| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0703  Responded to: 30 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am requesting information regarding AI use in digital forensic departments nationwide.**

**The questions relate only to your digital forensics departments, including units that process digital images, video and audio evidence. The responses given will be used in said dissertation to aid in my research.**

**The three questions for my research are:**

1. **Do any of your digital forensic departments employ tools/software that incorporate AI technology? This could include software that uses AI such as enhancement software or systems used for facial recognition.**

**If your response is “yes”, then please include the name of the software(s) and details of what they used for.**

1. **What guidelines, regulations, or legislation do you follow in relation to AI use within your digital forensic departments?**

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

By way of explanation, Police Scotland do not have any tools/software that incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology used solely by the forensic department.

As you will be aware, AI is not a protected term, any sufficiently advanced algorithm or anything that is based on machine learning could be classed as AI. If you would like to clarify your definition of AI, we may be able to provide further details.

1. **Are there any AI tools/software that you plan on using in the near future?**

Police Scotland is considering ways in which AI could benefit policing and improve the service provided to the public. The speed and accuracy that AI could bring to police processes make it an attractive way to deliver an effective and efficient service. However, the application of AI can be contentious if not properly explored and consulted on.

Police Scotland are currently engaging both internally and externally with a number of partners including the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and Scottish Biometrics Commissioners with regards to the use of AI and the following aspects:

* Strategy & Policy
* Practical use of AI
* Assurance & Scrutiny

These have also formed the basis of previous Research and Evidence Forums facilitated by the SPA.

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.