



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Authority Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>24 November 2022</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>COSLA, Edinburgh</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Chief Constable's Report</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Sir Iain Livingstone QPM Chief Constable</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Noting</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Authority with information relating to the Police Service, policing and the state of crime.

This report is submitted as a Standing Agenda Item.

## 1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of Police Scotland is 'to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland' and our focus is Keeping People Safe. This paper is intended to provide Members with an update on key activity and events.

## 2. TACKLING THREAT AND RISK

### SERIOUS VIOLENCE INCLUDING HOMICIDE

#### Murders of Desmond Rowlings and Derek Johnston – Edinburgh

On Tuesday 1 November 2022, the bodies of 66 year old Desmond Rowlings and 37 year old Derek Johnston were found within a residential property in Greendykes Road, Edinburgh. Following investigation by detective officers from Police Scotland's Major Investigation Team, two men aged 40 and 65 were arrested and charged with murder. Both subsequently appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court where they were remanded in custody. The investigation into this tragic incident continues, and specially trained officers continue to offer support to the families of Mr. Rowlings and Mr. Johnston.

#### Homicide Statistics

On Tuesday 25 October, the annual bulletin relating to Homicide Statistics for Scotland was published, showing that in 2021-22, there were 53 victims of homicide in Scotland. This was a 10% reduction from the previous year, with each of the cases being detected and an accused person identified.

Every homicide is a tragedy, and our thoughts remain with families who have lost a loved one. Each investigation is unique and presents particular challenges, and the 100% detection rate is testament to the professionalism and diligence of Police Scotland officers and staff, supported by Forensic Services colleagues. We recognise that violent crime has a significant impact on community wellbeing, and will continue to focus on prevention and investigative activities to ensure that Scotland remains a safe place to live.

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

#### Significant Convictions

On Thursday 3 November at the High Court in Glasgow, 55 year old Simon Bradley was sentenced to eight years imprisonment, after being convicted of sexual offending, including rape, against two women in the East Lothian area in 2014 and 2020. On Wednesday 16 November at the High Court in Edinburgh, 28 year old Lewis Grant was sentenced to over eleven years

imprisonment, after being convicted of sexual offending, including rape and sexual assault, against a number of women in Dumfries, Musselburgh and Stirling between 2011 and 2019.

These convictions and sentences followed investigations carried out by Police Scotland Public Protection Unit officers, which were enabled by the bravery of victims who came forward to report the circumstances and provide evidence.

### **That Guy Campaign**

In October 2021, Police Scotland launched the sexual crime prevention campaign 'That Guy', which emphasised that men must take responsibility for ending sexual violence by changing their attitudes and behaviours towards women, as well as challenging those of their peers. The campaign received national and international recognition, and was shared extensively across multiple social media platforms.

Last month, we launched a new 'That Guy' campaign, encouraging men to step in and challenge unacceptable behaviour on the part of their friends. The new campaign continues to put the cause of sexual offending where it belongs – with men, and urges them to be the solution to preventing sexual offending, by having difficult conversations with a friend who may have crossed the line.

## **SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME**

### **Scottish Multi-Agency Strategic Threat Assessment**

Organised crime groups in Scotland continue to be involved in a range of activities including drug supply, human trafficking, illegal immigration fraud, money laundering, cyber and environmental crimes. On Thursday 6 October 2022, the latest Scottish Multi-Agency Strategic Threat Assessment was published, outlining how the Serious Organised Crime Taskforce in Scotland drives intelligence led operational activity to tackle the risk to communities posed by organised criminals. Police Scotland is an integral member of the Taskforce, which is co-ordinated within the Scottish Crime Campus and includes representation from across the public, private and third sector. In the past year, through detection and disruption activities, the Taskforce disrupted one third of the active organised crime groups in Scotland, as we collectively strive to make Scotland a hostile environment for organised criminals.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### Significant Convictions

Police Scotland continues to work with national and international agencies to safeguard victims and target offenders involved in human trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery. On Thursday 10 November at the High Court in Glasgow, two men and two women, aged between 33 and 62, were imprisoned for a combined total of 31 years, following their convictions in respect of human trafficking and exploitation offences. The sentences were the culmination of an investigation by detective officers from Police Scotland, working with a range of partners including Home Office Immigration Enforcement Criminal and Financial Investigations Unit, into the trafficking of vulnerable women from China and Thailand who were exploited and forced to work in prostitution in the Glasgow area.

## DRUGS

### County Lines Arrests

In conjunction with policing colleague across the United Kingdom, Police Scotland continues to target those involved in County Lines, which involves drug dealers from larger cities expanding their activities into smaller towns and rural areas, often exploiting young and vulnerable people to sell controlled drugs on their behalf. On Wednesday 2 November and Friday 4 November, as part of a joint operation between Police Scotland and Merseyside Police into County Lines, four men and a woman, aged between 21 and 44, were arrested in respect of drug supply offences. The arrests followed the recovery of cocaine, heroin, and other drugs paraphernalia, during searches under warrant at addresses in Peterhead, Aberdeen and Merseyside.

### Drugs Seizure and Arrests

On Monday 7 November, two men aged 28 and 29 were arrested in respect of drug supply offences following an intelligence led policing operation involving the search of properties and vehicles in Glasgow and Fife. During the operation, officers recovered cocaine, heroin, cannabis and other controlled drugs with an estimated street value in excess of £330,000.

### 3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

#### WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

##### Hate Crime Awareness

Saturday 8 October marked the commencement of National Hate Crime Awareness Week across the United Kingdom. Police Scotland recognises the significant impact that hate crime can have on those directly affected, their family and support networks, and in our wider communities. Hate crime has no place in society and will not be tolerated. As part of Hate Crime Awareness Week, Police Scotland continued to encourage the reporting of hate crime and hate incidents, providing reassurance that such reports will be taken seriously, with appropriate action taken to bring those responsible to justice. In addition to public messaging, we reiterated that hateful abuse against officers or staff will be thoroughly investigated in the same manner.

##### Substance Use Education

In October, Police Scotland's Substance Harm Prevention Team, in conjunction with 'I AM ME', published a number of alcohol and drug education packages for use in education establishments across Scotland. The packages are tailored for specific year groups, ranging from nurseries through to senior high school students, and were developed with contributions and input from children, police officers, colleagues from SPA Forensic Services and NHS, as well as those with lived experience. Containing interactive activities, videos and animations, the materials address current and relevant topics, and are designed to support Scotland's young people and raise awareness of the harms caused by substance use. Police Scotland officers will be able to access and use the packages as part of their ongoing engagement activities with young people in schools.

#### TACKLING CRIME IN THE DIGITAL AGE

##### Cyber Resilience

On Thursday 29 September, Police Scotland was represented at the Cyber Resilience for National Security and Oil and Gas Conference in Aberdeen. The conference brought together a range of stakeholders and practitioners involved in cyber security, and enabled the sharing of insights into the global threats that affect business life, with a particular focus on our critical infrastructure and threats to the energy sector. During panel discussions, delegates were updated on the important work carried out by Police Scotland and partners to keep people safe in the digital world, and were offered advice on practical preventative measures designed to maintain cyber security.

## PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

### World Children's Day

Police Scotland is a rights based organisation that is committed to protecting children's rights and supporting child welfare measures. On Tuesday 15 November, Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority hosted a round table event in Edinburgh in respect of places of safety for children who become involved in criminal justice processes. The event was held in advance of World Children's Day, which is designed to raise awareness and promote the improvement of children's welfare. Attendees included representatives from the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland, Social Work Scotland, HMICS, the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, local and national government, and third sector organisations.

This was a welcome opportunity to engage with partners and discuss system wide challenges, as well as collaborative opportunities to ensure that children receive the right service at the right time. During the event, Police Scotland and the SPA expressed great concern at the lack of appropriate facilities for children who may require to be taken into custody for their own safety, or for the safety of others. We emphasised our clear position that police custody is not an appropriate place for the safety of children, and should only ever be used as a last resort.

## SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

### Core Operational Solutions

Since the establishment of Police Scotland, significant work has been undertaken to support, maintain and enhance our operational and organisational capabilities. This has included a sustained commitment to the transformational change required to develop and introduce integrated systems which are fit for a modern national police service.

As part of this ongoing programme, in recent weeks, the roll out of Core Operational Solutions (COS) in the North Command area concluded, with a similar roll out now taking place within East Command. COS is a suite of integrated applications designed to streamline operational information; improve access to databases and the recording of crime; and enhance information sharing between Police Scotland and partners in the wider criminal justice system. Additional benefits arising from COS include significant reductions in the re-keying of information, and improved insight into the background of individuals being made available to officers and staff.



### **Major Incident Multi-Agency Training**

Between Monday 17 and Thursday 20 October, Police Scotland ran a training exercise in Edinburgh designed to test the multi-agency response to a major incident involving hazardous materials. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, this was the first large scale exercise of this nature held in Scotland since October 2017. In addition to Police Scotland, other participants included Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Lothian, Scottish Government, City of Edinburgh Council, UK Government Departments, Ministry of Defence, Scottish Ambulance Service, COPFS and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. Valuable learning from the exercise will be incorporated into future operational plans.

### **Criminal Use of Firearms**

Police Scotland is committed to targeting those who pose the greatest threat to public safety and wellbeing, including those involved in the criminal use of firearms. On Tuesday 1 November 2022, over 140 officers and staff attended a continuous professional development event in respect of the police response to the criminal use of firearms. Hosted at our Jackton Training Centre, a number of specialists delivered presentations relating to firearms threat assessment, intelligence gathering, and ballistic examination, and shared learning from a case study relating to the importation of firearms into the United Kingdom. The event also included inputs on the forensic recovery of firearms, and potential future developments in the firearms arena.

## **4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION**

The Blue Light Collaboration Programme (BLCP) was established to identify and develop opportunities for emergency services in Scotland to collaborate in respect of corporate services arrangements. The BLCP is chaired on a rotational basis between services, and is currently chaired by Police Scotland through Deputy Chief Officer David Page. During the first Blue Light Collaboration Conference which took place on Monday 3 October, workgroup leads provided a number of updates, with notable progress highlighted in respect of co-location and collaborative driver training.

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Between Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 October, Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham represented Police Scotland at the European Police Chiefs' Convention in The Hague. This was a valuable opportunity to meet with police chiefs from

across Europe to build on existing relationships, and discuss matters of shared interest and importance.

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Throughout October and November, Police Scotland hosted a number of stakeholder engagement sessions at Force Headquarters, Tulliallan.

On Tuesday 11 October, along with colleagues from Police Scotland's senior leadership team, I met with some of Scotland's religious leaders, which provided an opportunity to discuss matters of interest and concern, and reflect on our shared aspirations in respect of justice, fairness, and equity.

On Thursday 13 October, Tulliallan was the venue for the Scottish Leaders' Forum, which brought together leaders from across the country, including the First Minister, representatives from local and national government, emergency services and other public bodies, third sector organisations, academics, and those with lived experience of public services in Scotland. The conference provided a valuable forum to engage with colleagues from Scottish public life, and collectively consider ongoing challenges and opportunities.

On Tuesday 8 November, I welcomed senior representatives from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to Tulliallan. During this shared leadership session, areas of focus included potential implications from the Resource Spending Review, strategic planning, criminal justice system improvements, and the approach to large and complex cases.

### **PARLIAMENTARY EVIDENCE**

On Thursday 26 October, Deputy Chief Officer David Page and Chief Financial Officer James Gray, along with SPA Chief Executive Lynn Brown, provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Criminal Justice Committee as part of their pre-budget scrutiny. In written submission and during oral evidence, we reiterated the significant implications for policing in Scotland, should the flat cash settlement approach from the Scottish Government's Resource Spending Review translate into a budget settlement for 2023-24 and beyond.

