



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Committee

Humza Yousaf
Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Scottish Government

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Dear Humza,

Police governance and accountability review

At its meeting of 10 March, the Justice Committee considered a number of issues relating to the SPA. This included the evidence provided at the recent Public Audit and Post-Legislative Scrutiny Committee meeting on Section 22 report - The 2018/19 audit of the Scottish Police Authority.

The Committee also considered your recent correspondence to the Public Audit Committee, in which you provide details of your plans to chair a roundtable evidence session, in private, on 11 March to consider police governance and accountability issues.

In your [letter](#) to the Public Audit Committee you indicate that the roundtable is part of a package of review work that you are currently overseeing to ensure that the correct structures and processes are in place, and that the meeting will consider further steps to take to engage more broadly.

The Committee would be grateful therefore for details of the timescale for the police governance and accountability review, details of the initial findings that emerge from the roundtable discussion, and an indication of your plans going forward. This should include details of the extent and remit of the review, consideration given to suggestions that the review should be independent of Government, and how stakeholders are to be included in the review process. We would also be keen to know what the outcome of the review will be, for example, a report, and whether any report of this nature will be published and shared with the Justice Committee.

On a related matter, I [wrote](#) to you, on behalf of the Justice Committee, on 22 January to request information on the appointment process for a Chair of the Scottish Police Authority. To date there has been no response to my letter.

At the meeting of 10 March, the Justice Committee also considered the ongoing vacant position of Chair of the Scottish Police Authority and whether Members of the Justice Committee, or Justice Sub-Committee should be included in the appointment process.

The Committee agreed that it cannot come to a view on the appropriate appointment process until details of the governance and accountability review, and its outcome, are known.

I would therefore be grateful for a response to this letter and that of the 22 January.

Best wishes,
Margaret

Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convener, Justice Committee