



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Criminal Justice Committee

Murray Blackburn Mackenzie Ltd

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25 April, 2024

Dear Dr Murray, Dr Hunter Blackburn and Ms Mackenzie,

Thank you for letter dated 19 April. This has been circulated to other members of the Committee.

I am pleased that you have managed to secure your meeting with DCC Speirs and thank you for the summary of what was discussed.

The Committee discussed the situation regarding the implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 at a recent meeting and agreed, at this stage, not to include consideration of the Act in its work programme at this time. This is primarily because only a few weeks have passed since the provisions were brought into force.

As you know, the Committee did write to Police Scotland and the main staff unions about the issue of training and has received their responses; all of which we have published. I am happy for members who wish to attend to take up the offer from Police Scotland for a briefing session on their training provision.

The Committee also noted that the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) have the lead role in oversight of policing matters in the first instance. As such I consider some of the issues raised in your letter about Police Scotland's processes to be a matter for them and the SPA.

I thank you again for keeping the Committee informed about your engagement with Police Scotland on this issue.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey N: CN". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrey Nicoll MSP
Convener, Criminal Justice Committee