

Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on PE2013: Implementation of a National Dashcam Safety Portal, submitted by Neil McNamara

Background

A national dashcam safety portal would provide an online channel for members of the public to submit evidence of potential road traffic offences, recorded on dashcams, helmet cameras and mobile phones, directly to Police Scotland. The effectiveness of such a resource is noted in [Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030](#), which states:

“An important development in the use of technology is the proliferation of dash/helmet cameras, providing digital video and photographic evidence which can be used in prosecutions.

Operation Snap, an award winning initiative by GoSafe Wales (the Welsh equivalent of the Scottish Safety Camera Programme) enables the public to submit footage to the police for such use. Since late 2016, there has been an increase in detection rates without significant extra enforcement costs, and the public has reacted positively to this initiative, often viewed as a form of community policing.”

Police forces across England and Wales already operate dashcam safety portals, using an online system developed by automotive technology company [Nextbase](#) - which is provided free of charge to all users and police forces.

Scottish Government Action

The Scottish Government's [Programme for Government 2021-22](#), published in September 2021, stated that “...we will begin the development of an online reporting system – a 1-year pilot project enabling anyone to upload camera footage of dangerous driving.”

The Scottish Government is providing financial support for the development of a national dashcam safety portal through [Scotland's Road Safety Framework Fund](#).

[Police Scotland responded](#), on 21 February 2023, to a Freedom of Information request about the national dashcam safety portal pilot project, stating:

“...a grant from Transport Scotland was received by Police Scotland to assist in the implementation of a pilot for a National Safety Dash-Cam Portal (NDSP). The funding did not cover the full implementation costs for the pilot and a significant investment in resources and funding was required from Police Scotland. Since the approval of the grant, the resource and funding picture within Police Scotland has changed significantly and this has impacted on numerous areas of Policing, including the NDSP project. Due to these challenges, all projects are being reviewed and prioritised by the Force Executive. Once this review has been completed, a revised timetable for implementation of the NDSP will be possible.”

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not considered this issue in any detail. Several parliamentary questions have been asked about the roll-out of the national dashcam safety portal pilot, the most recent being [S6W-15206](#) - the answer to which stated:

“Police Scotland is now reviewing the project’s timings as part of their wider planning for 2023/24 and beyond.

All those involved in delivering the NDSP remain committed to implementing this valuable safety initiative.”

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Senior Researcher
28 April 2023

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Published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), an office of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP