



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

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By e-mail

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4 October 2019

Dear Ms Brown

### Facial Recognition inquiry

The Justice Sub-Committee on Policing is to undertake an inquiry into *facial recognition: how policing in Scotland makes use of this technology*.

In correspondence received from Police Scotland on 12 September, Assistant Chief Constable Gillian MacDonald confirmed Police Scotland's practice of using retrospective facial recognition to upload images to the UK Police National Database (PND).

In your response to the Sub-Committee's call for evidence could you please provide details of when this practice started and the Scottish Police Authority's (SPA) public scrutiny and oversight of Police Scotland's practice of uploading images to the PND, and their use of any other retrospective facial recognition technology to collect and share images.

This should include the human rights, privacy, equalities, data protection and community impact assessments undertaken prior to the introduction of the use of retrospective facial recognition software by Police Scotland. If copies of these assessments could be provided to the Sub-Committee that would be appreciated.

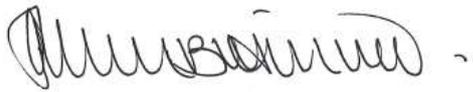
Also, details of the approval process for Police Scotland to use and access this technology, and how the SPA reassures itself that images are kept for the relevant retention periods and deleted in-line with GDPR requirements.

Additionally, could you please provide details of how the SPA ensures that its approach to scrutiny of Police Scotland's use of facial recognition technology meets best practice. For example, whether the SPA takes into account the views of the UK Commissioner or the Retention and Use Biometric Material and Forensics, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner in England and Wales, and the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, on the use of facial recognition technology in policing.

Could you also please provide details of the costs associated with the use of, and access to, facial recognition software by Police Scotland.

The call for evidence deadline is Friday 1 November 2019, and therefore a response by that date 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