

LETTER SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

Jackie Baillie MSP
Interim Convener
Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

20 April 2017

Dear Ms Baillie

TRANSPARENCY AND GOVERNANCE IN POLICING

Following my attendance at this morning's session of the Public Audit and Post Legislative Scrutiny Committee today, I am writing to provide you with some further consideration I have given to issues raised.

We are all within the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) committed to an approach to governance that is informed and effective, and is done in a way that meets the understandable expectations and requirements the public and parliament have on transparency.

At our last board meeting, member discussions reflected that there is a balance to be struck on this issue, which is why we also have made a strong commitment to keeping proposals under continuous review.

It is clear that there are very strong views from Parliamentarians about where the line on private and public oversight by the SPA is currently drawn.

I intend that the points made and issues raised by MSPs in today's committee session, and those of other key stakeholders, are considered by all members at the earliest public opportunity.

I will therefore be adding an item for further member consideration of public and private SPA governance approaches to our next board agenda on 25 May 2017.

As/

As Chair, it is my intention to recommend to the board an early change to our framework to allow the various committee chairs the discretion to hold all or part of future SPA committees in public, and I have communicated that to my fellow members today.

I will ensure that the committee is updated when SPA members have had an opportunity to fully consider the issue at that meeting next month.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Hengry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Chair
Scottish Police Authority