

**Chief Constable**

Professor Adam Tomkins MSP  
Convener, Justice Committee

By email: [justicecommittee@parliament.scot](mailto:justicecommittee@parliament.scot)

21 September 2020

*Dear Convener,*

Thank you for your letter of 11 September regarding correspondence received by the Justice Committee from the charity Nil by Mouth.

I note that this relates to a SPFL report on football matches during the 2017/18 season and that Nil by Mouth has raised concerns with the Justice Committee relating to the methodology used by the SPFL in the compilation of their report and inconsistencies with Police Scotland statistics.

Police Scotland crime recording is governed by the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) which sets out the national rules for recording and counting crime and offences. In the absence of a substantive crime or statutory aggravator for sectarian offences, such incidents are likely to be recorded as aggravated by religious prejudice or racially aggravated.

I note that the SPFL report details discriminatory behaviour in relation to matches that it has categorised as Level 1 (green) and Level 2 (yellow). In the absence of further detail on both the SPFL definition of discriminatory behaviour and its rationale for categorisation I am unable to provide a meaningful comparison between the SPFL report and the statistics produced by Police Scotland.

I have tasked the Head of the Police Scotland National Football Information Point, Chief Inspector Campbell Crawford, to liaise with SPFL colleagues and identify any inconsistencies in the reporting methodologies. Where possible inconsistencies will be reconciled in a manner that ensures clarity and enhances confidence in the reporting of this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



Iain Livingstone QPM  
Chief Constable