



HEADQUARTERS
One Lochside
1 Lochside Avenue
Edinburgh
EH12 9DJ

Our Ref: HQ24166

31 October 2024

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 1 October 2024 under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOI(S)A).

For reference, you requested:

In terms of the pilot of body-worn video cameras underway in Scottish prisons could you provide the following information:

RFI 1: "How many body worn cameras are in use?"

RFI 2: "How is the Scottish Prison Service monitoring their success in de-escalating incidents?"

RFI 3: "How many 'incidents' which the cameras are designed to de-escalate were recorded at HMP Barlinnie, HMP Low Moss and HMP Perth in the three years proceeding the introduction of the pilot? (if possible, can you split this up by year and by prison)."

RFI 4: "How many such incidents have been recorded at the three prisons since the introduction of the pilot? (if possible, can you split this up by prison)."

RFI 5: "What is the cost of this pilot?"

RFI 6: "Does the SPS have intentions to roll body-worn video cameras out across the entire prison estate if they are deemed successful?"

We have now completed our search for the information you requested.

RFI 1 Response: There are a total of 84 body worn cameras available across the SPS estate. There are currently 3 SPS prisons implementing a proof-of-concept test with body worn cameras which commenced on 15 April 2024. These are HMP Barlinnie, HMP Low Moss and HMP Perth. Each of the 3 Prisons have been issued with 25 cameras for the duration of the trial.

RFI 2 Response: This proof-of-concept test will be evaluated by Blake Stevenson research agency.

RFI 3 Response: Under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that SPS do not hold this information. The use of body worn cameras aims to:

- Enhance the safety, security and good order of establishments.
- Support the safety, wellbeing and welfare of those in our care, staff and visitors.
- Act as a deterrent against committing or being involved in criminal activity or alleged breaches of Prison Rules.
- De-escalate conflict or confrontation.

Therefore, the number of incidents which the cameras are designed to de-escalate would not always have been recorded.

RFI 4 Response: Please see table below:

Instances of Body Worn Cameras Being Activated	
HMP Barlinnie	707
HMP Low Moss	1895
HMP Perth	734

RFI 5 Response: The cost of the pilot is £24,955.

RFI 6 Response: Under section 17 of FOI(S)A I can advise that SPS do not hold this information. Any decisions of this nature will only be made once the proof-of-concept test has concluded, and the evaluation process has been completed.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to conduct an internal review, by writing to The Chief Executive, One Lochside, 1 Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh, EH12 9DJ. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be conducted and should be made within forty working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within twenty working days of receipt. If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Manager