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Convener, Justice Sub-Committee on Policing
c/o Justice Sub-Committee Clerks
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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1st February 2018

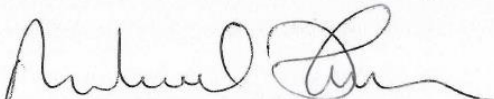
Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 30 January 2018 regarding Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland's (HMICS) report on undercover policing.

I received the report, 'A Strategic Review of Undercover Policing in Scotland' on 2 November 2017. You will be aware that the Scottish Government is currently being judicially reviewed on the issue of not having held a public inquiry into undercover policing in Scotland. This being the case, I have taken my time to carefully consider what is a detailed and comprehensive report with a view to making a decision on whether to hold a public inquiry in Scotland. I will publish the report and propose to make a statement to Parliament setting out my intentions on Wednesday 7 February 2018.

While I regret that you feel the Justice Sub-Committee has been inconvenienced, the consideration of a number of matters resulted in the length of time I have taken in order to make a fully informed decision.

I trust that you will find this helpful.

With Best Wishes


MICHAEL MATHESON