



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Justice Committee

David Crichton  
Vice Chair  
Scottish Police Authority

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By e-mail

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Dear Mr Crichton,

### **COVID-19 and policing**

The Committee fully supports the police service's efforts to continue to keep people safe during the ongoing COVID-19 emergency. Members fully appreciate that the police service and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) are currently having to adapt and to make difficult decisions every day. We are very grateful for the essential work that is being done at this very difficult time.

The Committee recognises the need not to overburden the SPA or Police Scotland at this time. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 emergency is placing substantial challenges on the police service.

Police Scotland have received new emergency powers to protect lives and respond effectively to the COVID-19 outbreak. As the First Minister said in the Chamber on 24 March, Parliament and its members "must continue to perform their important scrutiny role at such a time."

The Policing Sub-Committee will be writing to Police Scotland to ask some key questions, and a copy of that letter will be sent to the SPA for information.

When time allows, in order not to put undue pressure on you and your staff, would you please confirm the SPA's scrutiny arrangements at this time. In particular, the arrangements to monitor Police Scotland's use of the new emergency police powers.

Please be assured that the Committee remains willing to do its bit to support the police service during this difficult period. I wish you and your staff well in these challenging times.

Best wishes,

Margaret Mitchell MSP  
Convener, Justice Committee