

## **Criminal Justice Committee**

Jo Farrell KPM  
Chief Constable

**9<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

Dear Chief Constable,

Thank you for your letter, and for your willingness to appear before the Committee for its pre-budget scrutiny.

In developing its working practices for Session 7, the Committee agreed to a number of strategic objectives, including that scrutiny should, so far as possible, be informed by frontline and public perspectives.

The Committee therefore agreed that for pre-budget scrutiny this year, it will move from the traditional model and instead focus on frontline perspectives, independent oversight and systemic reform issues. The Committee's decision to seek targeted written and oral evidence is a reflection of the strategic objectives we set at the beginning of this parliamentary session, together with a recognition of the tight timescales for pre-budget scrutiny this year, and meets the Committee's aims for pre-budget scrutiny this year. In this context, therefore, the Committee is unable to take up your offer to give evidence in person on this occasion.

I would like to assure you that the Committee will also take into account the recent contributions made to post-budget scrutiny undertaken earlier this year, including your oral evidence to the Session 6 Committee on [2 March 2026](#).

I look forward to meeting with you in November.

Yours sincerely,

**David Linden MSP**  
Convener  
Criminal Justice Committee