



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Susan Deacon
Chair
Scottish Police Authority

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30 July 2019

Dear Susan

Strategic Co-ordination Unit

I am writing to you regarding your recent announcement that an Assistant Chief Constable and a Chief Superintendent from Police Scotland will be seconded to the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) for an initial period of six months to lead a Strategic Coordination Unit.

This decision was discussed at the SPA Board meeting of 22 May. I understand that the police officers are to report to you, as Chair of the SPA Board, and that the Unit's remit is to develop a strategic 'whole system' approach to the development and improvement of policing. Also, that the Unit may, after the initial six-month period, be further augmented by other individuals, including possible secondments from other key partners and stakeholders.

Could you please provide further details of the remit and membership of the Unit, including an explanation of the decision that it report to the Chair of the SPA, and not the Chief Executive, who has responsibility for strategic leadership and planning.

Could you also please clarify whether this work is in response to the recommendations in the recent [Review of the Scottish Police Authority Executive](#), undertaken by Malcolm Burr, Chief Executive of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Nicola Marchant, former Deputy Chair of the SPA, and published in March 2018?

Finally, could you please provide confirmation of where information on the work of the Unit can be accessed.

A response by 23 August 2019 would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

John Finnie MSP
Convener, Justice Sub-Committee on Policing