| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2481  Responded to: 03 October 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**1. How much is facial recognition used in Scotland?**

**2. How effective do you think facial recognition is in fighting crime?**

**3. What privacy issues lie within this?**

Police Scotland routinely use retrospective facial matching technology provided via the UK Police National and Child Abuse Image databases.  Police Scotland can also request the searching of Passport, DVLA or Immigration images as part of individual serious criminal investigations.

Police Scotland is not currently using or testing live facial recognition, or officer instigated retrospective matching, and continue to monitor police use elsewhere via UK policing forums.  In due course, as outlined at the Scottish Biometrics Conference (June 2024), we will consider the adoption of any such technology as part of our Rights Based Pathway and Data Ethics Triage, and only if we are satisfied utilisation is lawful, effective, proportionate, and ethical in a Scottish policing context to support keeping people safe.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.