



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Judi Heaton  
Assistant Chief Constable  
Police Scotland

By e-mail

All correspondence c/o:  
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Dear ACC Heaton,

### Human trafficking for sexual exploitation

I am writing to you regarding recent media reports which indicate that while the number of victims of human trafficking has reduced in 2020, the proportion of those trafficked to be sexually exploited has increased slightly.

Police Scotland state in those media reports that there has been an “exponential increase” in potential victims being trafficked from within the UK and from across the world, during the coronavirus pandemic. Also, Police Scotland state that they believe the number of women, and girls, identified as being trafficked and sexually exploited is under-estimated.

Could you please provide details of the work that Police Scotland is doing in liaison with partners, both nationally and internationally, to identify the victims of human trafficking and exploitation and to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice

A response by Friday, 12 February would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

John Finnie MSP  
Convener, Justice Sub-Committee on Policing