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LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

David Linden MSP
Convener
Criminal Justice Committee
The Scottish Parliament

CO-048-2026

13 October 2026

Dear David

FRONTLINE POLICING AND NON-CRIMINAL DEMANDS ON POLICING

Thank you for the invitation to provide evidence to the Criminal Justice Committee on 16 September 2026 on frontline policing and non-criminal demands on policing.

During the evidence session, Maggie Chapman MSP asked if the Authority had any information on the consistency of approach by police across Scotland when deciding to stand down from mental health callouts.

Officials have reviewed the information and updates provided by Police Scotland and the Partnership Delivery Group. Reporting refers to the development of the mental health index which provides details of referral routes and provision in every local policing division across Scotland, ensuring officers have current information to support timely transfer of care. Reporting does not benchmark or provide a breakdown by each local policing or Local Authority area.

The most recent information I would draw to the committee's attention is available at the following link 3 September 2026 - [Mental Health Distress Partnership Delivery Group Annual Progress Report](#).

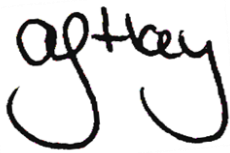
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I reiterated during the evidence session that the response to policing of mental health and vulnerability related demand requires a whole system response. This is often more about wider social care and local authority support, not an acute NHS response.

I hope this information aids the Committees continued scrutiny of this important issue. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Hay', with a stylized, cursive script.

ALASDAIR HAY CBE QFSM
Chair

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