

# **PE2107/C: Use more money recovered from the proceeds of crime to support community-based charities that train animals to assist in the detection of drugs**

## **Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs written submission, 11 November 2024**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 October seeking further detail on the work being undertaken to consider longer-term funding options for charities that play a vital role in the seizure of drugs and criminal assets.

As you noted at the Committee meeting on 9 October, the Scottish Government recently gave the Dogs Against Drugs charity in Shetland a one-off grant of £30,000 to support them with running costs in this financial year.

We recognise that the third sector needs clarity and stability to build resilience and to grow its capacity. We are committed to progressing a Fairer Funding approach for the sector, including exploring options for long-term funding for the sector. As I am sure the Committee will be aware, long-term funding is very challenging to deliver in the current context as any commitments will inevitably reduce flexibility in future year budgets.

The Committee should be aware that work is underway to improve the clarity and consistency of grant-making practices across government, including developing a consistent baseline for third sector funding. We continue to explore an approach to long-term funding and the extent to which it can be secured within unpredictable economic circumstances.

Understandably, there are calls being made on the Scottish Government every day for more support. We will continue to respond as positively and comprehensively as we can.

My officials will continue to work across government to identify potential long-term funding solutions for Dogs Against Drugs in Shetland and similar charities.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

**ANGELA CONSTANCE**