers- including officers, prosecutors, and the public, are influenced by camera angles, framing, and prior assumptions (Adams et al., 2020; Pezdek et al., 2022). The apparent clarity of video can give a false sense of truth, overshadowing subjective experiences not captured on film.

A third ethical issue relates to the protection of third parties, such as bystanders, victims, or minors. BWCs may capture private or traumatic events involving individuals who have not consented to being recorded, raising concerns about dignity, re-traumatization, and the ethical boundaries of surveillance (Newell, 2020; Thomsen, 2020). Finally, several authors warn against overestimating the power of BWCs, a phenomenon sometimes referred to as the “quick fix myth”. Here, BWCs are framed as a technological solution to deep-rooted issues in policing, without addressing broader structural or cultural challenges (Lum et al., 2019; Phelps & Simensen, 2019).

Table 3: The ethical aspects

Ethical Theme	Description	Articles Mentioned
Selective recording	Officers may choose when to record, resulting in incomplete or biased footage.	Jones, Crozier & Strange (2017); Miranda (2022); Phelps & Simensen (2019).
Evidentiary challenges / objectivity illusion	Video is seen as objective but can be misleading due to angle, context, or interpretation.	Adams, Paterson & MacDougall (2020); Pezdek, Shapland & Barragan (2022); Phelps & Simensen (2019).
Protection of third parties	BWCs may record sensitive moments involving uninvolved or vulnerable individuals.	Newell (2020); Thomsen (2020); Phelps & Simensen (2019).
Quick fix myth / unrealistic expectations	Overreliance on BWCs to solve complex social or institutional problems.	Lum, Stoltz, Koper & Scherer (2019); Phelps & Simensen (2019).

2.3.5 Regulatory Aspect

Regulatory aspects concern the legal and procedural frameworks governing the use of BWCs, including how footage is recorded, stored, accessed, and used. While several regulatory themes were identified in the broader study, this section focuses exclusively on those substantiated by the reviewed literature. Table 4: The regulatory aspects summarizes the key regulatory themes identified in the literature, along with their associated challenges and relevant sources. A key theme in the literature is privacy protection, particularly in relation to compliance with data protection laws. Several studies raise concerns about how BWCs may capture sensitive information about third parties, bystanders, or individuals in vulnerable situations. Questions are raised about what constitutes lawful processing, and whether clear safeguards are in place to prevent misuse (Newell, 2020; Thomsen, 2020; Phelps & Simensen, 2019). Another recurring topic is the lack of clear operational guidelines, including rules for when cameras should be activated, and how this activation is logged. The absence of standard policies is seen as a threat to transparency and accountability, as it may allow selective recording or unintentional data loss (Lum et al., 2019; Miranda, 2022).

The literature also points to legal uncertainty regarding the evidentiary use of BWC footage. In some jurisdictions, recordings have been used in criminal proceedings, yet the legal basis for doing so remains ambiguous or inconsistently applied. The need for updated legislation or explicit authorization (Thomsen, 2020; Lum et al., 2019). Finally, several articles discuss rights-related concerns, including the right to access, challenge, or request deletion of recordings. These issues are particularly salient in the context of civilian complaints or misconduct investigations, where the role of the footage must be balanced against individual rights and institutional interests (Newell, 2020).

Table 4: The regulatory aspects

Regulatory Theme	Description	Articles Mentioned
Privacy protection	Concerns about data protection, GDPR compliance, and protection of third parties in recordings.	(Newell, 2020), (Thomsen, 2020), (Phelps & Simensen, 2019).
Operational guidelines	Need for clear rules on when to activate/deactivate cameras and how usage is logged.	(Lum et al., 2019), (Poirer et al., 2015), (Miranda, 2022).
Legal basis for use	Unclear or inconsistent legal frameworks for the use of BWC footage as evidence.	(Thomsen, 2020), (Petersen et al., 2023).
Rights and access	Right to view, request deletion of, or object to the use of recordings in investigations or trials.	(Newell, 2020), (Davies, 2022).

2.3.6 Cognitive Aspects

Cognitive aspects relate to how the presence and use of BWC affect perception, stress, behavior, memory, and trust among both officers and the public. While several cognitive themes were identified in this study, only the themes that are directly supported by the literature reviewed are included here. Table 5: The cognitive aspects summarizes the key cognitive themes identified in the literature, along with their associated challenges and relevant sources. The literature reveals that memory distortion, stress-related behavior, and perception bias are central cognitive concerns. Multiple studies show that officers may adapt their behavior due to being recorded, either through increased self-monitoring or hesitation to act, resulting in what some describe as action paralysis (Kang, 2023; Miranda, 2022). Such behavioral shifts may influence the way officers assess situations and make decisions under pressure.

In addition, several studies demonstrate that the act of reviewing BWC footage can alter memory recall, a phenomenon referred to as camera conformity. Officers who watch footage before giving statements may unintentionally align their narratives with what was recorded, even if their original memory differed. This is particularly concerning in cases where critical details fall outside the camera's field of view or were subjectively experienced at the time (Adams et al., 2020; Pezdek et al., 2022; Phelps & Simensen, 2019). Another recurring concern is perception bias among external viewers, such as the public, legal professionals, or media consumers. Since BWCs typically capture only the officer's visual perspective, important contextual details can be omitted. Viewers may draw conclusions based on limited or skewed visual information, potentially misinterpreting the severity, intent, or sequence of actions during an encounter (Jones et al., 2017; Kang, 2023; Phelps & Simensen, 2019). These cognitive effects challenge the notion of BWCs as purely objective tools and highlight the psychological dynamics at play when technology interacts with human memory and perception.

Table 5: The cognitive aspects

Cognitive Theme	Description	Articles Mentioned
Memory distortion / camera conformity	Reviewing BWC footage may alter officers' original memories, causing unintentional alignment with the video content.	(Adams et al., 2020), (Pezdek et al., 2022) (Phelps & Simensen, 2019).
Stress-related behavior / self-monitoring	Officers may change behavior due to awareness of being recorded, leading to increased self-control or hesitation.	(Miranda, 2022), (Kang, 2023), (Phelps & Simensen, 2019).
Perception bias / perspective distortion	Viewers may misinterpret events based on limited or one-sided footage, especially when key context is missing.	(Jones et al., 2017), (Kang, 2023), (Phelps & Simensen, 2019).

2.3.7 Final Thought and Reflection on the Literature Review

The aim of this literature review has been to explore how BWC are conceptualized, deployed, and evaluated within various policing environments, with particular emphasis on how these findings might inform their potential integration into Norwegian law enforcement.

In addition to summarizing existing research, the review has helped clarify how the implementation of BWC involves more than just technical considerations. The studies reflect a range of methodological approaches and perspectives, and show that BWCs are shaped by legal frameworks, organizational routines, and cultural norms. Rather than offering a universal solution. The technology is shown to function differently depending on how it is introduced, by whom it is used, and under what regulatory frameworks it operates.

While most of the selected studies do not directly focus on identifying barriers or success factors, such elements can still be identified through patterns in the findings. These include technical limitations, ethical issues related to privacy, selective recording, legal uncertainties around data use and access, and behavioral effects, such as changes in officer conduct or memory recall.

The literature is largely focused on experiences from police organizations, particularly in countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Civilian perspectives, legal actors, and broader societal implications are less represented. This limits the scope of existing knowledge, especially in contexts where trust in the police is relatively high and conflict levels are low, as is the case in Norway.

Taken as a whole, the literature highlights the need to view BWCs not simply as surveillance devices, but as technologies that interact with broader institutional logics and societal expectations. This perspective will be central to the remainder of the thesis, which aims to examine how BWCs might be understood in the Norwegian context.

2.3.8 Limitations of this Literature Review

This literature review has limitations that should be considered. First, the review is based solely on data retrieved from the Scopus database. While Scopus is a comprehensive and reputable source of peer-reviewed literature, relevant studies in other databases may have been overlooked. Including a broader range of sources could have added further depth and diversity to the review.

Another limitation is the lack of empirical research on BWC in a Norwegian context. As a result, most of the literature included in this review is based on studies from other countries. These countries differ from Norway in terms of policing practices, institutional structures, and levels of public trust. While international studies offer useful points of comparison, their findings cannot simply be transferred. For instance, the Norwegian public generally has a high

level of trust in the police, in contrast to the United States, where public trust is often lower and police-citizen relations are more adversarial. Due to the limited availability of Norway-specific studies, this review has drawn on international literature and interpreted its findings considering the Norwegian context. While this approach allows for relevant comparisons, it also carries the risk of overgeneralizing or overlooking important cultural and institutional differences. Such interpretation has been necessary to assess the potential role of this technology in Norway. Throughout the review, attention has been paid to contextual factors, with a focus on identifying where legal, cultural, and societal distinctions may affect how BWC are perceived and implemented.

2.4 Research Gap and Additional Motivation

Based on the reviewed literature, theoretical framework, and findings from the systematic literature review, several research gaps have been identified.

An observation in the literature is the gap between the intended purposes of BWC such as increasing transparency, public trust, and police accountability and the actual outcomes seen in practice. While BWCs are often introduced with high expectations, several studies show that their effectiveness is highly context-dependent and influenced by how the technology is implemented, perceived, and regulated (Lum et al., 2019; Davies, 2023; Thomsen, 2020).

A concern is the assumption of objectivity in BWC footage. While video is often treated as factual and neutral evidence, research by Pezdek et al. (2022) and Adams et al. (2020) demonstrates that footage can distort memory and influence how events are recalled or judged. Jones et al. (2017) highlights the risk of “camera perspective bias,” where viewer interpretations of blame or intent shift depending on the camera angle. These findings raise important concerns about how video evidence is understood and used in legal and disciplinary contexts, and about the broader consequences of assuming evidentiary neutrality.

Another gap in the literature is the lack of focus on long-term and systemic consequences of BWC adoption. While some studies report short-term behavioral changes, (Lum et al., 2019; Poirier et al., 2023) very few explore how BWCs influence institutional culture, police discretion, or public perceptions over time. Thomsen (2020) and Newell (2020) also point out that ethical and legal questions surrounding privacy, consent, and data management are often underdeveloped in current research, especially when viewed from the perspective of citizens or vulnerable populations.

Despite the growing international research on BWC, several important consequence-related aspects remain underexplored. Much of the existing literature focuses on short-term behavioral effects or technical outcomes, while overlooking long-term and systemic consequences. For instance, few studies examine how BWC implementation may gradually reshape institutional norms, influence policing, or normalize surveillance in democratic societies. Similarly, there is

limited research on how BWCs might affect trust in law enforcement over time, particularly in countries with high trust such as Norway. Furthermore, the perspectives of vulnerable groups such as minors, victims of violence, or ethnic minorities, are largely absent from empirical discussions of BWC consequences. These gaps highlight the need for context-sensitive and ethically informed research that goes beyond immediate operational outcomes and instead considers the broader, unintended, and long-term implications of surveillance technologies.

Taken together, these gaps show a clear need for more context-sensitive and ethically informed research, particularly in countries like Norway where BWCs are still in an early phase of consideration. This thesis seeks to address that gap by examining how BWCs are framed and interpreted within the Norwegian context, using the SCOT framework. By analyzing how different stakeholder groups assign value to the technology, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of how surveillance technologies take shape within specific institutional and cultural settings.

Chapter 3 Research Method

This chapter outlines the methodological approach used to explore the research question. It outlines the research design, systematic literature review (SLR), data collection, participant selection, analytical methods, and ethical considerations. The aim is to explain how empirical data was gathered and analyzed to ensure validity, relevance, and ethical integrity. The chapter begins with an overview of the research process and the abductive logic behind the study. It then introduces the qualitative design and explains why this approach is suited to investigating a complex, underexplored topic such as the use of BWCs in Norwegian policing.

3.1 Research Process

The research process spans over two semesters, beginning in the august of 2024 and concluding in the June of 2025, and builds upon earlier academic work (earlier research stage) conducted as part of the master's program in Information Systems, as presented in Figure 2. The topic was first explored in an earlier pilot project, where we wrote a paper on the use of BWC in law enforcement in Norway. This early work laid the foundation for the thesis, both in terms of research interest and preliminary theoretical grounding. It allowed us to identify key societal, legal, and technological themes and begin developing an understanding of the broader landscape in which such technologies are debated. During earlier research, we conducted preliminary interviews with professionals in relevant fields. This early contact proved valuable, as several of the participants expressed interest in continuing the dialogue and agreed to be interviewed again for the master's thesis. Through this process, we were also introduced to key personnel within the Oslo Police District, who provided important insights and acted as gatekeepers to a broader network of experts, with our introduction facilitated through UiA. The process for participant selection will be presented in more details later in this chapter.

3.1.1 The Stages of the Research Process

The different stages of the research process are shown in Figure 2. The preparation stage focused on initial exploration, as well as conducting a systematic literature review, identifying key themes and research gaps, developing the research question, and designing the interviews. This period was dedicated to building a strong theoretical and methodological foundation for the thesis.



Figure 2: The five stages of the research process

In the subsequent stage, the focus shifted to data collection and analysis, this included conducting 8 interviews with professionals, as well as mapping the stakeholder group. In the

analysis stage, we began to code and analyze the interview data using thematic analysis to identify central patterns and trends across stakeholder perspectives. Chapter 3.5 will provide a detailed explanation of the coding process and the themes that emerged from the analysis. The final phase of the research process (Writing and Results) focuses on the synthesis and presentation of the findings where in this thesis will be presented in chapter 4. In this stage, the results of the thematic analysis were interpreted and discussed in relation to the research questions, literature review, and theoretical framework in chapter 5. The chapters provide a comprehensive summary of the key findings, along with a critical discussion of their implications. Additionally, conclusions are drawn, and recommendations for future research or practical applications are outlined.

3.1.2 Research Logic

To handle the dynamic and evolving nature of the research, this study adopts an abductive research method. Abduction is a logical approach that involves moving iteratively between empirical observations and theoretical knowledge, embracing surprises and tensions to develop richer theoretical insights (Hulst & Visser, 2024). This dynamic interplay between theory and data ensured a rich, context-sensitive understanding of the stakeholder perspectives on the potential use of BWC in Norwegian policing. The flexibility of the abductive approach enables adjustments to be made in response to new findings, providing a richer, more nuanced understanding of the subject matter.

The abductive process in this study involves continuously revisiting the data and refining the theoretical framework as new insights emerge. This dynamic approach allows for the discovery of unexpected patterns and themes that may challenge existing theories or suggest new directions for further research. This flexibility is crucial in a study like this, where many of the aspects of BWC are not fully understood, and where stakeholder perspectives may vary significantly.

3.2 Research Design, a Qualitative Approach

This thesis uses a qualitative research design to investigate how professionals from different sectors perceive the potential use of BWC in Norwegian policing. Since the technology has not yet been widely implemented in Norway, a qualitative approach is well-suited to exploring how people reflect on something they have not directly experienced but still have informed opinions about.

Qualitative research focuses on understanding how individuals interpret and make meaning of the world around them. It relies on non-numerical data, such as words, observations, or visual material, and is commonly collected through interviews, focus groups, and document analysis (Jain, 2023). In this project, we used semi-structured interviews as our primary method for collecting data. Interviews are a widely used method in qualitative research and are designed to gather detailed and personal accounts of people's experiences, beliefs, or knowledge (George, 2023). Semi-structured interviews allow the researcher to follow a prepared set of open-ended

questions while maintaining the flexibility to ask follow-ups and explore new topics as they emerge in the conversation (George, 2023). This allowed us to explore key topics related to BWC while also giving participants space to highlight perspectives that may not have been anticipated in advance. Using a qualitative method makes it possible to investigate how BWC technology is perceived in different professional contexts in Norway. The aim is not to measure how widespread certain views are, but rather to understand the reasoning, values, and assumptions that shape those views. Quantitative research, on the other hand, is more appropriate when the goal is to test hypotheses, measure variables, or identify statistical relationships. It can help determine how common a specific opinion is or how a change in one factor might influence another (Streefkerk, 2023). If the goal of this thesis had been to assess the overall support for BWC in a larger population, a quantitative survey would have been more suitable. However, the purpose here is to explore a complex and under-researched topic in depth, which makes qualitative research the better fit. Table 6 below presents a comparison of the key characteristics of qualitative and quantitative research approaches, adapted from Streefkerk (2023) and Jain (2023).

Table 6: Comparison of qualitative and quantitative research

Aspect	Qualitative Research	Quantitative Research
Purpose	Explore meaning, experience, and context.	Measure and test hypotheses.
Data format	Words, images, concepts	Numbers, statistics.
Methods	Interviews, focus groups, document analysis.	Surveys, experiments, structured observations.
Sample size	Small, purposefully selected.	Large, randomly selected.
Analysis	Thematic, interpretive.	Statistical, mathematical.
Generalizability	Not generalizable, but rich in depth.	Aims for generalizable findings.
Research role	Researcher is involved in interpretation.	Researcher is neutral and detached.

At the same time, qualitative research has certain limitations. With smaller sample sizes, results are not meant to be generalized. The analysis of open-ended data can also be time-consuming and demands careful interpretation (Williams, n.d.). Since the researcher plays an active role in analysis, there is a risk of bias. These challenges were addressed through anonymization, structured coding, and ongoing reflection throughout the process (Williams, n.d.). A summary of the weaknesses associated with the qualitative research method is presented in Table 7. These weaknesses could potentially affect the research outcomes; therefore, it is important to be aware of them and take measures to reduce their impact.

Table 7: Common limitations of qualitative research

Limitation (Williams, n.d.)	Description
Small sample size	Typically involves fewer participants, which limits statistical generalizability.
Subjectivity and bias	Data interpretation relies on the researcher's perspective, which may influence results.
Time-consuming	Data collection and analysis often require considerable time and effort.
Non-replicable results	Findings are context-specific and hard to reproduce in other settings.
Data complexity	Rich, unstructured data can be difficult to organize and analyze systematically.
Interviewee influence	Participants may shape their responses based on the researcher's presence or perceived expectations.
Limited scope	Focuses deeply on specific cases or themes, which may overlook broader patterns.

3.3 Systematic Literature Review Approach

A literature review is an analytical approach used to identify existing research within a particular field of study (Schoombee, 2023). Conducting a literature review helps ensure that researchers do not replicate existing studies without adding new insights. It allows for the identification of research gaps areas that have not yet been extensively studied but may hold significant academic or practical relevance.

In this study, we conducted a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) to ensure a structured and comprehensive analysis of prior research (Carrera-Rivera et al., 2022). This approach was chosen because it enables a transparent, replicable, and unbiased synthesis of relevant studies. A systematic review provides a clear methodology for identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing available literature, which is crucial when investigating emerging fields in policing (Carrera-Rivera et al., 2022). Additionally, an SLR ensures that all relevant studies are considered, minimizes selection bias, and enhances the reliability of findings by following a rigorous and predefined search protocol (Drucker et al., 2016).

3.3.1 Method

We employed a systematic search strategy to identify relevant literature on BWC in policing. Since BWCs have not been widely implemented or studied in Norway, we drew inspiration from international research to develop a broad search string. We conducted the search exclusively in Scopus, a comprehensive and well-established database that ensures the inclusion of peer-reviewed studies (Elsevier, 2025). We searched in title, abstract and keywords:

(body AND worn AND cameras AND police)

Since research on this topic remains relatively limited and continuously evolving, it was necessary to apply a structured approach to refine the dataset. Scopus offered various filtering functions that facilitated this process.

Firstly, we utilized Scopus's built-in filter to select only English-language articles. This decision was made because it was the only language among the available options that we fully understood. By limiting the selection to English-language studies, we ensured that we could accurately interpret and analyze the content.

In Figure 3, the article screening process is illustrated through five phases. The first phase was to collect all the articles which resulted in more than 400 articles. Secondly in phase two, a decision was made, although citation count is often used as a measure of academic impact, we chose not to exclude articles based on low citation numbers. This decision was based on the understanding that research on BWCs is a rapidly developing field, with many recently published studies that have not yet accumulated a significant number of citations. Excluding such studies could have led to the omission of valuable and up-to-date insights.



