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21 March 2016

Dear Christine,

Following the Committee's previous interest in the use of stop and search I would like to update you on the latest position.

Two Scottish Government consultations are being launched today: *Consultation on a Draft Code of Practice for Stop and Search* and *Consultation on Police Powers to Search Children and Young People for Alcohol*. I enclose copies of both consultations for the Committee's interest. They will also be published online on the consultation pages of the Scottish Government website at: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/>

These consultations were recommended by the Stop and Search Advisory Group chaired by John Scott QC and are linked to provisions set out in the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 which gave effect to the Group's recommendations.

I will keep the Committee updated as this next stage in the work around stop and search is taken forward.

Best wishes



MICHAEL MATHESON