

15/02/2019

John Finnie MSP
C/O Justice Sub-Committee Clerks
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

**John McKenzie
Chief Superintendent
Safer Communities**

Scottish Crime Campus
Craignethan Drive
Gartcosh
G69 8AE

Dear Mr Finnie,

I am writing with reference to the initial request for additional information dated 12 December 2018 following the evidence session I attended on 6 December 2018 with the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing, to discuss Police Scotland's role in the immigration process. This response is also further to my previous correspondence on the matter, dated 4 January 2019.

As you are aware, the request sought the following information:

- ***Information from all Police Scotland divisions on the number of times Police Scotland has attended to assist in Home Office Immigration Enforcement action;***

The Home Office inform Police Scotland of any planned immigration enforcement activity, through the submission of an Operation Notification Form (ONF), which also indicates if Police Scotland assistance is required.

Within Police Scotland, every local policing division has responsibility to respond to any ONFs received from Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE) which relate to their area, along with any associated assistance requests.

I can confirm that I have now liaised with all policing divisions in respect of your request however the recording of ONF submissions and the associated divisional processes are varied. Police Scotland works alongside a number of agencies, including HOIE, however as you would expect engagement in respect of this is predominantly managed locally, with no national process required for recording such activity.

I can also advise that I liaised with HOIE to establish if they could assist with providing the data requested however I was informed that this would require manually reviewing a large number of records and therefore they were unable to assist.

Despite the foregoing I have obtained the following data from local policing, which I trust will provide an indication of the frequency that police assistance is requested via ONF submission:

- Following a review of 338 ONFs submitted to Police Scotland throughout 2018, 37 of these requested police assistance

It must be noted however that due to the aforementioned variance in recording processes, this data has been provided as an indicative measure only, not a definitive total.

Finally, as I explained during the evidence session on 6 December 2018 (OR Column 4), there are also a number of occasions whereby Police Scotland and HOIE work together, often with other agencies, for joint initiatives such as Operation Mighty. The data provided above has been obtained primarily from ONF submissions and the associated number of requests for police assistance, therefore proactive, multi-agency initiatives have not been included.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



John McKenzie
Chief Superintendent