

Mr Craig Naylor
HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

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Dear Ms Nicoll

HMICS Thematic Review of Policing Mental Health in Scotland

I write to you to make you aware of the above inspection we are in the early stages of undertaking.

By way of background, the theme for this particular inspection arose during our scoping work in developing our 3-year [HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2022-25](#), where a clear view was expressed amongst Police Scotland's officers and staff that policing demand had shifted significantly over recent years with more incidents being mental health related.

The [Terms of Reference](#) for our review were published in January 2023. As you will note, the inspection has the following five objectives:

To assess:

- How well prepared Police Scotland are to meet the needs of people who are suffering from poor mental health
- Whether the police response to mental health related demand impacts on the efficiency and effectiveness of the force in delivering other policing services
- Whether the force understand the demand associated with the provision of mental health related policing services
- The effectiveness of the force's collaborative working arrangements in relation to the provision of mental health related policing services
- The impact that the involvement of the police has on the person who is suffering from poor mental health

In preparation for our review, my team have been reviewing recent evidence sessions of the Criminal Justice Committee and have noted the interest of the committee in these matters. For this reason, I thought it may be helpful to provide you with an opportunity to engage with the review team, to hear your perspectives and to help inform their work.



In terms of timescales, we would consider it may be beneficial to meet with you in early May 2023. If you think this would be appropriate and helpful, I would plan to meet with you along with Brian McNulty, who is the lead inspector for this review.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Craig Naylor
HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

