

**Pencadlys Heddlu**Heol y Bont-faen  
Penybont  
CF31 3SUMewn argyfwng ffoniwch **999**  
fel arall, ffoniwch **101**  
Gwefan: [www.heddlu-de-cymru.police.uk](http://www.heddlu-de-cymru.police.uk)**Police Headquarters**Cowbridge Road  
Bridgend  
CF31 3SUIn an emergency always dial **999**  
for non-emergencies dial **101**  
Website: [www.south-wales.police.uk](http://www.south-wales.police.uk)**Freedom of Information Request 241/21****Response date: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

I am writing to request information on media appearances by South Wales Police (and preceding agencies) in a documentary style, such as but not limited to 'Road Wars', 'Police Interceptors', 'Brit Cops' etc, where a camera person(s) is deployed with police officers and are followed throughout their tour of duty. This is for the time period 2003 to present.

1. I would like to know; Name of production, Production Company, Policing Unit(s) / Investigation(s) / Operation(s) followed, Status of Unit (active / disbanded / reformed / reorganized)
2. I would also like to know the current stance on 2021 (ignoring COVID-19) for these types of shows to be filmed with South Wales Police - are they encouraged?
3. a) If encouraged, are you actively engaged in filming currently, and if so, what production?  
b) If not encouraged or banned, is there reasoning behind this, for example a negative experience/portrayal previously?
4. On a similar line, police forces used to sell dashcam footage as 'filler' in these documentary shows, between their own self shot material. Does South Wales Police sell dashcam, or otherwise make them available?

**RESPONSE**Question 1

We have consulted with our Corporate Communications Department who have provided us with the information to answer your request.

Please be aware this information is not held for the full period requested; however, we can provide the following information on police observational TV programme we have taken part in.

2007 – Cops With Cameras – ITV – Swansea/Neath Port Talbot, Priority Policing Teams

2008 - Traffic Cops – BBC – pan-South Wales, Roads Policing Unit

2015 – Valley Cops – BBC – Rhondda Cynon Taf/Merthyr, various officers

2017 – Code Blue – ITV Wales – pan-South Wales, Major Crime Investigations Team

*Continued...*

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South Wales Police welcomes receiving correspondence in Welsh and English.  
Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



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Website: [www.south-wales.police.uk](http://www.south-wales.police.uk)**Freedom of Information Request 241/21**Questions 2 & 3

We have consulted with our Corporate Communications Department who confirm that South Wales Police is not currently engaged in any filming but we are in discussions with a small number of production companies regarding future projects.

We take into consideration the College of Policing guidance when making decisions on whether to engage with production companies. This is provided below.

The following guidance is contained within the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice for media which forces consider when deciding on whether to take part in such documentaries:

**Non-exhaustive list of points to consider when taking a documentary request**

- Would the filming/recording fit a policing purpose, such as to detect or prevent crime, to promote road safety, or to reassure the public about police effectiveness?
- Will the broadcast affect current or future police operations?
- Will the broadcast cause unjustifiable distress or harassment to those featured?
- Could the broadcast potentially prejudice a trial or interfere with an individual's human rights, including the right to privacy, or will it breach data protection law?
- Will the broadcast affect or need to involve partner organisations?
- What protection is required for undercover police officers, covert police activity, police tactics and equipment?
- What is the status of the production company and the quality of its previous broadcasts?
- What is the potential commitment (working hours) for members of the workforce, including members of the Media Dept, to facilitate this request?
- What are the potential copyright issues? Must permission be obtained from third parties to provide any of the material requested?

Question 4

We have consulted with our Corporate Communications and Finance Department who confirm that South Wales Police does not sell dashcam footage to media companies.

We provide such footage for free and our financial system records support this – there are no transactions in relation to this.

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