Figure 3: The screening process

Following this, in phase three, we conducted a title-based screening, where articles that were not directly related to policing and the use of BWCs were excluded. For instance, some studies focused on private security applications, which were outside the scope of our research.

In the fourth phase, we conducted a screening of the article abstracts to assess their relevance more thoroughly. Each abstract was reviewed to determine whether the study's objectives, methodology, and findings aligned with our research focus on BWC in policing. Articles were excluded if the abstract revealed that the study addressed unrelated fields or if the connection to policing was only marginal. This step allowed us to efficiently narrow down the dataset before proceeding to the more time-consuming full-text review.

In the final phase, we performed an in-depth review of the full texts of the remaining articles. This step was crucial for identifying and excluding studies that, despite appearing relevant

based on their titles and abstracts, ultimately did not meet our inclusion criteria upon closer examination. Full-text screening involved evaluating aspects such as study design, population, context, and the explicit focus on BWC use within policing. Studies that, for example, only mentioned BWCs briefly without meaningful analysis, or that discussed broader technological interventions without focusing specifically on BWCs, were excluded. Through this comprehensive review, we ensured that only studies providing substantial and directly applicable insights were included in our final dataset.

By applying this systematic filtering process, we ensured that the dataset comprised high-quality, relevant studies that provide a solid foundation for analyzing the impact of BWC in law enforcement.

3.3.2 Literature Criteria

It was essential to establish clear criteria for literature selection, as this ensures the relevance, quality, and timeliness of the studies included in our research. Articles were excluded if they did not meet the inclusion criteria.

The literature criteria were as follows:

- Studies must be published in a language we fully understand.
- The research must be directly relevant to our study on BWC in policing.
- The articles must be published within the last ten years to ensure the inclusion of recent findings and contemporary research.
- Only studies published from 2015 onwards were included, to ensure the findings reflect recent developments, policy changes, and technological advancements.
- The studies must be peer-reviewed, ensuring academic credibility and rigor.

3.3.3 Search Process

In this section, the results of the search process are presented, alongside an overview of the 13 articles that were included based on the predefined inclusion criteria. Following the structured and systematic screening phases described earlier, we finalized a selection of 13 peer-reviewed articles published within the last decade. These articles represent a diverse range of empirical studies focusing on the use of BWC in policing, covering aspects such as officer behavior, citizen perceptions, legal and ethical challenges, and technological implementation issues. Table 8 presents the 13 articles that qualified and were selected through the screening process.

The selected articles were categorized according to their research methodology:

Quantitative studies: Several articles utilized randomized controlled trials, surveys, and statistical analyses to measure outcomes such as changes in police use of force, citizen complaints, or perceptions of fairness and accountability.

Qualitative studies: Some studies employed interviews, thematic analysis, and case studies to explore police officers and citizens experiences and perceptions of BWCs.

Mixed-method studies: A lot of the studies combined both qualitative and quantitative approaches to provide a broader understanding of the impacts and challenges associated with BWCs.

Table 8: The 13 qualified articles

Title	Author(s)	Year	Outlet	Methodology
Automated policing the case of body-worn video.	Bowling B.; Iyer S.	2019	International Journal of Law in Context	Qualitative
Kroppskamera og norsk politiarbeid.	Phelps and Simensen	2019	Det Digitale Er Et Hurtigtog! - Fagbokforlaget	Qualitative
Body-worn cameras ‘on the move’: exploring the contextual, technical and ethical challenges in policing practice.	Miranda D.	2022	Policing and Society	Qualitative
The Ethics of Police Body-Worn Cameras.	Thomsen F.K.	2020	Moral Philosophy and Politics	Qualitative
How does technology-based monitoring affect street-level bureaucrats’ behavior? An analysis of body-worn cameras and police actions.	Kang I.	2023	Journal of Policy Analysis and Management	Quantitative
Law and (re)order: Updating memory for criminal events with body-worn cameras.	Adams D.; Paterson H.M.; MacDougall H.G.	2020	PLoS ONE	Quantitative
Believing is Seeing: Biased Viewing of Body-Worn Camera Footage.	Jones K.A.; Crozier W.E.; Strange D.	2017	Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition	Quantitative
Memory Outcomes of Police Officers Viewing Their Body-Worn Camera Video.	Pezdek K.; Shapland T.; Barragan J.	2022	Journal of Applied Research in	Quantitative

			Memory and Cognition	
Research on body-worn cameras: What we know, what we need to know.	Lum C.; Stoltz M.; Koper C.S.; Scherer J.A.	2019	Criminology and Public Policy	Mixed
Police body-worn cameras and privacy: Views and concerns of officers and citizens.	Poirier B.; Charbonneau É.; Boivin R.	2024	International Journal of Police Science and Management	Mixed
Police on Camera: Surveillance, Privacy, and Accountability.	Newell B.C.	2020	Police on Camera: Surveillance, Privacy, and Accountability	Mixed
The usage and utility of body-worn camera footage in courts: A survey analysis of state prosecutors.	Petersen K.; Papy D.; Mouro A.; Ariel B.	2023	Journal of Empirical Legal Studies	Mixed
Through an Australian Lens: Exploring the Impact of Body Worn Cameras on Police Community Relations.	Davies A.	2023	Policing (Oxford)	Mixed

3.3.4 Meta analysis of selected articles

A systematic review of meta-analysis from the 13 selected articles provides a clearer picture of the scope, methodological approaches, and thematic priorities in current research on BWC. Methodologically, the sample shows a balanced distribution: 43% of the studies use a mixed-methods design, while the remainder are equally divided between quantitative (28.5%) and qualitative (28.5%) approaches. This indicates a deliberate effort to combine empirical data with contextual understanding. The studies originate from several countries, including the United States, Australia, the UK, and Norway. This reflects a diverse, yet geographically concentrated, set of perspectives on the adoption and use of BWCs within different legal and institutional frameworks.

In terms of thematic focus, the articles explore a wide range of issues. Some studies evaluate BWCs in terms of evidentiary value and courtroom utility, while others address ethical and technical concerns such as surveillance, data privacy, and information storage. Several articles explore the impact of BWCs on police-citizen relations, power dynamics, and bias reinforcement or mitigation. Others examine how footage affects officers' memory and reporting practices, or how automation is altering the nature of frontline policing.

The meta-analysis offers a structured overview of the current academic work on BWCs and serves as a foundation for further discussion of the ethical, technological, and operational implications of their use in law enforcement. As shown in Figure 4, the distribution of studies by research method illustrates the diversity of methodological approaches.



Figure 4: The meta-data of the 13 selected articles

3.3.5 Screening Approach

Following the collection of articles through a systematic database search in Scopus, a structured screening process was conducted to determine which studies would be included for further analysis. The screening was carried out in accordance with predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria, ensuring that only relevant, empirical, and peer-reviewed studies were retained.

The screening process proceeded through several stages. Initially, 435 articles were identified through the database search. First, articles published before 2015 were excluded and articles without citations were reviewed, although no exclusions were made based on citation count. A preliminary screening of titles and abstracts resulted in the removal of 107 articles, leaving 326 articles. These remaining articles underwent a more in-depth reading of their abstracts, leading to the exclusion of 178 further studies, leaving 148 articles. A full-text review of these articles was then conducted, resulting in the removal of another 136 articles based on detailed methodological assessment. This process left 12 articles, and one additional article were manually added due to their relevance and quality. The result of the screening process was the inclusion of 13 articles for detailed analysis. This entire process is visualized (PRISMA flow diagram) in Figure 5, showing the number of articles removed at each step and the progression towards the final selection.

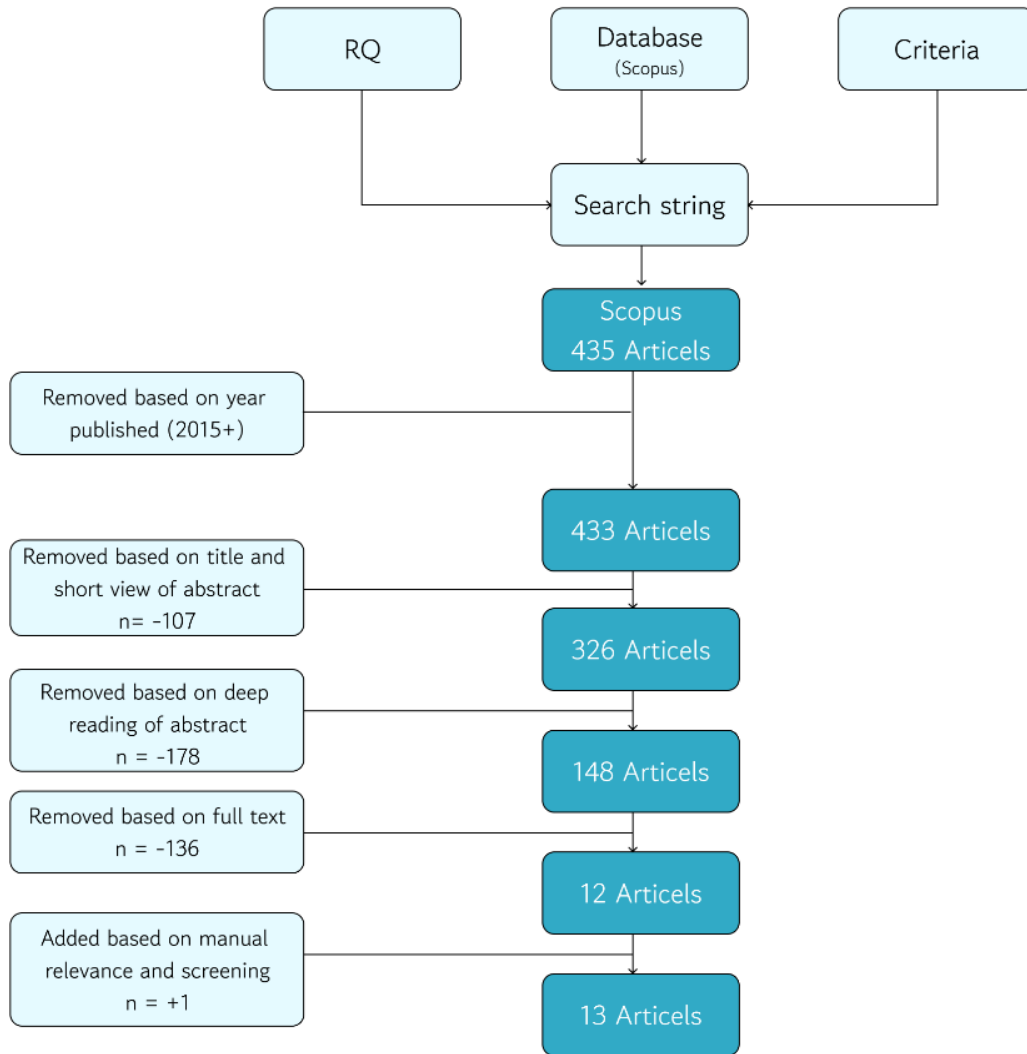


Figure 5: PRISMA flow diagram of the screening process

3.3.6 Concept Matrix

To structure the literature review, a concept matrix was developed following the guidelines of Webster and Watson (2002). Webster and Watson (2002) recommend a concept-centric rather than author-centric approach to literature reviews, emphasizing that synthesizing research around core concepts leads to stronger theoretical insights. Following this approach, we developed a concept matrix to organize thirteen peer-reviewed articles based on two overarching concepts: stakeholders and aspects. The concepts were initially formed by our research question and theoretical framework and were refined as our understanding of the topic deepened. Stakeholders include groups such as police institutions, individual officers, bystanders, and legal practitioners, while aspects refer to ethical, technological, regulatory, and cognitive dimensions. Each article was coded according to which concepts it addressed. The full concept matrix is presented in Figure 6.

			Stakeholders				Aspects			
Article Code	Authors	Year	Police (Institution)	Police (Individual)	Passers-by (Bystanders)	Legal Practitioners	Tech aspects	Ethical aspects	Regulatory aspects	Cognitive aspects
A1	Bowling B.; Iyer S.	2019	x				x	x	x	
A2	Jones K.A.; Crozier W.E.; Strange D.	2017	x	x				x		x
A3	Miranda D.	2021	x		x		x	x	x	x
A4	Lum C.; Stoltz M.; Koper C.S.; Scherer J.A.	2019	x	x			x	x	x	
A5	Kang I.	2023	x				x		x	x
A6	Adams D.; Paterson H.M.; MacDougall H.G.	2020	x	x		x		x		x
A7	Pezdek K.; Shapland T.; Barragan J.	2022	x	x		x	x			x
A8	Poirier et al.	2023	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
A9	Newell B.C.	2020	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
A10	Thomsen F.K.	2020	x					x	x	
A11	Petersen et al.	2023	x	x		x	x		x	
A12	Davies	2022	x	x			x		x	
A13	Phelps, J. M. & Simensen, T. K	2019	x	x			x	x	x	x

Figure 6: The concept matrix

3.4 Data Collection & Handling

The primary data for this thesis was collected through semi-structured interviews with a total of 8 professionals from relevant fields. These interviews form the empirical foundation of the study and were conducted to gain insight into how various experts perceive the potential implementation of BWC in the Norwegian context. An interview guide was prepared to structure the conversation around key themes. However, follow-up questions were asked throughout the interviews to explore relevant points in more detail or to clarify participant reflections. This approach made it possible to both cover predefined topics and allow room for new perspectives to emerge naturally during the conversation. Interviews were conducted both physically and digitally, depending on participant availability and preference.

The digital interviews were conducted via Microsoft Teams using our secure university email accounts (UiA), ensuring an encrypted and safe communication channel. The interviews lasted between 45 minutes and one and a half hours. The reason for the relatively long duration was that we had a limited number of interview participants, and we therefore wanted to make the most of each interview to gather as much valuable information as possible. This extension of time had been communicated in advance, and we received verbal confirmation from the participants that they were comfortable with the longer interview sessions. This arrangement also turned out to be beneficial for the participants themselves, as it allowed them to speak more freely without feeling rushed or pressured. They had time to reflect and share their thoughts in a more relaxed manner, which contributed to insightful data for our study. Although the interviews were initially prolonged on our initiative, some participants themselves expressed a desire to keep talking, as they had a lot to share and appreciated the opportunity to share their experiences in depth.

It is important to note that the informants in this study represent a so-called "hard-to-reach" population. The number of relevant participants was therefore limited, but the study includes key stakeholders from the most important institutions in Norway, chosen for their professional relevance and ability to provide informed perspectives. As well as the technology of BWC not being used in Norway, therefor the direct experience with the technology is lacking. All participants were given a brief introduction before the interview started, explaining the scope of the study, the voluntary nature of participation, and how the data would be handled. Participants were informed that BWC is not currently implemented or used in Norwegian policing, and that the aim of the study was not to evaluate an existing program, but rather to explore potential opportunities and limitations. It was emphasized that there were no "correct answers," and that the purpose was to gather reflections and professional insight from different perspectives. This clarification was important to create an open and trusting interview setting. Recording of the interviews was done using an audio recorder (Dictaphone). After each interview, the audio files were manually transcribed to ensure an accurate, and detailed representation of the participants' responses.

3.4.1 Overview of Stakeholder Group

Since BWC are not currently implemented in Norway, this study aimed to explore how different experts envision their potential use, the advantages they might bring, and the challenges that need to be considered. To ensure a broad and well-informed analysis, we chose to interview professionals from different fields who, based on their expertise, can assess how BWCs could be introduced in Norway. By gathering insights from multiple sectors, this study has been seeking to provide an understanding of both the opportunities and limitations associated with BWCs.

The Research Group consisted of academics or researchers who analyze the theoretical and empirical aspects of BWCs. Their insights were based on international studies, data-driven research, and criminological, sociological, and technological perspectives. They assess the broader implications of BWCs in terms of transparency, accountability, and trust between law enforcement and the public.

The Law Enforcement group included frontline police officers and other law enforcement professionals, which offered a practical perspective on how BWCs could impact policing in Norway. They considered factors such as operational procedures, officer safety, evidence collection, and public perception. Since these participants did not have direct experience with BWCs in Norway, they provided insights based on professional expertise, hypothetical scenarios, and observations from other countries.

The Legal Professionals group consisted of lawyers and jurists who analyze the legal implications of introducing BWCs. They focused on aspects such as the evidentiary value of BWC footage in court, procedural fairness, compliance with Norwegian law, and potential legal challenges. Their insights helped clarify how BWCs could impact legal proceedings, police accountability, and citizens' rights.

The Privacy & Data Protection group examined the regulatory requirements necessary for BWCs to be implemented in compliance with privacy laws. Given that there are no existing Norwegian regulations governing BWCs, this group discussed what kind of frameworks must be established to ensure compliance with GDPR, data storage policies, access restrictions, and ethical considerations. Their role was to assess the risks and necessary safeguards for protecting citizens' rights and personal data.

By structuring the study around these focus groups, we aimed to gather expert opinions from multiple angles, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of BWCs. Each group was selected based on their ability to provide valuable insights into the benefits, and challenges of implementing BWCs in Norway. Their perspectives contributed to a well-rounded discussion on the legal, ethical, and operational considerations that must be addressed before BWCs can be introduced.



Figure 7: The illustration of the four primary stakeholder groups

Figure 7 illustrates the four primary stakeholder groups included in the data collection process: law enforcement professionals, legal experts, privacy and data protection specialists, and academic researchers. Each group contributes with distinct yet complementary perspectives on the potential implementation of BWC in Norwegian policing, forming the basis for a multidisciplinary understanding of the issue.

3.4.2 Selection of Participants

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, we make use of the participants from previous contact as our informants, from there we applied the snowball sampling strategy. Snowball sampling is a method where existing study participants recruit future participants from among their acquaintances, allowing researchers to reach hard-to-find or hidden populations (Nikolopoulou, 2023). UiA served as the initial entry point, providing us with contacts in law enforcement units in Oslo, specifically professionals working within policing and emergency management. This initial connection with Oslo law enforcement allowed us to gain access to experts who could provide a practical perspective on BWC implementation. As the process continued, both UiA and Oslo law enforcement contacts referred us to additional professionals who could contribute to the study. We then extended this approach by asking each participant if they knew other relevant experts who might be willing to participate. This iterative process helped us continuously expand our participant pool, ensuring a broad and diverse range of perspectives.

In addition to the snowball sampling method, we conducted targeted online searches to identify relevant professionals within law, surveillance technology, and privacy regulation. We specifically sought out individuals who had published research or contributed to discussions on

digital security, law enforcement policies, and public safety technology. These professionals were contacted directly to assess their willingness to participate in the study.

To ensure a broad range of perspectives and relevant expertise, participants in this study were recruited from four key stakeholder groups: law enforcement, researchers, legal professionals, and data protection authorities. The distribution is illustrated in the pie chart below (Figure 8).

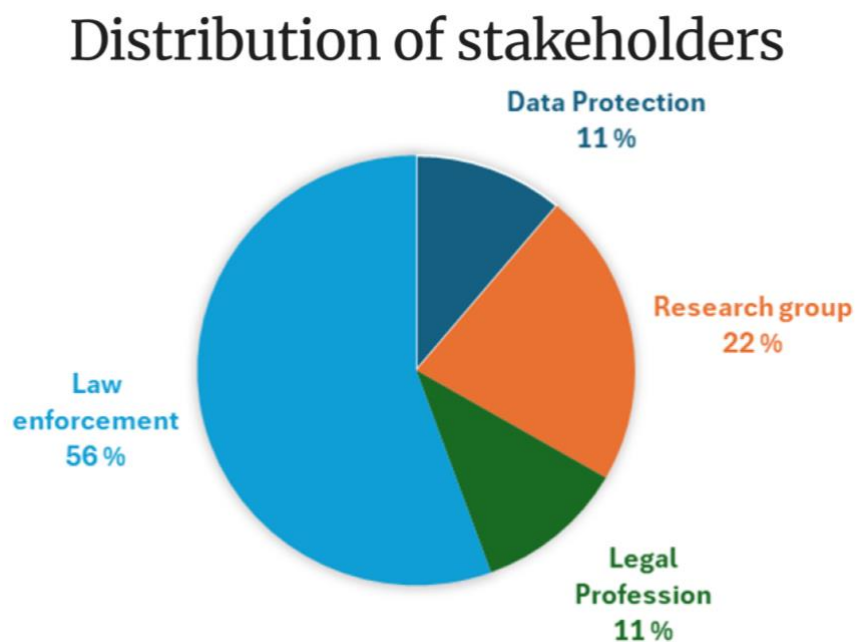


Figure 8: The distribution of stakeholders

As shown in Figure 8, most participants (56%) came from the law enforcement sector. This reflects the study's emphasis on understanding the practical and operational implications of BWC consequences in Norwegian policing. Since the technology directly affects police procedures and public interactions, it was essential to include a substantial number of voices from those with direct field experience, and insights into everyday police work.

