

**Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs**  
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartas agus Cùisean na Dùthcha  
**Angela Constance MSP/BPA**



**Scottish Government**  
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CLlr Raymond Bremner  
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Our Reference: 202300375382  
Your Reference: Police Scotland Resources

20 September 2023

Dear Raymond

Thank you for your letter of 04 September concerning police officer numbers and the availability of overtime in the Highlands.

As you will be aware, the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 stipulates that the Chief Constable of Police Scotland is responsible for the policing of Scotland, and is accountable to the Scottish Police Authority for this, rather than to Scottish Ministers directly. These arrangements are in place to ensure public confidence that the police act independently, free from unwarranted Ministerial interference.

Our national Police service provides the Chief Constable with the flexibility to deploy resources wherever they are needed. While decisions on the allocation of officers and resources are a matter for the Chief Constable, it is vital Police Scotland continues to inspire public trust and maintains relationships with communities as they ensure local priorities continue to be met.

These priorities are set and agreed locally and are clearly set out in local policing plans. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of local policing I would suggest contacting the Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Rob Shepherd, who is responsible for all policing in Highland and Island Division and its area commands.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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Despite financial challenges due to UK Government austerity, we have increased police funding year-on-year since 2016-17, investing more than £11.6 billion since the creation of Police Scotland in 2013. There are over 350 more officers than in 2007 and around 1,280 new recruits have joined Police Scotland in the last 18 months. Scotland also continues to have more police officers per capita than England and Wales.

Further, the recently-agreed pay deal, ensures officers in Scotland continue to be the highest paid in the UK and demonstrates the priority that the Scottish Government places on policing.

I hope this reply reassures you that policing remains a priority for the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely



**ANGELA CONSTANCE**

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