

Extracts from Ministerial Briefings

Briefing for the Cabinet Secretary for Justice – 16 April 2013

3. Training and Skills – officers serving in the BTP in Scotland already undertake the same training, hold the same rank and take the Scottish oath in the same manner as all police constables. There may be specialist skills attributable to particular police duties but these should be interchangeable through further training. It will be necessary to further investigate any specialist services delivered by BTP officers.

Briefing for the Cabinet Secretary for Justice – British Transport Police: Action Following Letter of Response from the Secretary of State for Transport – 7 May 2013

1. Meantime, officials have a meeting organised with Chief Superintendent Ellie Bird and Assistant Chief Constable David McCall on the 9 May; Transport Scotland are in the process of making contact with First Scotrail and Network Rail to establish views and position; contact has been made with both the Home Office and Scotland Office in request to move dialogue forward; confirmation is presently being sought from SGLD on legal arrangements to make implementation happen; and confirmation on pension implications any training or skills considerations and terms and conditions of employment.

Briefing for the Cabinet Secretary for Justice – British Transport Police: Action Following Letter of Response from the Secretary of State for Transport – 16 May 2013

2.4 Specific training is undertaken by BTP officers, in particular health and safety on the railways. Specialist skills/workforce would require to be maintained. Although this is not different to other areas of police operation it presents an argument in favour of maintaining a specialist unit for policing the rail network.

We now have a clearer picture of the legal changes required to make change happen and the specific issues relating to pensions, terms and conditions and training that require to be addressed with the appropriate staff bodies.

Ministerial Engagement Briefing – Humza Yousaf – Meeting with Rail Industry - 21 October 2016

Although BTP and Police Scotland officers deploy together for significant events, they train independently; integration will enable joint training with a focus on threats and risks tailored to Scotland's needs and priorities.

Ministerial Engagement Briefing – Michael Matheson and Humza Yousaf – Justice Committee Oral Evidence Session on Stage 1 of Railway Policing (Scotland) Bill – 28 March 2017

- ACC Higgins acknowledged these areas of BTP expertise, and committed to working with BTP to identify and implement best practice, as well as ensuring that all Police Scotland recruits would receive initial training in operating within the railway environment. He also noted that Police Scotland has several distinct policing cultures within its organisation (e.g. distinct ethos within armed policing and within community policing) and that railway policing would be no different in that respect.
- There was some different interpretation regarding ACC Higgins statement regarding training all PS officers (*PS are writing to the committee to clarify the offer and this should be available in advance of the Ministerial session.*)
- ACC Higgins has given assurances to the Committee on the training of specialist railway policing officers, and I understand has written to the Committee to provide further details on Police Scotland's proposals to include railway awareness training for all new Police Scotland recruits.
- ACC Higgins has also given verbal and written evidence to the Justice Committee on training for railway police officers and has given a commitment to update the Committee on training costs ahead of Stage 2.

Ministerial Engagement Briefing – Michael Matheson and Humza Yousaf – Stage 3 Debate Railway Policing (Scotland) Bill – 27 June 2017

- ACC Higgins has also given verbal and written evidence to the Justice Committee on training for railway police officers.