

# Scottish Government submission of 7 September 2023

## PE2013/A: Implementation of a National Dashcam Safety Portal

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of Scottish Government on Public Petition PE2013: *“Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce without delay a National Dashcam Safety Portal, as already agreed by Police Scotland.”*

Making Scotland’s Roads safer, particularly for vulnerable road users, is a priority for the Government, Police Scotland and Transport Scotland. The Road Safety Framework to 2030 sets out a long-term vision for road safety, Vision Zero, where there are zero fatalities and injuries on Scotland’s roads by 2050. This includes ambitious interim targets where the number of people being killed or seriously injured on our roads will be halved by 2030. Achieving these requires all road safety partners to work closely together to develop new and innovative measures that can contribute to sustainable, long-term improvements in road user behaviour to make Scotland’s roads safer for all road users.

Enforcement activity is one strand of the “Safe System” approach to road safety. Under this, Police Scotland are committed to optimising enforcement activity to improve and encourage high standards of road user behaviour. It is recognised that providing a more efficient and accessible means for the public to report poor road user behaviour, supported by digital video evidence, supports targeted enforcement intervention.

Scottish Government, Police Scotland and Transport Scotland are continuing, as a matter of priority, to explore approaches to make it easier to submit digital evidence to report poor road user behaviour, to make Scotland’s roads safer. A firm commitment to this end was included in the most recent Scottish Government’s Programme for Government published on 5 September:

**Following the successful digital evidence pilot, Police Scotland will seek to build on the Scottish Government’s investment to make it easier to submit digital evidence to report poor road user behaviour, in support of making**

## **Scotland's roads safer for all – especially for pedestrians and cyclists.**

The implementation will be led by Police Scotland.

The Digital Evidence Sharing Capability Programme (DESC), currently in pilot in Dundee, will provide a modern and innovative route for digital evidence submission into Police Scotland and the Criminal Justice system as a whole. DESC will allow a request for digital evidence to be sent to a member of the public for submission following consideration of an alleged offence.

DESC is a collaboration between the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service, the Scottish Police Authority and the defence community and aims to transform the way that digital evidence is managed throughout criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Until then, members of the public can continue to contact Police Scotland via 101, 999 or the Police Scotland "Contact Us" website if they believe a road offence has been committed. Where required, any available evidence can then be obtained and an investigation carried out.

We remain fully committed to using the resources available to us to support the vital work of Police Scotland in delivering effective and responsive policing across Scotland.

Policing continues to be a priority for the Scottish Government and we have increased police funding year-on-year since 2016-17. We are investing £1.45bn in policing in 2023-24, increasing the resource budget by 6.3% - an additional £80m. We have more than doubled the SPA capital budget since 2017-18, supporting investment in police assets – estate, fleet, specialist equipment and ICT.

I hope the Committee will find this response helpful, and I am happy to provide further updates as required.

**Police Division**