

Have your say: Scottish Government Consultation on policing

As highlighted in our circular dated 29 June 2016, the Scottish Government Consultation on the Integration of the British Transport Police in Scotland into Police Scotland has been published ([and is available to read here](#)).

This is a matter which causes us all – and those of you in Scotland in particular - great concern. There are several key issues which we raised during the early stages of this process and around which we are framing our formal response. These issues are:

- The need to maintain reassurance, confidence and security in the service provided
- The importance of maintaining the ability to work in partnership with the rail industry and station staff
- The dilution of specialist roles and a recognition of the unique skills of our members i.e. suicide prevention and specialist knowledge of the rail infrastructure
- The desire of our members in Scotland to remain part of the BTP
- Uncertainty around changes to terms and conditions (e.g. incremental progression, concessionary rail travel and shift allowance increase from loss of CRTP)
- How pensions are dealt with for all, but particularly for those in 30 or 35 year schemes.

Our view is that policing the rail network in Scotland is best achieved by the use of the specially trained officers and staff of the British Transport Police and that BTP Scotland should remain a central part of the force.

In parallel to our official response we actively encourage you to submit your responses to the consultation and suggest you consider the points outlined above so as to reflect a consistent message. You can not only offer a personal view on your unique policing role but those of you in Scotland can speak as members of the communities directly affected by these proposals. While this is an emotive subject, we ask that you respond to the consultation in a manner befitting the service we represent.

You can respond to the consultation – which closes on 24 August 2016 – by [following this link](#). It is not a requirement to comment in every section of the document so you can respond to the points most relevant to you.

As we prepare the Federation's formal response, we are receiving specialist advice on the legal aspects of the pensions transfer, and have engaged Barrister Paul Kirtley of Exchange Chambers, Leeds to advise on matters of employment law.

On 10 August we shall meet with the Scottish Justice Secretary and other members dealing with the proposed merger, including the Scottish Government lead on pensions, governance, and terms and conditions.

A further update will be provided on the outcome of that meeting.