

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Armed police officers

Letter from the Convener to the Scottish Police Authority

At its meeting on 19 June, the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing considered the response from SPA of 11 June regarding our request for clarification on issues relating to the decision to provide a standing authority for a limited number of trained armed response vehicle officers to overtly deploy with sidearms.

The Sub-Committee noted the response stated that the SPA was not asked to approve this standing authority and that this decision was within the responsibilities of the Chief Constable of Police Scotland. The Sub-Committee also noted that the response acknowledged the need for there to be more information in the public domain regarding firearms resources and how Police Scotland make decisions concerning the deployment of officers with sidearms across Scotland. The Sub-Committee also noted that the Chief Constable provided an update on this issue at the SPA board meeting on 25 June.

The Sub-Committee agreed to write to you again seeking an update on your position with regard to this issue following this briefing from the Chief Constable and would welcome a full response in order to assist in deciding whether or not a formal evidence session is required. I would be grateful for your response by 21 July.

Christine Grahame MSP
Convener, Justice Sub-Committee on Policing
26 June 2014