

1. The following under point 1, provides all correspondence sent between Police Scotland, Crown Office and Scottish Government regarding the proportional response to crime pilot being launched in the north-east of Scotland between April 2023 and the 14 September.

**Email correspondence between Police Scotland and Scottish Government on communications plans on the Proportionate Response to Crime pilot in the North East.**

From: John Somers  
Sent: 01 September 2023 15:27  
To: [redacted]; [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; Donald McGillivray; [redacted]  
Subject: RE: Proportionate Response to Crime [OFFICIAL]

Apologies colleagues no need to set up a call now.

Thanks, John

John Somers

Deputy Director – Police Division  
Directorate for Safer Communities

Scottish Government  
[redacted]

From: John Somers  
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 1:51 PM  
To: [redacted]; [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; Donald McGillivray [redacted]; [redacted]  
Subject: RE: Proportionate Response to Crime [OFFICIAL]

Apologies [redacted] – I should have copied you in.

Also, if [redacted] is not available I'd appreciate a quick chat with yourself.

Best, John

John Somers

Deputy Director – Police Division  
Directorate for Safer Communities

Scottish Government  
[redacted]

From: John Somers  
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 12:46 PM  
To: [redacted]; [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; Donald McGillivray [redacted]; [redacted]  
Subject: FW: Proportionate Response to Crime [OFFICIAL]  
Importance: High

[redacted],

Would you have a moment to discuss this with me. My direct number is [redacted].

Many thanks, John

[redacted]

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 11:42 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: FW: Proportionate Response to Crime [OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL  
Good morning,

See attached – these are comms for the pilot. Stakeholder letter due to go out on Monday 4/9. News release to local media on Monday.

Get in touch if you want to discuss.

Thanks  
[redacted]

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 01 September 2023 10:01  
To: [redacted] [redacted]  
Subject: Proportionate Response to Crime [OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL  
Good morning,

Just dropping you an email to let you know about some comms we are doing on the Proportionate Response to Crime pilot in the North East.

A stakeholder letter is going out today and we plan on issuing a news release to local media on Monday 4/9 ahead of Aberdeen scrutiny 5/9.

I'm sure it will get mentioned at tripartite, but just to give you the heads up.

Thanks

[redacted]

**Email correspondence between Police Scotland and Scottish Government communications on communications plans on the Proportionate Response to Crime pilot in the North East.**

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 01 September 2023 11:42  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: FW: Proportionate Response to Crime [OFFICIAL]  
Attachments: Letter template NE Division- FINAL.docx; News release - FINAL.docx

OFFICIAL  
Good morning,

See attached – these are comms for the pilot. Stakeholder letter due to go out on Monday 4/9. News release to local media on Monday.

Get in touch if you want to discuss.

Thanks  
[redacted]

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 01 September 2023 10:01  
To: [redacted] [redacted]  
Subject: Proportionate Response to Crime [OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL  
Good morning,

Just dropping you an email to let you know about some comms we are doing on the Proportionate Response to Crime pilot in the North East.

A stakeholder letter is going out today and we plan on issuing a news release to local media on Monday 4/9 ahead of Aberdeen scrutiny 5/9.

I'm sure it will get mentioned at tripartite, but just to give you the heads up.

Thanks

[redacted]

**Letter template attached in original email from Police Scotland to Scottish Government**

We are testing a different approach to the way certain incidents are managed when they are reported to Police Scotland.

At the moment the public may have to wait some time to hear whether their report of a crime or incident is being investigated but under our new approach, we aim to inform people of the decision much more quickly.

This is a system which worked to good effect previously in Grampian and we hope the pilot will achieve similar positive results.

We want to give police officers more time to focus on proportionate lines of enquiry, responding to emergencies and keeping people safe from harm.

On some occasions, crimes are reported where there is no associated threat, risk, harm or vulnerability and also no proportionate lines of enquiry for local police officers to investigate.

When this happens, our staff will inform the caller that the enquiry has been recorded and a crime reference number will be supplied, but no further action will be taken.

At the moment, it may take some time for police officers to view a report just to confirm that no further action will be taken. The new process means callers get an answer more quickly and police officers are able to focus on the more pressing issues in our communities.

We also know that sometimes people simply want to report a crime and we want to provide that service efficiently.

An example could be a theft from a garden, if there are no proportionate lines of enquiry such as CCTV or eye witness evidence, then we may inform the caller that the report will be filed and no further action taken.

