

LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convener
Justice Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

17 April 2020

CO/037/2020

Dear Margaret

**SPA OVERSIGHT OF POLICING APPROACH TO COVID-19 &
INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF POLICE SCOTLAND'S USE OF NEW POLICE
POWERS**

I wrote to you on 27 March 2020 regarding the Scottish Police Authority's approach to governance, accountability and support for policing during this COVID-19 period. I thought it would be helpful to provide you with an update on developments over the last few weeks.

The Scottish Police Authority has now published two documents setting out the Authority's approach to the oversight of policing COVID-19 in Scotland and a timeline of the formal planned governance until August 2020. We will of course keep this under review. You can access both of these documents from the SPA's website at the following links:

- [Strategic approach to the oversight of policing COVID-19 in Scotland](#)
- [A timeline of the Authority's formal planned governance until August 2020](#)

You will also be aware that an Independent Advisory Group has been set up to look at Police Scotland's use of the new emergency powers to tackle the coronavirus. The Group is being chaired by leading human rights lawyer John Scott QC Solicitor Advocate and membership has today been announced comprising an impressive cross-section of individuals and organisations. You can find out more about the Group and its membership from the Authority's website at the following link:

- [First meeting of Independent Advisory Group on Police Scotland's use of new police powers in relation to coronavirus](#)

The Group is being supported by and will report directly to the Authority as the governance and oversight body for Police Scotland. Any urgent actions identified as part of the Group's considerations will be discharged as necessary.

The first meeting of the IAG took place on Thursday 16 April 2020 and the Terms of Reference are expected to be agreed and published on the SPA's website in the coming week.

I am confident that the Group will provide the independent assessment required to support the Authority's oversight of Police Scotland's use of these unprecedented powers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Crichton', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

DAVID CRICHTON
Vice Chair