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Justice Committee Clerks
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear Convener,

Public Petitions PE1510 and PE1511: Police and Fire Control Rooms

Thank you for your letter dated 13th October in relation to the planned closure of Police Control Rooms in Aberdeen and Inverness.

As you are aware the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) has approved a revised indicative timeline for the planned closure of Aberdeen Control Room in March 2017 and Inverness Control Room in June 2017. Command and control activities from both sites will transition into the new North Area Control Room located in Dundee.

Significant planning and assurance activities are ongoing to demonstrate to key stakeholders and governance bodies that, in advance of any request to the SPA to close an existing site, we are able to provide high levels of confidence that front line command and control activities will be maintained, that the benefits associated with the change are realised and that the public will notice no detriment to local delivery.

The C3IR Programme now reports on a monthly basis to the SPA Governance and Assurance group to demonstrate robust programme management and to evidence that the proposed changes are being delivered in a safe and assured manner.

At this time, and until we receive formal approval to change, the existing control room sites in Aberdeen and Inverness remain fully functional and responsible for the management of incidents within their command area.

A Service Overview, similar to those currently in place in Glasgow and Edinburgh, has been introduced in Dundee to manage firearms incidents across the North Command area. This has been an operational decision to ensure that these high risk incidents are managed and coordinated in the most effective way to maintain public safety.

I can confirm that there has been no movement of control room staff from Aberdeen or Inverness to Dundee and, with the exception of managing firearms incidents, legacy operations remain in place within Aberdeen and Inverness. There are, however, control room staff from Dundee being deployed in Aberdeen to support the existing model and gain experience of some of the unique policing issues experienced in North East Scotland.

Although planning for the creation of a new National Database Enquiry Unit in Inverness is at an advanced stage, there have been no additional tasks rerouted to Inverness and the current position will remain in place until the future model is tested, assured and approved and we receive approval from SPA to proceed to implementation.

I trust this provides the required assurance to Committee members, however, remain available to provide further assurance, if required.

Yours sincerely



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Deputy Chief Constable
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