

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartais

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Dear Christine,

As you are aware, there has been significant interest in the use of stop and search and I would like to update you on the latest position.

Two reports are being published today: HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland's audit and assurance review of stop and search guidance, processes and systems; and Police Scotland's update report to the Scottish Government.

I am announcing today the establishment of a Stop and Search Advisory Group which will be chaired by John Scott QC. The purpose of the Advisory Group is to advise on whether a presumption against consensual stop and search is the right approach or alternatively, if there should be an absolute cessation of the practice; to advise on the steps that require to be taken in the light of the conclusion that it reaches, including any consequent legislation or change in practice that might be necessary; and to develop a draft Code of Practice that will underpin the use of stop and search in Scotland.

I will, of course, keep you updated

MICHAEL MATHESON