



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Authority Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>28 September 2023</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Merchant's House, Glasgow</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>SPA Chief Executive's Report</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Lynn Brown, Chief Executive</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>Yes – Summary Report from Scottish Railway Policing Committee held on 14 September 2023.</b>

**PURPOSE**

To update Members on activities carried out by the Authority's Chief Executive since the August Authority meeting.

Members are recommended to consider this report and to raise any matters for clarification or further detail with the Chief Executive.

## 1. Background

- 1.1. This report provides Members with an update on key Authority business not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

## 2. 2024/25 Pre-Budget Scrutiny

- 2.1 On Wednesday 13 September 2023, I attended and gave evidence to the Criminal Justice Committee on its 2024/25 pre-budget scrutiny alongside Police Scotland representatives DCC Jane Connors, DCO David Page and CFO James Gray. The session also included representatives from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and was followed by representatives from the COPFS and Scottish Courts Service.
- 2.2 [The Authority and Police Scotland made a joint written submission ahead of the evidence session](#), highlighting the challenging financial position this year and setting out the financial requirements for policing next year based on several assumptions.
- 2.3 During the evidence session, I acknowledged that the budget allocation for 2023/24 was better than projected by Scottish Government in its Resource Spending Review last year. This was a positive development given the challenging fiscal environment being felt across the entire public sector. Notwithstanding this, setting a balanced budget for 2023/24 year has meant a reduction in our workforce of 600 officers and a proportionate reduction in police staff. This has required a reduced level of service, with policing prioritising certain aspects where the greatest risks, threats and harms exist. Looking forward to next year, we expect this challenging environment to continue. A flat cash settlement will mean further reductions in our workforce and more difficult choices ahead.
- 2.4 I reiterated the Board's priorities to maintain a balanced budget position and support the development of a sustainable police and forensic service. I explained the Board's three areas of focus to progress these aims – capacity (demand), capability (technology and transformation) and culture (oversight of Policing Together).
- 2.5 The Authority continues to work with Police Scotland and the Scottish Government to ensure the implications of the potential financial settlement on policing are fully understood.

### **3. Scottish Police Authority – Website**

- 3.1 The Authority's new website went live on Monday 4 September 2023. The new website has been developed following significant input from users, key stakeholders and follow up testing. The site seeks to clearly explain the role and activities of the Authority and make more of our information available and accessible to a broader audience. I am grateful to the stakeholders who took time to support development of the site and continue to feedback to improve it further. I am also grateful to project team which consists of the Authority's Corporate team and Police Scotland's ICT team for their work to develop and launch the new site.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government's Directorate for Internal Audit and Assurance undertook a Digital Standard Assessment prior to launch of the new site. The assessment concluded that the Authority had met and demonstrated compliance with 13 of the 14 required criteria for assessment. The Directorate made one recommendation under criterion 13, concluding that limited supporting evidence had been provided to offer assurance around the requirement to operate a reliable service.
- 3.3 Police Scotland's ICT team provide support for the Authority's website by way of a service back arrangement. The ICT team are working to collate and provide the necessary supporting evidence to confirm this criterion is met as soon as practicable. An update will be reported to ARAC in due course.

### **4. Scottish Government Climate Change Week**

- 4.1 Monday 25 September to Sunday 1 October 2023 is Climate Change Week. The Scottish Government supports this with an annual programme to raise awareness of how businesses, organisations and individuals can adapt to a low carbon lifestyle. Transport and residential emissions rank amongst the top four sources of Scotland's own greenhouse gas emissions, with Scotland's Carbon Footprint Statistics showing that heating and travel are amongst the top products of Scotland's consumption-based emissions.
- 4.2 The Authority's Corporate staff welcomed colleagues from Police Scotland and Disclosure Scotland to a recent staff briefing, enabling conversations around transport and heating to raise awareness that even small steps to reduce emissions can help. I will ensure that Climate Change activity is built into the Board Workplan for next year, providing opportunities for Members to see the range and types of sustainable practice and initiatives being delivered across the policing system.

## 5. CIPFA Public Finance Awards 2023

- 5.1 I would like to congratulate the SPA Finance Team who have been nominated for a [CIPFA Public Finance Award 2023](#) in the category of Finance Team of the Year - Central Government and National Bodies. The team play an integral part in ensuring robust financial management arrangements are in place across policing and shortlisting itself is a significant achievement. The winner will be announced at this annual event in November 2023.

## 6. Scottish Railways Policing Committee

- 6.1 A meeting of the Scottish Railways Policing Committee (SRPC) took place on Thursday 14 September 2023 and was hosted at the Authority's offices in Glasgow. The SPA was represented by Authority Members Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly.
- 6.2 A full report from the September 2023 meeting is included at Appendix A. The next meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 22 November 2023.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the contents of this report.

## Summary report from the Scottish Railway Policing Committee

Thursday 14 September 2023

SPA Members – Tom Halpin and Mary Pitcaithly

### BTPA Recruitment

Mr Barclay-Smith, interim Scottish Railway Policing Committee (SRPC) chair, updated Members on recruitment of a new Scottish Member, confirming that a preferred candidate has now been selected and is awaiting ministerial sign off. It is anticipated that the new member, who will assume SRPC chair, will be in place for November.

### Strategic Risks

Members received an update on the BTP/A Joint Strategic Risk Register, and welcomed the revised format of the report to focus on matters most relevant to Scotland. It was noted that there had been no significant change to the risk position from that reported previously to Committee.

