



15 February 2018

Lord Empey  
House of Lords  
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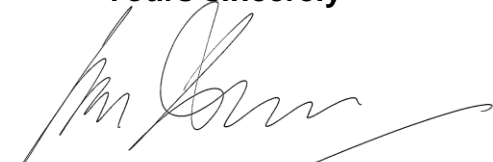
Dear Lord Empey,

During the debate of the draft Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2017 in the House of Lords on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, I undertook to write to you in response to your query regarding training intentions for Police Scotland officers policing the railways. You asked for clarification about the provision of transport-specific training for officers working on the railways in Scotland following the Scottish Government's proposed integration of the British Transport Police in Scotland with Police Scotland.

Future arrangements for training are of course a matter for the two forces. Training is an operational matter and it would be inappropriate for the UK Government to become directly involved in these arrangements. However, during the passage of the Railway Policing (Scotland) Act 2017 through the Scottish Parliament, assurances were provided by the Scottish Government and Police Scotland that a specialist railway policing service will be maintained in Scotland. As such, there is scope for Police Scotland to draw on the British Transport Police's experience and consider the opportunities for adopting similar, or indeed joint, training programmes.

I will be placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House of Lords.

**Yours sincerely**



**Lord Duncan of Springbank  
Minister for Scotland**

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