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Dear Colleagues,

As many of you will be aware, I have recently commenced my new role as Divisional Commander of Lothians and Scottish Borders Division, following the retirement of Chief Superintendent John McKenzie.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

Let me first say that I am truly delighted to be taking on this new role as Divisional Commander for the Lothians and Scottish Borders and I am confident that my thirty-plus years of experience will help me as I listen, learn and lead staff to support our policing response in our local communities.

During my tenure with the police, which began in 1989 with Central Scotland Police, I have been a leader across virtually the full spectrum of policing functions both operationally and organisationally. This includes leadership roles within Response Policing, Community Planning, Community Policing, Criminal Investigation, Public Protection, Counter Terrorism and Organisational Change.

Already, in my short time within this division, I recognise the significant level of support, commitment and dedication you all give to Police Scotland and its staff, as together we seek to help those in need, sometimes critical need and address the issues which matter most to those in our diverse communities.

The last twelve months have continued to bring us all a myriad of challenges, not least in responding to the pandemic, but have also tested our continued resolve to meet the varying demands placed upon us including COP26 and more recently responding to the implications of the extreme weather we have experienced.

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I have no doubt that the Christmas and New Year period will be another busy time for us all, where our priorities as always will be to respond effectively to those in need and to provide the community with protection and reassurance.

It is my intention in the New Year to build on this initial message by hopefully meeting with you, if need be virtually, and I look forward to having that opportunity to speak with you.

In the meantime I would like to extend my thanks for your continued support, and as always please do not hesitate to contact myself or your respective Local Area Commanders should you wish to discuss any areas of concern you may have in your communities / departments.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year when it comes, and look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours faithfully



Catriona Paton

Divisional Commander
Lothians and Scottish Borders

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