



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Martyn Evans
Chair
Scottish Police Authority

By e-mail

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Friday 19 March, 2021

Dear Martyn,

Evidence session on 15 March 2021

I am writing to thank you and the Chief Executive, Lynn Brown, for giving oral evidence to the Sub-Committee on Monday 15 March last.

The Sub-Committee welcomes the vision and priorities you set out for the SPA around localism, social justice, an open and respectful conversation on police technology and on making sustainable decisions based on evidence. We welcome your commitment to ensure the SPA engages more effectively with key civic society stakeholders, elected local government and the wider public.

We were interested to hear of the work that you and the Chief Constable have begun on a joint memorandum of understanding to improve the oversight process for delivering new police technologies. This memorandum should look to aid in gaining public trust in the police use of new technologies and ensure a more open and transparent understanding by elected representative and wider civic society.

We also welcome your efforts to seek an early meeting with Dr Brian Plastow, the newly appointed Scottish Biometrics Commissioner. The new Commissioner will play a vital role in overseeing the technological landscape within which policing in Scotland must now operate, and in building public confidence in the use of technology by the police to protect the public from harm while also upholding their data protection rights and human rights.

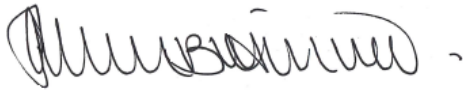
The [Official Report transcript of your evidence session](#) is now available on the Sub-Committee's website.

The Sub-Committee will reflect these developments in our legacy report to our Session 6 successor committee. In due course, I am sure our successors will wish to engage with you to learn about the progress made in these areas.

As was outlined in the evidence session, 2021 presents a range of unique challenges for both Police Scotland and the SPA.

So, can I take this opportunity you wish, Lynn Brown and the staff of the SPA well in meeting these challenges, and thank you for your engagement with the Sub-Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Finnie', with a small dash at the end.

John Finnie MSP
Convener, Justice Sub-Committee on Policing