

**CABINET SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE AND VETERANS
NOTE OF REGULAR MEETING WITH CHIEF CONSTABLE OF SCOTLAND**

9 FEBRUARY 2023, 16:00-16:45

In person meeting, Scottish Parliament

Attendees:

Keith Brown, Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans
Sir Iain Livingstone, Chief Constable of Scotland
Malcolm Graham, Deputy Chief Constable, Police Scotland

John Somers, Deputy Director, SG Police Division
[REDACTED] Police Division (note)

Police Scotland Executive Team

- The Chief Constable updated the Cabinet Secretary on recent, positive developments in the PS Executive Team. In particular, it was noted that DCC Jane Connors would come into post on 16 February, that David Duncan and Wendy Middleton have recently been appointed as new ACCs, and that Katy Miller would be joining the organisation as new Director of People and Development.
- It was noted that Police Scotland's capacity to attract high-quality candidates from both within and out with the organisation further demonstrated its strong reputation across the UK.

Police Budget 2023/24

- [REDACTED]
- A key focus has been the commitment to move forward with exploration of collaboration between blue light services, in particular Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the first instance. The Deputy First Minister has expressed strong interest in such initiatives. It was agreed that there needs to be some pace to this work. A date is being sought for Ministers to meet with the Chairs and Chief Officers of both services, and also the SPA.

Gender Recognition: Police Recording

- The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 states that, following arrest, a person is under no obligation to answer any question apart from their name, address, date and place of birth and nationality. They do not need to tell officers their sex or gender identity. The police record an individual in the way in which they self-identify.
- It was acknowledged that the recording of a person's gender was therefore both an operational issue for Police Scotland and a matter of national policy. Official statistics are the responsibility of the Scottish Crime Recording Board, which supports the production of accurate and objective statistics on crime in Scotland, and which is chaired by Scottish Government officials. PS has to operate in a manner that is consistent with relevant legislation, policies and other guidance produced by Government and Parliament.

Other items of discussion

- The recent changes among the membership of the Scottish Police Federation's Committee Executive were noted.
- The Cabinet Secretary noted the recent Gender Recognition Reform protest and counter-protest in Glasgow and said that he felt the policing of these had been excellent. The Chief Constable thanked Mr Brown for his remarks, noting that it had been a busy weekend, with other major calls on policing in other parts of Scotland.