

PE1532/A

Petitioner Email of 28 October 2014

Dear Mr Sharratt

I should be grateful if you would convey to the Committee that I have chosen not to pursue the petition further. My reason for so doing is that, for the time being, Firearms Officers attached to Armed Response Vehicles will only be deployed to firearms incidents or where there is a threat to life. I learn from ACC Higgins's [letter to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing](#) that there were 2805 operational firearms deployments in the 154 days between 1st April and 31st August, which amounts to just over 18 incidents every single day. During this period, I understand that there were 275 officers with standing authority to carry firearms on routine patrol. Due to shift patterns, only a small number of specialist firearms officers would actually have been working in communities supporting routine policing at any one time. Given the level of activity in operational firearms deployments, the economic argument for using these officers on routine duties does not appear to carry much weight. It is to be hoped, therefore, that this unfortunate experiment will not be repeated. I note that "a working group has been established to review the types of carriage for both sidearms and Tasers and the deployment of Armed Response Vehicle Officers when not deployed to firearms incidents". I trust that this body's preliminary report to the Armed Police Monitoring Group in January 2015 will be made public, and that future changes to policing policy in Scotland will be subject to a full process of public consultation.

Yours sincerely

Garry Stagg