



HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland
Improving Policing across Scotland

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PRESS RELEASE

HMICS launches online questionnaire about the role of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA)

An online questionnaire has been launched by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary to allow members of the public, community groups, elected representatives and other interested parties to pass comment on how the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is fulfilling its core role.

The information received by HMICS via this questionnaire will be used to inform its statutory inspection of the SPA which is currently underway.

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Mrs Gill Imery QPM, said: "We are keen to understand how the SPA is perceived by the general public, groups and organisations who have an interest in its role. We are also keen to hear from officers and staff, present and past, and offer them an opportunity to highlight areas which may be relevant to our review.

"To help people provide us with relevant information, we have set up this online questionnaire. It is now available to use and people will be able to submit their comments any time until midnight on Friday 19 July.

"It contains a number of questions which we hope will assist people in telling us about their views and experiences of the SPA and there is also provision for them to make a general comment. The information which we receive this way will help highlight any potential strengths and weaknesses within SPA.

"I can give an assurance that all responses will be treated in confidence, only for the purposes of this inspection and will not be shared with any other organisation."

Due to the anonymity provided by the survey, HMICS will not be able to provide individual feedback or investigate any complaints.

The aim of the HMICS strategic review is to assess how effective and efficient the SPA is in fulfilling its core role and it will not be inspecting day to day operations of the organisation in detail. The SPA's role, responsibilities and relationships with Police Scotland, Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament and the separation of politics and policing will be examined. HMICS will also consider the interdependence of the SPA, the operational responsibility of the Chief Constable and how the SPA exerts governance.

During the inspection, HMICS will engage with key groups and stakeholders and attend SPA committee and Board meetings. The information received and gathered will be in addition to any information supplied confidentially via the online questionnaire.

The full HMICS report will be published in September 2019.

The survey can be provided in alternative languages, please contact hmicssurvey@gov.scot

<https://response.questback.com/isa/gbv.dll/ShowQuest?QuestID=5367087&sid=nmGUpAFA78>

Ends

FOOTNOTE

Since 2013, HMICS has published seven police custody inspection reports. While the majority of the previous inspections focused on the treatment and conditions for detainees, this inspection focused on Police Scotland's strategic arrangements for the delivery of police custody. This included an assessment of leadership and governance of custody, planning and process, people, resources and partnership working.

Custody is regularly subject to external scrutiny by HMICS and independent custody visitors, both members of the UK's National Preventive Mechanism which monitors the treatment and conditions for detainees under international law.

Upon the creation of Police Scotland in 2013, a national Custody Division was established to promote consistency in custody centres across Scotland. This division merged with another in 2016 to become Criminal Justice Services Division. Currently there are 77 custody centres across Scotland, organised into 12 clusters. There are three types of custody centre – primary, weekend and ancillary. Primary centres are permanently staffed and open all the time, weekend centres operate between Friday and Monday and ancillary centres are used only when needed. Ancillary centres are staffed by local policing officers trained in custody while the other centres are staffed by personnel from CJSD.

Ends notes

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Scottish Police Authority was established on April 1, 2013. Its main functions are:

- To maintain the Police Service and promote policing principles
- To promote and support continuous improvement in the policing of Scotland
- To keep under review the policing of Scotland
- To hold the Chief Constable to account for the policing of Scotland

Background to the HMICS Review:

HMICS committed to a statutory inspection of the SPA as part of its Scrutiny Plan for 2018/19. It published its report 'Thematic Inspection of the Scottish Police Authority – Phase 1 Review of Openness and Transparency' on June 21, 2017. It was produced as a result of a request from the then Cabinet Secretary for Justice in response to parliamentary scrutiny. The 11 recommendations contained in that report have been discharged. This review considers the function of the Scottish Police Authority at a strategic level. The Terms of Reference for this review can be found at www.hmics.scot

It is expected that recommendations to the Scottish Police Authority will identify good practice and support improvement in current and future service delivery. HMICS will closely monitor progress against any recommendations.

Should HMICS identify any areas for immediate improvement during the review phase these will be communicated directly to the Scottish Police Authority for consideration and thereafter incorporated into the report.

This inspection will be undertaken by HMICS in terms of Section 74(2) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and laid before the Scottish Parliament in terms of Section 79(3) of the Act.

Ends