Director-General Education and Justice

Àrd-stiùiriche Foghlam agus Ceartais Neil Rennick

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Richard Leonard MSP Convener Public Audit Committee

By email: publicaudit.committee@Parliament.Scot

22 October 2024

Dear Mr Leonard

Investing in Scotland's Infrastructure – Jackton Training Centre

Thank you for your letter of 27 September 2024 in relation to the Police Scotland Training Centre at Jackton.

As I have previously stated to the Committee, the termination of the Jackton PFI contract in 2026 is subject to commercial negotiation. It is the responsibility of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA)/Police Scotland and the Scottish Government to achieve value for money in relation to all contractual arrangements, including exiting PFI contracts. The process of contract termination is clearly set out in the PFI agreement, and includes the requirement to undertake a range of surveys, which will inform the overall negotiations.

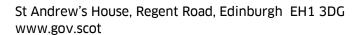
Police Scotland has developed an Initial Business Case (IBC) which assesses the options available for exiting this contract. The IBC was considered and approved by the SPA Resources Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2024, when the Committee granted its approval for Police Scotland's Chief Financial Officer to undertake commercial negotiations with the PFI company, in line with the agreed negotiation strategy.

Police Scotland has established a Jackton Project Board to oversee the successful delivery and management of the expiry of the PFI contract. The Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) is represented on this Board. In addition to advice from the SFT, the Police Scotland SRO will manage a team of specialist and professional advisers who will provide specialist PFI advice, as well as advice on valuation and legal issues.

I have been advised by the SPA and Police Scotland that publication of information at this time around the financial implications of exiting this contract, could provide commercial disadvantage to the SPA in its negotiations with the PFI company. I can confirm that Scottish Government officials are being updated by the SPA and Police Scotland as they review and assess the options for the termination of the contract.







I know that you will understand that I would not wish to prejudice the commercial negotiations between the SPA and the PFI Company. However, I hope this information about the process is helpful to the Committee. We will engage with the SPA and Police Scotland to ensure that the Committee is kept updated as the process progresses.

Yours sincerely,

NEIL RENNICK

Director-General Education and Justice, Scottish Government

