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LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

Audrey Nicol MSP (Convener)
Criminal Justice Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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justice.committee@parliament.scot

1 June 2022

CO-062-2022

Dear Convenor

ROUNDTABLE ON MENTAL HEALTH IN POLICING – FOLLOW UP

I refer to the above roundtable at the Criminal Justice Committee on Wednesday 18 May 2022.

During the session, I was asked whether the Authority has any data on, or has conducted any form of investigation into suicide amongst police officers. I committed to reviewing what information the Authority has and our consideration of this issue.

In February 2020, in the wake of reported officer suicides, the Authority's Resources Committee explored the broader issue suicides with Police Scotland. Police Scotland reported that, based on information available at that time, there was nothing to suggest that any of the recent cases were caused directly by the pressure of work. The Committee sought information and assurance about the wellbeing support packages available to officers and staff. This was followed up at our Authority meeting, later the same month, in public where Police Scotland outlined work that had taken place with the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group and highlighted that Scottish Action for Mental Health had been invited to conduct a peer review on Police Scotland's wellbeing initiatives.

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I can confirm that the Authority holds no data on the number of circumstances of suicides amongst police officers. Nor has any quantitative data been reported to the Authority by Police Scotland. The Authority understands that detail on the cause of death of officers or staff in service is not recorded.

The Authority and Police Scotland take the health and wellbeing of our workforce seriously and we are committed to supporting our workforce where required. This is an area of ongoing interest for the Authority. Police Scotland's health and wellbeing activity is reported publicly to our People Committee quarterly and annually to the full Authority meeting.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martyn Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARTYN EVANS
Chair