



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Cabinet Secretary for Justice

**Public Audit and Post-legislative
Scrutiny Committee**

Room T3.60

The Scottish Parliament

EDINBURGH

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By e-mail only

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25 February 2021

Dear Cabinet Secretary

The 2019/20 audit of the Scottish Police Authority

At its meeting on [11 February 2021](#), the Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee took evidence from the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and the Chief Constable of Police Scotland on the section 22 report on [the 2019/20 audit of the SPA](#).

The Committee notes the additional £60 million of revenue funding for Police Scotland that was announced in the Scottish Government's draft budget for 2021-22¹. Both the SPA and the Chief Constable were of the understanding that this £60 million increase provides a new baseline for Police Scotland's budget going forward. **The Committee would be grateful if you could clarify whether this is the case.**

The Committee notes that a shortfall of £33 million remains in Police Scotland's capital budget and that capital reform funding has not been increased. The Committee heard that the impact of this means that future investments will require to be "rephased and reprioritised". The Committee notes the SPA and Police Scotland's intention to prioritise items that are essential for maintaining the health, safety and wellbeing of officers. However, the Committee was concerned by the impact that the shortfall will

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-budget-2021-22/>

have on Police Scotland's core asset base. For example, the Committee heard that no improvements will be able to be made to the third of the police estate that is in poor condition and the current six-year average age of a response vehicle will continue to increase. In addition, staff will continue to use ICT equipment over 10 years old, impacting on their ability to work remotely.

Police Scotland explained that the risk around the timing and value of capital receipts currently lies with Police Scotland. It has asked the Scottish Government to manage the risk on its behalf, as happens across the wider public sector. Police Scotland indicated that if the Scottish Government agreed to this then it would be able to get its "investment levels up to where they need to be for the fleet and other places". **The Committee would be grateful if you indicate what consideration you have given to this request from Police Scotland.**

I would be grateful if you could provide a response by **12 March 2021**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Marra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Jenny Marra MSP
Convener**