

**Justice Committee****Prisoners (Control of Release) (Scotland) Bill****Written submission from Police Scotland**

I am writing to provide a response on behalf of Police Scotland to the consultation on the Prisoners (Control of Release) (Scotland) Bill.

The approach suggested by the Bill to end the practice of automatic release is welcomed as it would be assessed that the introduction of an informed and risk based decision would be more conducive to public safety than 'automatic' release once two thirds of a sentence is served. It is also recognised that those released prior to completion of their sentence will be subject to appropriate conditions to assist in their management within communities.

The proposal to allow release dates to be varied by a day or two to allow engagement with appropriate services to assist re-integration into the community are also assessed to be positive. It would be important to ensure that relevant notifications to all relevant parties were not omitted through the adjustment of a release date.

I trust you will find these points of assistance.

Mike McCormick  
Assistant Chief Constable  
6 January 2015