On Monday 31 October, Assistant Chief Constable Alan Speirs and Superintendent Steven Duncan provided evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee at Westminster as part of their inquiry into firearms licensing regulations in Scotland. The evidence provided outlined Police Scotland's approach to firearms licensing, with a clear focus on public safety.



## 5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

### OPERATION MOONBEAM

In recent years, bonfire night has been associated with an increase in anti-social behaviour and criminality across the country. The police response - Operation MOONBEAM - is a national operation designed to provide additional support to Local Policing Divisions and emergency services colleagues, should anti-social behaviour or violence occur. In advance of bonfire night, officers carried out community engagement which focused on education, awareness and prevention measures.

On Saturday 5 November, under the strategic command of Assistant Chief Constable Tim Mairs, officers across Scotland were deployed to Operation MOONBEAM, during which Police Scotland received 511 calls relating to fireworks offences. While this was a reduction in the number of calls compared to the previous year, along with colleagues from other emergency services, officers faced a challenging environment involving significant criminality, violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour in a number of communities across Scotland. During the evening, members of the public, officers and firefighters were targeted by young people in possession of fireworks and other weapons, and there were a number of instances of threats, physical attacks, and damage to property. The level of sustained violence, disorder and aggression in some areas required a public order response, and in the course of the national operation, there were 18 arrests, and 15 dispersals from designated dispersal zones. Two police officers were injured and required hospital treatment when their vehicle's windows were deliberately smashed. Such violent disorder was not confined to bonfire night itself, and there were similar disgraceful scenes in the Kirkton area of Dundee on Monday 31 October, which also required the mobilisation of a significant public order response.

While the overwhelming majority enjoyed bonfire night safely and responsibly, there was a significant minority who demonstrated blatant disregard for community safety, and who actively targeted emergency service personnel carrying out their public duties. Such behaviour is completely unacceptable and I utterly condemn it. Investigations will continue to identify those involved and ensure they are brought to justice. I commend the exceptional professional response by those on duty who stepped forward to support communities, in what was an extremely challenging and dangerous environment.

### **ADVERSE WEATHER**

On Friday 18 November, a Major Incident was declared in North East Division due to significant flooding experienced in a number of communities as a result of adverse weather conditions. Over the course of the weekend, local policing division officers and staff worked with a range of resilience partners to deliver a co-ordinated multi-agency response, and support those affected. As weather conditions improved, on Sunday 20 November, command of the incident was transferred from Police Scotland to local authority colleagues.

### **DEATH OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN – OPERATION UNICORN**

As reported to the Authority in September, following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, officers and staff from across Police Scotland responded to deliver a safe and secure Operation Unicorn, while maintaining effective local and national services. In October, King Charles III wrote a personal letter in which he expressed his heartfelt thanks for the support provided by officers and staff in the period following the death, and for ensuring the safety and security of the public during the commemoration events in Scotland.

### **CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26)**

On Thursday 27 October, Police Scotland received the 'Go Excellence' and 'Best Procurement Delivery' awards at the Scottish Government Opportunities Awards Ceremony in Glasgow, which celebrates the best in procurement across Scotland. The awards related to the procurement processes and outcomes delivered in respect of COP26. Due to the unprecedented scale of COP26, a specialist procurement team was created to deliver the required contracts which enabled the successful policing operation, while championing sustainability and ensuring best value. Working in partnership with key internal and external partners, the COP26 procurement team delivered 135 contracts on time, within budget, and in compliance with relevant regulations.

