

## **Justice Committee**

### **Railway Policing (Scotland) Bill**

#### **Written submission from Barry Weldon**

I write to you in my capacity as a conductor on Scotland's Railways and wish to express my complete dismay and dissatisfaction at the prospect of merging the British Transport Police in Scotland into a part of Police Scotland.

The BTP do an excellent specialist job for our railways from dealing with complex metal theft to showing compassion and respect when dealing with unfortunate fatalities on our railways. These are skilled staff with the experience and knowledge of personal track safety that general Police Scotland staff won't have the knowledge or understanding of.

As an LGBTI+ person I have immense respect for the BTP officers who have twice assisted me when victim of hate crime and the officers have dealt with the offenders and ensured the matter is taken to the court.

I have in the past had to make official complaints against Police Scotland officers who have failed to deal with hate crime outside of the Railways and missed the basics of obtaining CCTV in a timely manner to catch offenders and on both occasions have failed to apprehend the offender! I feel as an LGBTI person that Police Scotland is a failure to my community and I would be horrified if the BTP was brought down to the same level in a race to the bottom in terms of deskilling.

I am free to discuss matters further and await your response in due course.

Barry J Weldon  
4 January 2017