| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0353Responded to: 28 February 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How does the police identify a person from CCTV footage?

## Specifically, a citizen that has no criminal record

As you may be aware, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 provides a right of access to recorded information only.  There is no provision in the Act whereby Authorities can answer questions by providing comment or statements.

Your request therefore has to be interpreted as seeking any recorded information held by Police Scotland that would answer the questions posed.

In terms of section 17 of the Act, there is no information held by police Scotland that would specifically answer the question posed.

To be of assistance, I can advise you that, in common with all other UK police forces, we use facial matching technology provided through the Police National Database (PND). The database is proven technology and an extremely useful tool in helping officers to identify those who commit crimes.

This is the only such example, and the database only holds images of individuals who have been involved in criminality.

I can further advise that the police have a number of options available when it comes to identifying persons of interest, whether that be from CCTV or otherwise.

In rare cases, public appeals may be made for information in order to help identify someone.

In other cases, the individual may be known to other witnesses connected to the case or individuals may even be known to police officers in some cases.

Identification can take place from pieces of information about an individual - for example, they may be seen in a vehicle with a searchable registration mark visible, or if they have made a purchase in a shop, there may be debit card or store card information available that would help to trace them.

As I say, the above information is provided in order to assist only.

Those measures are not exhaustive and would wholly depend on the seriousness of the case.

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.