| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0574  Responded to: 02 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## What is ment by the team PC lead within a custody centre and what legal frame work does this impose onto on PC scotland.

PC lead means that a Police Constable is on duty along with custody staff within the custody suite. Supervision is provided by an allocated remote sergeant who will provide support and make legislative decisions on arrests.

A PC lead Custody Suite is limited to 10 arrested persons in total.

## What was the rationale behind upgrading Dalkith custodys CCTV when it's not fully operational.

The CCTV was upgraded at Dalkeith to make it a viable custody suite as part of our business continuity plan.

## In ref to CCTV within a custody centre, what's the standed police scotland has to meet.

Police Scotland custody suites meet the standard set within Home Office Guidelines.

## OFFICER SAFTY TRAINING (OST) what is the current time frame given to officers / staff for ost and has this changed over the years.

Following initial training in Operational Safety Training (OST), eligible Police Officers and designated staff are required to undertake annual recertification (2-days) to maintain authorisation to deploy operationally and carry issued Personal Protective Equipment.

Between March 2020 and March 2025, a number of extensions were authorised by Police Scotland Force Executive to manage challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and latterly support a period of high operational demand between December 2023 and February 2024. Police Scotland have since returned to business as usual in this regard.

## Does OST cover the custody environment and give training for its unique environment. If not what's the rationale / risk assessment for why not.

The OST programme contains tactical options that can be applied in both conventional operational and custody environments. The selection of a use of force option is at the discretion of the discharging individual and their assessment of the circumstances faced. Any force used must meet the Police Scotland Criteria for Use of Force.

Furthermore, there is a standalone unit within the OST Manual, ‘Custody Tactics’, which focusses on the police custody environment, which is relevant to police officers and Criminal Justice Police and Custody Security Officers (CJPCSOs).

## What training is provided to officers / staff once they complete there formal training and enter the custody centre for work. How is this monitored and recorded. How are best practices and bad practices highlighted.

## To work in a custody suite officers and staff have to complete certain mandatory initial courses - Custody Officers Induction Course, National Custody System Course, First Aid at Work, Operational Safety Training and attend a HYDRA Decision Making Exercise. All courses are recorded on Police Scotland’s personnel recording system, SCoPE, this provides that recertification requirements are alerted automatically. Depending on the training, some are monitored by Learning Technologies Department (LTD) and some Criminal Justice Standards Department (CJSD) training.

## Officers and staff will then go on to attend various different IT courses for example, criminal history and crime recording systems. Several other courses and inputs are made available for example, Conflict Management and Custody Disposals dependent on current themes.

## Best practices are generally highlighted in the CJSD eBriefing and made available online within the CJSD intranet page that all custody staff and officers have access to. Best practices will shape the content of the original Custody Officer Induction Course.

## Deficient practices are often highlighted following an incident which can be recorded using an Episode Report or recorded on SCoPE via an Accident Report or Use of Force etc. These practices can also be highlighted on the CJSD eBriefing which is circulated to all custody staff and officers. Memos are also used to highlight deficient practices to everyone and to offer direction and policy changes.

## The continuous improvement department monitor compliance via audits of custody records. Issues relating to non-compliance or deficient practices are often addressed by line managers direct with those involved.

## Both best and deficit practices will feature in the annual Custody Update course that all custody staff and officers must attend. This is monitored on SCoPE and facilitated by CJSD Training Dept.

## 7. What was the rationale extending OST renew dates over the covid period. Has an assessment been done ref its impact.

The decision to authorise extension of OST certification in response to the coronavirus pandemic was that of Police Scotland’s Force Executive, and was subject to careful consideration to ensure the policing response could be maintained to support health professionals and maximise public safety, whilst protecting the welfare of our own resources. Respecting rules around social distancing, capacity of training delivery was significantly affected meaning that annual recertification was not attainable and would take a considerable time to rectify and return to business as usual when such rules were rescinded. All decisions to suspend training, extend certification and ultimately rescind such were recorded and communicated by means of force memorandum.

Whilst business areas monitored and responded to challenges throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and over the course of recovery, no dedicated assessment has been directed to explicitly examine the impact of OST certification extension.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.