With regard to data protection, we interviewed one representative from the Norwegian Data Protection Authority (Datatilsynet), accounting for 11% of the participants. This decision was based on the fact that legal frameworks in this area are well-established. Consequently, the interview focused on acquiring accurate, authoritative information about the legal prerequisites for BWC use in Norway. In this case, fewer participants were required, as the topic involved clear legal standards rather than interpretive or subjective reflection.

The research group made up 22% of the sample. Due to the limited use of BWC technology in Norway, only a small number of researchers specialize in this field. We selected participants

based on their academic work and relevance to the topic. Their insights were particularly valuable in addressing the broader societal and theoretical implications of BWC deployment.

The legal profession was represented by one participant (11%) with a professional background as a practicing lawyer. This was sufficient to explore the legal implications of using BWC footage in court, as well as considerations regarding due process and evidentiary value. The purpose here was not to generalize across the legal community but to gain a qualified and experience-based perspective on how BWC recordings might be evaluated in judicial settings. The table (Table 9: The overview of interview participants) below provides an overview of the interview participants, including their participant ID, current role or job description, affiliated stakeholder group, and years of relevant experience.

Table 9: The overview of interview participants

Participant ID	Experience	Stakeholder group	Year experience
P1	Researcher	Research group	5 years
P2	Associate Professor	Research group	15 years
	Researcher		20 years
P3	Lawyer	Legal profession	40 years
P4	Police officer	Law enforcement	5 years
P5	Police officer	Law enforcement	4 years
	Investigation management	Law enforcement	6 years
P6	Police officer	Law enforcement	3 years
P7	Data Protection Authority	Data Protection	6 years
P8	Senior Advisor	Law enforcement	3 years

All interviews were carried out one-on-one, either in person or digitally, depending on each participant's availability and preference. Following each interview, full transcripts were produced and subsequently sent back to the participants for review and approval. This process allowed participants to verify the accuracy of their statements and make any necessary corrections or clarifications. Ensuring participant validation in this way was important for maintaining ethical integrity and enhancing the credibility of the data. Once approved, the transcripts were included in the subsequent data analysis, which we will explore in more detail in the following sections.

3.4.3 Interview guide

We aimed to capture insights from various stakeholders, each with distinct perspectives on the potential consequences of BWC in Norwegian policing. To ensure a comprehensive exploration of the topic, the interview guide was structured to balance general and stakeholder-specific questions. While the core structure remained consistent across all interviews, the specific content and focus of the questions were tailored to the unique roles and expertise of the participants. This approach allowed us to capture both shared concerns and perspectives specific to each stakeholder group. The complete interview guide, including all stakeholder-specific questions, can be found in Appendix B.

The structure of the interview guide followed a logical flow designed to foster an open and insightful conversation. We began each interview with an introductory segment to "break the ice" and make the participant comfortable. This initial part included general questions about the participant's background and experience. This allowed them to share their own story and perspective before delving into the more focused areas of discussion. These open questions also allowed participants to feel heard and respected, creating a space for open dialogue.

For example, the introductory questions included:

- *"Could you start by telling us a little about yourself and your current role?"*
- *"What previous work or experiences do you have that are relevant to the topic we will discuss today?"*

Following the ice-breaker section, the interview shifted to more focused and thematic questions. Drawing on the literature review and key issues identified in the research design, the questions explored the technological, ethical, cognitive, and regulatory aspects of BWC technology. These areas were chosen because they encapsulate the key themes relevant to the consequences of BWCs in law enforcement in Norway.

- **Technological** questions revolved around practical considerations and potential challenges with the hardware and software.
- **Ethical** questions focused on the balance between transparency and privacy concerns for both the police officers and the public.

- **Cognitive** questions sought to understand how BWCs could influence decision-making and behavior during police encounters.
- **Regulatory** questions addressed the legal frameworks necessary for the implementation of BWCs, including privacy laws and data protection requirements.

The guide then moved into stakeholder-specific questions to ensure that each participant's unique expertise was fully explored. For example, police officers were asked about practical challenges and field experiences with BWCs, while legal professionals focused on legal implications, particularly related to evidence handling in courts. Researchers were engaged in discussions about the existing knowledge and the gaps in research on BWCs, while administrative personnel addressed institutional perspectives such as budgeting, resources, and policy implementation.

3.5 Data Analysis

After conducting the interviews, the data collected was analyzed. There are several different methods for analyzing qualitative data. In this study, thematic analysis was chosen as the analytical approach. Thematic analysis is defined as a method for "*identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) within data*" (Braun & Clarke, 2006). It offers a flexible and accessible approach to organizing and describing qualitative material in detail. As Braun and Clarke (2006) emphasize, thematic analysis is not tied to a specific theoretical framework, making it highly adaptable to a wide range of research questions. This flexibility makes it a useful method for exploring the perspectives and experiences shared during the interviews. Thematic analysis, as outlined by Braun and Clarke (2006), follows six distinct phases:

Step 1: Familiarization with the data: Read through all the interview transcripts. Take notes and start thinking about possible patterns or interesting points in the data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This was done during the initial review of transcripts.

Step 2: Generating initial codes: Systematically go through the data and highlight important parts. Assign short labels (codes) to parts that seem meaningful or relevant (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This step is conducted during the manual coding process.

Step 3: Searching for themes: Look at all the codes you have made and start grouping them into broader themes that capture patterns in the data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This step is reflected in the development of sub-codes.

Step 4: Reviewing themes: Check if the themes work well with the data. Some themes might need to be changed, combined, separated, or removed to better reflect what the data shows (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This reviewing process including the code being collaboratively cross-checked.

Step 5: Defining and naming themes: Clearly define what each theme is about and give each theme a short, descriptive name that captures its essence (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This definition and naming of themes were done in the creation of thematic structures.

Step 6: Producing the report: Write the final analysis by describing the themes and linking them back to the research questions and the overall aim of the study (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The final reporting of themes is conducted in Chapter 4.

3.5.1 Analyzing Framework from Coding

The coding process for this study was conducted manually using Microsoft Word and Excel. Interview transcripts were first reviewed in Word, where relevant sections were highlighted based on the initial aspects derived from the preliminary literature review. As mentioned in chapter 2, the aspects identified in the literature were technological, regulatory, cognitive, and ethical- this provided an initial structure for organizing the data. Following the initial review, highlighted sections were transferred into an Excel spreadsheet, where they were systematically organized under the four broad categories. Within each category, sub-codes were created to capture specific nuances and differences across the interviews. This approach was necessary due to the significant variation in emphasis and focus across the interviews, as participants from different professional backgrounds highlighted distinct concerns and priorities. Structuring the data in Excel enabled the identification of both common patterns across interviews, and unique insights specific to each professional group. While the initial coding was guided by the predefined aspects, the analysis process remained flexible and open to the emergence of additional themes and sub-themes that were not explicitly outlined in the literature. This flexibility ensured that new and unexpected insights could be integrated into the analysis. The coding was thus both structured and adaptable, reflecting an abductive analytical strategy, this involves moving iteratively between empirical observations and theoretical knowledge, embracing surprises and tensions to develop richer theoretical insights (Hulst & Visser, 2024). This dynamic interplay between theory and data ensured a rich, context-sensitive understanding of the stakeholder perspectives on the consequences of BWC in Norwegian policing.

In order to ensure the reliability and consistency of the coding process, both researchers collaborated closely throughout the analysis. By using Microsoft Word and Excel, we were able to work together in real time from separate computers, reviewing, discussing, and refining the coding simultaneously. After the initial individual coding was completed, we conducted sessions where we systematically cross-checked the coded material. This collaborative approach allowed us to validate the categorization, resolve discrepancies, and ensure that the codes accurately captured the participants' insights. Working together in this way strengthened the credibility and trustworthiness of the analytical process.

Figure 9: Overview of ethical aspects from data analysis Figure 10, Figure 11 Figure 12 below illustrate the thematic structure developed, showing the main categories and sub-codes derived from the

empirical material. These visual representations provide an overview of the technological, regulatory, cognitive, and ethical aspects explored in the study. In total, 39 themes and sub-themes were identified in the data collection. The detailed findings that emerged from this coding process are presented in Chapter 4. A complete overview of all themes and sub-themes is included in Appendix C.

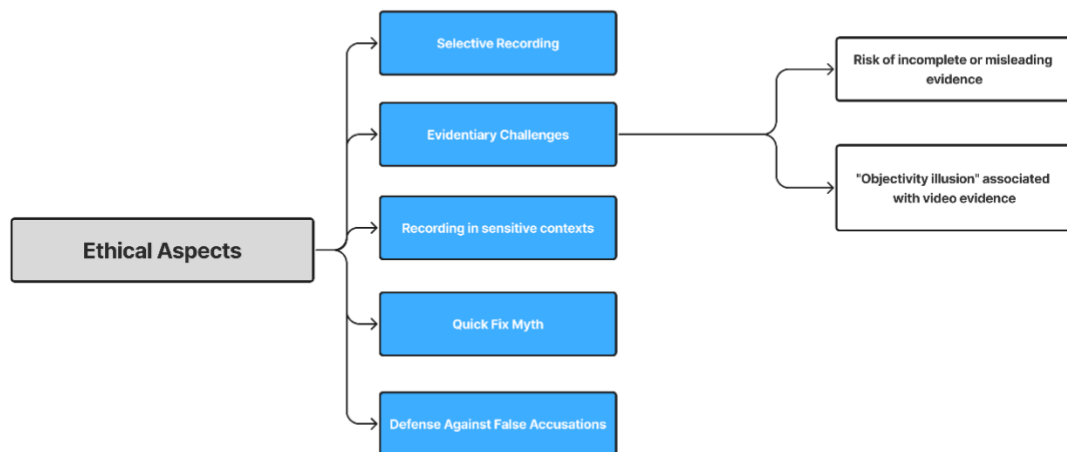


Figure 9: Overview of ethical aspects from data analysis

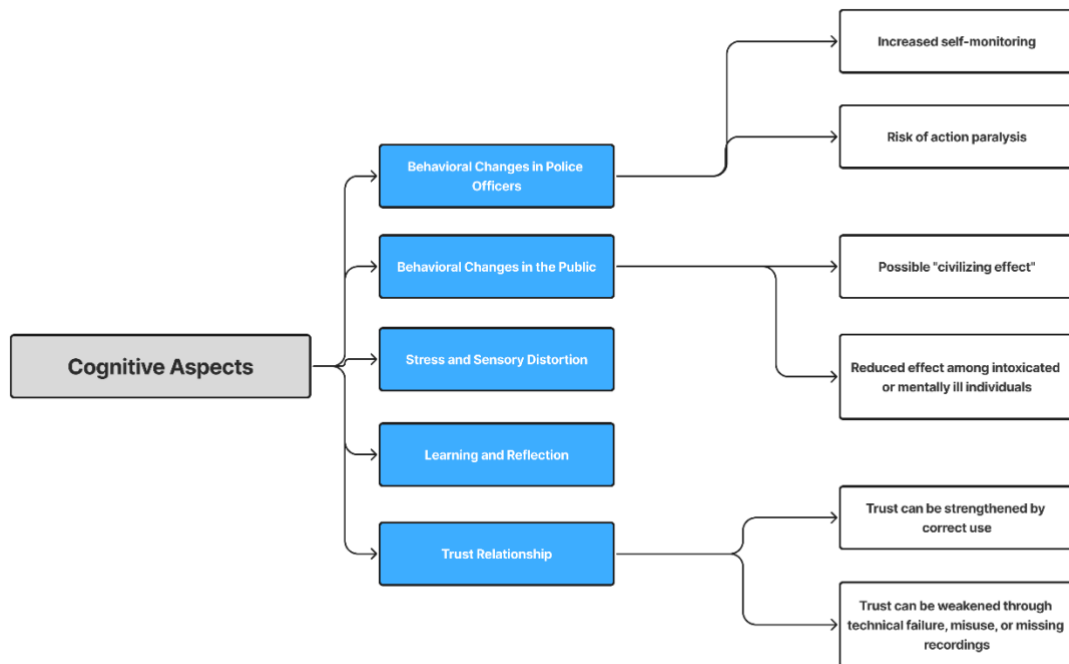


Figure 10: Overview of cognitive aspects from data analysis

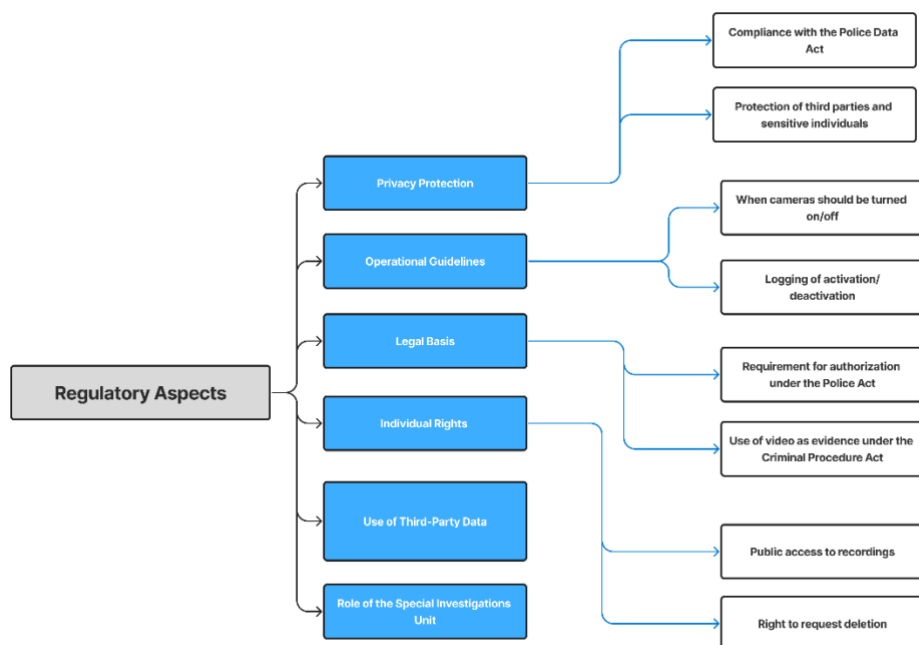


Figure 11: Overview of regulatory aspects from data analysis

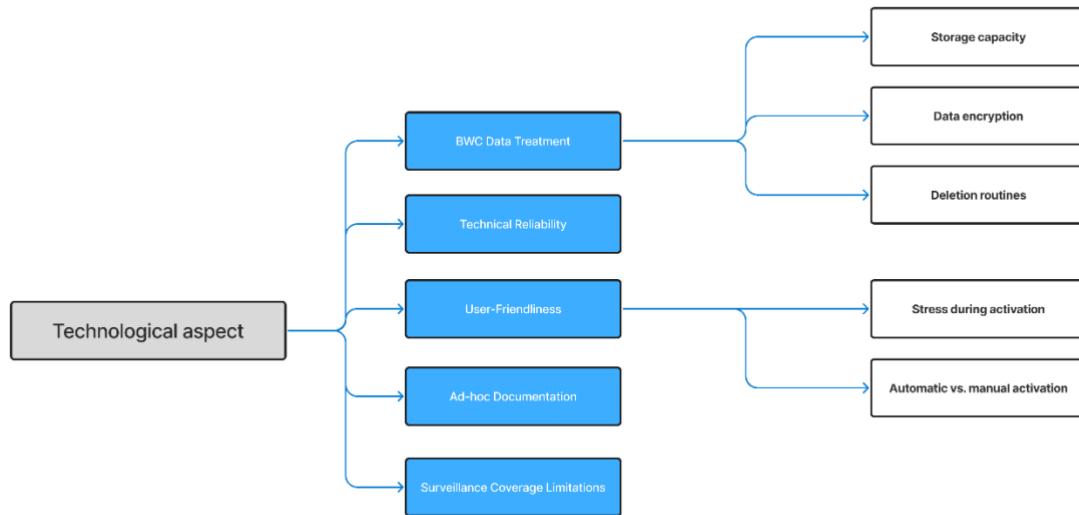


Figure 12: Overview of technological aspects from data analysis

3.6 Ethical Consideration

Prior to each interview, participants received a research description and a consent form (Appendix A). These documents outlined the purpose of the study, what participation involved, their rights as participants, and how the data would be used, stored, and protected. The documents also provided contact information for the research team and the university's data protection officer, should any concerns arise. Before data collection commenced, an application describing the project and the handling of personal data was submitted to SIKT (the Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research), which is a government agency that provides centralized administrative services to educational and research institutions in Norway (Sikt, 2024). SIKT's role includes ensuring that research projects comply with national ethical standards and data protection regulations (Sikt, 2024). The project was approved, ensuring that the research adhered to national ethical standards and data protection regulations. This formal approval process confirmed that the study complied with all necessary ethical and legal requirements before any participant data was collected.

Participants were explicitly informed that:

- Their participation was voluntary.
- They could withdraw at any time without consequence.
- No identifiable information would be published.
- The recordings would be handled securely and only accessible to the research team.

All interviews were conducted in accordance with GDPR guidelines and the ethical framework for research involving human participants. Personal data was stored on UiA's encrypted systems, and all transcripts were anonymized before analysis. Any potentially identifying information was removed or generalized to protect participant confidentiality. These ethical measures were taken to ensure transparency, build trust, and protect the rights of all individuals involved in the study.

3.6.1 Declaration on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in This Master's Thesis

We have used OpenAI ChatGPT 4.0 in the development of this thesis as a supportive tool for improving language quality. Specifically, it has been employed to correct grammar, suggest synonyms, and reduce repetition in the text. At no point has any AI tool been used to generate content or write parts of the thesis on our behalf. Furthermore, we have not uploaded any sensitive, personal, or confidential data to any AI service. The thesis is the result of our independent academic work, with AI used solely for minor language enhancement in accordance with the guidelines provided by the University of Agder.

Chapter 4 Findings

This chapter presents the findings from the thematic analysis of the interviews conducted, as outlined in the methodology chapter. A total of 39 themes and sub-themes were identified and subsequently categorized into four overarching thematic aspects: Technological, Cognitive, Regulatory, and Ethical aspects. These categories reflect the most prominent patterns in stakeholder reflections on the potential use of BWC in Norwegian policing. Each of the four main themes is introduced in detail in the sections that follow. For each thematic area, we provide a structured presentation of relevant sub-themes, supported by quotes from interview participants. The stakeholders, due to their specific areas of expertise, were only able to provide insight into selected aspects of the topic. For instance, participants without legal or regulatory responsibilities did not comment in detail on data protection or legal admissibility. As mentioned before, explanation of the themes and sub-themes are in Appendix C.

4.1 Findings of Main Themes

The analysis resulted in 39 identified themes, grouped into four main categories. Table 10 shows the number of times each category was mentioned across the interviews, as well as how many participants contributed to each. These themes represent the dominant patterns observed across the eight qualitative interviews. The distribution of mentions and participant engagement per theme is presented in the table above. Technological Aspects were the most frequently discussed, with a total of 43 mentions across all interviews. Cognitive Aspects were mentioned 34 times. Regulatory Aspects were mentioned 36 times, again by seven participants. Ethical Aspects, although slightly less mentioned (29 times), were still addressed by six of the eight

participants. These numbers reflect the total number of coded references within each theme across all interviews and provide an indication of both the breadth and depth of concern related to BWC implementation.

