



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

2nd Meeting, 2013 (Session 4)

Wednesday 23 January 2013

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 3.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 2 in private.
2. **Policing:** The Committee will consider the arrangements for future scrutiny of policing.

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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Agenda item 2

Paper by the Clerk (private paper)	J/S4/13/2/1 (P)
Letter from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland	J/S4/13/2/2
Letter from the Chair, Scottish Police Authority	J/S4/13/2/3

Justice Committee

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Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Letter from Chief Constable Stephen House to the Convener

Further to your letter of 8 January 2013 I would like to update you on progress following the public meeting of the Scottish Police Authority in Glasgow today.

As you are aware, a paper on Organisation Principles (Business Activities) was tabled and discussed at the meeting. This included a short discussion regarding a request from Scottish Government to ensure that the paper was amended to reflect that I, as Chief Constable, would have direction and control of police staff in HR and Finance functions. This was accepted by the Authority and I regard this as a welcome development.

I would add that had the intervention not come from Scottish Government, I would have retained my reservations about the paper and proposed a review after April as I did not support the basic principles behind the original arrangement and did not believe it was best suited to running a police service.

There is much to do in preparation for a single police service in April and work continues apace. My focus is on delivering an efficient, effective policing service for April and today's progress allows me to continue that work.

If there is any further information you require, please contact my office in the first instance.

Stephen House
Chief Constable
18 January 2013

Justice Committee

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Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

Letter from the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority to the Convener

Thank you for your letter of 9 January requesting an update on the discussions between the Scottish Police Authority and the Police Service of Scotland on how certain corporate business activities are organised.

The Board of the Scottish Police Authority met in public session today (Friday, 18 January) and considered the business activities paper that I circulated to you on 8 January. In addition, Members agreed to consider a codicil to that paper suggested by the Scottish Government which requests that in the areas of HR and Finance some staff are appointed as police staff under the direction and control of the Chief Constable, while others will be SPA staff.

There was unanimous agreement on principles of the business activities proposals, including the requested codicil regarding HR and Finance from the Scottish Government.

The Chief Constable has also today publicly given his agreement to the proposals and we will now proceed to finalise the detail of these arrangements.

I understand from your letter that you are considering a further session of the Justice Committee on 23 January to consider police reform issues, and I would be grateful for early indication of whether this is proceeding so that I can make the necessary arrangements.

I have noted the continued references to the role of personalities in determining this issue. You should also be aware that at today's meeting, Members formally and unanimously declared for the record that in my actions and statements as Chair of the SPA, I have fairly and accurately represented the views of the whole SPA board.

If there is a Committee session next week, then I would like you to be aware that other Members of the SPA board will accompany me.

Vic Emery
Chair, Scottish Police Authority
18 January 2013