

**PE1770/F**

Police Scotland submission of 7 October 2020

Responsibility for external equipment on waterways rests with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Coastguard and Glasgow Humane Society (who provide and maintain signage and lifebelts on the River Clyde).

Water safety is part of the Officer Safety Training programme and Police vehicles have water safety kits that are regularly maintained.

Tampering in itself is a loose term and could simply reflect a piece of equipment being removed from a holding rail/mount and placed nearby, thus being 'tampered' with. This term would therefore seem to lack the certainty of language required by legislation.

If there were security measures attached to equipment in some form i.e. a security tag or similar, that requires to be broken before use and if it were to be broken without requirement, then there is already sufficient applicable legislation in place.

In terms of any other types of incident involving water safety equipment there are various other legislative avenues to follow, such as Culpable and Reckless Conduct or Theft, without the requirement for a standalone offence.

In conclusion, it is clear that such equipment is vital in saving lives, however legislation currently in place would support Police action where equipment is removed or damaged.