

Mr Derek Penman QPM
HM Inspector of Constabulary

BY EMAIL

8 January 2016

Dear Stakeholder

Consultation on HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2016-17

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, (HMICS), has a statutory role to report on the state, effectiveness and efficiency of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. In May 2014, we published our [HMICS Corporate Strategy 2014-2017](#), which outlined our approach to scrutiny, together with our inspection framework.

In July 2015, we published our annual Scrutiny Plan. In accordance with our statutory obligation to keep this plan under review, we have recently refreshed it to take account of the necessary changes to our scrutiny activities. I enclose a copy of our updated [HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2015-16](#), for your information.

Our scrutiny activity has focused around a rolling programme of Local Policing+ inspections together with thematic inspections and specific audit and assurance reviews. We have also accommodated unplanned scrutiny activity as a result of ministerial direction and a specific request from the Scottish Police Authority. We remain on schedule to have completed ten separate scrutiny reports during 2015-16, in addition to meeting our ongoing commitment to joint scrutiny with the Care Inspectorate in relation to Children's Services.

While it is our intention to continue with our Local Policing+ inspections during 2016-17, we have already committed in principle to scrutiny in terms of Forensic Services, Cyber Crime, National Crime Recording, together with follow up work on both Stop & Search and Call Handling. However, we have retained some limited capacity within our forthcoming programme to address any topical, high risk or emerging areas in policing.

As an important stakeholder in policing, I would therefore welcome your views on our proposals or on any other areas you consider would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS during 2016-17. Your feedback will be collated against the responses from other stakeholders and assessed against our scrutiny risk process to help inform next year's scrutiny plan.



A response by Friday 12 February would be appreciated and should be emailed to hmics@gov.scot. If you have any queries or wish to discuss your response in advance of sending, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek Penman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Derek Penman
HM Inspector of Constabulary

Encl - [HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2015-16](#)

