

Justice Committee

Implementation of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Letter from the Convener to the Chair, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board, dated 29 November 2012

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as the first Chair of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board.

As you will be aware, the Scottish Parliament has a role in reviewing the operation of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. In recent months, the Justice Committee has examined the development of the new policing arrangements as part of its budget scrutiny and held a one-off evidence session on issues relating to governance and the responsibilities of the SPA and Chief Constable.

The Committee is also very keen to keep up-to-date with developments in relation to the new single fire and rescue service. We would therefore welcome an update on how arrangements for the new service are progressing. It would be useful if you could include in your update an outline of the responsibilities of both the SFRS and the SFRS Board in relation to human resources and finance, which has been a source of contention in relation to the new policing arrangements.

I have also written on similar terms to Alasdair Hay, SFRS Chief Fire Officer.