Members discussed risks around recruitment and retention, and legitimacy. Members sought assurance around higher than expected turnover and were given further detail on the analysis of this. In relation to legitimacy members noted the good progress made by BTP in relation to recommendations from HMICFRS' National Inspection Report of Vetting Misconduct and Misogyny in the Police, published in November 2022.

### Policing Plan Performance Q1 2023/24

Committee noted that serious violence has increased by 6% when compared to the same period of last year, and that the solved rate for these crimes has improved by 27%, and solve rates across the board remain high, particularly when compared to other divisions within BTP. Part of the reason for the increase in the number of crimes is a significant increase in the number of passenger journeys.

Violence against staff has also increased, by 12% compared to last year. Members asked that the action plan from the staff survey on confidence and safety at work be brought back to the next meeting. Members were updated on the roll out of body worn video in ScotRail, with approximately 330 staff members using this at the moment, and expected to increase to between 900 and 1000 as part of the current roll out.

Sexual offences have increased by 20%, however it was noted that, as a result of small numbers, this reflects four additional crimes. Over the same period the solve rate for this category has decreased by 8%. This will be tackled by the new Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy currently being developed, and due to be complete by the end of September 2023.

The 26% increase in primary disruption minutes due to trespass was noted by Members, who enquired as to whether the use of drones was being considered. It was confirmed that Network Rail were looking to fund the use of drones, and that a paper was being prepared by BTP to set out how this could be resourced by the service and the benefits it could bring. It was noted that drones can only legally be used within line of sight, so their adoption would mean removing two officers from normal duties to travel to different areas to operate the drones. Members accepted these limitations but expressed their support for driving forward the use of technology, especially as resources decrease.

### **Joint working Police Scotland / BTP**

Members noted the significant planning and joint working that had taken place recently in relation to the UCI Cycling World Championships in Glasgow and the Edinburgh Fringe. It was also noted that there had been no policing issues around the recent Scotland vs. England football match, and that this was due to positive partnership working and being able to make use of BTP resources from south of the border. The new Levenmouth Railway project in Kirkcaldy was also highlighted as an example of joint working, involving Police Scotland, BTP, NWR, Story Rail and Bam Nuttal.

Members offered their congratulations to Custody Team 2, based at London Road Police Station in Glasgow and led by BTP seconded Sergeant PS Harrington, who had been recognised as Police Scotland's Custody Team of the Year 2023 as part of the Criminal Justice Division's Annual Awards.

### **Naloxone and Safe Consumption Room**

An update was provided by ACC Ritchie on the successful completion of the Naloxone roll out project across Police Scotland. Members requested an update on the use of Naloxone within D Division of BTP and were advised that there had been a slight pause due to a health and safety matter currently being looked at in England. It was confirmed that apart from this slight setback, work was still on track to roll Naloxone out across the staff team over the coming months.

ACC Ritchie also updated Members and BTP colleagues on the potential safe drug consumption room being considered in Glasgow. While the location of this facility has not yet been confirmed, it is not thought that this will be next to a train station, which would impact on BTP. ACC Ritchie also confirmed that there would be no exclusion zone around the facility. Further detail on development of this facility will be shared at the next meeting of SRPC.

## **Stop and Search / Use of Powers Thematic**

As previously requested by SRPC Members, this paper provided an analysis of BTP stop and search and use of force data for the year 2022-23, with comparisons made to Police Scotland data wherever possible. It was noted that levels of disproportionality in the number of searches by ethnicity and age were higher for BTP than for Police Scotland, however it was also noted that BTP carry out a very small number of searches – just 246 in the year – which can mean slight differences appear more significant in the percentage figures.

Members welcomed this update and the level of transparency provided in reporting the data in such detail, confirming that this addressed their earlier request for improved visibility in this area. Members also noted the small number of searches carried out and enquired as to whether officers felt confident in exercising their right to search. It was agreed that it may be useful to bring this report back as an annual item on the agenda.

## **Transformation Programme**

An update was provided on the 'Force on the Move' transformation portfolio. This includes a project to provide a new case management system for BTP's D Division (Scotland), with the leading option currently being the new Police Scotland solution 'Smart 3'. There was also a discussion around the BTPA estate and improvements needed across key sites. It was agreed that the SPA/Police Scotland focus on co-location may be an interesting consideration for the future BTPA estates strategy, noting that COSLA are partnering with the SPA in this area, which opens up a range of local government co-location opportunities.

## **Audit and Inspection Update Q1 2023/24**

BTP is currently tracking 206 open recommendations from force-wide Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) audits and HMICFRS inspections. However there are no open recommendations that are specific to activity or process in Scotland.

A further update was provided on activity in relation to vetting (in addition to that already provided during the Strategic Risk Register item, above), which has included re-vetting of staff and officers, and Members were provided with assurance that necessary steps were being taken to ensure BTP stays ahead of this national improvement area.

It was noted that since April 2023 the police posts at Dundee, Kilwinning, Edinburgh and Inverness had all undergone audits by the governance teams, and all have been graded as green with good management oversight. The police post at Edinburgh houses one of the divisions largest property stores and was graded as exceptional by the auditing team. There have also been positive

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Scottish results in recent crime and incident audits, with compliance rates higher in D Division than across BTP as a whole.

