

Date: 14 August 2017DATE

Your Ref:

Our Ref: SM/CS/001/0817

Graeme Dey MSP  
Convener  
Environment, Climate Change & Land  
Reform Committee  
c/o Clerk to the Committee  
Room T3. 40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

***By email only***



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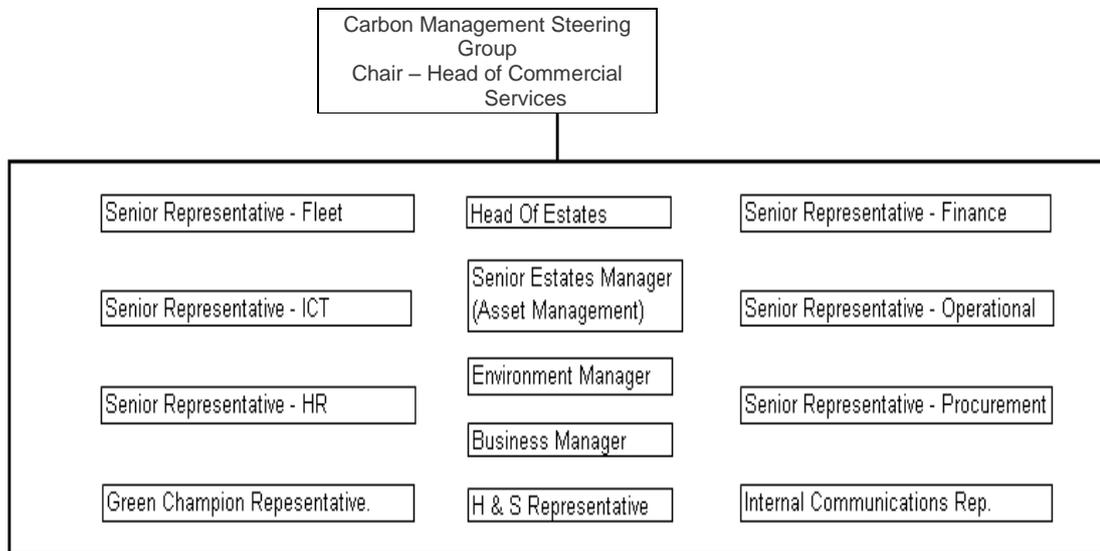
Dear Mr Dey

## **PUBLIC BODIES PROGRESS IN MEETING CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES**

Further to your letter of 11 July 2017, please find below our response to your request for information. Attached to this letter (Appendix 1) is a copy of the 2016/2017 Sustainability Report contained within the Annual Scottish Police Authority Report.

Police Scotland has taken a number of steps to embed climate change strategically and at a leadership level. A governance and reporting structure is in place. Climate change matters fall under the remit of the Corporate Governance Board and all relevant issues and performance are reported.

A Carbon Management Steering Group, comprising a broad section of Senior Managers, plus Operational staff, exists to ensure robust programme processes are followed.



Examples of how this works include the Committee Report template being altered so that it is mandatory to complete a section on Environmental Implications. This ensures that climate change issues are considered before any decisions are made. Each year we have submitted an Annual Report on our climate change duties to the Scottish Government, in line with the public reporting requirements.

As part of the recent Estate Strategy, a Divisional Property Asset Management Plan was carried out to each property to check building suitability. A section of these plans checked and measured the carbon emissions and benchmarked the floor area of the building against the carbon emissions average of the Division.

A number of corporate services transformation reviews are under development within which an initial business case was submitted to carry out a review of a Telematics solution, which may be implemented across our fleet. This project was originally listed in the Force's Carbon Management Plan and one its key benefits is a reduction in carbon emissions. A full assessment will be conducted and developed into a full business case later this financial year.

The challenges and barriers that are faced by the organisation are:

Lack of Resources - It is a considerable challenge for two dedicated Environment Management staff to get the message out to around 23,000 employees with conflicting agendas and processes.

Lack of Financial Resources - Like other organisations, cuts have been made to budgets. Carbon Management has to compete with other parts of the organisation to achieve funding year by year. If extra funding was available, additional projects could be carried out.

Lack of Awareness - As mentioned above, we are a large organisation with a wide spectrum of employees to whom some Climate Change is not a priority issue. Nevertheless, we are participating in a Behaviour Change pilot project (with another three UK Police Forces) to engender collective responsibility for Climate Change matters and make it a normal activity.

Processes - As a 24/7 Emergency Service, certain tasks and processes must be carried out that contribute to our carbon emissions, e.g., we must send a vehicle to

an incident or the helicopter may be used in other circumstances. The challenge is finding a balance on providing a service and also reducing carbon emissions.

To provide assistance, the Scottish Government could look to reinstate the support that Resource Efficient Scotland previously provided to Government agencies.

Yours sincerely

Colette Sherry  
Head of Commercial Services