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Date: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Your Ref: sm/lc/ratcliff

Our Ref:

Susanne Miller  
Chief Executive  
Glasgow City Chambers  
Glasgow  
G2 1DY

**Item 6(a)**

**20th February 2025**



Lynn Ratcliff  
Chief Superintendent

Greater Glasgow Division  
City Centre Police Office  
50 Stewart St  
Glasgow  
G4 0HY

[Lynn.Ratcliff@scotland.police.uk](mailto:Lynn.Ratcliff@scotland.police.uk)

Dear Susanne,

### **Correspondence re Hate Crime**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Police Scotland joins Glasgow City Council in rejecting racism. My officers, across Glasgow, work hard to combat hate in all its formats on a daily basis, are committed supporting victims and tirelessly pursue those who commit such crimes.

Allocation of police resources is always a fine balance and will be based on the assessed threat, risk and harm faced by our communities. Last week the Chief Constable outlined Police Scotland's Three-year Business Plan in which she has committed to building frontline capacity with an emphasis on prevention and local problem-solving community policing.

Further, as part of the 2030 vision there is a commitment to delivering the best possible service for the public and communities and a further commitment to be an inclusive, anti-racist organisation.

There are already in place identified and effective methods of reporting hate crime to the police, the traditional 101 and 999 phone calls, online hate reports via the Police Scotland website and Third-Party Reporting Centres. Hate crimes can also be reported in person at a police office or by speaking directly to an officer when they are on patrol. This model works well and ensures that hate crimes can be reported and investigated on a 24/7 basis. In my view, appointment of a designated officer for receiving reports of hate crime would not add value to the existing provisions and indeed, may well have an overall detrimental impact given that this officer would not be on duty or contactable 24 hours a day or seven days a week

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As you will be aware Glasgow City Council continues to be the only local authority in Scotland that has a dedicated Hate Crime Policy Officer. The Policy Officer works closely with all partners including Police Scotland and reports directly to the Safe Group.

The Policy Officer, and the hate crime working group, is the most appropriate conduit for accessing other information on Hate Crime, additionally my Equality and Diversity team based at Eastgate can provide additional support, information or training around hate crime or online safety.

Online content including racism, Islamaphobia and antisemitism can have a significant impact on our communities and create tensions. We actively monitor these and provide reassurance and engagement to ensure public safety. Where online content verges into criminality, robust investigations are carried out however challenges are encountered when liaising with international technological companies to detect perpetrator.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Ratcliff

Chief Superintendent

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