SCPOSA

The Scottish Chief Police Officers' Staff Association

Chair: Stuart Houston, T/Deputy Chief Constable, Police Scotland
Secretary: Andrew Barker QPM

19 October 2026

LETTER SENT BY E MAIL

Ms Susan Brown
Assistant Clerk
Criminal Justice Committee
The Scottish Government

Dear Ms Brown

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – POTENTIAL FORTHCOMING SCRUTINY OF POLICE CONDUCT REGULATIONS

I refer to your E Mail of 8 October 2026 in respect of the forthcoming scrutiny of the Police Service of Scotland (Senior Officers)(Conduct) Amendment Regulations and the potential of an invitation being extended to the Association to participate in that scrutiny.

The recognition of the Association as an interested party in the formation of the amended Regulations is welcomed as the new provisions will of course have a direct effect on our members.

Whilst the invitation is welcomed, it may be helpful to outline the position of the Association in respect of the amended Regulations as I feel there is probably little that could be added at any evidence session of the Committee.

From the outset of the review of the existing legislative provisions the Association engaged fully with Lady Angiolini and outlined the concerns of members regarding the current position. The final report which Lady Angiolini provided to Ministers reflected the concerns of members and with the exception of some minor matters the Association welcomed the report in its entirety.

Following the issue of the draft Regulations by the Scottish Government the Association engaged fully with the two consultation processes which were conducted. In essence our response acknowledged the proposed changes to the Regulations and welcomed them. As an Association we sought no changes to the draft Regulations.

As you will note from the foregoing the Association is content with the draft of the Police Service of Scotland (Senior Officers)(Conduct) Amendment Regulations and would have

no further comment to make at the Criminal Justice Committee. I would, therefore, not wish to attend and say nothing other than that the Association was happy with the Regulations as drafted.

I trust that these comments will be of assistance to members of the Committee and will stand in place of the attendance of the Association at Committee.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Houston
T/Deputy Chief Constable
Chair