Table 10: Overview of the main themes

Main Theme	Total Mentions	Participants Mentioning
Technological Aspects	43	7
Cognitive Aspects	34	7
Regulatory Aspects	36	7
Ethical Aspects	29	6

4.2 Findings from the technological aspect

Several participants highlighted technological factors as potential barriers to the implementation of BWC in Norwegian policing. While BWC technology is often seen to increase transparency and accountability, concerns were raised about its practical functionality and reliability in real-world settings. Technological barriers in this context refer to challenges related both to the device itself and to the infrastructure surrounding data storage, access, encryption, and deletion. Participants generally offered thoughtful and well-informed reflections on these issues. Their insights were based either on international experience, such as observations of how BWCs are used in other countries, or on their own professional judgement regarding how technical and operational challenges might arise in the Norwegian context. For example, police officers in the sample shared concrete scenarios where activating or operating a camera under stress, in dynamic or dangerous situations, could prove difficult. Others discussed how BWC systems might create unintended complications related to documentation practices or coverage limitations. Through thematic analysis, five key subthemes emerged: (1) data collection and handling, (2) user-friendliness under stress, (3) system reliability, (4) ad-hoc documentation practices, and (5) surveillance coverage limitations. These themes reflect how stakeholders envision the practical and technical issues that may arise when introducing BWC into Norwegian policing. Table 11 provides an overview of how frequently each subtheme was mentioned and how many participants addressed each issue, giving a sense of which technological concerns were most prominent.

Table 11: Overview of subthemes within technological aspect

Technological Aspects Subthemes		
Subtheme	Total Mentions	Participants Mentioning
BWC Data Handling	15	7
User-Friendliness	10	6
Technical Reliability	9	5
Ad-hoc Documentation	5	4
Surveillance Coverage Limitations	4	3

4.2.1 BWC Data Handling

One of the recurring concerns expressed by informants was the need for a robust technological infrastructure to support the collection, storage, encryption, and deletion of BWC data. The potential benefits of BWC use, such as increased transparency, accountability, and evidentiary value, depend heavily on how data is technically managed. Without adequate systems in place, there is a risk that BWC footage may lose its credibility, become inaccessible, or even be misused. A key sub-theme that emerged was access control, particularly regarding who should have permission to view or handle raw footage. Informants were concerned that if police officers had unrestricted access to their own recordings, it could compromise the impartiality and trustworthiness of the material. One participant put this point clearly:

“The most important thing is that police officers should not have access to their own recordings. That must be a basic principle.” - (P1)

To ensure impartiality, the same informant proposed that responsibility for managing the footage should lie with a separate role within the organization:

“There should be dedicated personnel, perhaps coordinators within each police district or local operational units, who are responsible for handling and administering the video recordings from bodycams.” (P1)

This highlights the importance of separating operational use from administrative oversight. Properly designed systems should ensure that footage is stored in environments where access is strictly limited to authorized personnel, such as designated evidence managers or system administrators, thereby reducing the risk of manipulation or premature deletion. The topic of data encryption was also raised in relation to protecting the footage from external threats such as hacking or leaks. Informants emphasized the potential consequences of poor data security, especially in high-profile cases where footage could be politically or socially sensitive. As one informant warned:

“There must be solid security systems in place to prevent hacking, leaks, and media exposure, as we’ve seen happen in the U.S.” - (P1)

Encryption and secure server environments are essential not only to maintain confidentiality but also to meet legal requirements for data protection. These systems must ensure that data is encrypted both at rest and during transfer, following established cybersecurity protocols. Beyond access and encryption, deletion routines were identified as a critical area where clear policy and technical enforcement are needed. Informants expressed concern that without well-defined deletion schedules and audit mechanisms, data could be selectively removed, either unintentionally or deliberately, undermining the purpose of BWCs as tools of accountability. As one legal expert noted:

“There must be detailed rules for how the data is handled: storage, deletion, access, and analysis.” - (P7)

Such routines must be standardized across jurisdictions and embedded within the BWC management systems. Ideally, deletions should be logged, justified, and subject to periodic review to prevent misuse and ensure regulatory compliance.

The importance of technical oversight was also stressed by participants with legal and regulatory backgrounds. Systematic logging and monitoring of data access and use are necessary to ensure accountability and transparency. As one informant emphasized:

“Logging, that has to do with data security. I would think is important in order to ensure that it's being used the way it's supposed to.” - (P3)

“You need systems that can actually control whether the use is in line with regulations.” - (P3)

These comments underline the necessity for automated systems that track when footage is accessed, by whom, and for what purpose, providing an audit trail that can be examined if questions arise.

From a policy development perspective, there was acknowledgement that these issues are being addressed, at least in principle, within current planning efforts. One participant, speaking from an administrative standpoint, noted:

“Assessments regarding storage and handling of bodycam footage will be addressed in the pre-project.” - (P8)

This suggests that while awareness of these challenges exists, implementation remains in an early phase. To fully realize the potential of BWC, technical systems for storage, encryption, and deletion are essential. These systems must be embedded within a broader legal and ethical framework that ensures consistency, oversight, and accountability.

4.2.2 User-Friendliness

The usability of BWC emerged as a significant concern among informants, especially in relation to how easily officers can activate the devices under operational pressure. In high-stress encounters, even seemingly simple tasks, such as pressing a button, can be forgotten or become difficult to perform due to cognitive overload or physical constraints.

One of the most frequently cited challenges was the difficulty of manually activating the camera during dynamic and stressful situations. Informants emphasized that in many cases, officers are

focused on de-escalation, communication, or threat management, leaving little room for remembering or physically managing camera controls. As one informant noted:

“You have a lot going on. You have to manage communication, situational awareness, maybe use force, all within seconds. Thinking about whether you turned the camera on? That’s not always realistic.” - (P5)

Another participant highlighted how stress can interrupt even routine tasks:

“In a real situation, stress affects everything. It’s not like during training. You forget things, basic things. Turning on the camera can slip your mind completely.” - (P4)

This insight reinforces the point that the usability of BWCs must account for the psychological and sensory distortions that officers experience in the field. Manual activation may work in theory, but in practice it can fail under pressure.

To mitigate these risks, several participants emphasized the importance of automatic activation systems. The ability for the camera to turn on in response to specific triggers, such as drawing a weapon or activating emergency lights, was seen as essential for ensuring consistent use. As one participant put it:

“It should not be up to the individual officer to turn on the camera each time. Of course, that option must exist, but there must also be technological solutions that ensure the camera turns on automatically in certain situations.” - (P1)

Another interviewee supported this view and stressed the operational benefits:

“If it’s connected to something like the taser or the blue lights, it removes the human error. Then it’s more reliable, because you can’t rely on memory in the middle of a crisis.” - (P5)

Additional suggestions included linking camera activation to centralized dispatch systems or significant threat indicators. As one officer explained:

“It could be connected to when a dispatch comes in, when you’re sent on an assignment by the operations center, the camera activates automatically.” - (P5)

He also proposed using critical incidents like gunfire to trigger recordings in a wider radius:

“The camera should be linked to, for example, weapon use, or if someone fires a shot, all cameras in the area should automatically activate.” - (P6)

The automation of BWC activation was also linked to trust and accountability. Participants argued that eliminating individual discretion helps prevent selective recording and increases the evidentiary credibility of the footage:

“If officers choose when to turn it on, you risk losing key moments or only getting parts of what happened. That undermines the whole point of using bodycams.” -

(P3)

Some also suggested a hybrid approach where the camera starts recording automatically, but officers retain the ability to override or deactivate, when necessary, under specific conditions. This was seen as a balanced solution between operational flexibility and reliability. In summary, the user-friendliness of BWCs is linked to how activation is managed. Manual systems place too much cognitive burden on officers during critical moments, increasing the likelihood of error or omission. Automatic activation technologies, on the other hand, offer a practical solution to ensure consistent and fair use of BWC, especially when stress and uncertainty are at their peak.

4.2.3 Technical Reliability

The effectiveness of BWC is highly dependent on the reliability of the technology itself. Informants consistently emphasized that even the best policies or training programs are undermined if the equipment fails during critical moments. Concerns about system reliability, including technical malfunctions, software crashes, or power issues, were raised by several participants, particularly those with operational experience. A recurring fear among practitioners was that technical failures would occur in high-stress or high-stakes situations, precisely when the cameras are needed most. One informant expressed skepticism about the trustworthiness of such devices in unpredictable environments:

“You only get one chance to capture what happens in the field. If the battery dies, the camera freezes, or it simply doesn’t start, that’s it, there is no backup.” - (P6)

This highlights the crucial role that hardware stability plays in ensuring both evidentiary value and accountability. If footage is lost due to malfunction, it can weaken legal cases or public trust, particularly in controversial incidents.

Another informant stressed the need for continuous system testing and proactive maintenance:

“This is sensitive equipment. It needs regular checks, updates, and service routines. Otherwise, it’s just a matter of time before something fails.” - (P4)

These comments underscore that BWC systems should not be treated as static tools but as dynamic, mission-critical devices that require the same level of care and oversight as other police technology, such as firearms or radios. From a legal standpoint, the consequences of

failure extend beyond the immediate incident. If footage expected to be available is missing, it can raise suspicion or be interpreted as intentional suppression. As one participant warned:

“When a recording is suddenly unavailable, it opens for speculation. Was it really a technical error, or was it deliberately deleted, or never turned on?” -
(P3)

To mitigate such risks, participants advocated for built-in redundancies and automatic system alerts. These could notify users and administrators in real time if a malfunction occurs, allowing immediate troubleshooting and documentation of technical issues. In sum, the perceived reliability of BWCs is foundational to their legitimacy. Without dependable hardware and software performance, even the best-intentioned policies may fail. Ensuring technical functionality is therefore not just a practical requirement, it is a core condition for maintaining transparency, fairness, and trust in the use of BWC.

Another practical concern raised was the physical stability of the equipment during high-intensity situations, such as physical altercations. One participant described how the camera could be dislodged or fall off entirely in such moments, rendering it useless precisely when it is needed most:

“If you end up in a fight, the camera can fall off. It might not be secured well enough to withstand everything.” - (P6)

This highlights the importance of robust mounting systems and ergonomic design tailored to the unpredictable and physically demanding nature of frontline police work.

4.2.4 Ad-hoc Documentation

In addition to formal procedures and regulated activation, BWCs are often used for ad-hoc documentation, capturing situations spontaneously as they unfold. Several informants highlighted this flexible use as a practical advantage in everyday policing, especially in situations where there is limited time or opportunity to take notes or write reports. One participant described how BWCs can function as a direct substitute for traditional documentation in moments where formal recording is impractical:

“There are situations where you don’t have time to write anything down, or you’re dealing with something sensitive, and the camera just captures it. That becomes the documentation.” - (P4)

This spontaneous use was viewed as especially helpful for preserving what was said or done during interactions that may not initially appear noteworthy but could later become relevant. Another informant noted:

“If someone later complains or files a report, we have it all on video, even things we wouldn’t think to write down at the time.” - (P6)

Several participants saw this as a valuable supplement to existing procedures. While not a replacement for formal reporting, ad-hoc documentation adds a visual layer to the officer’s narrative, reducing reliance on memory and subjective interpretation. As one interviewee put it:

“I think it would be good in most situations that involve simply documenting what one sees.” - (P4)

One officer further highlighted that this kind of immediate documentation can capture emotional states and situational dynamics in a way that is often lost by the time a case reaches court. The difference between how someone appears at the time of the incident and how they appear weeks or months later, calm and composed, can be substantial. He explained:

“I think it would be particularly useful in cases where emotions are running high, like when someone has just been through a violent situation. You can actually capture the tone of voice, the frequency of what’s being said, the emotional state, it’s very different from sitting in a courtroom weeks later, looking calm and cleaned up.” - (P5)

The same officer recalled a specific case that illustrated the missed potential of ad-hoc documentation. A suspect, immediately after committing a violent act, spontaneously confessed everything to the officers at the scene. They believed the conversation was being recorded, but the audio equipment was still linked to the patrol car and nothing was saved:

“He admitted to everything- just spilled it all out, right after the incident. We thought it was being recorded, but the audio system was connected to the car, so nothing got saved. Later, once he’d calmed down and talked to a lawyer, the statement changed completely. He ended up in psychiatric care instead of prison. If we’d had a bodycam running at the scene, I think the outcome would have been very different.” - (P5)

This reflection underscores the evidentiary value of BWC recordings made at the scene. Whether the subject is a victim, suspect, or witness, capturing behavior and expression in the immediate aftermath of an incident offers a more realistic and authentic representation than retrospective descriptions or courtroom testimony. However, the use of BWCs in this flexible way also depends on user initiative and situational judgment. The decision to activate the camera informally is not always guided by strict protocols, which may lead to variation in practice. For this reason, some participants emphasized the importance of ensuring that officers have clear support for using BWCs outside of narrowly defined procedures, when appropriate. In summary, the ability to use BWCs for ad-hoc documentation was widely seen as a practical

and valuable function. It allows officers to capture and preserve events as they occur, especially in cases where written documentation is delayed or difficult. This function enhances everyday operational efficiency and contributes to a more complete and trustworthy record of police–citizen interactions.

4.2.5 Surveillance Coverage Limitations

While BWC provide a valuable visual record of events, several informants emphasized that the technology’s coverage is inherently limited. The position of the camera, typically mounted on the officer’s chest, restricts its field of view and often fails to capture the full context of an encounter. This limitation may lead to gaps in documentation and misinterpretations when footage is used in reviews, complaints, or legal proceedings.

One participant explained how the physical placement of the camera results in a recording perspective that does not align with what the officer actually sees:

“Of course, the bodycam is naturally limited in terms of view when it is mounted on the chest, for example, it’s not at eye level.” -(P4)

This misalignment means that what is visible to the officer in real-time may not appear in the recorded footage. In dynamic situations involving multiple actors or fast movements, critical details may occur outside the camera’s field of view. As one legal expert noted:

“You have to be aware of what it sees, what it actually says something about [...] it’s not the police officer’s gaze.” -(P3)

Another participant elaborated on the potential implications of this limitation:

“You have to be aware that the camera doesn’t necessarily capture everything, there can be angles, blind spots, or simply that what’s important happens outside the frame.” -(P7)

These perspectives underscore the need for caution when interpreting BWC recordings as definitive accounts of what occurred. While the camera may capture key moments, it cannot be assumed to represent the full reality of the situation. This is particularly important in post-incident reviews or court proceedings, where visual evidence may be given significant weight. In summary, the limited surveillance coverage of BWCs presents a challenge to their perceived objectivity. While the technology can enhance transparency and accountability, its field of view and fixed chest-mounted position inherently restrict what it can show. Policymakers, investigators, and legal practitioners must therefore approach bodycam footage with an understanding of its physical and practical constraints.

4.3 Findings from the Regulatory Aspect

The regulatory dimension of BWC implementation in Norway emerged as a complex and somewhat ambiguous area in the interviews. Since there is currently no formal legal framework specifically regulating the use of BWC in Norwegian policing, many participants found it difficult to provide concrete or confident responses regarding legal compliance, responsibilities, or operational procedures. Although the Norwegian Data Protection Authority (Datatilsynet) maintains a webpage with general information about BWC use, there are no codified laws or binding national regulations detailing how BWC should be used, stored, or governed in practice. This lack of legal clarity was particularly evident among participants without legal expertise, including law enforcement professionals who expressed uncertainty around data handling, citizens' rights, and procedural limitations.

However, two participants were able to provide substantial and well-grounded insights: a representative from The Norwegian Data Protection Authority, and a legal professional with experience in Norwegian criminal law. These two interviewees offered key perspectives on the existing regulatory and emphasized the importance of developing a comprehensive legal framework prior to implementation. Their contributions highlighted the critical need for clear operational guidelines, lawful processing of video data, proper definition of individual rights, and a well-defined role for independent oversight bodies. Six subthemes were identified through thematic analysis: (1) privacy protection, (2) operational guidelines, (3) legal basis, (4) individual rights, (5) use of third-party data, and (6) the role of the Special Investigations Unit (Spesialenheten for politisaker). These categories reflect the primary areas of regulatory concern and will be explored in detail in the following sections. Table 12 shows how frequently each subtheme was mentioned, and how many participants contributed reflections to each, illustrating which legal and procedural topics were most salient across the interviews.

Table 12: Overview of subthemes within regulatory aspect

Regulatory Aspects Subthemes		
Subtheme	Total Mentions	Participants Mentioning
Privacy Protection	12	6
Operational Guidelines	7	5
Legal Basis	6	5
Individual Rights	5	4
Use of Third-Party Data	4	3
Role of the Special Investigations Unit	2	2

4.3.1 Privacy Protection

Privacy protection was a central concern raised by all participants, though it was particularly emphasized by those with legal and regulatory expertise. Informants highlighted that the use of BWC in policing introduces complex questions regarding the lawful processing of personal data, especially when third parties are inadvertently recorded during operations. Legal experts

pointed out that any implementation must align not only with GDPR principles, but more specifically with Norway's Police Records Act, which regulates all data processing carried out by law enforcement agencies.

One legal scholar made clear that the introduction of BWCs must be accompanied by clear and enforceable guidelines to ensure privacy rights are respected:

“The key issue is personal data protection. If there is a lack of clear guidelines, the camera might be turned on when it benefits the police and off when it does not.” - (P3)

Rather than allowing discretionary activation, the participant emphasized the importance of standardized criteria for recording to avoid biased or incomplete documentation. Furthermore, P3 advocated for strong internal control mechanisms:

“Logging and security audits are crucial to ensure the system is used as intended. Not just to prevent data breaches, but to monitor that the use is legitimate.” - (P3)

The Data Protection Authority representative echoed these concerns, stressing the sensitivity of capturing data from a range of individuals, including bystanders, victims, and minors, especially in vulnerable contexts like domestic violence or mental health crises:

“One of our major concerns is that large volumes of material may be collected on individuals who were never meant to be registered, especially children.” - (P7)

He also warned against the chilling effect that pervasive surveillance could have in public spaces, noting the risk of individuals refraining from participating in demonstrations due to fear of being recorded:

“In demonstrations, people might hesitate to participate simply because they know they're being filmed. We haven't documented this in Norway, but there are indications.” - (P7)

To mitigate privacy risks, some participants proposed post-processing techniques such as blurring or anonymization of non-relevant individuals in recorded footage. One legal expert supported this approach:

“Those who should be protected, who are not central to the incident, could be anonymized afterwards. That's better than selective recording.” - (P3)

There was a shared understanding that the promise of BWCs in improving accountability and transparency must not come at the cost of individual privacy. Strong legal safeguards, technical infrastructure, and routine oversight were deemed essential to strike this balance.

4.3.2 Operational Guidelines

The implementation of BWC in policing raises important questions about the operational procedures that should govern their use. Participants agreed that without clear, detailed, and enforceable operational guidelines, the technology could lead to inconsistent practices, legal uncertainty, or even misuse. The need for predictability in how and when cameras are activated, who controls access, and how footage is processed, was viewed as essential to safeguard both legal integrity and public trust.

