| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3265  Responded to: 19 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## A detailed account of the decision-making process for concluding against the dashcam portal, including the criteria used, stakeholders involved, and the outcome of any formal decision-making processes.

A review/consideration of dashcam portal capability was held around July 2023

This was discussed with involved parties and shared more formally in August 2023

13th July 2023 – Time was set aside (within an already planned meeting between Police Scotland and Scottish Government/Police Division colleagues to allow colleagues from Transport Scotland to join and discuss Dashcam Portal Project.

In this meeting the up to date position of Police Scotland was shared and explained.

Mark Williams (Assistant Chief Constable – Operational Support) and Andrew Hendry

(Chief Digital & Information Officer) agreed this position/proposed approach.

## A comprehensive financial report of the £300,484 grant allocated by the Scottish Government for the dashcam portal project, including specific expenditures, allocation of unspent funds, and consideration of alternative funding sources.

A grant of £300,484 was made available through Scottish Government Road Safety Framework, payable over financial years 2021-2024.  This funding was to cover the additional police resources required to explore the pilot, along with the implementation of a secure web portal and independent evaluation to identify the benefits, any learning and to inform a decision as to its permanent implementation.  Police Scotland appointed a funded Road Policing Inspector to oversee necessary preliminary research and benchmarking with other UK Forces.  A total of £21,732 has been drawn down since 2021. No funds beyond the £21,732 in 2021 have been drawn down from the grant made available.

An explanation of alternative measures considered or implemented to collect road safety data and reduce road fatalities in the absence of the dashcam portal.

Police Scotland currently have mechanisms for dashcam footage to be obtained ensuring that Road Safety remains a key focus.

## Details of any public consultations or expert input solicited regarding the dashcam portal, and how these perspectives influenced the final decision.

The resource intensive nature of this model cannot be supported by Police Scotland at this time due to the constraints and substantial budget challenges the organisation is facing. Furthermore a technical architecture review by PS Digital Division concluded that use of the existing platform is the optimum solution going forward.

## Key performance indicators or metrics used by Police Scotland to measure road safety initiatives' effectiveness, including accountability mechanisms.

Police Scotland’s Analysis & Performance Unit prepare detected / recorded offences data in respect of campaigns within our National Calendar of Road Safety Activity.  This, together with activity data and other wider road safety analysis, as outlined in response to the question immediately following, are considered by the Road Policing SMT and forums including the Tactical Options Working Group, Local Partnership Forums, Operational Partnership Group and Strategic Partnership Board.  Initiative summaries are also provided within Road Safety Framework 2030 deliverables updates and included within Scottish Police Authority quarterly reports and other relevant submissions.

## Current methods employed by Police Scotland for collecting and analysing road safety data, the identified gaps in data collection, and strategies to address these gaps.

Approaches to this include the [In-depth Road Fatalities Study 2015 - 2020](https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/in-depth-road-traffic-fatalities-report-for-the-years-2015-2020-full-report/), published in October 2023.  Working in partnership with Transport Scotland, a new road fatality database was established for this project, enabling a review of all fatalities on Scotland’s road network over this period.  This deep-dive research affords a strong insight into fatal collision causes and outlines countermeasures toward the reduction of future collision risk and harm. Its recommendations will be progressed collaboratively with key partners.  Road Policing works closely with Transport Scotland more generally, in order to understand trends and identify emerging threats in relation to all collision classes.

Police Scotland Analysts produce detailed problem profiles identifying specific casualty types, with particular focus on vulnerable road users.  The information is shared with partners at forums such as the Tactical Options Working Group and Road Safety Governance Board.  This sharing allows resources to be allocated to the greatest areas of risk in an effort to reduce harm on our roads, in partnership with local policing and assisted where appropriate by our key partners.

Additionally, Police Scotland have regard to road safety data collated by key partners, such as Road Safety Scotland’s [Road Safety Information Tracking Study](https://roadsafety.scot/research-and-reports/rits-road-safety-information-tracking-study/?highlight=rits), examining driver habits, attitudes and behaviours across Scotland since 2010.

A gap within available road safety data pertaining to the prevalence of drug driving was identified within the [HMICS Assurance Review of Scottish Policy Authority Forensic Toxicology Provision](https://www.hmics.scot/sites/default/files/publications/HMICS20230425PUB.pdf) published April 2023.  The first key finding of the report identified a lack of assessment and environmental analysis of drug driving in Scotland.  The corresponding first recommendation of the report was ‘Police Scotland, SPA Forensic Services and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service should work with Scottish Government to collate and produce data to facilitate an assessment of the scale and nature of drug driving in Scotland. This should include a review of combination drink and drug driving behaviour’.  Work continues to be considered and progressed by Police Scotland and partners in this regard.

## Risk assessments performed in relation to the dashcam portal project, including identified risks and their impact on the decision-making process.

The originally proposed service design whereby digital footage is submitted to Police Scotland ahead of consideration of circumstances would create considerable storage overhead and generate demand for resource to review each submission within constrained timescales. The resource intensive nature of this model cannot be supported by Police Scotland at this time due to the constraints and substantial budget challenges the organisation is facing.  The technical architecture and Service Design that is being driven through the Digital Evidence Sharing Capability Programme (DESC) will provide a modern, innovative and easy to use route for digital evidence submission into the organisation and Criminal Justice system as a whole.

DESC will allow a request for digital evidence to be sent to a member of the public for submission following consideration of the alleged offence.

## Police Scotland's long-term strategy for road safety and data-driven policing, including any plans to reconsider the implementation of a dashcam portal or similar solutions.

The DESC programme is currently in pilot phase within Dundee but discussions on wider roll out are underway. In the future there will be opportunities for further innovation within DESC.

## Documentation, including minutes of meetings and internal communications, pertaining to the discussions and decisions on the dashcam portal project.

In response to this question, please find attached briefing note and letter to a member of the Scottish Parliament attached.

In relation to Data 1 (letter), and in accordance with section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a Refusal Notice for some of the information sought - that which has been redacted.

Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland, when refusing to provide such information because the information is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

The exemptions which I consider to apply are:

**Section 38(1)(b) - Personal information**

**Section 30(c) - Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs**

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’

Section 38(2A) of the Act provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR which states that:

‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’

Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met. The only potentially applicable condition is set out at Article 6(1)(f) which states:

‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child’.

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information and that disclosure may well be necessary for that purpose, I am nonetheless of the view that those interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Personal data including telephone numbers, email addresses and signature details have been redacted in accordance with section 30(c) of the Act on the basis that it is assessed that disclosure would result in a prejudice to the effective conduct of Police Scotland.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.