| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0791  Responded to: 18 April 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## According to the Daily Record, you are going to extend your use of Selecta DNA’s tagging spray to the North East Division:

## [Scots cops to use DNA tagging spray to crack down on joyriders - Daily Record](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-cops-use-dna-tagging-32380450)

## 1. Please provide information underpinning the decision to use the spray in the North East Division. Perhaps a report or minutes exists detailing the success of the spray elsewhere in Scotland.

## Chief Inspector Darren Bruce said: “Other areas of the country have seen great results in reductions of crime using SelectaDNA, which was first introduced in Edinburgh in 2018."

## 2. Please provide information to support the Chief Inspector's claim.

In response to your request, any officer or member of staff could potentially hold information of relevance to your request.

Furthermore, we have no means by which all correspondence held can be searched in terms of subject matter.

To be of assistance there is some general information online relating to Police Scotland and the use of SelectaDNA.

[Police Scotland is extending its use of SelectaDNA’s tagging spray to the North East](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2024/march/north-east-division-officers-to-use-selectadna/)

[Police Scotland Roll-Out SelectaDNA Defence Sprays | SelectaDNA](https://www.selectadna.co.uk/news/police-scotland-roll-out-selectadna-defence-sprays)

Some further information surrounding the use of SelectaDNA in Edinburgh Division which may be of interest to you is noted below.

In response to an increase in motorcycle thefts and related criminal and antisocial behaviour during 2017, Edinburgh Division re-launched Operation Soteria in January 2018.

Operation Soteria was launched under a Divisional Gold Command Structure/Strategy and focussed on four key areas:

* Prevention
* Operations
* Investigation
* Intelligence

This was designed to be a long-term commitment, acknowledging that bespoke solutions were required across the city to an issue which was causing significant community concern. The overall intention was to maximise public safety through reducing the number of motorcycle thefts and subsequent ASB calls.

One aspect of the wider prevention work saw the introduction of SelectaDNA tagging spray as a new tactical option for police officers, assisting prevention and detection of motorcycle thefts and associated crime. The roll-out of SelectaDNA spray in Edinburgh Division was subject of an extensive media launch to promote the spray's capabilities to the wider public.

Edinburgh Division, still have SelectaDNA tagging spray for use as an available tactic to prevent and detect motorcycle crime in Edinburgh.

The following data is reflective of the four keys areas of Operation Soteria in 2018:

|  | **01/04 - 31/07 2017** | **01/04 - 31/07 2018** | **Difference %** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Theft of Motorcycles | 387 | 154 | -60.2% |
| Motorcycle-related ASB calls | 498 | 292 | -41.4% |

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.