

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Stop and Search

Letter from the Convener to the Scottish Police Authority

At its meeting on 19 June, the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing took evidence on the use of stop and search from Police Scotland and the SPA and agreed to write to you requesting further information on issues raised during discussion.

The Sub-Committee would like clarification in relation to the SPA recommendation that 'Police Scotland should ensure that its use of stop and search is proportionate across Scotland, focussed on successful outcomes, targeted at the right people, right place and right time.'¹ Specifically, the Sub-Committee requests further information on how successful outcomes are determined.

The Sub-Committee is aware that the SPA recommended that Police Scotland should assess the best value implications and relative priority of the stop and search tactic against other policing activities². During evidence, Brian Barbour stated that 'Our debate would be around proportionality—the amount of resource and the desired outcome, which is probably more important.'³ The Sub-Committee would be grateful of your views on whether the amount of time currently undertaken by Police Scotland conducting stop and searches (estimated by the SPA to be approximately 250,000 police hours each year) is appropriate and an effective use of resources.

For information, the Sub-Committee has made a similar request for further information from Police Scotland following this evidence session. I attach a link to the transcript from the meeting for information and would be grateful for your response by 21 July.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9281&mode=pdf>

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Convener, Justice Sub-Committee on Policing
26 June 2014

¹ SPA (2014). *Scrutiny Review – Police Scotland's stop and search policy and practice. Final report and recommendations*. Recommendation 5, page 25. Available at <http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/230479/scrutinytaskgroupreport>

² SPA (2014). *Scrutiny Review – Police Scotland's stop and search policy and practice. Final report and recommendations*. Recommendation 8, page 26. Available at <http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/230479/scrutinytaskgroupreport>

³ Col 457