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**SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY**

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LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

Ms Jenny Marra MSP
Convener
Public Audit and Post-Legislative Scrutiny Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

15 March 2021

CE/048/2021

Dear Convener

SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY S.22 EVIDENCE 11 FEBRUARY 2021

I refer to my correspondence of 4 March 2021 and commitment therein to provide any relevant further information in respect of referrals from the Crown Office.

Further information has now been provided by Police Scotland which confirms there is no quantifiable information centrally collated in respect of the number of referrals from the Crown Office, or the volume of activities as a result.

By means of explanation, enquiries and investigations stemming from Crown Office referrals are often complex. Instructions and directions are likely to be given in matters of public interest, complexity and gravity. As a result, Police Scotland works closely with the Crown Office, regular dialogue and co-operation is common and enables problems and issues to be dealt with efficiently and effectively.

As outlined in my earlier correspondence, Police Scotland is legally obliged to act on referrals from the Crown Office. This ability to instruct and direct police activity in investigations is long established in the Scottish judicial system through common law, and latterly, as enshrined in the 2012 Act.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



LYNN BROWN OBE
Chief Executive

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