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Date: 5th March 2020



**POLICE
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Tel: 01259 733111

Justice Sub-Committee Clerks
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Finnie,

Body Worn Video Cameras

I refer to your letter dated 20th February 2020 regarding the above.

Police Scotland has identified a number of potential benefits associated with the introduction of Body Worn Video (BWV), including:

- Improved Officer Safety due to a reduction in assaults
- Reducing and resolving complaints against officers
- An increase in early guilty pleas, saving time and costs

In June 2019, the Dame Elish Angiolini review of complaints handling against the police to the Justice Committee at the Scottish Parliament highlighted:

'The potential benefits of body-worn video cameras in reducing and resolving complaints against police officers support the aspiration of Police Scotland to make more use of body-worn cameras. 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.'

The intention to provide BWV was previously included within the Police Scotland 2026, Serving a Changing Scotland Strategy and the Digital, Data and ICT Strategy. Following a prioritisation exercise against the available budget by the Police Scotland Executive, however, the BWV project set up to progress a national solution was deprioritised in February 2018 before any meaningful work was initiated, including a public consultation. The assigned resource was re-allocated to other projects.

Following review, most recently in February 2020, this remains the current position, and no further work regarding a national Body Worn Video solution is being progressed at this time.

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I trust the above provides clarity with regards to the current position and I will ensure that you are informed should we seek to change the circumstances described above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roddy Irvine', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roddy Irvine

ACC Operational Change & Resilience