A recurring concern was the potential for selective use of the cameras, which could undermine both evidentiary value and legitimacy. One legal expert underscored the risk of discretionary recording and stressed the need for objective criteria:

“You cannot leave it up to the individual officer to turn it on when it suits them. There have to be objective criteria for when it should be used.” - (P3)

Similarly, the representative from the Data Protection Authority emphasized that the cameras should not become tools of arbitrary or informal surveillance. Instead, their use must be grounded in legal authority and transparent procedures:

“It’s essential to have a proper legal basis. You can’t just start filming and figure out the rules later.” - (P7)

He also pointed out the importance of limiting the scope of recordings to what is necessary and proportionate, noting that without clear operational parameters, BWCs could infringe on fundamental rights:

“We are not against bodycams in principle, but their use has to be tightly framed, both legally and practically.” - (P7)

Operational clarity was also seen as necessary from a user perspective. Officers in the field noted the ambiguity around when exactly a camera should be turned on, and whether activation should be manual or automatic. One frontline officer reflected on how unclear activation policies might affect officer behavior and consistency:

“We’ve talked about this at work. Should the camera go on when your shift starts? When you’re assigned an incident? Or do you activate it yourself? These are questions we haven’t gotten answers to.” - (P6)

He further highlighted the psychological impact of constant recording and the need to balance oversight with workplace realism:

“You go through some really intense situations in this job, and you need dark humor just to cope. If the camera is always rolling, people might start censoring themselves even in ways that affect team dynamics.” - (P6)

In addition to when and how cameras should be activated, participants also stressed the need for clarity regarding footage review. One legal scholar noted that post-incident review must also follow standardized protocols to prevent retrospective bias:

“If you don’t have consistent guidelines, it becomes too easy to interpret the footage to suit whatever narrative is preferred.” - (P3)

Overall, operational guidelines were seen as the linchpin for ensuring that BWC use aligns with both legal obligations and the realities of frontline police work. Without standardized procedures for activation, review, and oversight, the technology risks producing more uncertainty than clarity.

4.3.3 Legal Basis

The necessity of a solid legal foundation for the use of BWC was emphasized repeatedly by participants with legal or regulatory roles. While there was general support for exploring the technology, experts made clear that any deployment must be underpinned by clear legal authority. Without this, they warned, the use of BWCs could risk violating existing legislation and infringing on individual rights.

The representative from the Data Protection Authority was unequivocal about the legal preconditions:

“It’s completely clear that there must be a legal basis before this can be used more broadly. No doubt about it.” - (P7)

He elaborated that BWCs fall under specific legal regimes in Norway. While many refer to the GDPR, he emphasized that a different set of rules applies to police data:

“The GDPR is important, but what really applies here is the Police Records Act. That regulates all police processing of personal data, including bodycam footage.” - (P7)

He also referred to additional laws relevant to the operational side of BWC usage:

“There are three main laws involved: the Police Records Act for data, the Police Act for methods, and the Criminal Procedure Act when it comes to covert surveillance. Bodycams are not covert, but it still needs to be anchored in law.” - (P7)

Another legal expert echoed this perspective and stressed that legal uncertainty at the implementation stage could jeopardize both legitimacy and effectiveness:

“If there’s ambiguity about the legal framework, you open the door for legal challenges and inconsistent practice. That undermines trust.” - (P3)

Participants involved in the current planning phase of the pilot project acknowledged that the legal dimension is still under development. One project lead stated that this work is ongoing:

“Ensuring a legal basis for BWC use is a precondition for the pilot. It must be in place before testing can begin.” - (P8)

The same participant noted that legal evaluations are included in the pre-project phase, alongside privacy and technical assessments.

While the legal experts agreed that BWCs could be accommodated within Norway’s existing legal framework, they emphasized that this requires deliberate and detailed regulation, not retroactive justifications. As one put it:

“You can’t regulate this with vague guidelines or general intent. The rules have to be specific, binding, and enforceable.” - (P3)

In sum, while participants acknowledged the potential benefits of BWC, they were united in the view that legality must come first. Without a clearly defined and codified legal framework, any deployment would not only be questionable from a rights perspective, but also legally vulnerable.

4.3.4 Individual Rights

The use of BWC not only raises legal questions about authorization but also about the protection of individual rights, especially in terms of access, correction, deletion, and transparency. Participants with legal and regulatory backgrounds stressed that these rights must be clearly addressed in both law and practice to ensure that the use of BWCs does not undermine civil liberties.

One of the most frequently raised concerns related to the right to access, whether and how individuals who are recorded by the police can later view the footage. A legal scholar emphasized that transparency must not be selective:

“There must be systems in place that allow people to exercise their rights, whether it’s to access footage, request deletion, or get information about how their data is used.” - (P3)

The participant noted that this includes the need for routine and technical solutions that allow individuals to request and receive relevant excerpts of footage, without compromising the rights of others or the integrity of investigations. This right, however, must be carefully balanced with considerations of operational secrecy, third-party privacy, and data protection laws.

The representative from the Data Protection Authority pointed out that the right to erasure and rectification becomes complex when video is involved, particularly in cases involving multiple individuals, sensitive incidents, or legal proceedings:

“Video data is different. If someone wants their face removed or the footage deleted, that impacts the evidentiary chain and possibly the rights of others. So these requests can’t be handled in a simple way.” - (P7)

Nevertheless, P7 insisted that the principle of accountability demands that procedures are in place to handle such requests fairly and within legal timelines.

Another issue raised was the right not to be recorded in situations where the individual is not involved in a criminal act, for example, bystanders or victims in sensitive contexts. One informant suggested that anonymization techniques such as face-blurring might be necessary to balance documentation needs with the protection of uninvolved parties:

“You could use anonymization techniques in post-processing to protect people who shouldn’t really be on the footage at all.” - (P3)

Some participants also discussed the broader democratic right to protest without surveillance. Referencing specific community concerns, the data protection representative explained:

“In one case, members of the Iranian exile community in Norway felt unsafe during a protest because they believed they were being filmed, not just by police but possibly by others, too.” - (P7)

This kind of surveillance, even if incidental, may inhibit individuals from exercising their right to free assembly, expression, or participation in public life, illustrating how BWCs, without careful constraints, may unintentionally curtail fundamental freedoms.

In summary, the participants stressed that protecting individual rights in the context of BWCs involves much more than securing data. It requires a proactive rights-based framework for handling footage, including access, correction, deletion, and the minimization of harm to individuals who are not part of an incident. Without these safeguards, the technology risks undermining the very values it is intended to uphold.

4.3.5 Use of Third-Party Data

A critical concern identified by participants was the incidental capture and handling of data concerning third parties, individuals who are not directly involved in the incident being recorded but who nevertheless appear in the footage. This includes bystanders, family members, victims, and even children, particularly in sensitive situations such as domestic violence cases or interventions in private homes.

Participants warned that while BWCs are intended to provide accountability and documentation, they may also unintentionally lead to the collection of significant volumes of personal data from individuals who have done nothing to justify being recorded by law enforcement. The Data Protection Authority expressed strong concern about this:

“Typically, there are three types of people caught on footage: suspects, victims, and third parties. Our concern is that a lot of data will be stored about people who were never supposed to be registered in the first place.” - (P7)

He illustrated this with scenarios such as domestic violence interventions, where vulnerable individuals, including children, may be recorded in their homes:

“In a domestic case, you might film the arrest, injuries, and the environment. That’s highly sensitive, and involves people who should be protected, not documented.” - (P7)

These comments point to the need for clearly defined procedures on what happens to footage involving third parties. One legal expert emphasized that post-processing solutions, such as anonymization, are preferable to relying on selective or discretionary recording:

“Rather than turning the camera off, it makes more sense to anonymize individuals in the footage afterwards, that way the integrity of the event is preserved, while protecting those who weren’t central to it.” - (P3)

Participants also stressed that third-party data must be subject to the same rights and protections as those of suspects or involved individuals. That includes restrictions on how long such data can be stored, who can access it, and under what conditions it can be used in legal or administrative proceedings. Without these safeguards, the unintended exposure of third parties could lead to violations of both domestic and international privacy standards.

The broader ethical concern about function creep, where data collected for one purpose is later used for others, was also raised. Participants warned that without strict control, BWC footage might end up being used for training, media briefings, or other secondary purposes, often involving third parties who never consented to such use. As one informant remarked:

“There’s always a risk that once the footage exists, someone will want to use it for a different purpose, and that’s where the real danger lies for third-party rights.” - (P3)

The participants agreed that while the collection of third-party data is often unavoidable, it must be approached with caution and regulated with the same stringency as primary data. Protecting those who are incidentally recorded is essential to ensure the ethical and lawful use of BWCs.

4.3.6 Role of the Special Investigations’ Unit

The role of Norway’s Special Investigations Unit (Spesialenheten) was highlighted by several participants as a key institutional actor in ensuring accountability in cases where BWC footage might become part of complaints or investigations against police conduct. Participants emphasized that BWCs could potentially strengthen the evidentiary foundation in such cases, but only if access, review, and use of the footage are properly regulated and insulated from conflicts of interest.

One frontline officer pointed out that BWCs could reinforce transparency if they are available to oversight bodies:

“If it becomes a case for the Special Investigations Unit, then the footage will be one of the first things they ask for. It’s part of the documentation that shows what really happened.” - (P4)

Legal experts underscored that this depends entirely on how footage is managed and accessed. One concern raised was whether the police should have unrestricted access to their own recordings prior to external review. A clear separation of roles was seen as crucial for safeguarding procedural fairness:

“There needs to be a system where the footage is handled by someone other than the involved officer. Otherwise, the independence of the evidence is compromised.” - (P1)

This perspective was supported by legal scholars who emphasized that such footage must be verifiable, tamper-proof, and subject to independent control. One legal participant noted:

“If you’re going to rely on the footage in a case against an officer, it must be stored and accessed in a way that ensures no manipulation. Chain of custody matters.” - (P3)

Participants suggested that the Special Investigations Unit should have direct, secured access to relevant footage, without needing to go through internal police structures. This would enhance both real and perceived impartiality in cases involving police conduct. Furthermore, the system should include audit trails to record every time a video is accessed, by whom, and for what reason, especially in cases that may become subject to review or litigation.

There was also discussion about the potential for BWCs to either clarify or complicate such investigations. One expert explained that partial or missing footage can sometimes cast more suspicion than no footage at all:

“If a recording suddenly isn’t available, people will wonder, was it a technical failure, or did someone delete it? That’s why oversight is so important.” - (P3)

In this context, the role of the Special Investigations Unit was seen not only as reactive, responding to complaints, but also as a proactive safeguard in developing the systems and protocols around BWC use. Participants suggested that the Unit could be involved early in the design of access and storage policies to ensure compliance with oversight standards.

In summary, participants agreed that the Special Investigations Unit must be guaranteed full independence and technical access to BWC footage in any case involving police accountability. Without this, the legitimacy and public trust in the system would be significantly weakened.

4.4 Findings from Ethical Aspect

Ethical concerns emerged as a prominent theme throughout the interviews, with many participants reflecting on situations in which the presence of BWC could raise sensitive or morally complex questions. Unlike the regulatory dimension, the ethical implications were more readily accessible to participants, as they often drew on their own practical experiences or hypothetical scenarios. Particularly among police officers, several participants shared concrete examples of vulnerable or emotionally charged interactions with the public, instances where the presence of a recording device might have compromised dignity, trust, or professional discretion. Participants emphasized that while BWCs can contribute to transparency and accountability, their use also introduces ethical dilemmas that must be carefully considered. For instance, questions were raised about whether all interactions should be recorded, how footage could be perceived or misused, and how officers could balance the need for evidence with respect for human dignity. These discussions revealed that the ethical dimension is not just about abstract principles, but closely tied to the lived realities of frontline professionals. Five main subthemes were identified in the data: (1) selective recording, (2) evidentiary challenges and the illusion of objectivity, (3) protection of third parties, (4) the “quick fix” myth surrounding technology-based solutions, and (5) the role of BWCs in defending against false accusations. These subthemes reflect the multifaceted ethical tensions associated with surveillance in sensitive and unpredictable police encounters. Table 13: Overview of subthemes within ethical aspect summarizes the number of mentions and the number of participants who raised each subtheme, offering an overview of the breadth of ethical reflections elicited during the interviews.

Table 13: Overview of subthemes within ethical aspect

Ethical Aspects Subthemes		
Subtheme	Total Mentions	Participants Mentioning
Selective Recording	8	5
Evidentiary Challenges	7	5
Recording in sensitive contexts	5	4
Quick Fix Myth	5	4
Defense Against False Accusations	4	3

4.4.1 Selective Recording

A recurring concern among participants was the risk of selective activation or deactivation of BWC, which could compromise the integrity of the documentation. The lack of clear guidelines may allow officers to subjectively decide when to record, potentially influencing the narrative captured on video.

One participant expressed skepticism toward discretionary camera use:

“It can’t be up to the individual officer to turn it on when it benefits them and off when it doesn’t. There have to be objective criteria.” - (P3)

Concerns were also raised about potential manipulation of perception through partial recordings. In one instance from an English case shared by a participant, the timing of activation was strategically used:

“He told me, ‘Right before I turned the camera on, I provoked the person a bit.’ That way, the footage only showed the civilian reacting aggressively, not the provocation.” - (P2)

This example underscores how selective recording can distort events and reduce the evidentiary reliability of footage. Several participants stressed that for BWCs to serve their intended purpose, the public and the judiciary must trust that recordings are complete and unbiased.

Another informant emphasized the risk of eroding that trust:

“If there’s a perception that officers can just turn the camera off when it suits them, the entire legitimacy of the technology is undermined.” - (P2)

To counter this, participants advocated for standardized activation protocols and technological safeguards. These could include automated triggers or mandatory recording in predefined scenarios, reducing the scope for subjective decisions.

One legal expert noted:

“I would be more in favor of filming as much as possible, and then shielding individuals in post-processing, rather than relying on officers to decide when and what to film.” - (P3)

The emphasis on full, continuous recording where feasible reflects a broader desire for transparency and accountability in police-citizen interactions. Selective recording, in contrast, was viewed as a potential liability that could introduce bias, erode public trust, and weaken legal admissibility.

4.4.2 Evidentiary Challenges

Several participants raised concerns about how BWC footage might be used, or misused, in legal contexts. While video recordings are often perceived as objective truth, multiple informants emphasized that such footage can be misleading or incomplete, especially when taken out of context.

A legal expert noted the challenge of interpreting what a video actually shows:

“It’s often assumed that video is the truth, but it only shows a narrow frame, it can miss critical parts of the event.” - (P3)

Concerns were also raised regarding how footage could be weaponized or misinterpreted in court. Because BWCs capture only the officer’s line of sight and omit peripheral events, their evidentiary value must be assessed cautiously.

One participant elaborated:

“It might be used against officers- like, ‘why didn’t you do X,’ based on what the footage shows. But maybe they didn’t see it in the moment, even if the camera did.” - (P3)

This disconnect between what the camera captures, and the officer’s subjective experience was viewed as a key evidentiary limitation. Participants warned that courts and the public may over-rely on footage as a complete account, without acknowledging its constraints.

Another participant reinforced this concern with a practical suggestion:

“We should have clear guidelines that explain what the footage can and cannot be used to prove. Otherwise, it risks becoming a double-edged sword.” - (P2)

Participants also emphasized the need for consistent procedures to preserve the chain of custody and prevent tampering. If video is to be admissible in court, it must be stored, accessed, and presented in a secure and standardized manner. Without such safeguards, the footage could be challenged or dismissed.

In summary, while BWCs offer potential evidentiary benefits, participants stressed that these depend on proper contextualization, cautious interpretation, and strict handling protocols. Video alone, they argued, should not be treated as infallible evidence.

4.4.3 Recording in Sensitive Contexts

Participants voiced strong ethical concerns about using BWC in highly sensitive or traumatic contexts, such as inside private homes, during mental health crises, incidents of self-harm, or situations involving children. While acknowledging the potential evidentiary benefits, several emphasized that such recordings carry a risk of deep personal intrusion and long-term consequences for those involved.

One police officer reflected on the ethical complexity of recording individuals in psychological crisis:

“When it comes to people with psychiatric issues, they’re patients in my eyes. They often don’t even register the presence of a camera.” - (P6)

P4 went on to suggest that the presence of a camera might not impact the immediate situation, but could shape how others later evaluate the incident, such as medical personnel making crucial decisions:

“I think if the whole incident was recorded, it would affect the doctor's assessment. It's harder to say, ‘he’s not dangerous’ when we’ve just brought someone in for waving a knife around.” - (P6)

This highlights how footage can influence not just legal outcomes but also medical or social services’ responses, raising questions about informed consent and the dignity of those filmed.

Concerns also emerged around the recording of children and family members during police interventions at home. One expert warned:

“In domestic violence cases, you might end up filming not just the perpetrator but also children, partners, people who haven’t consented and who could be retraumatized just by being documented.” - (P7)

Participants emphasized that while full documentation may be necessary for legal or investigative purposes, ethical safeguards must be in place to protect those most at risk of harm from exposure. This includes rigorous anonymization procedures and clear rules about data access, retention, and sharing.

Another participant added:

“Some footage might be legally useful but ethically questionable. Just because something can be recorded doesn’t mean it always should be.” - (P2)

In sum, vulnerable contexts such as private residences, medical emergencies, or interactions involving children, require heightened ethical scrutiny. Participants recommended strict policies and post-processing safeguards to ensure that the use of BWCs does not lead to unintended harm or breach the dignity of those most exposed. The ethical legitimacy of BWC use, they argued, rests not only on transparency, but also on compassion.

4.4.4 Quick Fix Myth

Several participants challenged the notion that BWC offer a simple or immediate solution to the complex challenges faced by police forces. The perception that BWCs will automatically improve transparency, accountability, or public trust was described by multiple informants as an oversimplification a “quick fix myth” that risks diverting attention from deeper, systemic issues. One academic with experience in evaluating police technology was particularly critical:

“There’s this belief that if we just put cameras on officers, all the problems go away. But it’s not that simple, policing is complex, and so is public trust.” - (P2)

Rather than acting as a universal remedy, BWCs were seen by participants as tools that must be carefully implemented within broader ethical, legal, and organizational frameworks. Without such integration, the cameras may create unrealistic expectations among the public, politicians, or police leadership. As another expert emphasized:

“You can’t just throw in cameras and expect everything to improve. It depends entirely on how it’s used, who controls it, and what you want to achieve.” - (P1)

The idea of quick technological fixes was also criticized for deflecting from more meaningful interventions, such as communication training, improved community relations, or structural reforms. A participant with insights into international research warned:

“In England, they thought cameras would stop complaints and improve behavior overnight. But the research shows it’s all over the place. Sometimes it helps, sometimes it doesn’t. There’s no magic effect.” - (P2)

Overreliance on technology, several argued, risks reducing complex societal problems to technical issues. Without clearly defined goals and evaluation criteria, BWCs may serve more as symbolic reassurance than as effective accountability tools.

“I’m very skeptical of initiatives that jump straight to equipment without first defining the actual problem. What are you trying to fix? That has to come first.” - (P1)

In sum, the idea that BWC can provide a quick fix was strongly rejected. Instead, participants emphasized the importance of thoughtful problem analysis, clearly defined goals, and rigorous evaluation before any technology is deployed. Without such a foundation, BWCs risk becoming not a tool for reform, but a distraction from it, more about problem definition in chapter 4.6.

4.4.5 Defense against False Accusations

Several participants pointed to the ethical significance of BWC as a protective tool for police officers who may be subject to false accusations of misconduct or excessive force. In this view, cameras not only safeguard the public, but also serve to ensure fair treatment of officers by providing objective documentation of their actions.

One police officer emphasized how common it is to be filmed by the public, often selectively, and how BWCs could provide a necessary counterbalance:

“People pull out their phones and film all the time, but only from one angle. Then it’s all-over social media before anyone knows what actually happened. A bodycam gives our side of the story.” - (P6)

This comment highlights the asymmetry between public recordings and official documentation, which can place officers in a vulnerable position if only fragments of an encounter are shared or interpreted without context. The use of BWCs was seen as a way to restore balance and provide evidentiary protection. Another informant with a legal background supported this perspective:

“In difficult situations, officers can be misrepresented. A bodycam can protect against that by showing the full context.” - (P1)

This was especially relevant in emotionally charged or complex incidents where public perception can diverge from legal realities. Several participants also noted that, without clear documentation, it can be difficult for internal investigators or oversight bodies to verify claims made against officers. One participant stated:

“If we expect transparency from the police, we should also give them the tools to prove they acted properly. Otherwise, they’re left defenseless in a trial by media.” - (P2)

From an ethical standpoint, the ability to defend oneself against unfounded allegations was viewed not as a form of self-protection in opposition to accountability, but as an essential element of fairness, ensuring that officers are not condemned based on incomplete or biased portrayals of their conduct. In sum, participants viewed BWCs as ethically justified not only in their role of holding officers accountable, but also in their ability to protect police personnel from undue suspicion or reputational harm. Transparency, they argued, must be mutual, and BWCs can serve that dual purpose if implemented with integrity.

