**Your Video Identification Parade Electronic Recording (VIPER):**

**What To Expect**

**Thank you for your help**

When you spoke to the police about what you saw or what happened to you (made your statement), you told them you may have seen someone who broke the law.

Now you might be able to confirm who they are for us. You can do this by watching a VIPER – which is a video identification parade electronic recording.

Watching a VIPER, and making your statement, could help us get justice for everyone affected by the crime. So thank you for your help.

We want to make this as easy as possible for you. This leaflet explains what a VIPER is, what will happen and what you need to do.

If you have any other questions you can get in touch by calling 101 and asking for the officer in charge of your case. We’ll also contact you before your VIPER to talk things over.

**What is an Identification Parade?**

An Identification Parade is when you see if you can spot the person you told us about.

You look at a group of people who are similar in age and appearance to that person. Then you see if you can pick out who you saw from the group.

**What is a VIPER?**

We have asked you to watch a VIPER. This is a type of identification parade which is a short film.

You watch it on a TV or laptop, and it is about three minutes long. It includes nine video clips of different people. One of the clips may be of the person you told us about in your statement.

Each person in the film is in front of a grey background. They turn their head from left to right. Everyone in the film does this the same way.

Then you decide if anyone in the film is the person you told us about in your statement.

**Where will I go for the VIPER?**

We usually ask you to come to a police station for the VIPER. If that might be a problem for you, please let us know.

**Will other people involved in the same case be there?**

There might be other people at the police station to watch the identification parade, but they will watch the film at a different time to you.

If you think you will feel uncomfortable seeing them, please let us know before you come. Then we will do everything we can to make sure you do not meet anyone you are not comfortable seeing.

**Who will be at my VIPER?**

As well as you, there will be:

* two members of our identification team to show you the film and take notes
* the lawyer working for the person we think broke the law – they won’t ask you any questions, they just need to see what happens and make sure everything is fair.
* Anyone else required for support – such as an interpreter.

**Will the person I saw be there?**

No – don’t worry. You will not meet the person you told us about or see them face to face. But you may see them in one of the pre-recorded video clips in the film.

**I’m nervous, can I take someone with me?**

Yes. We understand the VIPER can be worrying. So, if you’re nervous, you can have someone there to support you.

Whoever you chose can be in the room with you. But they will not be able to watch the film or help you identify someone in a clip.

Please let us know before you come if you would like to bring someone to support you. You can get in touch with us using the contact details we gave you when we asked you to come for a VIPER.

**What will happen at the VIPER?**

When you come to the police station, one of our team will meet you at reception and take you to the room where you can watch the film.

First of all, the person running the VIPER will tell you about it. For example, how it works, what you will see and what you need to do.

Next, they will ask you to confirm who you are so we have a record of everyone who came to the VIPER.

Then they will show you the film with the clips of the people.

If there is anything you do not understand or you have any questions before the film, please tell the person showing you the film.

**What do I need to do?**

When the person shows you the film, watch it carefully. You do not need to rush – take as much time as you need.

You will usually watch the film twice so you can have a good look at each person. If you need to see the film more than twice, just let the team know.

***If you recognise someone***

Each video clip will have a number. If you see the person you told us about in your statement in one of the video clips, check the number and tell the police which clip they are in.

If you have trouble recognising numbers, please let us know before you come in so we can arrange more suitable labels for you, such as symbols or letters. You can get in touch with us using the contact details we gave you when we asked you to come for a VIPER.

***If you do not recognise anyone***

That’s ok – you do not have to pick someone. Just tell the person showing you the film. They will ask you to describe anyone in the film that looks similar in any way to the person you saw instead. Again, if nobody looks similar to the person you saw, that’s okay – just tell the person showing you the film.

**How long will it take?**

The whole process usually takes about 10 minutes. It could take longer if you want to watch the film several times.

**What happens next?**

When you have watched the VIPER, the person who showed you the film will let you know what the next steps are. This could be to wait to hear from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

After the VIPER, we will show you out of the room so you know where to go. Then we will pass details of what you told us to the officer in charge of the case. Please do not talk about the VIPER with anyone else.

If you need any extra support after the VIPER, our teams will do their best to help or let you know who else can help. For example, the Victim Advice Line or Victim Support Scotland.

**If you have any other questions**

We want to make your VIPER as easy as possible for you. So, if you have any questions, please let us know.

You can call 101 or speak to the officer in charge of your case.

For more help and support, view this leaflet online, or to view in other languages, please

Visit [www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/viper](http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/viper) or scan the below QR code and to read about the service you can expect from us,please visit www.scotland.police.uk/victimsandwitnesses.