



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Humza Yousaf
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Dear 

HMICS Thematic Inspection of the Scottish Police Authority

I am writing to you regarding the recent publication of the HMICS [report](#) on its thematic inspection of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA).

The aim of the inspection was to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the SPA in terms of fulfilling its core role. It scrutinised how the SPA is meeting its statutory obligations under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and as a public body.

The Inspector found that challenges remain in terms of fulfilling the core statutory role of the SPA six years after it was first established.

The inspection highlighted concerns about the SPA's ability to fulfil its core roles of maintaining the Police Service and holding the Chief Constable to account for the policing of Scotland.

It also identified serious governance issues within the SPA, a conflict of interests in both providing and scrutinising forensic services, and a lack of effective engagement with key stakeholders.

These are just some of the many issues highlighted by the Inspector. Could you please provide the Sub-Committee with a response to the issues raised in the HMICS report and details of how these are to be resolved.

The report also refers to a number of issues which emerged during the inspection which were outwith the scope of the HMICS terms of reference. It indicates that these were raised directly with the Scottish Government. It would be appreciated if you could also provide details of these issues and plans to address them.

A response by Friday 25 October would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely



John Finnie MSP
Convener, Justice Sub-Committee on Policing