Dear Humza

**Railway Policing (Scotland) Bill: 6 monthly progress update**

Thank you for your letter of 31 October in which you provide a 6 monthly progress report on the work of the joint programme board (JPB).

You indicate that the JPB has agreed that officers and staff will transfer on their current terms and conditions. This is a welcome development.

In evidence to the Justice Committee on **14 March**, Nigel Goodband, National Chairman of the British Transport Police Federation, raised a concern about union representation for officers who transfer from the British Transport Police (BTP) to Police Scotland. Mr Goodband told the Committee that:

> “British Transport Police officers are under a contract of employment under employment legislation. They are not employed under police regulations. It is questionable whether our members could be represented by a police federation that is covered in statute under police regulations. We, the British Transport Police Federation, exist under the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003, not under police regulations”.

BTP officers who transfer to Police Scotland will no longer be represented by the BTP Federation and it remains unclear whether they would be represented by the Scottish Police Federation.
The Committee should therefore be grateful to receive clarification as to whether this issue has been resolved as part of the transfer of current terms and conditions agreement, and if so, confirmation of who would represent BTP officers who transfer to Police Scotland.

If it has not been resolved, the committee should further be grateful to receive clarification on whether this issue is currently being considered by the JPB, as a matter of priority, and the deadline for the JPB completing its consideration?

Best wishes

Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convener, Justice Committee