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**SCOTTISH POLICE
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LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

John Finnie MSP
Convener
Justice Sub-Committee on Policing
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

11 February 2021

CO/004/2021

Dear Mr Finnie

Secondment of Vietnamese police officers to Police Scotland

I refer to your correspondence of 25 January 2021 regarding the secondment of officers into Police Scotland and seeking information on the Scottish Police Authority's (SPA) involvement.

The Authority commends Police Scotland's efforts to tackle human trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery in Scotland's communities. Protecting the most vulnerable in our society from threats and harm and improving individual and community wellbeing is a fundamental aim of the service. In terms of oversight, I can confirm that the Authority's Policing Performance Committee actively monitor's Police Scotland's approach and outputs of its detection activity through quarterly reporting. Reports are available to view from the Authority's website and committee meetings are livestreamed for anyone who wishes to observe proceedings.

In relation to the details of the secondment of Vietnamese officers to Police Scotland, the arrangement was agreed following detailed considerations and discussions between Police Scotland, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Home Office, National Crime Agency and the Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security over an 18 month period.

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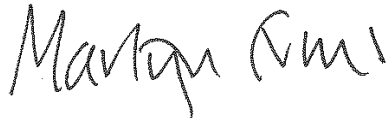
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Within this context of UK Government led inter-governmental and National Crime Agency arrangements on police officer secondments the deployment of police officers is a matter for the Chief Constable and the Authority has not been involved in discussions in relation to this particular arrangement. I note you have been in touch with Police Scotland and they will respond directly regarding this particular initiative.

The Authority does have a role in ensuring relevant pre-employment checks are in place for all police officers and police staff and would expect that equivalent provision is in place for secondment arrangements. In addition, the Authority would expect any secondees coming into the organisation to adhere to the same professional standards as expected of the wider workforce.

I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martyn Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Martyn Evans
Chair

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