

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Your Ref: 64.18

Our Ref: 894/1118

Mr John Finnie MSP  
C/O Justice Sub-Committee Clerks  
Room T2.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP



Gillian MacDonald  
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Dear Mr Finnie

I am writing with reference to your correspondence dated 1 November 2018, in which you request an update regarding the proposal that Police Scotland and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) undertake a review of Criminal Justice bodies' engagement with migrant communities in Scotland.

As indicated in my correspondence to the Justice Sub-Committee dated 22 November 2017, I can confirm that Police Scotland has engaged with both COPFS and the Scottish Refugee Council (SRC), in respect of this matter and to discuss the potential remit for such a review.

Engagement with SRC confirms that they are aware and supportive of the extensive work ongoing across Scotland with migrant communities, particularly through our local community policing approaches. I note that this has also been acknowledged and referenced within previous submissions of the SRC to the Justice Sub-Committee.

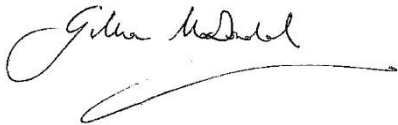
Concerns raised from SRC however primarily relate to the need for a transparent relationship between the Home Office and criminal justice bodies in Scotland, with the requirement for clear explanation and rationale. They consider this of particular significance in relation to Home Office Immigration Enforcement activities and functions, given the potential associated implications for public confidence and consent with regards to policing in Scotland.

It is my understanding that the SRC intend to submit further correspondence to the Justice Sub-Committee in respect of this matter, to clarify their concerns and to offer their thoughts on how this matter could be progressed.

Police Scotland is committed to keeping all our communities safe. Our previous written submission to the Justice Sub-Committee for the roundtable evidence session in October 2017, highlighted a number of ongoing workstreams in relation to our engagement with diverse communities, including staff training, recruitment and hate crime. We continue to engage with SRC and other key partners at both a local level, in relation to day to day operational matters and at a national, strategic level to enhance existing working practices.

I trust that the foregoing information is of assistance to you and clarifies our position.

Yours sincerely

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

ACC Gillian MacDonald  
Crime and Protection