



LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

22 August 2023

2023/24-027

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Request

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 30 July, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

To request copies of
All chair resignation and appointment letters

Response

Your request for information has been considered and the Scottish Police Authority is able to provide the following.

The Scottish Police Authority does not hold the information you have requested. Therefore, this represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

To explain, membership of the Scottish Police Authority consists of up to 15 members (including a Chair) appointed by Scottish Ministers through a public appointment process independent of the Scottish Police Authority.

Offers of appointment are made by Scottish Ministers directly to individuals prior to taking post. Similarly, resignation letters are sent from individual members directly to Scottish Ministers or officials.

Information may be available by contacting Scottish Government using the following email address - ceu@gov.scot

To assist, a timeline of those who have held the position of Chair, or interim Chair, is provided:

Vic Emery – April 2013 - September 2015

Andrew Flanagan – September 2015 - December 2017

Susan Deacon – December 2017 – December 2019

David Crichton (interim Chair) - December 2019 - January 2021

Martyn Evans – February 2021 - current

News items related to the appointment or resignation of previous and the current Chair, published by the Authority, are attached to this response.

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request you can ask for a review. You must specify the reason for your dissatisfaction and submit your request by email to foi@spa.police.uk or by letter to Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

After review, if you remain dissatisfied, you can appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by letter to Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Commissioner's decision, you can appeal to the Court of Session, only if you think the law has not been applied correctly.

An anonymised version of this response will be posted to our [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

Martyn Evans appointed new SPA Chair

Published : 18/01/2021 17:14:38

Scottish Government have announced the appointment of Martyn Evans as [new Chair of the Scottish Police Authority](#).

David Crichton, Interim Chair of the SPA said;

"Martyn Evans has been a trusted and valued colleague on the Authority since 2018 and I am delighted to congratulate him on his appointment as Chair. Martyn brings a wealth of knowledge and skill to this important leadership role in policing and his appointment offers a degree of continuity and stability to the Authority which has undergone significant change and improvement in the last 12-months. I have no doubt, under Martyn's leadership, that the Authority's contribution to the improvement of policing in Scotland will continue to grow."

Lynn Brown, Interim Chief Executive of the SPA added:

"I am delighted to congratulate Martyn Evans on his appointment as the next Chair of the Scottish Police Authority. Martyn has been a valued member of the Authority over the last two years and myself and the corporate team look forward to working with him as we continue to strengthen the Authority's governance of policing in Scotland and build public trust and confidence in the service.

"I also want to pay tribute and express our sincere thanks to David Crichton for the contribution he has made as an Authority member since 2018, and as Interim Chair for the past 13-months. David leaves the Authority in a significantly stronger position and policing in Scotland as a whole has benefit and improved thanks to his leadership. We wish him well for his retirement."

SPA Chair Stands Down

Published : 18/06/2020 12:12:22

Susan Deacon CBE has tendered her resignation as Chair of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) which has been accepted by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

Vice Chair David Crichton, who will provide continuing leadership to the Authority's Board until a new Chair is appointed, said:

"The Members of the Authority wish to acknowledge the significant contribution that Susan Deacon has made as Chair of the SPA over the past two years. She took up the role at a period of considerable instability in the police service. That Police Scotland now has a strong, resilient leadership team in place is testimony to her contribution to the improvement of policing in that period.

"We believe that the system of governance and accountability for policing in Scotland that was envisaged by the founding legislation is a sound one and can work effectively. Members of the Authority are fully committed to taking forward the range of work required within the SPA and with other partners to do so.

"While we respect this personal decision of the Chair, our collective focus will be on working together with our dedicated staff team to build on recent progress, deliver the actions and improvements already identified, and redouble the SPA's focus on the issues of greatest importance to policing and the public."

The full text of Ms Deacon's resignation letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice can be read below:

Humza Yousaf MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
4 December 2019

Dear Humza

I write to tender my resignation as Chair of the Scottish Police Authority.

I consider it a privilege to have played a part in developing and strengthening policing in Scotland and I am pleased that I leave this role with our police service in a much stronger place than it was when I was first appointed, exactly two years ago.

I have, as you have frequently acknowledged, worked tirelessly to try and ensure that the SPA operates effectively, and that public confidence and trust in policing is maintained. I have also made every effort to attempt to make the existing statutory framework operate as I believe it was intended.

In truth, however, I have increasingly become convinced that the governance and accountability arrangements for policing in Scotland are fundamentally flawed, in structure, culture and practice, and I conclude that there is little more I can do to make these arrangements work effectively. I would suggest that the Scottish Government thinks afresh about how the police service is scrutinised and held to account and how, or if, a better separation between politics and policing, and indeed between the police service and those who oversee it, can be achieved. I would be pleased to share my thoughts and reflections on these matters with you, and indeed with the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee, at any time.

May I thank you for the opportunity to have served in this role and hope that our police service continues to develop effectively in the future.

Kind regards

Susan Deacon CBE

Response from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice -

<https://news.gov.scot/resources/csj-to-justice-committee-05-12-19>

Andrew Flanagan to stand down as Chair of SPA

Published : 31/08/2020 15:05:13

The Chair of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA), Andrew Flanagan, has announced his intention to stand down from his role.

Citing recent media and Parliamentary attention on his disagreement with a former board member and perceptions around SPA transparency, Mr Flanagan has concluded that debate on these issues risks distracting policing from important work underway on strategy and finance and that it is in the best interests of policing in Scotland that he stand down.

In his resignation letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Mr Flanagan has offered to continue in post until a successor is appointed by Scottish Ministers, and to ensure there is no delay in implementing the Policing 2026 strategy and underpinning financial deficit reduction plans.

Mr Flanagan said:

"Recent events have focussed on my disagreement with a board member and perceptions of a wider lack of transparency in the SPA. I have apologised to the former board member and put in place changes to the governance processes of the SPA. There are many serious challenges faced by policing in Scotland, but the continued media and Parliamentary debate on these issues risks coming a prolonged distraction.

"With a strategic direction for the service well in train and the right mix of leadership in Police Scotland to deliver it, I do not wish the ongoing debate to get in the way as we move into the implementation phase. I have therefore taken the decision that it would be in the best interests of policing if I were to step down from my role as Chair of the SPA.

"The next few months will involve an intensive period of work to develop implementation plans and effective governance structures to manage and oversee the transformation programme. To avoid any hiatus or delay, I have indicated to the Cabinet Secretary that I would be willing to stay on until he appoints a successor and to ensure an orderly handover.

"I take pride in being a part of this chapter of policing history in Scotland, and for the personal successes I have had since taking up the role in 2015 – in particular shaping a long-term strategy for Police Scotland, recruiting a new Chief Constable and senior leadership team, and setting a clear direction for bringing financial sustainability.

"As a result, I am confident that the single police service in Scotland now has a solid platform from which to build an even better service for the people of Scotland. I hope that is a position on which we can build both consensus and momentum."

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS

Mr Flanagan wrote to the tender his resignation to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on 13 June 2017.
Andrew Flanagan was appointed as the Chair of SPA in September 2015.