4.5 Findings from the Cognitive Aspect

The cognitive implications of BWC were a particularly rich area of discussion in the interviews, especially among police officers. Many of the participants from law enforcement roles were able to reflect on how BWC might affect their own behavior, mental focus, and interpersonal interactions. These reflections were often grounded in their professional experience and occasionally supported by references to international research and case examples. Several officers shared concrete thoughts on how being recorded might alter their decision-making in high-pressure situations, their emotional state, or the way they manage dynamic interactions with the public. While some believed the presence of a camera could promote more professional conduct or serve as a tool for learning and reflection, others expressed concern that it might increase stress or reduce spontaneity in situations that require quick judgment. Participants also explored how BWC might impact the behavior and trust of the public, including whether citizens would feel safer or more guarded during encounters with police. Five central subthemes emerged through thematic analysis: (1) behavioral changes among police officers, (2) behavioral changes among the public, (3) stress and sensory distortion, (4) learning and reflection, and (5) trust relationship. These themes offer insight into the potential psychological and interpersonal shifts that BWC could produce in both routine and high-stakes interactions. Table 14 summarizes how often each subtheme was mentioned, and how many participants reflected on each topic, providing an overview of the perceived cognitive dimensions of BWC use.

Table 14: Overview of subthemes within Cognitive aspect

Cognitive Aspects Subthemes		
Subtheme	Total Mentions	Participants Mentioning
Behavioral Changes (Police)	9	6
Behavioral Changes (Public)	7	5
Stress and Sensory Distortion	6	4
Learning and Reflection	6	5
Trust Relationship	6	5

4.5.1 Behavioral Changes (Police)

Several participants reflected on how BWC could alter police officers' behavior, both positively and negatively. The presence of a recording device was seen as a potential motivator for more professional conduct, but also as a source of inhibition or strategic self-awareness in high-pressure situations. One participant with a background in police education noted:

“When you know you're being recorded, it could change how you act. Some officers become more formal, more conscious of tone and posture, sometimes too much.” - (P2)

This shift was seen by some as a form of “performance,” where officers adjust their behavior not only for operational reasons, but for the imagined future audience, colleagues, supervisors, the media, or a courtroom.

“It can feel like you’re performing for the camera. That’s fine when things go well, but under stress, that awareness can become distracting.” - (P6)

Several officers described feeling torn between acting naturally and being overly cautious, which could slow down their decision-making or make interactions feel less authentic. However, most agreed that the behavioral shift could still have beneficial outcomes in terms of professionalism and restraint.

“It might actually help some people think twice before they raise their voice or use force too quickly.” - (P5)

The camera’s influence was not described as uniformly positive or negative, but context-dependent. While some officers might adopt more measured communication, others might become overly self-conscious or hesitate at crucial moments. One participant summarized:

“It encourages better behavior, sure, but it can also create pressure to do things ‘by the book’ in situations that are anything but textbook.” - (P4)

In sum, BWCs were seen as a double-edged cognitive influence on police behavior: fostering accountability and caution, but also introducing performance pressure that could affect spontaneity and situational responsiveness.

4.5.2 Behavioral Changes (Public)

Several participants described how the presence of BWC may influence the behavior of the public during interactions with police. The camera was seen both as a de-escalation tool and a source of tension, depending on the situation, the individual, and their awareness of being recorded.

One participant, who has studied interactions between police and civilians, explained:

“There’s this hypothesis called the ‘civilizing effect’, that people act more calmly when they know they’re on camera. But that only works if they’re aware of the camera, and if they care.” - (P2)

Many participants echoed the idea that BWCs can have a positive behavioral influence on civilians, particularly in routine or moderately tense encounters, by increasing the perceived consequences of aggression or dishonesty.

“I think some people will absolutely think twice before they raise their voice or threaten an officer if they know it’s being filmed.” - (P6)

However, several participants also warned that the effect is not universal. In emotionally charged situations, or with individuals under the influence of drugs or experiencing mental health crises, the camera may have little to no impact, or even a negative one.

“If someone is intoxicated or in crisis, they might not even register the camera. It won’t change anything in those moments.” - (P5)

Others noted that for some members of the public, especially those who already mistrust the police, the presence of a camera could escalate anxiety or fear.

“Some people see the camera and immediately feel threatened, like it’s surveillance, not protection. Especially in marginalized communities.” - (P2)

One informant expressed concern about symbolic overreliance on the device:

“The camera might deter some behavior, yes, but we shouldn’t think it changes the dynamics of trust, fear, or social tension on its own.” - (P1)

In summary, while BWCs may encourage more cooperative behavior among segments of the public, their cognitive and emotional impact is uneven and context-sensitive. Participants highlighted that relying solely on cameras to change public behavior risks overlooking deeper issues of trust, communication, and social vulnerability.

4.5.3 Stress and Sensory Distortion

Participants emphasized that real-time police work often unfolds under conditions of intense stress, where perception and cognition are significantly affected. In such scenarios, the additional task of operating or responding to a BWC may clash with the natural limits of attention and situational awareness.

One officer described the cognitive and physiological impact of high-pressure situations:

“You have to make a decision in just a few seconds, and there’s not always time to stop and analyze everything.” - (P6)

This notion was further developed in relation to courtroom evaluation. While video recordings offer clarity after the fact, participants warned against judging actions with hindsight that ignores the effects of acute stress:

“Playing back a video in a calm courtroom isn’t the same as being there, flooded with adrenaline, pressure, and chaos. The human factor gets lost.” - (P5)

Several participants expressed concern that reliance on BWC footage in legal settings might lead to unfair expectations about officer performance:

“There’s a risk that we judge officers as if they had perfect clarity in the moment, when in fact, stress narrows your perception. You miss things. That’s just human.” - (P1)

Some also pointed out the ethical implications of such misunderstandings:

“If a situation escalates and someone forgot to turn the camera on, suddenly that becomes suspicious, when in fact, it might just be because the officer was trying to stay safe.” - (P6)

In summary, participants underscored the importance of understanding the cognitive impact of stress on both behavior and memory. They argued that this must be taken into account when designing procedures for BWC activation and when interpreting footage in disciplinary or legal contexts. The camera might record the event, but it does not capture the internal experience of the officer navigating it.

4.5.4 Learning and Reflection

Several participants reflected on the potential of BWC to support learning, feedback, and reflection within both policing practice and education. While currently not in use in this way in Norway, many described how BWCs *could* become valuable tools for developing decision-making, communication, and situational awareness. One participant with experience in police education suggested:

“If officers were able to review footage of their own performance, it might help them gain insight, especially into how they communicated or responded under stress.” - (P2)

Participants imagined that such recordings could supplement traditional debriefs by providing a more objective and detailed basis for analysis. Unlike verbal reflection alone, video might allow officers to observe subtle behaviors or dynamics they had not noticed during the event. Another participant proposed that footage could support broader learning efforts:

“If we collected anonymized material over time, it could be used for training and research. We might identify common patterns, both in what works and what tends to go wrong.” - (P1)

Although participants emphasized the hypothetical nature of these benefits, there was strong agreement that BWCs could serve as tools for institutional learning, particularly if used constructively and not merely for disciplinary review.

Several also discussed the psychological implications of using video for reflection. While BWCs might help clarify events after the fact, participants noted that this could create tension between what an officer remembers and what the footage shows.

“You might remember the situation one way, but then the video shows something else. That could feel like your memory is being overwritten.” - (P6)

Others pointed out that in high-stress situations, attention is often narrowed, and certain cues may go unnoticed:

“The camera sees everything, but your brain doesn’t. If you were focused on a threat, you might miss what someone said or did nearby.” - (P5)

This divergence between recorded and remembered experience was seen not as a flaw, but as an opportunity for reflection, especially in understanding how attention, stress, and perception shape decisions in the field.

“It could help officers realize what they focus on during pressure, and how that affects their choices. That awareness would be valuable.” - (P5)

Still, participants stressed that the pedagogical value of BWC footage depends entirely on its context of use. If recordings are only shown in disciplinary settings, they may foster fear rather than learning:

“If the only time you see the footage is when you’re in trouble, it becomes a threat, not a learning tool.” - (P6)

In contrast, using video to highlight good practice or encourage team-based reflection was seen as a more motivating and sustainable approach:

“It would be smart to show examples of things that went well, not just what failed. That builds a culture of improvement.” - (P5)

In summary, participants described the potential of BWCs to support learning and reflection, even though such use is not yet established in practice. If implemented with care, and grounded in a supportive learning culture, BWCs could contribute to greater self-awareness, improved decision-making, and more robust institutional knowledge about policing under pressure.

4.5.5 Trust Relationship

Several participants discussed the impact of BWC on the trust relationship between police officers and the public. While BWCs were often seen as a tool to increase transparency and accountability, there were concerns about how their use might influence the delicate balance of trust that exists between law enforcement and citizens.

One participant with a legal background noted that BWCs have the potential to both strengthen and undermine trust:

“On one hand, it’s about transparency, people know they are being recorded, so there’s an element of accountability. But on the other hand, if people feel like they’re constantly being watched, that can erode trust.” - (P3)

This participant emphasized the dual nature of the camera’s role: while it could reassure the public in some instances, it might also foster a sense of surveillance, potentially heightening feelings of discomfort or suspicion among citizens.

Another informant reflected on how public perception of police might shift with the widespread use of BWCs:

“If the public sees that police officers are consistently being recorded, it could either foster a greater sense of fairness or create a feeling of distrust if it feels like the police are always ‘watching’ people.” - (P2)

While BWCs may increase public confidence in the police by providing tangible evidence of officers’ actions, some participants warned that excessive surveillance could reverse this effect. They highlighted that surveillance is often associated with control, which may lead to a perception of authority figures monitoring citizens in a way that could undermine trust.

One officer pointed out that, in certain situations, the presence of a camera could also shift how people interact with the police:

“When people know they are being recorded, they can become more guarded or defensive, which can make communication more difficult. It changes the dynamic.” - (P6)

While BWCs could improve accountability in interactions, particularly in sensitive or confrontational situations, participants noted that the effect on trust would depend heavily on how the technology was implemented and perceived by the public.

One participant suggested that officers should be trained not only in the technical use of BWCs but also in how to communicate their purpose to the public:

“Being transparent about why the camera is on, explaining it to citizens, could make a big difference in how they perceive the encounter. It’s about building trust through communication, not just technology.” - (P7)

In summary, while BWCs offer the potential to enhance transparency, participants emphasized that their success in building or maintaining trust is contingent upon careful implementation and open communication. The use of BWCs in police work must be balanced by efforts to

maintain a positive, cooperative relationship with the public, ensuring that the technology does not inadvertently erode the trust it seeks to protect.

4.6 Problem Definition for BWC Evaluation

Although not directly coded as a recurring theme across all interviews, the issue of problem definition emerged with such conceptual importance that it warrants a dedicated analytical section. While most thematic categories: technological, regulatory, cognitive, and ethical, were informed by patterns observed across multiple participants, the challenge of articulating a clear and measurable purpose for BWC was raised in depth by only a few interviewees. Nonetheless, the implications of this issue touch on all other dimensions. For this reason, problem definition is addressed here as a distinct and cross-cutting concern.

4.6.1 Absence of a Clearly Defined Problem

A participant (P1) offered a particularly critical perspective on the current state of BWC discourse in Norway. According to this participant, the primary obstacle to any meaningful evaluation of BWC effectiveness is the lack of a well-defined problem the technology is intended to solve:

“What exactly are we trying to fix? Is it excessive force, declining trust, lack of evidence, or something else entirely?” - (P1)

This participant went further by presenting a detailed, six-step approach to responsible problem definition before implementing BWCs. According to P1, failing to work through these steps risks wasting resources or even worsening the problem:

1. **Define the problem area**

“What exactly are we trying to fix? Is it excessive force, declining trust, lack of evidence, or something else entirely?” - (P1)

2. **Formulate hypotheses**

“Do we believe cameras will reduce use of force? Increase trust? Provide better evidence? These assumptions must be made explicit and tested.” - (P1)

3. **Select measurable outcomes**

“If it’s use of force, we need baseline data: how often is force used, in what forms? Without that, you have no way of measuring change.” - (P1)

4. **Assess relevant context**

“You can’t generalize findings from the U.S. or Sweden and assume it’ll work the same way here. Context matters.” - (P1)

5. **Plan systematic evaluation**

“Not just ask officers how they feel, but track real indicators, like complaints, prosecutions, or de-escalation success rates.” - (P1)

6. Consider alternative solutions

“Could this money be better spent on communication training or de-escalation skills? We have to be honest about opportunity costs.” - (P1)

This structured framework reinforces the idea that BWCs, while potentially valuable, should never be treated as self-evident solutions. Participants called for a critical and context-sensitive approach, one that recognizes BWCs as a single component within a broader effort to improve policing. The participant emphasized that failing to complete these steps risks producing misleading results, inefficient use of resources, and even unintended negative consequences. A central concern raised was that, in the current debate, technology is too often treated as an inherently positive innovation, rather than as an intervention requiring the same analytical rigor as any other policy initiative. The analogy was made to academic research: initiating a study without a research question typically results in disorganized work and a lack of analytical focus. According to this participant, the same principle applies to BWC implementation:

“You can't begin a project like this without a clear problem statement. It's like writing a thesis without a research question, you're going to hit a wall.” - (P1)

4.6.2 Broad Goals, Limited Operational Clarity

Another participant (P8), currently involved in the national BWC pre-pilot project, confirmed that the initiative is still in an early phase, primarily focused on information gathering and project design. When asked about the core challenges BWCs are meant to address, the participant referred to three overarching needs: officer safety, legal documentation, and public trust (more about this in chapter 4.7):

“The mandate outlines several goals: reducing risk in dangerous situations, improving evidentiary quality, and increasing transparency and public confidence.” - (P8)

While these goals are valid and reflect widely discussed motivations for adopting BWCs, they encompass multiple potential problem areas without specifying which should be prioritized, or how each will be measured. This reinforces the concern raised by P1 that without diagnostic clarity, subsequent evaluation becomes methodologically weak or overly reliant on anecdotal impressions. Moreover, the project's current reliance on international literature from countries such as Sweden, Denmark, and the UK underscores the challenge of contextual transfer. As P1 pointed out, research findings from one setting do not necessarily generalize to others:

“You can't generalize findings from the U.S. or Sweden and assume it'll work the same way here. Context matters.” - (P1)

This highlights the need for Norway-specific baseline data, such as the frequency of force use, assault rates against officers, or complaint levels, before any claims about BWC effectiveness can be meaningfully tested.

4.6.3 Why This was not Directly Coded

Unlike themes that were mentioned repeatedly and consistently across the data set, the question of problem definition was addressed substantively by only a subset of participants. For this reason, it did not meet the criteria for thematic saturation or recurrence typically used in qualitative coding. However, its conceptual relevance spans every aspect of BWC implementation, from ethical use to technical functionality, legal justification, and public communication. In this sense, problem definition functions not as a traditional subtheme, but as a foundational analytic lens through which other themes should be interpreted. It serves as a “meta-theme” that challenges assumptions and reframes more surface-level discussions about how and when BWCs should be used. As one participant put it:

“It’s not enough to say ‘bodycams might increase trust.’ That’s a hypothesis, not a conclusion. You have to test that, systematically.” - (P1)

4.7 Current status of BWC Planning in Norway - Insights from the Project Lead

Insight into the current status of BWC implementation was provided by a participant (P8) directly involved in coordinating the national pre-project as mentioned before. This interview offers a rare look into the internal structure, motivations, and operational considerations guiding the Norwegian approach.

4.7.1 Early-Stage Development: The Pre-Project Phase

As of spring 2025, the national BWC initiative is in a pre-project phase led by Oslo Police District. According to P8, the purpose of this phase is to collect information, evaluate international experiences, and produce a project proposal along with strategic documentation to guide a future pilot implementation. The formal testing of BWC in Norway is scheduled to begin in 2026, contingent on outcomes from the pre-project.

“The pre-project is now in an initial stage, focusing on gathering information and developing the project proposal.” - (P8)

This early phase includes both technical and legal assessments, as well as a systematic review of relevant research from comparable jurisdictions such as Sweden, Finland, Iceland, the UK, and Ireland. This effort reflects a deliberate attempt to build a knowledge-based foundation before full-scale deployment is considered.

4.7.2 Identified Goals and Targeted Challenges

The pre-project mandate identifies three primary objectives for exploring BWCs in a Norwegian context: health and safety (HMS), legal documentation, and trust-building. Each of these objectives is framed as a response to perceived needs in frontline policing:

1. **Health and Safety:** BWCs are believed to offer increased protection for officers in high-risk encounters by capturing evidence in real time. This may serve a deterrent function or provide documentation in the event of escalation (P8).
2. **Legal Documentation:** BWCs could improve the quality and objectivity of evidence, which in turn may enhance due process for both officers and civilians. This is expected to reduce misunderstandings or false claims in contentious incidents (P8).
3. **Trust and Transparency:** The potential for BWCs to improve public trust in police actions was cited as a key motivator, particularly in an era where public confidence in law enforcement is increasingly linked to perceived accountability (P8).

“Live documentation can strengthen public trust in police actions and decisions, and promote a better relationship between police and the public.” - (P8)

Although these objectives align with international discourse, they have yet to be narrowed into concrete, measurable hypotheses. As noted in the previous section, this ambiguity raises concerns about whether the initiative has sufficiently defined what problem it is attempting to solve.

4.7.3 Legal and Ethical Considerations in Progress

P8 acknowledged that legal clarity is a prerequisite for pilot implementation. As of the interview date, no formal legal basis for the use of BWCs exists in Norway, and this is considered a central component of the pre-project:

“Legal evaluations are part of the pre-project, and a legal basis must be in place before testing can begin.” - (P8)

Key legal challenges include compliance with Norway’s Police Records Act, alignment with GDPR standards, and procedures for safeguarding personal data. The participant also noted that ethical and privacy-related issues, such as the rights of bystanders and vulnerable individuals, would be addressed during the current phase.

Moreover, unresolved questions remain about which police units will participate in the pilot, how footage will be stored, and how officers and citizens will be informed about recording practices. These open issues highlight the provisional nature of the project.

4.7.4 A Structured, Learning-Oriented Approach

Unlike countries where BWC implementation has been rapid or politically driven, the Norwegian approach appears more deliberative and process-oriented. P8 emphasized the importance of drawing on both international experience, and empirical research in designing a pilot that is suitable for Norwegian legal and cultural conditions.

“The goal is to learn from what has worked well in other countries and to base the Norwegian approach on evidence-based practices.” - (P8)

This cautious strategy reflects an institutional awareness of the complex legal, ethical, and practical implications of BWCs. It also shows a commitment to balancing innovation with accountability and democratic oversight.

In summary, the interview with P8 provides important insight into the status of BWC implementation in Norway. As of 2025, no operational use of BWCs has been approved, and the initiative remains in a planning stage. The stated goals, improving officer safety, enhancing legal documentation, and building public trust, are broadly framed, and their precise definitions remain under development. Legal, technical, and ethical assessments are ongoing, and no final decisions have been made regarding pilot structure or scope. While this cautious approach may delay deployment, it offers an opportunity to avoid some of the pitfalls observed in other jurisdictions by anchoring decisions in evidence, context, and transparent reasoning.

Chapter 5 Discussion

The aim of this chapter is to interpret and analyze the findings of this thesis, and to discuss their implications in relation to the research questions, theoretical framework (SCOT), and relevant literature.

5.1 Comparison of Findings to Previous Literature and Theory

This section aims to compare and discuss the relationship between three key dimensions of the study: existing literature, theoretical frameworks, and empirical findings. Instead of seeing these as separate components, this chapter views them as connected elements that influence and shape each other. Figure 13 illustrates this relationship. It shows how literature, theory, and findings are connected, with each one influencing and being influenced by the others.

