| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1698Responded to: 24th June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am making a Freedom of Information request for the following documents:

## • Police Scotland “Body Worn Video” Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that was in force on 26th June 2020.

I can confirm that there was no Body Worn Video Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in force on 26 June 2020. As such, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

**• All subsequent versions of the Police Scotland “Body Worn Video” Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) from 26th June 2020 until the most recent version published on 24th March 2025.**

Police Scotland commenced the national roll out of body worn video cameras in March 2025 within Tayside Division.
That continued in June 2025 with the roll out to Highlands and Islands Division.

As the roll out progresses, more than 10,500 Home Office approved Motorola Solutions VB400 cameras will be issued to frontline officers from constable to inspector ranks, and to police custody staff, across the country.

Over the next 18 months, there will be a gradual increase in officers with body worn video cameras across Scotland.

It should be noted that some officers in our North East Division have had access to body worn video cameras for many years as they were rolled out within Grampian Police, prior to Police Scotland being formed in 2013. There is no associated SOP.

It should also be noted that officers with our Armed Policing teams have access to body worn cameras.
Associated initial guidance was issued in 2021 as a ‘Code of Practice’, however the use of body worn cameras by Armed Policing is now covered by the Body Worn Video SOP.

We have interpreted your request to be for all versions of the ‘Body Worn Video Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)’ specifically and therefore we have not included those which relate to ‘Body Worn Video for Armed Policing’.

I can confirm that Version 2 of the Body Worn Video SOP is publicly available on the Police Scotland [website](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/oqtjeuqf/body-worn-video-sop-police-scotland-publication-scheme.docx).

Version 1 of the Body Worn Video SOP is attached. You will note that redactions have been applied to some information contained within this document. I am refusing to provide this information in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

* **Section 30 (c) – Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs**

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under the Act would otherwise prejudice substantially, or be likely to prejudice substantially, the effective conduct of public affairs.

In this e-mail addresses cannot be disclosed. To release these details publicly through FOI legislation could negatively impact on the operational effectiveness of the service and partner agencies. The email addresses are used for operational/business purposes and this information has been removed in order to ensure that internal processes are protected.

This is a non-absolute exemption which requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

* **Section 35(1)(a) – Law Enforcement**

The information requested is exempt, as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Release of the redacted information would adversely impact on the operational effectiveness of the Service. Being aware of details and planned actions would allow persons or groups intent on committing offences or causing disorder with the means to make a reasonable assessment of future football matches and other similar events. This in turn would allow those individuals or groups to make an accurate assessment of the capacity of the Service to deal with incidents at specific matches, compromising any tactical advantage the police may have over such persons or groups when dealing with any crime or disorder.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

**Public Interest Test**

Two of the exemptions detailed above are non-absolute and require the application of the public interest test.

Disclosure would serve to disrupt the well-established processes which members of the public are encouraged to use when contacting Police Scotland, thus prejudicing our ability to effectively manage such contact appropriately.

Whilst there is a public interest in better informing the public as to the internal mechanisms used within the force, this must be balanced with the need to ensure that the appropriate channels are used for contact and that internal mailboxes are not compromised in any way.

Furthermore, disclosure of Police Scotland’s internal processes for the manual deletion of footage and recording of lost/ missing devices could be exploited and lead to interference in evidence and investigations of lost/ stolen devices evidence. The need to ensure the effective conduct of the service in relation to prevention and detection of crime and the public safety considerations involved in the use of Body Worn Video (BWV) clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

Taking the above into consideration, I believe the public interest in withholding the redacted material outweighs that for disclosure.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.