



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Roddy Irvine
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By e-mail

18 March 2020

Dear T/ACC Irvine

Body Worn Video Cameras

Thank you for your letter of 5 March, in which you confirm that no further work regarding a national body worn video solution is being progressed by Police Scotland at this time. Could you please provide details of the implications of this decision for the inclusion of body worn video cameras in Policing 2026.

In your letter you also refer to Dame Elish Angiolini's recommendation in her preliminary report on police complaints handling that "Subject to the supporting infrastructure being in place, cameras should be rolled out nationally to all police officers working in the custody environment or in a public-facing role".

In her preliminary report, Dame Elish also highlights some of the risks associated with the use of body worn cameras. These are the violation of the privacy of third parties who are not the subject of interaction, and insufficient capacity of IT systems to store and transmit footage.

Dame Elish states in her report that "In order to mitigate those risks, clear and consistent guidelines and Codes of Practice would be necessary to govern operational practice and manage the data in accordance with the relevant legislation".

Dame Elish also refers to the Implementation Plan for Policing 2026, which states that Police Scotland will "Undertake body-worn video public consultation to inform appropriate implementation and use".

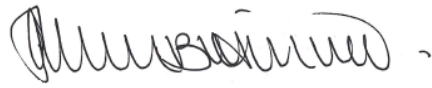
Could you please clarify whether Police Scotland has taken, or plans to take, the steps outlined by Dame Elish to mitigate the identified risks, prior to introducing the use of body worn video cameras by police officers.

In my letter to you of 20 February, I referred to evidence previously given to the Sub-Committee by Police Scotland, where there was a commitment that an evaluation of the cameras used by the football co-ordination unit for Scotland would be undertaken

prior to any roll-out. Could you please confirm whether this evaluation has been undertaken, and if so, provide the details?

A response by Thursday 23 April would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Finnie', with a small dash at the end.

John Finnie MSP
Convener, Justice Sub-Committee on Policing