

22 February 2018

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Dear PSA Holder,

I am writing to update you about Tuesday's announcement by the Scottish Government to review the timetable for devolving railways policing in Scotland.

The decision follows a meeting of the Joint Programme Board, the group led by senior government officials that is responsible for managing the transfer and which the Force and Authority attend.

Last month, we were asked by the JPB to work with Police Scotland to establish whether the proposed date of April 2019 was achievable for the full integration of these functions.

As part of this approach, several joint workshops were held to explore issues such as employee terms and conditions, pensions, contracts and financial impact, IT networks and cross-border working arrangements.

As a result of these sessions, it was agreed more time was needed to look at these issues in more detail before we could come to a point where Police Scotland are in a position to take responsibility for railway policing.

A recommendation was made to the Scottish Government who agreed that BTP and Police Scotland should now take six months to consider these matters further and determine a new, robust timeframe for integration.

Our joint and shared aim remains the devolution of railways policing in Scotland in line with the Smith Commission recommendation in a way which ensures the safety and security of the travelling public. A detailed re-planning exercise will now take place over the coming months and we will inform you as soon as further information becomes available.

If you have any further queries please contact the Authority Chief Executive Charlotte Vitty (charlotte.vitty@btp.pnn.police.uk) or Authority Scotland Project Manager, Leigh Bura (leigh.bura@btp.pnn.police.uk).

I am copying this letter to Chief Constable Paul Crowther, Dan Moore at the Department for Transport and Paul Plummer at the Rail Delivery Group.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Phillips', written in a cursive style.

Mark Phillips
Interim Chairman
British Transport Police Authority

CC: Paul Crowther, Chief Constable British Transport Police
Paul Plummer, Chief Executive Rail Delivery Group
Dan Moore, Deputy Director, Rail Markets Strategy Department of Transport