

Justice Committee

Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Letter from Chief Constable Stephen House to the Convener

Further to your letter of 8 January 2013 I would like to update you on progress following the public meeting of the Scottish Police Authority in Glasgow today.

As you are aware, a paper on Organisation Principles (Business Activities) was tabled and discussed at the meeting. This included a short discussion regarding a request from Scottish Government to ensure that the paper was amended to reflect that I, as Chief Constable, would have direction and control of police staff in HR and Finance functions. This was accepted by the Authority and I regard this as a welcome development.

I would add that had the intervention not come from Scottish Government, I would have retained my reservations about the paper and proposed a review after April as I did not support the basic principles behind the original arrangement and did not believe it was best suited to running a police service.

There is much to do in preparation for a single police service in April and work continues apace. My focus is on delivering an efficient, effective policing service for April and today's progress allows me to continue that work.

If there is any further information you require, please contact my office in the first instance.

Stephen House
Chief Constable
18 January 2013