

21/09/2018

Your Ref:

Our Ref: GMc/DB/2



Justice Committee Clerks  
Room T2.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Specialist Crime Division  
Scottish Crime Campus  
Craignethan Drive  
Gartcosh  
G69 8AE  
Tel no: 01236 818536

By- email

Dear Mr Finnie,

### **Undercover Policing**

I am writing to acknowledge your correspondence of 19 September 2018 to Assistant Chief Constable Johnson, in relation to undercover policing.

Under the auspices of the Police Scotland Steering Group, each of the 19 recommendations contained within Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland Strategic Review of Undercover Policing are being progressed or are already complete.

Some of the recommendations, for example, in relation to cross-border notifications require to be progressed at a UK level and are currently under consideration through the National Undercover Working Group.

I will ensure that the Sub-Committee is provided with a full update on each of the recommendations prior to 12 October 2018.

In relation to your request for comment on recent media reporting regarding protest activity against shale oil and gas extraction and references to 'domestic extremism', I would provide the following by way of clarification.

The Police Scotland Annual Police Plan for 2017/18 did contain the following commentary:

*There continues to be protests around shale oil and gas extraction and unconventional oil and gas extraction, and unconventional oil and gas extraction, both commonly referred to as 'fracking'.*

This paragraph was contained within a wider and diverse section of the Annual Police Plan under the heading of Domestic Extremism.

Police Scotland does not consider any form of lawful and peaceful protest to constitute domestic extremism; however, we accept that from a presentational perspective a misinterpretation of this position may have been given from the way this small section of

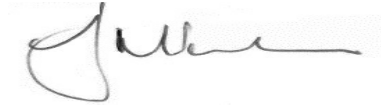
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the Annual Police Plan was worded and presented. No such reference is contained in the current Annual Police Plan for 2018/19.

Police Scotland has a duty to ensure that lawful protest activity is policed in a proportionate manner, with the primary aim of ensuring the safety of the public. We will always do this first and foremost through dialogue and engagement.

I trust the foregoing provides some reassurance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Mclean', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Gerry Mclean  
Detective Chief Superintendent  
Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism

OFFICIAL: NONE