

## **Justice Committee**

### **Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012**

#### **Letter from the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority to the Convener**

Thank you for your letter of 9 January requesting an update on the discussions between the Scottish Police Authority and the Police Service of Scotland on how certain corporate business activities are organised.

The Board of the Scottish Police Authority met in public session today (Friday, 18 January) and considered the business activities paper that I circulated to you on 8 January. In addition, Members agreed to consider a codicil to that paper suggested by the Scottish Government which requests that in the areas of HR and Finance some staff are appointed as police staff under the direction and control of the Chief Constable, while others will be SPA staff.

There was unanimous agreement on principles of the business activities proposals, including the requested codicil regarding HR and Finance from the Scottish Government.

The Chief Constable has also today publicly given his agreement to the proposals and we will now proceed to finalise the detail of these arrangements.

I understand from your letter that you are considering a further session of the Justice Committee on 23 January to consider police reform issues, and I would be grateful for early indication of whether this is proceeding so that I can make the necessary arrangements.

I have noted the continued references to the role of personalities in determining this issue. You should also be aware that at today's meeting, Members formally and unanimously declared for the record that in my actions and statements as Chair of the SPA, I have fairly and accurately represented the views of the whole SPA board.

If there is a Committee session next week, then I would like you to be aware that other Members of the SPA board will accompany me.

Vic Emery  
Chair, Scottish Police Authority  
18 January 2013