

OFFICIAL

Our Ref: PPCW 32.33
Date: 23/03/2022

Rachel Currie
Research Fellow
The Article 11 Trust
162a Southwark Bridge Road
LONDON
SE1 0DG



Sent by email:
Rachel.Currie@Article11Trust.org.uk

Emma Bond
Assistant Chief Constable
Partnerships, Prevention and Community Wellbeing
Tulliallan Castle
Tulliallan
Kincardine
FK10 4BE

ACCPartnershipandPrevention@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Dear Ms Currie

RESPECT OR REPRESSION REPORT

Thank you for your email of 21 February 2022 and the attached report.

The Conference of the Parties 26 event (COP 26) was one of the most complex events in Scottish Policing history. As a rights-based organisation with Integrity, Fairness and Respect as its core values, the policing element of this event was delivered under the banner of Operation Urram.

As part of the strategic intention, the right to protest as enshrined in Human Rights legislation was fundamental to the planning and delivery of the policing of the conference and associated events, while balancing this with the rights of the wider community, in addition to ensuring the safety and security of the conference, the attendees, and of course any persons wishing to take part in protest activity.

As part of the overarching plan to facilitate peaceful protest, Police Scotland undertook a significant engagement strategy in the months leading up to the conference, explaining the policing style and tone that was to be adopted. This was supplemented by direct engagement, wherever possible, with identified groups who had stated their intention to exercise their right to protest during the period of the conference.

OFFICIAL

This approach to engagement and the policing of protest continued into the delivery phase of the event, where a significant amount of protest activity was facilitated throughout the period of the event. Due to this policing approach a very small number of arrests were required to be made during the conference, with no serious injuries recorded as a result of protest activity, either to members of the public or police officers.

Furthermore, Police Scotland has an open and transparent process to dealing with Complaints About the Police where members of the public believe that the standard of policing delivered has given cause for concern or complaint. During the event, a bespoke team was established to ensure that any complaints made would be investigated in a timeous and appropriate manner, with clear processes in place to progress complaints, including to independent external oversight bodies, should the complaint not be resolved to the satisfaction of the person making such a complaint.

I can advise that, in relation to the policing of the conference, 27 complaints were made against the police, all of which have been investigated and a response provided to the person or persons making a complaint, with three of these complaints still live at the time of writing. Further detail on these complaints can be found in the following document which is available on the Scottish Police Authority website ([rep-c-20222102-item-7-operation-urram-closure-report-spa-ccc-march-2022-doc.pdf](#)). From the information contained in your report, it is not possible to ascertain if the matters raised have been formally reported.

Notwithstanding this, should you wish to raise a formal Complaint About the Police in relation to any of the matters contained within the report, please be assured that these will be investigated in accordance with our established procedures. Full details on the Complaints About the Police process can be found on the Police Scotland website.

I note that you have written to the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). Throughout the planning, and delivery stage of the Policing operation for COP26, the SPA had a number of tiered mechanisms in place to discharge their responsibilities as one accountability body. Police Scotland is satisfied when assessed against the Policing of similar events in other jurisdictions, the low number of arrests, and the broader absence of any substantial violence, damage within the city, or injuries – the overall operation tone and stance for COP26 was appropriate and proportionate.

I trust this information is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely



Emma Bond
Assistant Chief Constable