Justice Committee

Railway Policing (Scotland) Bill

Written submission from Joe Ashwood

I wish to record my opposition to the proposed merger between the British Transport Police and the currently discredited Police Scotland on grounds as follows:

1) Transport policing is a specialist section which concentrates on security etc in a particular sector which is a main target for terrorism so should not be disrupted.

2) Police Scotland has still to 'get it right' after unification and needs more time to perfect its' now larger role if it is to be allowed to continue. After all, it is hardly a success in the public eye.

3) It may well lead to police being diverted to duties elsewhere thereby diluting the role of each and permitting further reduction in numbers.

4) There is now perhaps a case for bus terminals to be seen to be policed by transport police so their role needs to be expanded further.

Thank you and please remember, consultation means consideration of other views.

Joe Ashwood
22 December 2016