

Jo Farrell KPM
Chief Constable, Police Scotland

Via CC.Office@scotland.police.uk

Date: 9 June 2026
Our reference: SHRC202622

Dear Chief Constable,

Following our correspondence last year and months prior, I write to once again request an in-person meeting. Previous responses from Police Scotland to requests for you to meet with the Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission, Scotland's National Human Rights Institution, suggested that it would be more helpful for me to discuss our concerns and priorities with respect to human rights and policing with your operational deputies at ACC level.

However, aside from a brief introduction, subsequent efforts to engage with Police Scotland have repeatedly been unsuccessful, with several meetings moved and cancelled at late notice, including a recent engagement with all Members of the Commission with multiple ACCs. Furthermore, my letter of 6 November 2025 regarding Police Scotland's approach to policing with respect to protests outside hotels housing people seeking asylum did not receive a full response.

Human rights are crucial to policing in Scotland. A rights-respecting approach to policing, to which Police Scotland has stated its commitment, is essential to protect and uphold our fundamental rights including freedom of expression and assembly, as well as the right to a private and family life and protection from discrimination.

The police are often an interface with the state for people in a particularly vulnerable situation. This means that a positive working relationship between the Chair of Scotland's National Human Rights Institution and the Chief Constable of Police Scotland is essential, so that we can work together to protect the rights of people in Scotland.

The SHRC office would be happy to work with yours to find a suitable time to meet over the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I would like to make some further requests for information subsequent to my letter of 6 November 2025, reflecting ongoing concerns that have been raised with the SHRC by human rights defenders. I am requesting this information so that as Scotland's NHRI, the SHRC is assured that the policing of protests is taking due account of the relevant human rights standards. This is pursuant to our general duty under Section 2 of the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006 to promote human rights in Scotland and to encourage best practice.

Firstly, I would like to reiterate my requests made on 6 November for Police Scotland to share:

- The human rights assessment conducted to inform the police response to protests at hotels in Scotland;
- Engagement with civil society and other relevant public bodies and duty bearers to inform this response;
- What support is provided to third-party hate crime reporting mechanisms.

Further to these questions, I would also like to request the following:

- Detail on how Police Scotland is assuring itself that operational policing of protest activity is consistently taking into account the relevant human rights standards, and that proportionate interference with protest rights is ensured for all protestors, regardless of the stated subject or purpose of the protest activity;
- Details of the steps being taken to proactively ensure the safety and protect the human rights of protestors, counter-protestors and residents affected by protests outside hotels housing asylum seekers across Scotland, such as in Falkirk.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss these and other matters further.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Angela O'Hagan
Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission