

SENT BY EMAIL TO: Local Authority Chief Executives

17 November 2015

Our ref: AF/CW

Dear Chief Executive

Scottish Police Authority (SPA) Review of Police Governance

You will be aware that I have been asked by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice to undertake a review of governance in policing and report by March 2016.

The Governance Review will ensure that robust accountability arrangements for the future are in place.

A key part of our approach will be to ensure that lessons learned during the operation of the single service to date inform our work.

My officers from the SPA's community accountability team have already made contact with council officers to follow up the recent local police scrutiny summit hosted by the Cabinet Secretary, with workshops planned for late November and December. This work is designed to primarily support the first strand of the review which relates to strengthening localism.

I would in addition like to invite you to submit any broader issues, views or evidence that you would wish me to consider within the review.

The review will consider the following four key strands:

- Ensure that local interests are effectively represented in national scrutiny processes; that decision making on national priorities, policies and programmes takes account of local needs; and that there is appropriate discretion and flexibility within national policies to reflect local circumstances.
- Ensure that the Scottish Police Authority has the appropriate structures and skills to undertake effective scrutiny. In so doing identify any skills gaps and development requirements and consider any external expertise that needs to be brought to bear to support scrutiny of major change programmes.

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- Review the information flows and communication between Police Scotland and the SPA to ensure the authority has all of the material and data required timeously to fulfil its scrutiny function; and the information made available to HMICS, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament to fulfil their respective roles.
- Review the way the Authority works with other stakeholders to ensure its approach is rooted in partnership and contributes effectively to wider policy objectives across the public sector. Propose measures to strengthen communication with partners and communities about the work of the Authority and policing more generally.

More detail about the review, its remit, and the reference group I have appointed to advise its approach and progress can be found in the following section of the SPA website: <http://www.spa.police.uk/about-us/governancereview>.

I would welcome your organisation's views by Wednesday 16 December. Contributions should be sent via e-mail to Colette.Watson@spa.pnn.police.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Flanagan', with a horizontal line underneath.

Andrew Flanagan
Chair