

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Designation of local commanders

Written submission from Angus Council

Thank you for your letter of 17 November 2016 asking for comments on the designation of local police commanders.

From an Angus Council point of view this process has worked reasonably well and as anticipated by the legislation. Our commander in D Division covers the three local authority areas in Tayside, but officers appointed to the role since the formation of Police Scotland have shown a good understanding of the role in terms of the need to engage with local authorities.

We benefit from regular liaison meetings between myself and the area commander, attendance at our Police and Fire Scrutiny events/committee and the provision on informal access for all elected members prior to council meetings on a regular basis.

Our main issue would be the turnover of post holders. We have had a number of area commanders appointed to Tayside since the formation of the national force and I feel that greater longevity in post would perhaps benefit collaboration on both sides of the police/council relationship.

I would also comment that on all occasions where a change in personnel has been necessary the council has been consulted on the suitability of the proposed appointee and on all occasions the officer designated as area commander has been of the highest calibre.

Yours sincerely

Richard Stiff
Chief Executive