

22 October 2019

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Susan Deacon, CBE
Chair
Scottish Police Authority
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Glasgow
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**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

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E.U. Exit Planning and Preparations

Dear Chair,

Further to my letter dated the 3rd September, and the briefing provided on 21st October 2019 on policing matters relating to the UK leaving the EU, I thought that it would be helpful to update you on a few matters that we have been discussing regularly at Public Board meetings, not least the growing costs to police Scotland which now (as of 21/10/19) sit at £9.8m for Brexit related spend.

As we move towards the 31st October, and with the political uncertainty that still exists around how and when the UK will leave the EU, planning arrangements have now entered the 'response' phase of operations.

In relation to the Force Reserve, and whilst Divisions continue to submit requests for assistance with pre planned events - as of 21st October, the 'Force Reserve' will become 'Brexit Reserve' - with tasking being focused primarily around any EU-Exit related business. It will, of course, remain available to support local policing across all Divisions in the absence of Brexit related activity.

The Brexit Contingency Team continue to work closely with the three Regional Resilience Partnerships (RRPs) and twelve Local Resilience Partnerships (LRPs) to ensure Scotland's resilience to EU-Exit and the possible consequences, with training and exercising activity ongoing. The Multi-Agency Co-ordination Centre has been stood-up full-time with effect from the 21st October, and will be the co-located hub – at Bilston Glen – for co-ordination and information sharing arrangements with partner agencies. Ongoing testing, including on 22nd & 23rd October, with national testing on

24th October, will ensure information flows are working effectively and enable staff to be familiarised with the Resilience Direct system.

At our meeting, I was grateful for the opportunity to provide detail on some sensitive matters connected to Brexit, and the helpful discussion and advice on how Police Scotland can ensure the fullest public transparency on our significant preparations for what is clearly a matter of ongoing and significant public concern.

We also discussed the benefits, for the purposes of both accountability and wider public reassurance, of establishing an 'extraordinary' process to facilitate short-notice briefings on matters of significant/emerging public concern, particularly should we end up in an environment where there is protracted disruption or disorder. I should stress that there is currently no intelligence to indicate that disorder is either planned or likely in Scotland but, should it happen, it will be important to provide public awareness and reassurance on our response at the earliest opportunity.

I remain, of course, available to discuss any of the above should Members wish more detail.

Yours sincerely

Will Kerr
Deputy Chief Constable
Local Policing