04th October 2019

Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convenor of The Justice Committee
Scottish Parliament

Email: justicecommittee@parliament.scot

Dear Convenor,

Scottish Railways Policing Committee

Following the update provided to you on 23 July 2019 by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice I write to provide further details on the implementation plans and progress for the new Scottish Railways Policing Committee.

The Scottish Railways Policing Committee is established as a sub-committee of the British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) under the terms of paragraph 12(b) of Schedule 4 of the Railways & Transport Safety Act 2003, and plans to meet for the first time on 22 October 2019 at the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) in Glasgow.

The Committee will provide oversight of the development of plans and policies and scrutinise railway policing performance against agreed plans. It will aim to provide assurance to the BTPA, SPA and Scottish Ministers on the delivery of railway policing in Scotland.

In performing its functions, the Committee will have regard to the UK-wide police priorities set and reviewed by the BTPA, and police priorities set and reviewed by Scottish Government.

The plan is for the Committee to meet quarterly with meetings open to be observed by members of the public. Prior to the beginning of each calendar year, a provisional schedule of meetings will be published and advertised on both the BTPA and the SPA websites.

Registered office: The Forum 5th Floor North 74-80 Camden Street London NW1 0EG
As the Scottish member of the BTPA I become the chair-designate of the Committee and will be joined by Mr Willie Gallagher and Mr Dominic Booth of the BTPA, and Mr Tom Halpin and Mr Robert Hayes of the SPA.

Clearly we will consider at an early stage how we intend to review the effectiveness of the Committee and I will write to you in due course with an update.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Bill Matthews
Chair Designate
Scottish Railways Policing Committee