

Justice Committee

Police Reform

Letter from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland to the Committee on roles and responsibilities

Following my appearance at the Justice Committee on 27 November, I promised a further update on progress in agreeing the respective roles and responsibilities for HR and Finance functions with the Scottish Police Authority to support me in my role as Chief Constable of the new single service.

We have since had two discussions with the SPA and met again yesterday (Dec 19th) at the second full meeting. Some progress was made with general agreement on high level principles and a paper on this will be made publicly available by the SPA in the new year ahead of the next meeting mid January.

Our focus is very much on the delivery of a policing service for day one and I reserve some concern about the pace of progress however given the importance of the reforms, it is important we get the structures right for the future. I am increasingly of the view that the only satisfactory resolution will be a change to legislation in order to address the matter fully.

I will provide a further update if required in the new year and in the meantime, please accept my best wishes for Christmas and the new year. I would be grateful if this letter could be shared with other committee members for their information.

Stephen House
Chief Constable
20 December 2012