



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Committee

James Wolffe QC
Lord Advocate
Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal
Service

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By e-mail

27 January, 2021

Dear Lord Advocate,

Re. Implications of payments made for malicious prosecution on the budgets of the COPFS

I am writing on behalf of the Justice Committee in relation to the potential implications of payments made for malicious prosecution on the budgets of the COPFS.

A variety of figures have been referred to in media coverage and I would like to request that you update the Committee on the sums involved, or which could be involved, so that we know the scale of the cost to the taxpayer.

It would also be helpful if you can indicate from where the payments will be drawn? Will these sums be paid from existing budgets held in COPFS? If so, what are the implications for the COPFS in terms of other workstreams which will no longer have these sums allocated to them? Alternately, what agreement has been reached with the Scottish Government about providing COPFS with additional funds?

I look forward to a prompt response which the Committee can consider as part of its ongoing budget scrutiny. I will also be writing to the Cabinet Secretary on the same issue.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Tomkins MSP
Convener, Justice Committee