| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-3268Responded to: 8 February 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

## Can you provide details of the evidence base that was used to justify the expansion of the use of the facial matching function on the Police National Database which has been shown by recent Home Office statistics.

## This should include any correspondence, reports, or meeting minutes in which the increasing use of the database was discussed.

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold the above requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, a search of our recording systems has not identified any relevant information.

To be of assistance, I can advise that the Police National Database’s retrospective facial search functionality is provided to Police Scotland by the Home Office as part of access to the wider Police National Database.

Further, the National Police Chief Council (NPCC) are committed to increasing the use of PND retrospective facial search and this is supported by the Policing Minister, accordingly you may wish to contact the Home Office and the NPCC to establish if they hold any relevant information.

 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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.