

**OUTCOME OF A RECONSIDERATION DIRECTION  
UNDER SECTION 35(8)(A) OF THE  
POLICE, PUBLIC ORDER AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT 2006**

**Case reference PCCS/2008/00021/PF-GP**

**Background**

On 28 February 2008 I issued the report of my review of a complaint about Grampian Police (reference PCCS/2008/00021/PF-GP). In my review of this complaint I noted that the serious nature of the circumstances surrounding the complaint made it essential that the complainer have absolute confidence that the force has investigated her complaints in a thorough and detailed manner. As a result I issued a Reconsideration Direction to Grampian Police under section 35(8)(a) of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006, directing the force to reconsider the complainer's complaints in their entirety.

**Process**

Following a meeting at my office on 10 April 2008 I agreed terms of reference for this reconsideration with Grampian Police. Thereafter, Grampian Police re-interviewed witnesses, consulted partner organisations involved in this case, and reviewed all the papers relating to this complaint and submitted its report of its reconsideration to me in June 2008. I have appended this report to these comments.

I am satisfied that Grampian Police has followed in full the remit I set for this Reconsideration and that the reconsideration has been conducted thoroughly and impartially.

**Conclusions of the Reconsideration**

**Case-specific points**

Having reviewed this report I am satisfied that the force has reached conclusions that are supported by the facts of the case. In relation to this specific complaint, the force has noted the following:

- It is satisfied that the original child protection investigation was conducted in collaboration with partner agencies and in line with established child protection guidelines. It is also satisfied that at all times, decisions were taken with the interests of the child at their heart, and with her welfare paramount.

However, it also noted that:

- a statement should have been noted from the complainer; and
- communication with the complainer could have been more effective.

### **General learning points for the force**

Grampian Police has also identified correctly learning points for the force, namely:

- In future child protection related cases the Investigating Officer should have some knowledge or background in this area, or where this is not possible, that another Officer with a suitable skill set is appointed to act on a consultative basis to the Officer appointed to lead the Investigation (paragraph 3.5)
- In future similar circumstances two Officers with some knowledge of the matter at hand will be deployed to provide mutual support and maximise the ingathering of information (paragraph 3.7)
- Whilst recognising the statutory requirements placed on each individual agency, the concept of joint complaint management strategy meetings and the formation of multi agency teams has been recommended as being worthy of further exploration

**JIM MARTIN**  
**Police Complaints Commissioner for Scotland**  
**July 2008**