

28 July 2006

Your Ref:

Our Ref: PO'C/CD

Mr Richard Haley
Secretary
Scotland Against Criminalising Community
C/o The Peace and Justice Centre
Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4BJ



**STRATHCLYDE
POLICE**

CHIEF CONSTABLE
Sir William Rae QPM

Police Headquarters
173 Pitt Street
GLASGOW
G2 4JS

Tel: 0141 532 2968

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Dear Mr Haley

EXTRAORDINARY RENDITION

I refer to your letter dated 26 June 2006 to the Chief Constable, relative to the above matter, that as Assistant Chief Constable Operational Support, Sir William has passed to me to progress. In relation to the issues that you raise within your correspondence, I would offer the following comment.

As you are aware, you are not alone the concerns you raise, as in recent months, the above issue has been discussed both within the Scottish Parliament and has also been the subject of much media speculation. Accordingly, I can advise that the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) continue to liaise with our colleagues in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on this issue and we are therefore fully apprised of any information that may have a Scottish dimension.

Furthermore, in relation to the matters you raise pertaining to civil aviation, I can advise that this force has no locus in the arrangements that are made for flights that pass through Scottish airspace or indeed, that use airports in Scotland to refuel or otherwise.

In addition, within your correspondence, you also refer to allegations, which if true, might amount to crimes taking place in Scotland (i.e. on the ground at an airport, or otherwise within airspace over Scotland) and question whether this force would investigate these allegations of criminality. In this regard, I can confirm that where there is evidence that a criminal act occurred in Scotland, as a general proposition, the local police can investigate. However, in order for any investigation to get underway, there must be more than mere speculation and as we have previously advised, both to members of Parliament and others, there is nothing in the material provided to me thus far that provides an appropriate basis for me to commence any enquiry into this matter.



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Whilst, I appreciate that this may not alleviate any of your concerns, you will understand that having taken advice on this matter and considered all of the allegations and speculation surrounding these flights, this will remain our position until any other evidential information arises.

Thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns with us and notwithstanding; if you have any additional material, which you could make available, I can confirm that I would be happy to look at the matter afresh.

I trust the foregoing sets out our position sufficiently clearly and that you will find it to be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Learmonth', followed by a stylized monogram 'IL'.

Ian Learmonth
Assistant Chief Constable



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