Thank you for your e-mail dated 28 August 2018, in which you invited HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) to provide written evidence on cyber kiosks.

It is worth noting that HMICS recognise the concerns that the committee have expressed during previous evidence sessions relating to the planned roll-out of cyber kiosks by Police Scotland. We have noted that during the evidence session you intend to look at the assessments that are to be undertaken and when they will be finalised (human rights, equality, and privacy assessments), and data retention and security.

Also of relevance is that the use of electronic devices in the commission and detection of crime has become ever more present as the technology of these devices has advanced. Therefore we recognise the need for Police Scotland to have sufficient capability and capacity to allow them to examine electronic devices and secure evidence where appropriate.

Police Scotland have embarked on a range of stakeholder engagement sessions on the use of cyber kiosks. As we understand it these sessions will inform the related practices, processes and procedures to be adopted prior to the roll-out of the devices. HMICS are encouraged by this approach and have also been invited to participate in these stakeholder engagement sessions. The next planned session is due to take place on 12 September. Consequently HMICS does not feel able to comment, at this time, on whether or not there will be sufficient safeguards in place regarding the use of cyber kiosks or whether or not Police Scotland has addressed the concerns expressed by the committee.

I hope the committee will find this useful.

Roderick Irvine
Assistant HM Inspector of Constabulary
3 September 2018