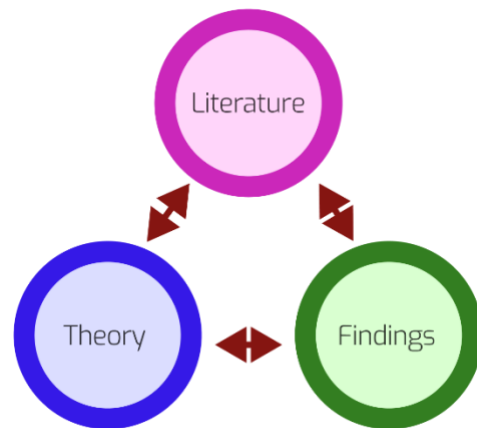


Figure 13: Overview of the relationship between the three key dimensions

5.1.1 Technological Aspects

Many of the technological barriers raised in the interviews reflect concerns in the literature. Several participants questioned the reliability of BWCs in high-stress situations. This was a concern that aligned with findings from previous studies, including Thomsen (2020) and the National Institute of Justice (2022). Similarly, both interview participants and prior research (Jones et al., 2017) pointed out that chest-mounted cameras do not capture a full field of vision, raising concerns that important elements of an incident may be missed or misrepresented in the footage.

However, this study also uncovered new insights that have received limited attention in previous research. During interviews with police officers, the idea of a hybrid activation model for BWC emerged. Some participants suggested that cameras should activate automatically when an officer is dispatched to an incident, thereby ensuring consistent recording from the moment the officer is dispatched. They emphasized the importance of retaining the option for manual activation, especially in situations that arise unexpectedly. This approach was seen to balance operational flexibility with reliability and may represent a context-sensitive innovation not widely explored in the existing literature. Officers reinterpret technology to fit operational realities, as illustrated by the hybrid model. This insight suggests that successful BWC implementation in the Norwegian context will depend not only on technical specifications, but also on how the system aligns with local practices and organizational cultures, which also aligns with the SCOT framework.

The table below (Table 15) provides an overview of the main three activation models for BWC: manual, automatic, and hybrid. Interview participants expressed strong concerns about the practicality of manual activation in real-life policing situations, especially during high-stress encounters where cognitive overload can impair memory and attention. Automatic activation, triggered by events such as drawing a weapon, activating emergency lights, or receiving a dispatch, was seen by many to ensure consistency and reduce reliance on individual discretion. However, some participants voiced reservations about removing officer involvement of camera activation entirely. Instead, a hybrid activation model was proposed, which combines automatic triggers with the ability to manually override or deactivate the camera when contextually appropriate. This model reflects a uniquely pragmatic and trust-based approach to police technology, one that aligns with the values of proportionality and discretion in Norwegian policing.

Table 15: Overview of the main three activation models

Method	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages	Examples
Manual	Officer activates camera manually	Flexibility, full control	Easy to forget under stress	Press button during a tense situation
Automatic	Camera activates based on pre-set triggers	Reliable, removes human error	Less flexibility, may over-record	Triggered by weapon draw, blue lights, gunshot, dispatch
Hybrid	Auto-activation with manual override possible	Balance of control and reliability	Needs clear policies and training	Auto-starts on dispatch, but can be turned off in sensitive cases

5.1.2 Cognitive Aspects

While the previous section addressed technical reliability, the cognitive dimension of BWC use reveals a complementary but distinct set of challenges. Interviews with police officers highlighted how the situational complexity of their work, particularly during unpredictable or high-pressure incidents, places significant strain on mental capacity.

In high pressure moments remembering to activate a camera competes with more immediate demands: verbal communication, situational awareness, and the use of force. What might be labeled as forgetting is better understood as a reflection of the limits of human attention under pressure, not a failure of training or discipline, but a predictable outcome of cognitive overload. These findings resonate with studies on cognitive overload and decision-making under stress (Pezdek et al., 2022), underscoring that even well-trained police officers may struggle to follow procedural steps when attention is divided. This interpretation offers an important corrective to more proceduralist perspectives in the literature, where activation failure is often framed as a policy compliance issue. The participants in this study conceptualized it as a design problem,

one that must be addressed through supportive technological structures. This reflects how technology design is shaped by the interpretations and needs of different social groups, being consistent with the chosen theoretical perspective (SCOT). In this regard, officers did not view automation as a convenience, but as a cognitive safeguard. This emphasizes the human need for systems that reduce mental load during critical moments.

Automation preferences are shaped by the demands of real-life operational stressors. In the Norwegian policing context, where officers are expected to exercise discretion and de-escalation, the ability to remain mentally focused on a situation is an essential skill. Technology that imposes additional procedural burdens in these moments may hinder rather than support effective practice. Where the literature tends to focus on post-incident use of footage, this study contributes by drawing attention to the pre-incident moment. The pre-incident moment is when activation needs to occur, but mental capacity is already stretched. In doing so, it highlights a design gap in existing systems and policies and highlights the value of incorporating cognitive realities into the development of BWC protocols.

5.1.3 Regulatory Aspects

This part delves into the legal and institutional frameworks necessary for the implementation of BWCs in a Norwegian context. A recurring theme in the interviews was the concern over the lack of regulations in the Norwegian context. Norway does not currently have laws specifying how BWCs should be used in the Norwegian police force, under what conditions footage can be stored or deleted, or who has access to it.

Participants also raised concerns about the type of regulation needed and emphasized the importance of designing legal frameworks that are both precise and practically applicable. Both legal experts and the police officers emphasized the need for defined regulations that can be effectively implemented in practice. Ambiguous principles or excessive discretion were seen as problematic, particularly in relation to privacy rights and evidentiary reliability. The findings align with previous studies suggesting that poorly regulated implementation of BWCs can compromise both transparency and legitimacy (Poirier et al., 2024; Phelps and Simensen, 2019).

These diverging expectations reflect how different stakeholders prioritize distinct values. This aligns with the SCOT framework's view that technological design and use are shaped by social group interpretations. For legal authorities, the goal is to ensure privacy, rights protection, and democratic oversight. For police officers, it is equally important that regulation allows for responsiveness and discretion in the field. The future regulatory model should not only define how BWCs are managed but should also reflect how power, trust, and accountability are negotiated among stakeholders. The pre-legal phase reveals institutional uncertainty around responsibility and legitimacy. Few studies in the literature address this phase in depth.

Regulatory concerns raised in the interviews go beyond technical compliance. They touch on foundational issues regarding the role of law in guiding technological adoption, and the balance between centralized oversight and decentralized professional judgment. Effective regulation must be both legally robust and responsive.

5.1.4 Ethical Aspects

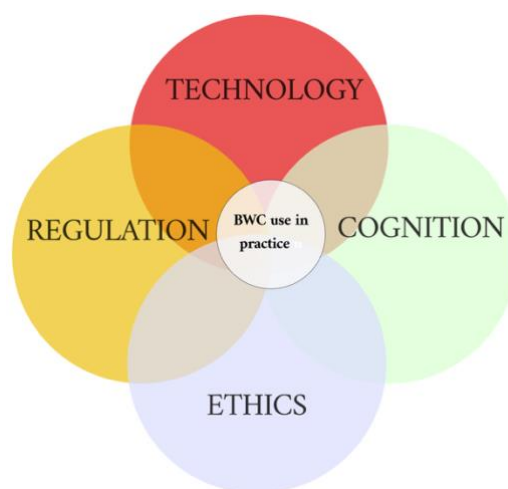
The ethical reflections raised by participants point to concerns centered on human dignity, emotional vulnerability, and the social consequences of surveillance. Ethical considerations address what should be done, particularly in complex or morally uncertain situations.

Some participants expressed concern over how constant recording might affect not only the people they interact with, but also their own behavior and environment. Several described how the constant presence of a camera could inhibit coping mechanisms such as humor or debriefs. These reflections extend beyond privacy law and into the realm of moral psychology, revealing a new understanding of how surveillance affects interpersonal trust, emotional expression, and even team cohesion.

While policymakers may emphasize objectivity and transparency, officers in this study emphasized the human and emotional dimensions of police work. This contrast reflects the SCOT framework, which highlights how social groups interpret technology differently based on their roles and values. They noted that while officers are held accountable through the footage, civilians may be recorded without consent, often in moments of distress, trauma, or vulnerability. Participants recognized this tension and proposed mitigation strategies, such as anonymization or the use of discretion in post-processing, particularly to protect uninvolved third parties. This perspective reflects a shift from rule-based to situational ethics, where the appropriateness of recording is judged by its potential impact on those involved. Rather than relying solely on formal policy, participants called for ethical judgment grounded in empathy, context, and professional responsibility.

5.2 Relationships between Findings

Although the four aspects (technological, cognitive, regulatory, and ethical) have been presented individually, it is evident that they are linked. These aspects frequently overlap and influence one another in practice. The overlap is illustrated Figure 14. Rather than being isolated challenges, they are interconnected and together shape how BWC are perceived. This section explores how these aspects interact, drawing on both empirical insights and the SCOT framework.



5.2.1 Technology and Cognition

The potential interplay between technological design and cognitive demands was a recurring topic in the interviews. Although none of the participants had direct experience using BWCs, several reflected on how such technology might function under operational pressure. Their responses suggested that remembering to manually activate BWCs during high-stress situations could present a significant challenge, due to limited cognitive capacity in moments of stress.

These concerns are consistent with literature on cognitive overload in policing, which shows that officers' attention is often saturated by immediate demands such as communication, situational awareness, or de-escalation (Pezdek et al., 2022; Lum et al., 2020). From this perspective, it may be unrealistic to expect officers to activate recording manually, particularly in complex situations. Empirical studies support this view, demonstrating that attentional demands can interfere with procedural compliance (Jones et al., 2017; Miranda, 2022). The participants framed this as a design issue rather than a procedural one, suggesting that future systems should support, rather than burden human attention. To reduce mental load during critical incidents, many participants proposed automation, specifically trigger-based recording. A trigger-based recording that could be initiated by contextual cues while still allowing for manual control when needed.

Although some acknowledged that automatic activation raises its own questions, this approach was widely seen as a practical cognitive support. A hybrid approach was also discussed in studies on adaptive automation and discretion-preserving systems (Lum et al., 2020; Miranda, 2022). Officers' responses reveal how police officers can shape the perceived value and usability of BWC technology. Officers' expectations are grounded in operational context, not abstract technical ideals. In this case, officers imagined technology not as a top-down tool, but as something that must be adapted to cognitive realities in the field. This reflects the SCOT framework by showing how users shape technology through practical needs.

5.2.2 Regulation and Ethics

The relationship between regulation and ethics emerged as an intersection in the participants' reflections. They often are treated separately like regulation as formal policy and law, while ethics as normative judgment. The interviewees repeatedly emphasized how the absence of clear legal frameworks can complicate or even displace ethical decision-making in practice.

Officers noted that because of the lack of rules on when and how the technology should be used, officers might be left to handle morally complex situations based on their own judgment. This may lead to inconsistent practices and undermine trust in the use of the technology. For example, if there aren't clear procedures for recording in sensitive environments such as domestic violence scenes or mental health crises, officers may feel unsure about whether

recording is appropriate. This ambiguity poses risks to both ethical consistency and public trust. Different groups assign distinct responsibilities to the same technology, depending on their roles and values.

Legal experts may prioritize codified rights and data protection, while police officers focus on the relational and emotional dynamics of real-life encounters. Studies like Miranda (2022) and Rowe et al. (2018) underscore that the misalignment can create conflicting expectations about what responsible BWC use entails. For a BWC system to be both ethically and legally sustainable, regulation must account for these complexities.

5.2.3 Technology and Ethics

The intersection between technological design and ethical considerations was reflected in the interviews. While BWCs are often framed as tools for increasing accountability and operational transparency, several described how the design of the technology itself can carry significant ethical implications. For instance, several participants noted that the inability to easily blur or anonymize third parties in recorded footage could result in privacy violations, particularly for bystanders, victims, or minors who are not directly involved in an incident. The lack of built-in features that preserve privacy creates situations where sensitive personal data might be unnecessarily exposed. From an ethical standpoint, this was described as an unacceptable risk, especially considering data protection norms and the potential emotional impact on those being filmed.

Participants also reflected on how selective recording, whether intentional or not, could lead to biased or incomplete documentation of events. If the technical system allows officers broad discretion without consistent oversight mechanisms, it opens ethical dilemmas around fairness, trust, and the integrity of the recorded material. Ethical risks may arise from system design, not just its use.

All the stakeholders interpreted the same technological functions differently, depending on their concerns about justice, privacy, and operational demands. This shows the need for a design process that includes ethical foresight, not just technical feasibility. Participants proposed ways to mitigate concerns, including establishing clear deletion protocols and embedding ethical guidelines into user training. These suggestions indicate that ethical design must be proactive rather than reactive, anticipating harm and building in protections from the outset. Eventually, ethical safeguards must be viewed as core components of BWC system architecture, not as external additions.

5.2.4 Cognition and Ethics

The connection between cognitive demands and ethical decision making was another important theme that emerged from the interviews. In high-pressure scenarios, where officers must make rapid judgments under stress, the capacity to act ethically may be diminished by cognitive

overload. This challenges the assumption that ethical decisions are purely rational or deliberate, rather, they are also shaped by the psychological and situational pressures.

Frontline officers reflected on how limited cognitive bandwidth can affect not only whether a camera is activated, but also how ethically appropriate decisions are made in the field. For instance, deciding whether to record a vulnerable individual requires emotional sensitivity, and contextual awareness skills that may be impaired during moments of acute stress. In such situations, ethical discretion becomes harder to exercise reliably. This extends the discussion of automation raised earlier. Participants did not call for automation to replace ethical judgment, but rather to support it. It shows how police officers interpret technology based not only on its functionality, but how it affects them psychologically and their morals. High cognitive demands could impair ethical judgment, especially when systems place excessive strain on attention. Ethical policing depends both on individual values and the broader context in which decisions are made.

5.2.5 Regulation and Technology

The relationship between regulatory clarity and technical implementation was also emphasized in the interviews. Without clear legal foundations, even the most advanced systems risk failure. In particular, the absence of national standards for activation, data retention, access rights, and review procedures was seen as a major barrier to responsible and effective BWC use.

This lack of regulatory structure introduces uncertainty into both the design and deployment of BWC systems. Technology developers are left without clear parameters, and officers are left without consistent guidelines. Participants noted that this ambiguity could result in inconsistent system behavior, ethical dilemmas, and reduced public trust. Strong regulatory frameworks might help shape technological systems. For example, if regulation mandates routine logging of access to BWC footage, then systems must include tamper-proof audit trails. If data protection laws require time-limited storage, then automatic deletion functions must be incorporated. Legal requirements influence both the design and deployment of technical systems. Police administrators, legal professionals and data protection authorities have different priorities. Regulation serves as a formalized site where priorities are translated into technical features.

5.3 Intended and Unintended Consequence

This section discusses the consequences of introducing BWCs in Norwegian policing. It draws on empirical findings from interviews and previous research. In addition, it considers how technology is shaped by social and institutional factors, as emphasized in the SCOT framework. The consequences identified in this study fall into two main categories: those that reflect the intended goals of using BWCs, and the unintended consequences. Taken together, they offer a broader understanding of the potential implications of implementing BWCs in Norway.

5.3.1 Intended Consequences

One of the most frequently highlighted expectations of BWCs is their ability to enhance accountability and transparency in policing. This was a recurring theme among the participants and is also supported in the literature (Lum et al., 2019; Davies, 2022). Some participants emphasized that BWC footage could help clarify disputes and reduce the number of complaints against the police. Therefore, the camera could serve as a form of objective documentation, which may increase trust. However, as noted in the interviews, this effect depends on how the footage is interpreted, who has access to it, and whether it is used consistently and fairly. If video is only activated or accessed selectively, its value as an accountability tool may be undermined.

The potential for BWCs to reduce conflict was also highlighted by several participants, particularly those with operational experience. Some officers reflected on how the presence of a camera might influence both police and public behavior during tense interactions. They suggested that knowing one is being recorded could lead to more conscious communication and potentially reduce the likelihood of escalation. This aligns with previous research describing the “civilizing effect” of BWCs, where visibility of surveillance contributes to more measured and deliberate actions (Lum et al., 2019). While participants believed such effects were plausible in the Norwegian context, some also questioned whether these behavioral changes would persist over time or diminish as officers and citizens become more accustomed to being recorded.

Participants with legal and operational backgrounds pointed out that the cameras can capture details that might otherwise be forgotten or misrepresented. This type of documentation was seen as particularly valuable in strengthening witness credibility and increasing the likelihood of plea agreements, potentially reducing the time and resources spent on court proceedings. At the same time, some participants acknowledged the risk of overestimating the objectivity of video, especially when footage does not fully reflect the complexity of a situation or when viewers interpret it through different lenses.

Lastly, the use of BWCs was described as having significant potential for training and professional development. This was particularly relevant in the context of Norwegian policing, which places strong emphasis on discretion, proportionality, and communication. Rather than being limited to disciplinary use, participants saw value in establishing a learning culture where BWC footage could be used to reflect on both good practice and areas for improvement.

5.3.2 Unintended Consequences

The intended effects of BWCs are often framed in positive terms, this study also identified several unintended consequences that may undermine their practical and ethical value. These

consequences were not necessarily due to poor design or bad intentions, but emerged from the complex realities of policing, organizational routines, and human limitations.

A concern in the interviews was the cognitive burden placed on officers during high-stress situations. Several participants described how remembering to manually activate the camera could be difficult in some situations. Rather than framing this as a matter of poor discipline, officers emphasized that such omissions are often the result of cognitive overload. Manual activation might therefore be unreliable and inadvertently increase the risk of procedural failure.

Some participants reported that the constant presence of a camera could inhibit informal coping strategies (humor, debriefing, or emotional release within the team). These informal practices are often essential for maintaining psychological resilience in demanding work environments. The risk is that BWCs may contribute to emotional distancing and reduced team cohesion. These are consequences that are rarely addressed in public debates about transparency and oversight.

Some participants reflected on potential privacy issues, especially in interactions involving vulnerable individuals. Several participants voiced discomfort with filming individuals in vulnerable situations. The potential for recording personal moments without consent raised both ethical and legal concerns. Without clear deletion policies, access restrictions, and anonymization routines, the use of BWCs risks violating individuals' dignity and eroding public trust. Concerns about selective recording and incomplete documentation were also raised by participants. As mentioned in chapter 4.2.5 BWCs are chest-mounted and have a limited field of view, they may fail to capture key contextual elements of an incident. In high-pressure or chaotic situations, critical moments may occur outside the frame or be missed entirely. Several participants mentioned that the footage could be misinterpreted, especially in legal settings where video is often assumed to be objective evidence. This reinforces findings from the literature suggesting that overreliance on partial recordings may distort rather than clarify events (Jones et al., 2017).

The study also revealed that the lack of regulatory clarity in Norway creates uncertainty not only for legal professionals but also for officers in the field. The absence of standardized rules for when to activate, how to store, and who can access BWC footage has led to divergent interpretations and informal workarounds. Rather than ensuring accountability, this legal ambiguity can result in inconsistent practices and weaken both internal legitimacy and public confidence in the system.

5.4 Implications

The implementation of BWCs in Norwegian policing carries implications beyond the immediate use of technology in the field. Drawing on the empirical findings and their intersection with the SCOT framework, this section outlines the broader theoretical, practical, and policy implications of the study.

5.4.1 Theoretical Implications

This study shows that BWCs are not just technical tools but are shaped by the values, expectations, and concerns of different social groups. Using the SCOT framework, it becomes clear that how the technology is understood and used depends on the specific context in which it is introduced.

