



Chief Constable

Jenny Marra MSP
Convener
Public Audit and Post Legislative Scrutiny Committee

By email

18 March 2021

Dear Convener,

Parliamentary Evidence Session 11 February 2021 – 2019/20 Audit of the Scottish Police Authority

On Thursday 11 February 2021, I provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Public Audit and Post Legislative Scrutiny (PAPLS) Committee in respect of the 2019/20 Audit of the Scottish Police Authority. Following that evidence session, I provided additional information by correspondence dated 5 March 2021.

The Committee has also requested further information from the Scottish Police Authority on costs relating to the police investigation into allegations against Mr Alex Salmond under Operation Diem. As Chief Constable, the Scottish Police Authority has asked me to respond to this request given my operational independence and accountability.

Operation Diem

As outlined in evidence and in my earlier correspondence, Police Scotland does not record the officer hours devoted to any specific operation or investigation. The nature of policing means that officers and staff are deployed to wherever their services are most required. Officers and staff from different areas of the Service support specific investigations as part of their routine daily duties, while others assigned to particular operations can at times be required to undertake other duties.

As a result, it is not possible to provide the precise cost of Operation Diem.

Subject to the caveats above, a small dedicated team worked on Operation Diem from Fettes Police Station, Edinburgh, between August 2018 and April 2020.

This team was comprised of seven officers from August 2018, rising to a maximum of 14 during the months between October 2018 and July 2019, before steadily reducing in 2020.

The indicative cost of this staffing profile is just over £810,000.

In addition, there were non-staff costs captured in respect of Operation Diem totalling just over £24,000.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Livingstone', written in a cursive style.

Iain Livingstone QPM
Chief Constable