

Mr Derek Penman QPM

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

Local Authority Chief Executives

By email

9 January 2018

Dear Chief Executive

Consultation on HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2018-19

HM Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) is established under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and has wide ranging powers to look into the 'state, effectiveness and efficiency' of both the Police Service of Scotland (Police Scotland) and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA).

We have a statutory duty to inquire into the arrangements made by the Chief Constable and the SPA to meet their obligations in terms of best value and continuous improvement. We have a requirement to prepare a plan setting out our inspection priorities for the year ahead and to consult with relevant stakeholders in preparing our plan. If necessary, we can be directed by Scottish Ministers to look into anything relating to the SPA or Police Scotland as they consider appropriate.

HMICS is committed to an improvement agenda, and our inspections aim to help Police Scotland improve the service it delivers to the public. In planning for the 2018-19 scrutiny year, which begins on 1 April 2018, we have undertaken strategic engagement with the Force Executive and Divisional Commanders between November 2017 and January 2018. This engagement is important to HMICS to maintain a good understanding of current issues affecting policing and to achieve an enhanced situational assessment in order that our future scrutiny activity is focused on the right issues in the right areas.

We have been working closely with the new Chair and Interim Chief Officer of the SPA since they took up appointment in late 2017. The Chair has highlighted her commitment to focus on turning the SPA outwards, while the Interim Chief Officer has been tasked with looking inwards to strengthen the capability, capacity and the systems, practices and culture within the SPA. HMICS will support this work over the next scrutiny year and draw on our on-going scrutiny to identify improvement and provide expertise to deliver the necessary change.

As an important stakeholder in policing, I would welcome your views and proposals to address any topical, high risk or emerging areas in policing which you consider would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS during 2018-19. Your feedback will be collated against the responses from other stakeholders and assessed against our scrutiny risk process to help inform our forthcoming scrutiny plan.

A response by Friday 2 February 2018 would be appreciated and should be emailed to hmics@gov.scot. If you have any queries or wish to discuss your response in advance of sending, then please do not hesitate to contact us

Yours sincerely

**Derek Penman**

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary