



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

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By e-mail

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Dear T/ACC Irvine

Body Worn Video Cameras

I am writing to you regarding Police Scotland's submission to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing on the draft 2020-21 budget. The submission includes a reference to Police Scotland's plans to commence equipping officers with body worn video cameras (BWVCs).

At an [evidence session](#) on 15 June 2017, the Sub-Committee considered the costs and benefits of the use of body worn video cameras by police officers. At that time Police Scotland indicated that they were undertaking a scoping exercise for the inclusion of the use of BWVCs for inclusion in the Policing 2026 strategy.

In the oral and written evidence provided to the Sub-Committee, Police Scotland identified a number of steps that they would take prior to any decision to roll-out body worn video cameras.

This included undertaking a public consultation exercise, equality impact and public impact assessments, and consulting with police unions and staff associations. It also included an evaluation of all the areas in which the equipment might be used, such as by armed police officers, as well as an evaluation of how the cameras would be used.

Police Scotland indicated that this would be done as part of the current scoping work, as well as in the process of consulting and developing the business case. Police Scotland confirmed that a full business case would be developed which would identify the benefits and risks, as well as the costs, to ensure that they were making best use of their finances.

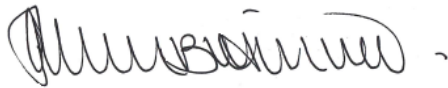
There would also be an evaluation of the cameras used by the football co-ordination unit for Scotland, or FoCUS, as it is known.

Police Scotland stated that substantial investment in the ICT infrastructure and core operating policing systems would be required. They also confirmed that there was a need to address the information and communication technology infrastructure for the organisation and the digital ability of the justice system as a whole to cope with the evidence that is produced.

Could you please provide details of Police Scotland's consideration of introducing body worn video cameras for use by police officers, including confirmation of whether the steps highlighted by Police Scotland in evidence to the Sub-Committee have been taken.

A response by Friday 6 March 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