



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Cat Boyd
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Public Audit Committee
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3 April 2024

Dear Ms Boyd,

The 2022/23 audit of the Scottish Prison Service

Thank you for sharing your letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs dated 14 December 2023 with the Public Audit Committee to inform its scrutiny of the 2022/23 audit of the Scottish Prison Service ([the section 22 report](#)). The Committee notes with concern the issues raised in the letter regarding GEOAmeY and the Scottish Courts Custody Prisoner Escorting Services (SCCPES) contract.

At its meeting on [1 February 2024](#), the Committee took oral evidence from the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) on the section 22 report. It has also taken oral evidence from HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland on [14 March](#) and from GEOAmeY on [28 March](#). The Committee also sought written evidence from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service, Police Scotland and NHS Scotland. The responses, along with a written submission from GEOAmeY can be found on the Committee's [webpage](#).

At its meeting on 28 March, the Committee agreed to seek formal written evidence from PCS in response to the issues raised in the section 22 report and the oral and written evidence it has received to date. In particular, the Committee wishes to establish how these issues are directly impacting on your members working in the Scottish justice system.

The section 22 report concludes that—

“It will be important for SPS and their partners, Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS), Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and Police Scotland to work together with support from the Scottish Government, to consider all options available to ensure the safe and effective delivery of prisoner escorting services both now and, in the future.”.

The Committee is interested to hear your views on what can be done to address the current position, and the steps you consider will be required to take this joint working forward.

You may wish to note that I raised some of your concerns with GEOAmey at the evidence session on 28 March. You may also wish to note that the Committee has also written to the Community Trade Union and the Prison Officers’ Association to seek their views on these matters.

The Committee would be grateful for a response by **25 April 2024**.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Leonard MSP,
Convener**