

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartais
Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Humza Yousaf BPA/MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot



Scottish Go
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Jenny Marra MSP
Convener
Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee

By email
Papls.committee@parliament.scot

12 March 2021

Dear Convenor

THE 2019-20 AUDIT OF THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 2021 which seeks further information on a couple of issues which were raised with the Committee at its meeting on 11 February 2021, when it took evidence from the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and from Police Scotland.

The 2021-22 Scottish Budget, published on 28 January 2021 contains a £60m resource budget increase for the SPA compared to the 2020-21 budget allocation. This will eliminate Police Scotland's structural deficit and deliver a sustainable budget position going forward. I am able to confirm that the 2021-22 SPA resource budget position will be the new baseline for its budget going forward. As you will be aware it is for the SPA to allocate this resource across its priorities.

In relation to Police Scotland's capital budget, I note your comments and the discussion on this topic at the recent evidence session. I am very aware of the capital request from the SPA/Police Scotland and would like to assure the Committee that I will continue working closely with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance on this issue and continue making the case for additional capital investment in policing. I am pleased to be able to inform you that a further £10m capital budget has recently been made available to the SPA in the current financial year, which will be invested in modernising the police fleet.

In relation to capital receipts, the SPA currently has agreement to retain the receipts it generates from the disposal of property and fleet assets until 31 March 2022, and they form an important component of the overall capital funding available to Police Scotland for investment in its asset base. To date the SPA and Police Scotland have been able to manage their capital receipts within their overall budget position. Looking at their plans for the future I recognise that this may prove more challenging,

particularly around the size and timing of receipts. I have therefore asked my officials to explore this situation further with SPA and Police Scotland to better understand the plans for disposals over the next five year period and the scale and timing of capital receipts. This will allow us to better understand the risks being managed by SPA/Police Scotland, and to explore how the Scottish Government might be able to assist in the wider management of this risk across its larger funding base. Police Scotland is currently undertaking some preliminary work around this to inform these discussions.



HUMZA YOUSAF

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1
3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



