Dear Chief Constable

Policing budget

Thank you for your letter in response to the Committee’s request for additional information during the evidence session on the policing budget on 25 November, which the Committee considered yesterday.

The Committee was disappointed that this correspondence was not received until the morning of the meeting at which we considered our report to the Finance Committee on the Scottish Government’s Draft Budget 2015-16, particularly when you had the material on campaigns with you at the meeting and that I specifically asked for it to be provided by the next day.

The Committee also noted that the information provided in the letter on the campaigns budget does not include a breakdown of the budgets relating to campaigns on the 101 number, doorstep sellers and keeping safe online, which a Committee member specifically requested. The relevant exchange can be found at Col 27 of the Official Report for the meeting at the following link: http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9652&mode=pdf

Your letter also states that it is not possible to extrapolate the amount of overtime expenditure made due to sickness absence within current recording mechanisms. You also indicate that any such expenditure, if it does take place, would be minimal due to the nature of policing but, with respect; this can only be a guess if the data is
not available. The Committee is disappointed regarding the lack of data in this area, given that it would inform the overall monitoring of costs arising from sickness absence, and asks when an appropriate recording mechanism that would allow the information to be extrapolated will be in place.

I would be grateful for this information by close of play on Friday 12 December.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Christine Grahame MSP
Convener, Justice Committee