



Dear,

I am writing to you in your capacity as the named event organiser for

Following on from another extremely busy event calendar in Dumfries & Galloway, I commissioned a review of our policing roles, responsibilities, and commitments at public events, to ensure that Police Scotland is delivering the highest standards of policing across all our local communities.

As Police Scotland continues to evolve nationally, we regularly review our demands to ensure that we provide a consistent, measured and proportionate response. To evolve locally in the event space, I have identified that Dumfries & Galloway Police Division have so far deployed to over 100 events in 2024, and it is clear from my review there are opportunities to reduce the level of police resource required and ensure the policing plan implemented, and resources deployed is aligned to threat and risk and supports the role of the Event Organiser who has overall responsibility for the event.

Going forward, once we are notified that an event is taking place, we will carry out a risk assessment, which will inform the event classification, and whether police officers should be in attendance at the event, by considering the scale of the event, media interest, crowd demographic, and additional factors including:

- Presence and status of protected persons
- Intended or predicted impact of the event and crowd dynamic
- Concerns regarding the organiser, venue or history of event
- Community concerns
- Intelligence relating to criminality and disorder
- National Security Threat level
- Implications for Police Reputation

I have found on occasion, Police Officers have deployed to local events where there is no associated risk and are being expected to take ownership of areas of event safety, which should be the responsibility of the event organiser or contractor such as traffic management, stewarding, first-aid, local communications, and decision making. As you will be aware when planning for events, public safety must be at the forefront of all planning and is the responsibility of event organisers. The responsibilities of organisers are available on the Health and Safety Executives website, in relation to [Event Safety](#) and planning for [Incidents and Emergencies](#).

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From 2025, I have instructed that all local events are appropriately risk assessed and that we step away from legacy roles and responsibilities, which are not aligned to the aforementioned points. This will ultimately see a potential reduction or withdrawal of Police Officers at local events. I understand that this may cause you and your organising committees to seek alternative assistance, which will see increased cost to your event or even put the event at risk, which is regrettable, however the current levels of support from Police Scotland are not sustainable. As part of wider stakeholder engagement, I have also engaged with Dumfries & Galloway Council regarding this position due to the impact it may have in relation to historical relevance, community cohesiveness, safety governance, and funding of the events.

Clearly you may wish to discuss this with your organising committees in the first instance, but should you wish to discuss this further, then please contact me via email at dumfriesgallowaydcu@scotland.police.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J McMillan', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

A/Superintendent Jim McMillan

Support & Service Delivery

Dumfries & Galloway Police Division

Police Scotland

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