

# Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

14th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Wednesday  
4 October 2023

## PE2013: Implementation of a National Dashcam Safety Portal

<b>Petitioner</b>	Neil McNamara
<b>Petition summary</b>	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.
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2013">https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2013</a>

### Introduction

1. This is a new petition that was lodged on 3 April 2023.
2. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**.
3. A SPICe briefing has been prepared to inform the Committee's consideration of the petition and can be found at **Annexe B**.
4. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 23 signatures have been received on this petition.
5. The Committee seeks views from the Scottish Government on all new petitions before they are formally considered. A response has been received from the Scottish Government and is included at **Annexe C** of this paper.

### Action

The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take on this petition.

**Clerk to the Committee**

## Annexe A

# PE2013: Implementation of a National Dashcam Safety Portal

## Petitioner

Neil McNamara

## Date Lodged:

03/04/23

## Petition summary

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.

## Previous action

I have been advised by an MSP's caseworker to submit this petition after contacting the MSP about this issue.

## Background information

A National Dashcam Safety Portal for drivers and other road users to submit examples of dangerous driving has already been agreed and a budget for it provided to Police Scotland in March 2022. However, so far it has not been set up nor has information been offered to citizens on why it has not been implemented. This petition asks Members and Ministers why Police Scotland's own initiative has stalled.

## Annexe B

The logo for SPICe, featuring the letters 'SPICe' in a white, sans-serif font on a dark purple background.

**The Information Centre**  
An t-Ionad Fiosrachaidh

### 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."

**Alan Rehfisch**  
**Senior Researcher**  
28 April 2023

SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at [spice@parliament.scot](mailto:spice@parliament.scot)

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in petition briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

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## Annexe C

### 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**