| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2051Responded to: 07 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**In light of Police Scotland’s 2025–26 Annual Police Plan commitment to “maximise evidence capture opportunities” through the DESC programme, and given that no public dash-cam portal was introduced in 2024 I believe there is public benefit to understanding the force's specific plans on the matter.**

**Under Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I kindly request:**

**1. DESC Public Interface Development (January 2022 - present)**

**- All technical specifications, requirement documents, and change requests created to deliver a self-service public video‐submission interface within DESC.**

**- Detailed project roadmaps or Gantt charts showing planned and actual milestones, including reasons for any slippage or omissions from the 2025–26 plan.**

**- Budget approval papers and spend breakdowns allocated specifically for public interface development within DESC.**

**- User‐experience and user‐acceptance test reports, wireframes, or mock-ups prepared for public submissions.**

**- In absence of any of the above, the documents (minutes, etc) pertaining to making a decision to omit said functionality from SoW (scope of works).**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. By way of explanation, DESC does not offer a self-service public video submission interface within DESC similar to that offered by Operation SNAP. The approved Scottish Government DESC business case from 2021 states: It is important to note at this stage that the DESC Solution is being used to support the collection and management of digital evidence after a crime has been reported only; it does not include the ability for the public to submit evidence as part of an online report (i.e. ‘submit your dashcam footage’). Scope (statement) of work may be held by Scottish Government.

**2. Operational Progress & Accountability**

**- Statistics on the number of public video submissions requested and received via the current email-link process since March 2024, broken down monthly.**

The table below provides a breakdown of the number of responses received upon Police Scotland sharing an invitation to submit evidence into DESC via a community invite, by Month since March 2024.

Totals include where 'evidence' was submitted. ‘Submissions received’ does not reflect the volume of files received or the type of file as more than video files are accepted into DESC.

| **Month** | **Submissions requested** | **Submissions received** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| March 2024  | 262 | 194 |
| April 2024 | 279 | 204 |
| May 2024 | 594 | 414 |
| June 2024 | 677 | 481 |
| July 2024 | 847 | 571 |
| August 2024 | 1232 | 842 |
| September 2024 | 1634 | 1149 |
| October 2024 | 1999 | 1373 |
| November 2024 | 2407 | 1582 |
| December 2024 | 2900 | 2003 |
| January 2025 | 3599 | 2476 |
| February 2025 | 5165 | 3473 |
| March 2025 | 6738 | 4616 |
| April 2025 | 8321 | 5658 |
| May 2025 | 9424 | 6426 |
| June 2025 | 10018 | 6743 |
| **Total** | **56096** | **38205** |

**- Average end-to-end processing times for public submissions (from request issuance to evidence ingestion), compared against any benchmarks for automated portals (e.g., Operation Snap).**

We do not analyse timings for public submissions or compare/ benchmark against other automated portals e.g. Operation SNAP as they are not comparable to the DESC service. As such, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

**- Copies of all training materials, standard operating procedures, or guidance issued to officers for managing public video evidence submissions.**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

This information is not held centrally and would require a manual search of multiple systems to retrieve all the documents requested for the time period of your request. An exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees regulations.

**3. Performance Measurement & Evaluation**

**- Documents setting out the performance metrics or KPIs Police Scotland will use to assess public video‐submission functionality (e.g., submission volumes, case outcomes, user satisfaction).**

Submissions volumes are detailed in the above table regarding Q2.

DESC is still in the project phase, it is not yet fully rolled out across Police Scotland.

Benefits are being measured in relation to the effectiveness of DESC, not public video submission functionality:

* Time savings for Police Officers not having to physically travel to collect digital evidence.
* Cost savings associated with procurement of removable media devices/discs.
* Time savings for Production Staff not having to manage, store and transport physical digital evidence productions.
* Reduction in requests to and time savings by specialist units who undertaking formatting of discs for court.
* Increased public and business accessibility and satisfaction when submitting digital evidence due to process/accessibility improvements – A survey was conducted with members of the public during pilot, another is planned.
* Increased public perception/confidence in evidence handling and gathering due to process improvements – A survey was conducted with members of the public during pilot, another is planned.

Case outcomes are not measured by Police Scotland, and as such the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may be able to obtain this from Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

**- Any gap analysis or comparative studies undertaken to benchmark DESC’s public submission performance against Nextbase/Operation Snap data.**

**- Draft or final public-reporting frameworks (e.g., quarterly or annual dashboards) for publishing DESC video evidence statistics.**

An extensive search has been carried out on systems used by the DESC project team and no information was found meeting your request. As such, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

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.