



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

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Dear DCC Livingstone

Justice Sub-Committee on Policing: follow up

Thank you for giving evidence to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing at its continued evidence session on armed police on 19 March. Please also pass on my thanks to ACC Bernard Higgins for his participation at the meeting. At the session you agreed to provide a written response to a number of remaining questions from members. These questions are set out below.

1. How many (a) statutory and (b) non-statutory stop and searches were carried out by armed officers (i) between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014, (ii) between 1 April 2014 and 30 September 2014, and (iii) from 1 October 2014 to date?
2. How many fixed penalty notices were issued by armed officers (a) between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014, (b) between 1 April 2014 and 30 September 2014, and (c) from 1 October 2014 to date, broken down by offence type?
3. Much was made during the session of the higher levels of training and on-going assessments in respect of firearms officers. Does Police Scotland accept that such sensitivities reflect a reality that the presence on our streets of firearms in anyone's possession is a risk factor?
4. In the context of the debate on the covert carrying of firearms, will the forthcoming firearms report reflect, assess and inform on the effective use of 'speed boxes' (or lockfast safes) within the cabin area of the police vehicle?
5. Given the concerns raised by Committee members regarding the repeated changes/clarifications of the facts of this issue; is Police Scotland confident that we now have an accurate timeline of when decisions were taken, by whom and on what authority?

Questions 3 and 5 are also being asked of the SPA.

Further context can be found in the Official Report of the meeting which is available at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9863&mode=pdf>

I would be grateful for a response to these questions by Friday 1 May 2015.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christine Grahame". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Christine Grahame MSP
Convener, Justice Committee