| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2050Responded to: 5th August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## As a member of the public concerned about road safety in Scotland, I am writing to understand how Police Scotland evaluated the decision to abandon the National Dashcam Safety Portal despite widespread public support and allocated funding over the past 5 years.Road users across Scotland - cyclists, drivers, and pedestrians - face daily risks from dangerous driving incidents. Personal testimonies include bizarre experiences such as "Most officers who come to collect the footage seem unsympathetic; one even suggested that I should find a different route for cycling". Meanwhile, an online portal system was favoured by a substantial amount of adults in Scotland, yet Scotland remains the only region in Great Britain without this essential safety tool.Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I kindly request:

## Strategic Decision Documentation (January 2022 - present)

## All documents relating to and predating the July 2023 decision to abandon the standalone portal

Unfortunately, I regret to inform you that I estimate 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.

The only way to provide an accurate and consistent response to this request would be to research all shared drives, personal drives, personal email accounts and group mailboxes across many Force Departments, for any materials regarding the Dashcam Portal project.

Given the volume of information to be assessed, this exercise would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To be of assistance, two documents that may be of interest are attached - those were located amongst the files for an earlier FOI on this subject.

* **Meeting minutes from ACC Mark Williams and CDIO Andrew Hendry regarding portal integration**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

Searches were conducted, but there is no trace of any minutes relating to a meeting between ACC Mark Williams and CDIO Andrew Hendry specifically on this subject.

It should be noted that there is not always a requirement for minutes at meetings.

To be of assistance, an FOI response from 2023 includes a brief overview of an informal meeting between the two aforementioned parties:

[FOI 23-3265 Response - Police Scotland Disclosure Log](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosure-log-2024/january/23-3265-national-dashcam-safety-portal-decision-not-to-implement/)

## Risk assessments comparing standalone portal vs. DESC integration

The originally proposed service design, whereby digital footage is submitted to Police Scotland ahead of consideration of circumstances, would create considerable storage overhead and generate demand for resources to review each submission within constrained timescales.

The resource-intensive nature of this model cannot be supported by Police Scotland at this time due to the constraints and substantial budget challenges the organisation is facing.

The technical architecture and Service Design that is being driven through the Digital Evidence Sharing Capability Programme (DESC) will provide a modern, innovative and easy-to-use route for digital evidence submission into the organisation and Criminal Justice system as a whole.

DESC will allow a request for digital evidence to be sent to a member of the public for submission following consideration of the alleged offence.

I would refer you again to the documents attached for further information.

## Cost-benefit analyses of current case-by-case processing vs. automated portal submission

## Resource Impact Analysis

## Calculations of person-hours required for individual video evidence processing

## Estimates of evidence collection losses due to current submission barriers

## Comparison studies with England & Wales portal efficiency data

## Public Interest Considerations

## Analysis of public safety implications of maintaining Scotland's unique position without a portal

In response to the questions above, I regret to inform you that again I estimate it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process them. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

The only way to provide an accurate and consistent response to this request would be to research all shared drives, personal drives, personal email accounts and group mailboxes across many Force Departments, for any materials regarding the Dashcam Portal project.

Given the volume of information to be assessed, this exercise would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## Documentation of how the £300,000 Scottish Government funding was evaluated for alternative uses

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

A grant of £300,484, payable over financial years 2021 to 2024, was provided through the Scottish Government Road Safety Framework.

The funding was specifically to cover the additional police resources required for the pilot, along with the implementation of a secure web portal and independent evaluation to identify the benefits, any learning and to inform a decision as to its permanent implementation. This funding was available via a draw down system.

Just £21,732 of that funding was drawn down by Police Scotland.

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.