

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

20 March 2023

Dear First Minister

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: -

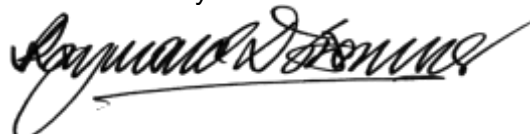
- *The number of police officers in the Highlands & Island Division is at the lowest ever since 2017 to just 624 full time officers.*
- *The number of officers in the dedicated national road policing unit which has bases at Fort William and Dingwall, has fallen from 596 in 2014/15 to 556 in 2021/22, 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 Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans 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