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Date: 16th April 2020

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



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

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Dear Mr Finnie

RESPONSE TO POLICE SCOTLANDS CONSIDERATION OF INTRODUCING BODY WORN VIDEO CAMERAS FOR USE WITH POLICE OFFICERS

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM POLICE SCOTLAND

Thank you for your letter dated 18 March 2020, regarding the above

In your letter you note that no further work regarding a national body worn video solution is being progressed by Police Scotland at this time and request details of the implications of this decision for the inclusion of body worn video cameras in Policing 2026.

Police Scotland recognises the role of technology within the Policing 2026 strategy in both enabling our workforce and protecting communities. A number of potential benefits have already been identified with the introduction of body worn video, including improved officer safety, reduction and resolution of complaints and greater public transparency. These benefits will be not be achieved until we are in a position to progress a body worn video project, however, Police Scotland remains committed to the introduction of body worn video as part of Policing 2026, subject to prioritisation against available finance.

In your letter you also seek clarification as to whether Police Scotland has taken, or plans to take, the steps outlined by Dame Elish to mitigate the identified risks, prior to introducing the use of body worn video cameras by police officers.

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I can confirm that Police Scotland is aware of the potential privacy and third party concerns surrounding the potential introduction of body worn video. In order to mitigate the risks identified by Dame Elish any future project to introduce body worn video would include:

- Full internal and external stakeholder engagement
- Completion of an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EqHRIA)
- Completion of a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA)
- Completion of a Code of Practice
- Completion of Standard Operating Procedures and associated policies
- Completion of a standardised training for camera usage and editing of footage

On 15th June 2017, ACC Williams provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament Justice Sub Committee, where he provided a commitment to carry out an evaluation of the cameras used by the Football Co-ordination Unit for Scotland prior to any roll-out of body worn video. I can confirm that for the reasons cited above this evaluation has not yet been carried out, however this evaluation would form part of the preparation for any national rollout of body worn video.

Should you require and further detail in respect of the foregoing I will be happy to provide this.

Yours sincerely

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

Roddy Irvine

T/ACC Operational Change & Resilience