We also know that sometimes people simply want to report a crime and we want to provide that service efficiently.

However we are asking people to please continue to report crime in the area. Local officers will continue to review closed reports to enable them to map local crime trends and this may mean an enquiry is re-opened and investigated.

Taking a proportionate approach to crime means we can continue to deliver a high standard of service while responding to growing and increasingly complex individual and community needs, within a tightening financial environment.

We recently outlined the urgent action required to maintain effective policing for our communities following the real terms reduction in our funding allocation for 2023-24.

Hard choices are being made to deliver effective policing within the funding available. Action is also being taken to achieve savings, with areas which encounter the greatest demand and carry the greatest risk in keeping people safe being prioritised for resources.

But ultimately this is about getting people the right help when we are contacted and will enable us to spend more time tackling crime, responding to local concerns and keeping people safe.

### **News release attached in original email from Police Scotland to Scottish Government**

**Headline:** Proportionate Response to Crime piloted in the North East

We are testing a different approach to the way certain incidents are managed when they are reported to Police Scotland.

At the moment the public may have to wait some time to hear whether their report of a crime or incident is being investigated but under our new approach, we aim to inform people of the decision much more quickly.

This is a system which worked to good effect previously in Grampian and we hope the pilot will achieve similar positive results.

We want to give police officers more time to focus on proportionate lines of enquiry, responding to emergencies and keeping people safe from harm.

On some occasions, crimes are reported where there is no associated threat, risk, harm or vulnerability and also no proportionate lines of enquiry for local police officers to investigate.

When this happens, our staff will inform the caller that the enquiry has been recorded and a crime reference number will be supplied, but no further action will be taken.

At the moment, it may take some time for police officers to view a report just to confirm that no further action will be taken. The new process means callers get an answer more quickly and police officers are able to focus on the more pressing issues in our communities.

An example could be a theft from a garden, if there are no proportionate lines of enquiry such as CCTV or eye witness evidence, then we may inform the caller that the report will be filed and no further action taken.

Divisional Commander, Ch Supt Graeme Mackie said: “The pilot process will enable local police officers to focus on those crimes that have proportionate lines of enquiry and potentially enable them to give more time to local concerns and priorities in the area.

“We also know that sometimes people simply want to report a crime and we want to provide that service efficiently.

“Please continue to report crime in your area. Local officers will continue to review closed reports to enable them to map local crime trends and this may mean an enquiry is re-opened and investigated.”

Taking a proportionate approach to crime means we can continue to deliver a high standard of service while responding to growing and increasingly complex individual and community needs, within a tightening financial environment.

We recently outlined the urgent action required to maintain effective policing for our communities following the real terms reduction in our funding allocation for 2023-24.

Hard choices are being made to deliver effective policing within the funding available. Action is also being taken to achieve savings, with areas which encounter the greatest demand and carry the greatest risk in keeping people safe being prioritised for resources.

But ultimately this is about getting people the right help when we are contacted and will enable us to spend more time tackling crime, responding to local concerns and keeping people safe-

- 2. The following under point 2, provides all briefings prepared for ministers about recorded police warnings between June 2023 and 14 September 2023.**

## **Answer and Background Note for Topical Parliamentary Question on Recorded Police Warnings**

### **SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT TOPICAL ANSWER**

**12 September 2023**

Index Heading: Education and Justice

**Russell Findlay (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that Police Scotland has issued more than 100,000 recorded police warnings over the past five years.

**S6T-01529**

**Angela Constance:** The use of Recorded Police Warnings is an established part of the Scottish justice system. The purpose of Recorded Police Warnings is to provide police officers with a speedy, effective and proportionate means of dealing with certain less serious offending behaviour. The current system was introduced in 2016, replacing the previous system of formal adult warnings. In England and Wales, there is a long-established system of 'simple cautions' which is broadly similar.

The Lord Advocate issues guidelines to Police Scotland on their operation of the scheme. Decisions about when to issue recorded police warnings are an independent operational matter for Police Scotland.

## **BACKGROUND NOTE FOR S6T-01529**

(redacted)

(out of scope)

Contact Name: [redacted]  
Ext: [redacted]

**Police Divisions First Ministers Questions briefing on 14 September**

**(out of scope)**

**Sep 12:** Russell Findlay raises Topical PQ about concerns over Police Scotland's use of Recorded Police Warnings(RPWs)

**(out of scope)**

(out of scope)

(redacted)

(out of scope)