The findings highlight that successful implementation requires more than just adopting international models. For example, the preference for a hybrid activation system reflects how Norwegian officers value both reliability and the ability to make situational decisions. This suggests that technology must be adapted to local norms rather than simply transferred from one setting to another. BWC footage should also not be seen as purely objective. The technology has limitations in field of view and context, and its use is influenced by stress and human interpretation. This challenges assumptions in the literature that video evidence cannot always offer a full or neutral account of events. The study contributes to a broader understanding of how technology and society shape each other, and why context-sensitive, inclusive approaches are essential when introducing tools like BWCs.

5.4.2 Practical Implications

As earlier mentioned, the findings suggest that for BWC to be effective in Norwegian policing, their design and use must align with the realities of police officers' work. As concluded earlier, manual activation alone is often unreliable in high-stress situations, where officers face cognitive overload. A more practical solution involves automated activation supported by manual control, allowing both consistency and flexibility. It is also essential that the cameras are easy to operate, durable, and ergonomically designed for active duty. Officers are more likely to adopt the technology if it feels like a tool that supports them, rather than a burden or form of surveillance. This means involving end-users in the design and implementation process to ensure the technology fits operational needs.

The cameras may also affect police culture. Some officers worry that constant recording could reduce team cohesion or suppress natural coping mechanisms like humor or informal debriefs. These concerns should be taken seriously, as emotional well-being is essential for sustainable policing. Practical success also depends on secure systems for storing, reviewing, and deleting footage. Clear procedures for access, logging, and data protection are necessary to maintain

trust, both within the organization and among the public. Without reliable technical infrastructure and well-defined routines, the risk of misuse or system failure increases.

5.4.3 Policy Implications

The lack of a clear legal framework for BWC in Norway is a major obstacle to responsible implementation. Participants emphasized the need for precise regulations that define when and how cameras should be used, how data is stored and accessed, and who holds accountability for its management. The policy framework needs to accommodate legal, practical, and ethical demands. While officers require flexibility to handle dynamic situations, there must be clear limits to prevent selective recording or inconsistent practices. Without such structure, the credibility and legitimacy of BWC use may be undermined.

Privacy concerns were particularly central. Policies must include specific protections for vulnerable individuals. This includes routines for anonymization, restricted access, and time-bound data deletion. Regulations should not only react to known risks but anticipate future challenges as technology evolves. Developing robust, forward-looking frameworks will require collaboration between law enforcement, legal experts, privacy advocates, and civil society. Only through inclusive and transparent policymaking can BWCs function as tools that enhance public trust.

5.5 Limitations

This study offers insights into the potential implementation of BWC in the Norwegian policing context where several limitations must be acknowledged.

The sample size was small, consisting of only eight participants. This was not due to a lack of effort in recruitment, but rather a reflection of the limited number of professionals in Norway with relevant expertise on the topic. Several potential participants either declined to participate, did not respond to interview requests, or had to withdraw due to personal or health-related reasons. The circumstances affected the breadth of stakeholder representation in the study. Despite the challenges, steps were taken to maximize the value of the data collected. Considering the reduced number of participants, interviews were conducted in greater depth, allowing for more nuanced and detailed reflections from each stakeholder.

The study is based on a hypothetical context. Since BWC have not yet been implemented in regular Norwegian police practice, participants did not speak from direct experience. Their insights are therefore based on professional judgment, relevant international comparisons, and hypothetical reasoning. This limits the ability to assess actual outcomes or user behavior and situates the study as exploratory.

As with all qualitative research, the analysis is subject to interpretation. The thematic coding process was systematic and reflective, with efforts made to ensure transparency and consistency. However, the possibility of researcher bias cannot be entirely excluded. Taken together, these limitations point to the importance of interpreting the findings as formative rather than conclusive. They offer a foundation for further investigation, particularly as Norway moves toward possible implementation and real-world trials of BWC technology.

5.6 Suggestions for Further Research

First, it is essential to conduct a long-term pilot project involving BWC in Norwegian policing. A practical trial over an extended period would provide empirical data on how the technology functions in real-world conditions and whether it minimizes unintended negative consequences. Such a pilot should include continuous observation and stakeholder feedback to evaluate both operational effectiveness and ethical implications. Future studies should examine the fundamental question of what the primary objectives of BWC implementation are. Is the goal to enhance accountability, increase transparency, improve evidence collection, or all the above? Clarifying the intended outcomes is essential for selecting appropriate technological solutions, regulatory measures, and success criteria.

Sufficient funding should be ensured to support both implementation and evaluation. Resource constraints may limit the ability to train personnel, maintain secure infrastructure, and build systems that meet high standards for data protection and usability. Future research should also include ongoing social impact assessments, examining how BWCs affect police work internally as well as how they are perceived by the public. These evaluations should be iterative and multidisciplinary. Quantitative research is also recommended as a complement to this study's qualitative design. Survey-based studies across multiple police districts could help measure the prevalence of views and concerns.

It is also recommended to invest in secure and transparent data management systems. Research should be directed at developing and evaluating protocols for data storage, access control, and deletion procedures, in compliance with both ethical standards and legal requirements. This could be important in building trust and ensuring that BWCs serve their intended function in a democratic society.

Chapter 6 Conclusion

The goal of this thesis was to explore the potential consequences of implementing BWC in Norwegian policing. This study provided a contextual analysis that draw on international experiences, relevant literature, and stakeholder perspectives to envision what outcomes could arise if BWCs were to be adopted within a Norwegian framework. One of the key findings is that the consequences of introducing BWCs cannot be fully predicted in advance, particularly in a country where the technology has not been used systematically. The research question for this study was:

What consequences may the use of body-worn cameras entail for the Norwegian police?

The study identified both intended and unintended consequences that BWCs may entail for the Norwegian police. Intended consequences refer to the expected or desired effects of implementation. The importance of unintended consequences was also acknowledged, outcomes that are not planned or desired, but which may emerge as the technology is integrated into everyday police work.

In addition, there are ethical and legal concerns related to privacy, particularly in situations involving vulnerable individuals or sensitive environments. The analysis shows that the effects of BWCs are highly dependent on how the technology is introduced, regulated, and perceived. Lessons from other countries are valuable, but they cannot be applied directly to the Norwegian context without adjustment. Norway's policing model is based on high levels of public trust, a strong focus on de-escalation, and strict privacy protections. These characteristics mean that the expectations and effects of BWCs could differ significantly from those seen in countries with more adversarial police-public relations or different legal standards.

For this reason, the study emphasizes that if BWCs are to be introduced in Norway, it must happen in a systematic and planned manner. Clear national guidelines would be necessary to ensure consistent use, safeguard privacy, and define the purpose of the technology. This includes specifying when cameras should be activated, how data should be stored and accessed, and who is responsible for oversight. The implementation process should include regular evaluation, opportunities for public and internal feedback, and continuous ethical reflection.

This thesis does not make a recommendation for or against the use of BWCs in Norwegian policing. Instead, it highlights the complexity of the issue and the need for a context-sensitive approach. Any decision to implement BWCs in Norway must therefore be grounded in a clear understanding of national values, legal standards, and institutional norms, rather than assumptions based on foreign models. This conclusion serves as a starting point for a broader and more informed public discussion about the role of surveillance technologies in Norwegian policing.

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Chapter 8 Appendix

Appendix A - Participant consent form (In Norwegian)

Samtykkeskjema

Deltakelse i forskningsprosjektet: *Bruken av kroppskamera i politienheten i Norge.*

Du inviteres til å delta i et forskningsprosjekt som er en del av en masteroppgave ved Universitetet i Agder. Formålet med prosjektet er å utforske bruken av kroppskamera i den norske politienheten, inkludert fordeler, utfordringer og samfunnseffekter.

Formål:

Formålet med denne masteroppgaven er å undersøke bruken av kroppskamera i den norske politienheten. Gjennom intervjuer og analyse av eksisterende data søker oppgaven å belyse hvordan kroppskamera påvirker politiarbeid, inkludert deres potensial til å øke transparens, ansvarlighet og tillit mellom politiet og samfunnet. Oppgaven vil også vurdere utfordringer som personvern, kostnader og teknologiske begrensninger for å bidra til en bedre forståelse av kroppskameraets rolle i politiets arbeid i Norge.

Hvem er ansvarlig for forskningsprosjektet?

Universitetet i Agder, Fakultet for samfunnsvitenskap / Institutt for informasjonssystemer er ansvarlig for prosjektet.

Hva innebærer deltakelse?

- Du vil delta i et intervju som varer ca. 30–45 minutter.
- Intervjuet vil handle om dine erfaringer og synspunkter på kroppskamera.
- Intervjuet vil bli lydopptatt med diktafon for nøyaktig transkripsjon.
- Lydopptakene slettes umiddelbart etter at de er transkribert.

Personvern og datasikkerhet

- Alle opplysninger behandles konfidensielt i masteroppgaven.
- Kun relevante sitater fra transkripsjonene vil bli inkludert i den endelige oppgaven, og disse vil være anonymiserte for lesere.
- Intervjuene tas opp med diktafon og slettes umiddelbart etter transkribering.
- Dataene oppbevares sikkert og slettes når prosjektet avsluttes (04.06.2025).
- Oppgaven vil bli skrevet på engelsk og publisert, men ingen opplysninger som kan identifisere deltakerne vil bli inkludert.

- Dine rettigheter under GDPR inkluderer:
 - Innsyn i hvilke opplysninger som lagres.
 - Mulighet til å få data slettet når som helst.

Frivillig deltakelse

- Deltakelse er frivillig, og du kan når som helst trekke deg uten å oppgi grunn.
- Ved tilbaketrekking slettes alle opplysninger som kan knyttes til deg.

Kontaktinformasjon:

Hvis du har spørsmål til studien, eller ønsker å vite mer om eller benytte deg av dine rettigheter, ta kontakt med:

Universitetet i Agder, Fakultet for samfunnsvitenskap / Institutt for informasjonssystemer med:

- Veileder: Terje Gjøsæter, terje.gjosater@uia.no
- Veileder: Jaziar Radianti, jaziar.radianti@uia.no
- Student: Ardiana Dervishi, ardianad@uia.no
- Student: Mariam Keith Morjan, mariamgm@uia.no

Vårt personvernombud: Trond Hauso, Personvernombud@uia.no

Hvis du har spørsmål knyttet til Sikt sin vurdering av prosjektet, kan du ta kontakt på epost: personverntjenester@sikt.no, eller på telefon: 73 98 40 40.

Samtykkeerklæring

Jeg har mottatt og forstått informasjon om forskningsprosjektet *Kroppskamera i politienheten i Norge* og samtykker til:

- Å delta i intervjuet.
- At opplysningene mine behandles frem til prosjektets slutt (04.06.2025).

Med vennlig hilsen

Terje Gjøsæter

(Forsker/veileder)

Jaziar Radianti

(Forsker/veileder)

Ardiana Dervishi

(Student)

Mariam Keith Morjan

(Student)

Samtykkeerklæring

Jeg har mottatt og forstått informasjon om prosjektet *Bruken av kroppskamera i politienheten i Norge*, og fått anledning til å stille spørsmål. Jeg samtykker til:

☐ Å delta i intervju

Jeg samtykker til at mine opplysninger behandles frem til prosjektet er avsluttet

(Signert av intervjuobjekt, dato)

Appendix B - Interview guide (In Norwegian)

B1) Researchers

Bakgrunn:

Hva er din forskningsbakgrunn, og hvordan er det relatert til kroppskameraer i politiarbeidet?

Har du vært involvert i forskning på kroppskameraer i Norge?

Forskningens funn:

Hva er de viktigste funnene fra norsk og internasjonal forskning om kroppskameraer?

Hvilke utfordringer knytter seg til å trekke generelle konklusjoner fra slike studier?

Etikk og samfunn:

Hvilke etiske spørsmål ser du som mest presserende i debatten om kroppskameraer?

Hvordan mener du at teknologien påvirker tilliten mellom politi og samfunn?

Juridiske og teknologiske betraktninger:

Hvilke juridiske rammeverk bør være på plass for å regulere kroppskameraer?

Hva er potensielle teknologiske løsninger på eksisterende utfordringer?

Fremtidsutsikter:

Hva bør være fokusområdene for videre forskning på dette feltet?

B2) Employees in the Norwegian police unit (administrative/personnel perspective)

Innledning:

Hva er din rolle innen politienheten?

Har du erfaring med prosjekter eller diskusjoner knyttet til kroppskameraer?

Institusjonelle vurderinger:

Hva ser du som de største fordelene og utfordringene ved å implementere kroppskameraer?

Hvordan vil du vurdere kostnader og ressursbehov ved en slik implementering?

Regulering og retningslinjer:

Hvilke retningslinjer mener du er nødvendige for å sikre ansvarlig bruk av kroppskameraer?

Hvordan kan politienheten håndtere lagring, tilgang og bruk av opptak?

Erfaringer fra pilotprosjekter:

Hva har dere lært fra tidligere pilotprosjekter som kan informere fremtidig bruk av kroppskameraer?

Visjon:

Hvordan ser du for deg kroppskameraenes rolle i politiets arbeid de neste ti årene?

B3) Police officers out in the field.**Introduksjon:**

Kan du beskrive din rolle i politienheten?

Har du tidligere erfaring med bruk av kroppskameraer?

Bruk og opplevelser:

Hvordan tror du kroppskamera kan påvirke samspillet mellom politiet og publikum?

Har du opplevd situasjoner hvor kroppskamera kunne vært nyttig? Kan du dele eksempler?

Utfordringer:

Hvilke tekniske eller praktiske utfordringer ser du ved bruk av kroppskameraer?

Er du bekymret for hvordan dataene fra kameraene lagres eller brukes?

Etikk og personvern:

Hva er dine tanker om hvordan kroppskamera påvirker personvernet til de involverte?

Hvordan kan politibetjenter balanseres mellom åpenhet og personvern?

Anbefalinger:

Hva mener du bør være de viktigste prioriteringene for å implementere kroppskameraer effektivt?

B4) Professionals involved in legal proceedings.**Introduksjon:**

Kan du fortelle litt om din bakgrunn og hvilke typer saker du ofte jobber med?

Har du erfaring med saker der videoopptak (fra kroppskameraer eller andre kilder) har spilt en viktig rolle?

Juridiske vurderinger:

Hva er din oppfatning av bruk av kroppskameraer i politiarbeid fra et juridisk perspektiv?

Hvordan kan videoopptak fra kroppskameraer påvirke bevisføringen i rettssaker?

Rettsikkerhet:

Hvordan kan kroppskameraer bidra til å styrke rettsikkerheten for både fornærmede og tiltalte?

Ser du noen risiko for at kroppskameraer kan brukes på måter som utfordrer rettsikkerheten?

Etiske problemstillinger:

Hva er dine tanker om balansen mellom dokumentasjon og personvern når det gjelder kroppskameraer?

Er det situasjoner der du mener kroppskameraer ikke bør brukes? Hvorfor?

Praktiske implikasjoner:

Hva tenker du om lagring og tilgang til opptak fra kroppskameraer? Hvilke juridiske rammeverk bør være på plass?

Hvordan kan advokater sikre at opptak blir behandlet rettferdig og ansvarlig i rettslige prosesser?

Perspektiver på implementering:

Hvilke fordeler ser du ved å innføre kroppskameraer i norsk politi?

Hvilke utfordringer tror du må løses for at implementeringen skal være vellykket?

Fremtidige anbefalinger:

Hva mener du bør være fokusområder for lovgivere, politiet og rettssystemet i diskusjonen om kroppskameraer?

Har du forslag til retningslinjer eller prosedyrer for å sikre riktig bruk av kroppskameraer?

B5) Professionals in Data Regulations

Innledning

Kan du kort fortelle om din bakgrunn og rolle i Datatilsynet?

Hva slags erfaring har du med vurdering av nye teknologier i offentlig sektor, spesielt i tilknytning til politi og overvåkning?

Overordnede vurderinger

Hvordan ser Datatilsynet generelt på politiets potensielle bruk av kroppskameraer i Norge?

Hvilke hovedfordeler og hovedutfordringer ser dere, særlig fra et personvernperspektiv?

Regelverk og juridiske rammer

Finnes det per i dag noe etablert regelverk i Norge som regulerer bruk av kroppskamera i politiet? Spesielt når et kamera skal aktiveres.

Hvis nei - hva mener Datatilsynet må være på plass av regelverk før en eventuell implementering?

Hvilke deler av GDPR og personopplysningsloven er spesielt relevante i denne konteksten?

Hvordan bør man håndtere informert samtykke, varsling og rett til innsyn i opptak fra kroppskameraer?

Hva tenker dere om behovet for klare grenser for når og hvor det er lov å aktivere kameraet?

Teknologi, databehandling og kontroll

Hvilke krav bør stilles til hvordan opptak fra kroppskameraer lagres, slettes og beskyttes?

Hva bør politiet tenke på når det gjelder tilgangskontroll - hvem skal kunne se opptakene, og når?

Hvem skal ha ansvar for å starte opptak, og hvordan bør dette systemet settes opp for å sikre etterlevelse og tillit?

Hvordan bør styringen av systemet organiseres - altså hvem kontrollerer lagring, sletting og tilgang til opptakene?

Er det krav eller anbefalinger fra Datatilsynet når det gjelder teknologi som kryptering, logging og datasikkerhet?

Etiske og samfunnsmessige hensyn

Hvordan vurderer dere risikoen for at kroppskameraer kan føre til overvåkning eller endret atferd i befolkningen?

Hvordan ser dere på situasjoner hvor politiet er til stede i sårbare settinger - som i private hjem eller der barn er til stede - og utilsiktede personer blir filmet? Hvordan bør man regulere slike tilfeller?

Prøveprosjektet i 2025

Hva er Datatilsynets rolle i det planlagte prøveprosjektet med kroppskamera i 2025?

Appendix C - Explanation of themes

Technological aspect

Sub-theme	Explanation
Data Collection	Concerns about storage capacity, data encryption, and deletion routines necessary for secure handling of BWC data.
User-Friendliness	Challenges with manual activation under stress; importance of automatic vs. manual activation options.
Technical Reliability	Risks of technical failure during critical moments and the need for regular maintenance and dependable hardware.
Ad-hoc Documentation	BWC used spontaneously when traditional documentation is impractical; helpful in capturing emotional or situational context.
Surveillance Coverage Limitations	Field of view limitations due to chest-mounted perspective; critical events may occur outside of camera range.

Cognitive aspects

Sub-theme	Explanation
Behavioral Changes in Police Officers	Increased self-monitoring and professionalism; risk of action paralysis due to awareness of being recorded.
Behavioral Changes in the Public	Possible “civilizing effect” from being recorded; reduced impact on intoxicated or mentally ill individuals.
Stress and Sensory Distortion	Stress in high-pressure situations distorts perception and memory; recordings don’t fully reflect the human experience.
Learning and Reflection	BWC footage can support self-evaluation, training, and learning from field interactions.
Trust Relationship	Trust may increase through transparency or decrease due to misuse, technical failure, or constant surveillance.

Regulatory aspects

Sub-theme	Explanation
Privacy Protection	Compliance with the Police Data Act and protection of third parties and sensitive individuals.
Operational Guidelines	Clear rules on when cameras should be turned on/off and logging of activation/deactivation events.
Legal Basis	Requirement for authorization under the Police Act and use of footage under the Criminal Procedure Act.
Rights	Individuals' right to access recordings, public access, and right to request deletion.
Use of Third-Party Data	Handling footage involving bystanders or uninvolved individuals; importance of anonymization.
Role of Special Investigations Unit	Ensuring independent access and integrity of BWC footage in cases involving police accountability.

Ethical aspects

Sub-theme	Explanation
Selective Recording	Ethical concern over officers choosing when to activate cameras, leading to biased or incomplete narratives.
Evidentiary Challenges	Video can mislead; includes risk of incomplete or misleading evidence and “objectivity illusion” of video.
Recording in Sensitive Contexts	Filming in private homes, with children, or during mental health crises raises concerns about dignity and retraumatization.
Quick Fix Myth	Misconception that body cameras alone can solve systemic problems; real change requires broader structural reforms.
Defense Against False Accusations	Provides objective documentation that can protect officers from unfounded allegations or media misrepresentation.