

PE1474/E

9<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Our Ref: ACC North / AP

Mr Howlett  
T3.40  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Via email: [andrew.howlett@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.howlett@scottish.parliament.uk)



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Dear Mr Howlett

## CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1474

Thank you for your letter of 17 May 2013 seeking views on the above subject.

In the associated commentary, it is noted that specific mention is made of the involvement of the former Grampian Police and it is in that context that the following response is provided.

Police Scotland remain completely neutral on all matters concerning the development of the Menie Project with our focus remaining on ensuring that officers approach their duties with integrity, fairness and respect for all parties involved, and only taking action where appropriate to address behaviour which breaches the criminal law.

It is our position that all officers involved in the policing response connected with this development have carried out their duties in an impartial and transparent manner.

Prior to Police Scotland and in response to media interest in relation to the police action around the Menie Project, Grampian Police commissioned an independent peer review, conducted by Northern Constabulary, which reported in November 2011 that there was good evidence that impartiality is a major factor in all decision making. The action taken was lawful, proportionate and in keeping with the strategic aims. There was no evidence of any individual, group or organisation being favoured'.

Notwithstanding, Grampian Police acknowledged there were occasions where they could have provided a better service. On each of these occasions, explanations, and where appropriate, apologies have been provided to those concerned.

There are currently no outstanding complaints against the police nor, to the best of our knowledge, has any associated matter yet been referred to the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner. This is a legitimate avenue of recourse for any party who remains

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dissatisfied at the response to any complaint against the police, and also highlighted as an option by a committee member at the recent Public Petitions Committee.

In the continued interests of transparency, balanced against a requirement to maintain confidentiality where appropriate, Grampian Police (and subsequently, Police Scotland) have made over 200 documents, emails and other records available to the public, including various media agencies and other individuals who have requested them. Most, if not all of these documents have subsequently been made widely available and/or reported upon, either by those who have requested them, or on the world wide web and/or through various media outlets.

In conclusion, Police Scotland is satisfied that the policing response by Grampian Police into the development at Menie was undertaken in an impartial manner and has been subject to review. I can also reassure you that any future policing response connected to the development at Menie will be undertaken in a professional and impartial manner, reflecting the Police Scotland values of Integrity, Fairness, and Respect.

Yours sincerely

Derek Penman  
Assistant Chief Constable  
Local Policing North

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