

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartais
Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Micheal Matheson BPA
Michael Matheson MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Christine Grahame MSP
Convener
Justice Committee
Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SP

Ar faidhle/Our ref:

2nd September 2015

Dear Christine,

STOP AND SEARCH ADVISORY GROUP REPORT - CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SCOTLAND) BILL

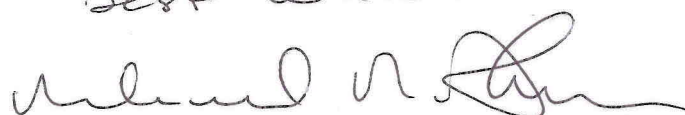
In my letter to you of 25 August I provided the Committee with an update on the Criminal Justice Bill. I said that an independent Advisory Group, chaired by John Scott QC, was examining the use of stop and search powers in Scotland and that the group would make its recommendations by the end of August. I said that once I had considered the Advisory Group's report and recommendations, I intended to lodge any appropriate amendments at Stage 2.

I thank the Committee for taking the timing of this report into account when scheduling its consideration of Stop and Search.

The Advisory Group has now reported to me, and I wish to give the Committee advance notice that I intend laying this report in Parliament at 10am on Thursday 3 September. A copy of the report will also be sent to Committee members and all MSPs.

As expected, the report has made recommendations that will require amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill. For example, it recommends that there should be a statutory code of practice, and that a draft code of practice should be consulted on before implementation. I therefore intend lodging the necessary amendments to give effect to the report's recommendations at Stage 2 of the Bill.

I hope this letter is helpful to you and members of the Committee.

Best wishes


MICHAEL MATHESON