## **6. OUR PEOPLE**

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

During October, Police Scotland marked Black History Month in conjunction with SEMPER Scotland (Supporting Ethnic Minority Police Employees for Equality in Race). The programme of events, which was delivered as part of our Policing Together Strategy, celebrated the enormous value and contribution that Black and Minority Ethnic people bring to Scotland, and to policing in Scotland. Throughout the month, we highlighted the lived experiences of individuals within

the Service, focused on the work of SEMPER, raised awareness of the BME Allies Programme, and reiterated our clear commitment to diversity. As Chief Constable, I concluded Black History Month by emphasising that understanding the experiences and celebrating the achievements of Black and Minority Ethnic people is an important part of our commitment to building an anti-racist Service.

### **SWDF AWARDS**

On Thursday 27 October 2022, I had the pleasure of opening the Scottish Women's Development Forum (SWDF) Annual Awards Ceremony at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. The ceremony, entitled 'Time to Shine', was an opportunity for friends and colleagues from across the country to join together, and recognise and celebrate the success of women in policing in Scotland.

### **POLICE STAFF PAY**

On Thursday 6 October, it was confirmed that a pay agreement for police staff in Scotland had been reached following extensive negotiations with trade unions. The agreement, which will be backdated to April 2022, aims to achieve an appropriate balance by recognising the contribution, hard work and dedication of police staff, while also being affordable in the context of the policing budget.

### **OFFICER AND STAFF WELLBEING**

Police Scotland continues to support officer and staff health and wellbeing, and this year we are again encouraging take up of the winter flu vaccine. This will help to ensure that our workforce are protected against the flu virus, remain healthy, and are able to continue to deliver key public services within Scotland's communities throughout the winter.

### **RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION**

On Monday 24 October, Police Scotland commenced the second phase of an officer recruitment campaign to support the intake of officers in 2023. Including a video advert which features the day to day work of Police Scotland officers, the latest phase builds on our ongoing recruitment campaign, which has seen an increase in the number of people applying to become a police officer in Scotland.

On Friday 21 October 2022, 303 probationary officers successfully completed their initial training course at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan, before being deployed to policing teams in communities across Scotland. On Monday 7 November a further 300 probationary officers began their careers with Police

Scotland. During the formal Pass Out Parade for those on conclusion of their initial training, and at the Oath of Office ceremony for newly appointed officers, I thanked each of them for their commitment to public service, and for choosing to step forward into the demanding but hugely rewarding vocation of policing.

### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP**

On Thursday 10 November, I hosted the latest Police Scotland Senior Leaders' Forum at Force Headquarters, Tulliallan. This was an opportunity for officers and staff in senior leadership roles to come together to discuss matters of strategic importance. Attendees considered a number of aspects of the Policing Together Strategy, including next steps for equality, diversion and inclusion, sex equality and tackling misogyny, and Police Scotland's values, as well as current and future financial considerations and challenges.

As part of Police Scotland's ongoing succession planning, following an intensive selection process, eight candidates have been identified as being ready now for promotion to the rank of Chief Superintendent. Individually and collectively, the successful officers have considerable policing experience which will add value to our leadership teams throughout the Service.

On Thursday 1 December, Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr will take up post as Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police. Will was an integral part of our senior leadership team, having served as Police Scotland's Deputy Chief Constable with responsibility for Local Policing over a four year period. During that time, he made a significant contribution to our priority and mission to improve the lives of our communities, and maintain and build on the strong bond that policing has with the public. Following a recruitment and selection process, a new Deputy Chief Constable will be appointed in due course.

### **YOUR SAFETY MATTERS**

In August 2021, I launched the Police Scotland Assault Pledge, which underlined that violence against police officers and staff is unacceptable and is not part of the job, and outlined my unequivocal commitment to provide appropriate support where such violence does occur.

On Tuesday 15 November 2022, I welcomed emergency services, prosecution and health colleagues to Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan, to sign a National Assault Pledge which underlines our joint commitment to reduce violence and abuse against workers. A national partnership group which includes British Transport Police, NHS Scotland, Scottish Prison Service, Scottish Ambulance Service and others, will share best practice, develop preventative measures, and use consistent messaging to support and encourage staff to report incidents.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to note the information contained in this report.

