

Keith Brown MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

20 March 2023

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Police Scotland Resources in the Highlands

At a recent meeting of the Council, there was a discussion over the resources available to Police Scotland in the Highlands and a motion was passed which noted that: -

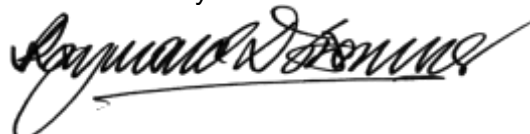
- *The number of police officers in the Highlands & Island Division is at the lowest ever since 2017 to just 624 full time officers.*
- *The number of officers in the dedicated national road policing unit which has bases at Fort William and Dingwall, has fallen from 596 in 2014/15 to 556 in 2021/22, recognises this coincides with a 64.3% increase in Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) between 1st April 2021 and 31st December 2022. In the Highland and Islands Division has the highest deaths on the A9 in two decades.*
- *For the year ending September 2022 recorded crime in Scotland excluding Coronavirus related regulations, has increased by 6%.*
- *The centralisation of Police Scotland has deteriorated the visibility the visibility of local Policing provision in the Highland and Islands as a result in failing to meet the increasing needs of the public.*

The Council agreed that I write to you and the First Minister to request that the Scottish Government undertake an urgent review of Police Scotland resources in the Highlands.

I would be most grateful if you could give consideration to the terms of this Council motion.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Raymond Bremner
Leader of The Highland Council

An Comhairliche Raymond Bremner
Ceannard Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd