

## **Justice Sub-Committee on Policing**

### **Correspondence from HM Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland on work related to the Sub-Committee's work programme**

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the proposed work programme for the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing. Having looked at the areas you have identified for scrutiny, I thought it might be helpful to update you on the recent work of HMICS and highlight where our published and future reports may add value to the work of the sub-committee.

I published my Annual Report on 19 December 2014, which includes an overall assessment of policing on Scotland and a summary of all the HMICS Inspection activity in 2013 and 2014. This may be of general interest to members of the sub-committee.

I note your intention to hold a session on Armed Policing on 5 March, 2015 and would highlight our *Review of the Firearms Standing Authority for Armed Response Vehicle Crews within Police Scotland*, which was published on 27 October 2014. This makes recommendations to both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority, (SPA). You will also be interested in the publication of the SPA Scrutiny Inquiry into Armed Policing which is expected to be published on 29 January, which compliments the HMICS review.

I also note your intention to hold a session on "Stop and Search" on 2 April 2015 and would highlight our ongoing audit and assurance review, which will assess the state, efficiency and effectiveness of the process for recording stop and search in Scotland and the procedures for its supervision, audit and governance. It will also examine the impact of the performance framework and targets in relation to stop and search activity. Our terms of reference are available on our website and we are aiming to lay our report before parliament in late March 2015. Hopefully our publication will allow sufficient opportunity to inform your own scrutiny in this area,

I welcome your planned scrutiny of Local Policing and in particular your session on 7 May 2015. As you are aware, HMICS has embarked upon a rolling programme of divisional inspections with a strong focus on "localism". I will have published two separate Inspection Reports on Local Policing by the end of March, (Fife- October 2014, Ayrshire – March 2014) and two related reports, namely:

- "Inspection of the Investigative Approach to Rape in Fife Division" (Dec 2014)
- "Inspection of the Management of Intelligence in Ayrshire Division" (March 2014)

We are also about to embark upon a Divisional Inspection of Aberdeen, which will include separate scrutiny of vulnerable missing persons. Our programme has allowed us to gather considerable evidence around local policing and we have made a number of recommendations to both Police Scotland and the SPA, which we believe will strengthen "localism". I would hope that our experience in this area and published reports will assist your sub-committee's deliberation on this key issue.

Finally, I note your intention to hold a session on realising the benefits of police reform on 4 June. As you may already be aware, HMICS has taken the opportunity in all of our recent scrutiny work to comment on the extent to which the objectives of reform are being achieved. We are also conducting continuous improvement reviews of the SPA and Police Scotland and those alongside our work in each Inspection, may also be of interest to the sub-committee.

Should you feel it useful, I would be pleased to provide any additional information to inform your work programme or attend any evidence session, with the caveat that your session on 5 February 2015 in relation to Police Complaints is within the statutory remit of the Police Information & Review Commissioner, (PIRC), SPA and Police Scotland, rather than HMICS.

I would also welcome an opportunity to meet with you again and provide a personal briefing on the work of HMICS over the last 12 months.

Derek Penman  
HM Inspector of Constabulary  
28 January 2015