



# JPB NEWS

13  
November  
2018

Dear BTP staff and officers

Last week, the Joint Programme Board hosted an event to gather information and give consideration to all viable options for enhanced accountability of railway policing in Scotland, as requested by Humza Yousaf MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

The Cabinet Secretary underlined the need to identify further options that can give effect to the cross-party Smith Commission's recommendation that railway policing should be a devolved matter, while ensuring the safe and effective management and operational delivery of railway policing in Scotland. Opening the event, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice said:

*"I want to recognise and thank all BTP staff and officers for their continued commitment and dedicated service to ensure the safety of the travelling public".*

Further, the Cabinet Secretary clarified his expectations around the options appraisal process:

*"I absolutely recognise that until all options are developed, scrutinised and tested - taking into consideration the opportunities they present as well as any limitations and risks - a decision on the way forward cannot be taken.*

*What is important to me is that this process is done correctly – and transparently- using your expertise and advice in a collaborative manner. I am not interested in a quick fix – but given the uncertainty faced by officers and staff, it is important that we all make every effort to reach a decision as soon as we can".*

This event was attended by:

- Chief Constable Paul Crowther
- Chief Superintendent Eddie Wylie
- Members of the British Transport Police Authority including Chair, Ron Barclay-Smith and Chief Executive Iain Pigden-Bennett
- ACC Mark Williams, Police Scotland
- Tom McMahon, Police Scotland

- Scottish Police Authority
- British Transport Police Federation (BTPF)
- Transport Salaried Staff Association (TSSA)
- National Association of Retired British Transport Police Officers (NARBTPO)
- Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF)
- National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT)
- Scottish Government
- Department for Transport
- Transport Scotland
- Representatives from the rail industry
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland (HMICS)
- Audit Scotland
- Dr Kath Murray, University of Edinburgh

Delegates considered the strong partnerships already in place between Police Scotland and British Transport Police and the present governance and accountability frameworks of SPA and BTPA.

Importantly, delegates were then able to consider how we might leverage a stronger voice and provide maximum value for Scottish people in the policing of Scotland's railways. In doing so, they explored the strengths and limitations of administrative arrangements; the possibilities that existing legislation would provide; and discussed whether any additional legislation is required.

Partners will now use the information collated on the day to further develop options for Mr Yousaf's consideration. He will provide an update on progress to the Scottish Parliament before Christmas and we will ensure that you are kept involved and informed.

Scottish Government  
Department for Transport  
(co-chairs, Joint Programme Board)