

Scottish Ambulance Service submission of 27 March 2024

PE1877/G: Provide body cameras for all frontline NHS staff

The work to evaluate body worn cameras progressed to the stage of developing a plan for the trial of equipment. It was acknowledged from the outset, that the use of surveillance equipment such as CCTV and body worn cameras can be an emotive subject. Unfortunately, due to concerns from staff side about the use of body worn camera technology, the work has not been able to progress to a live field trial stage. Initial scoping work identified that manufacturers of body worn camera equipment would likely support a trial of equipment at no cost. The full purchase and roll out of equipment across the Service, however, would likely attract a capital cost in excess of £1,500,000 and a recurring revenue cost of around £400,000.

The reluctance of staff side to support the use of body worn cameras, compounded by the current financial pressures being experienced across the public sector, has resulted in this work being paused. The Health and Safety department of the Scottish Ambulance Service, who have led this work, continue to engage with other UK Ambulance Trusts on Violence Reduction activities and continue to share best practice.