

Justice Committee

Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

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

In response to your letter dated 23 January 2013, please find below the representation made by Scottish Government officials on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice. This representation is what I have referred to in my previous correspondence as a codicil.

“The Cabinet Secretary has asked the board to ensure that, in taking forward the detailed design of the Finance and HR services that will support the police service, the Chief Constable has the support of police staff who will assist him in fulfilling the requirements that the Act confers on him.

It is therefore the Scottish Government’s view that under the Act this is needed to allow the Chief Constable to perform his administration responsibilities effectively.”

The board approved the Business Activities paper with the inclusion of the Scottish Government representation that “...detailed arrangements for HR and finance ensure that some staff will be appointed as police staff, under the direction and control of the chief constable, while others will be SPA staff.”

Thank you for informing us about the proposal regarding the establishment of a special sub-committee to examine policing matters. Board members would like to invite the Committee to consider an early round table discussion about the new Parliamentary sub-committee and plans for engagement between the new sub-committee and the SPA Board.

Vic Emery
Chair, Scottish Police Authority
4 February 2013