

LETTER SENT BY EMAIL

Mary Fee MSP
Convener, Justice Sub-Committee on Policing
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

16 December 2016

Dear Ms Fee

I refer to your letter of 17 November 2016 requesting an update on a number of Police Scotland related issues.

I note you have also written to Police Scotland in the same manner. Following discussion with Police Scotland, I can confirm that the Chief Constable will respond shortly on behalf of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority on points one to four with the exception of our assessment on how the designation of local commanders is working in practice.

The Authority is of the view that the designation of local commanders is working effectively in practice. The SPA engages regularly with Local Authority partners and invites their input to inform the Annual Review of Policing. In 2015/16, this feedback indicated overall a high level of satisfaction with Divisional Police Teams' engagement on local priorities, and local policing's support for local scrutiny and local reporting. Local authorities also offered examples of highly valued local partnerships with policing.

A number of improvement actions to enhance and support the delivery of increased localism in policing are in place or being progressed, linked to the SPA Chair's Review of Governance in Policing. These include the provision of a resolution process for local authorities for any matter, which not resolved at Divisional level. In addition, Police Scotland is progressing work to strengthen local engagement with policing and ensure that where possible, local commanders are given more autonomy on how policies and practices are implemented while achieving the overall policing aim. Progress against all Governance Review recommendations is reported to the Scottish Police Authority.

I/

I trust this information will be of assistance.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'J' followed by a series of smaller, connected loops and a final flourish.

JOHN FOLEY
Chief Executive Officer

Copy to: Chief Constable Phil Gormley