



Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	21 June 2023
Location	Apex Grassmarket, Edinburgh
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Sir Iain Livingstone QPM Chief Constable
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached	No

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

Police Scotland recognises the impact that serious violence including homicide has on victims and families, and the wider impact such criminality can have on community safety and cohesion. As a single national service, Police Scotland has driven consistently high standards of homicide investigation, underpinned by empathy, compassion, professionalism and justice. Every death is unique, and every homicide investigation presents its own particular challenges.

Since the last meeting of the Scottish Police Authority Board on Thursday 25 May 2023, detective officers from our Major Investigation Team, with support from Local Policing Division colleagues and other specialist services, responded to five murders at various locations across the country. That professional investigative response has resulted in the identification and arrest of an accused person or persons in each of the murders.

The ability to respond to multiple incidences of serious criminality occurring within a compressed time period, and conducting complex investigations while supporting the families and communities affected, demonstrates the value of the integrated and effective national service.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry – Significant Conviction

In 2019, Peter Toner, aged 65, was convicted at Glasgow High Court for sex crimes against five children whilst teaching in Ayrshire between 1979 and 1983.

As a result of ongoing further investigation by the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit he stood trial again in May 2023 at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court. He was found guilty of seven additional offences against children in Largs, Dumfries and Greenock and received a four year sentence to run concurrently with his current sentence.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Significant Conviction

On 26 April 2023, Malcolm Leask, aged 35 was found guilty of 19 violent and sexual offences against two women, children and animals at addresses in Clackmannanshire and Orkney between 2008 and 2019.

On 24 May, he was sentenced to 20 years (12 years imprisonment, eight years extended sentence) and subject to Non-harassment Orders, for an indefinite period.

The conviction and sentence was the culmination of a complex investigation carried out by Police Scotland officers in conjunction with a number of partner agencies, and underlines our commitment to holding offenders to account for their actions.

Victim Survivor Feedback

We are committed to proactively tackling domestic abuse and to ensuring the critical protection of children, by listening to and continuously improving on our response to victim survivors.

In addition to other feedback arrangements and mechanisms, on 24 May 2023, we opened a Victim Survivor Feedback form on our website to provide victim survivors of domestic abuse, rape and other sexual crimes, an opportunity to provide anonymous feedback and inform and improve our services.

Police Scotland wants to ensure we provide the best possible service that meets the public's expectations. Gathering feedback about lived experiences helps us understand what we are getting right and what we could do better. We will use these findings to shape our internal training and improve the services we provide.

Our partner organisations are also raising awareness of this feedback process with victim survivors they are in contact with, and domestic abuse teams and investigating officers will use their judgement sensitively in highlighting this form. Within the first week of operation, the online form had been accessed and completed 14 times.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Philomena Protocol

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 Police Scotland dealt with 17939 missing person investigations, 10163 of which involved missing children and young people.

On 29 May, the Philomena Protocol was rolled out across all of Police Scotland's divisions. The protocol is focused on children and young people living in care and foster facilities, and encourages agencies, carers, guardians, families and friends to identify children and young people who are at risk of going missing, and record vital information which can be used in the event of, and at the point when, a vulnerable person goes missing.

Often, missing young people head for familiar locations or try to find people who they think are their friends and they can rely on, so having details of these people and places written down in case of emergency, can really help police locate them quickly and safely.

ROAD SAFETY

Seatbelt Campaign

Throughout the summer months, Police Scotland will continue prevention, education and enforcement activity in line with the national road safety activity calendar. The seatbelt campaign commenced on 5 June and will run until 25 June, focusing on the importance of wearing a seatbelt.

Not wearing a seatbelt remains a significant factor in fatal and serious injury collisions, and this campaign has been designed to reinforce the safety message that seatbelts save lives through positive messaging and enforcement activity.

Other road safety campaigns, including a Drink and Drug Driving Campaign, will take place throughout the summer months.

SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

Core Operational Solutions (COS)

Following previous updates, our COS Project has now rolled out a suite of national applications across Edinburgh City and The Lothians and Scottish Borders Divisions to streamline the recording and management of operational information and supporting activity.

The demand on officers and staff has never been greater, and the ability to access these applications on officer mobile devices allows our policing response to be more efficient. This improves officer visibility within the communities we serve by reducing the need for officers to return to the office.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

On 15 June, together with Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and Papal lead for the Santa Marta Group, I co-hosted a major summit to tackle human trafficking involving police, faith and civic leaders. Santa Marta Group is the faith-led, international anti-trafficking charity that brings together law enforcement, civil society and the Church, from across the world, to work together to end modern slavery.

The conference took place at the Scottish Crime Campus, Gartcosh, and was attended by Justice Secretary Angela Constance, Solicitor General Ruth Charteris KC, Chief Constable Gavin Stephens, National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), Commissioner Drew Harris, An Garda Síochána (Irish Police) and Scottish Police Authority Chair Martyn Evans. Former Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown (UN Special Envoy) and partner agencies including Migrant Help, Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA) and Justice and Care, and representatives of the National Crime Agency, Police Service of Northern Ireland, and the Metropolitan Police Service. Former Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Theresa May also participated.

Human trafficking is a global problem, and reports of human trafficking continue to increase across Scotland. Police Scotland is taking a proactive, human rights based approach to trafficking, identifying vulnerability or providing support to people who may be arriving in Scotland and may be at risk of criminal exploitation.

We are working with our law enforcement partners across the world to build the intelligence picture, identify trends and form joint investigation teams to disrupt the traffickers.

FBI – NATIONAL EXECUTIVE INSTITUTE (NEI) PROGRAMME

Last week we welcomed policing and law enforcement colleagues from across the world for part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Executive Institute training programme.

The intensive programme is for executive officers from the FBI, as well as law enforcement agencies in the USA, Canada, Portugal, Ghana, Norway, Slovenia and Scotland. Between Sunday, 11 June and Thursday, 15 June, part of the course was delivered at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan.

In total, 48 participants attended, where a range of subjects were discussed, including the Scottish approach to policing; violence against women and girls; de-escalation and officer safety and policing protests.

Police Scotland has built a collaborative relationship with the FBI since 2018 and, although the organisation rarely holds the executive training programme outside of the United States, this is the second time delegates have been hosted in Scotland.

Police Scotland's commitment to values based policing which upholds human rights is of international interest and we welcome the opportunity to share insights and approaches with colleagues across the world. At the same time, we are ready to learn from any sector or agency to help us build the best possible service for our fellow citizens.

I was grateful to welcome delegates and thank everyone who continues to contribute to this successful collaboration.

POLICE FOUNDATION

Between 16 and 18 June, together with Scottish Police Authority Chair Martyn Evans, Deputy Chief Constable Malcom Graham participated in the Police Foundation annual policing conference at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor. This is a senior policing conference and was attended by Chief Constables, Police and Crime Commissioners, Home Office officials and academics from across the United Kingdom.

The conference is in its 40th year and provides an excellent opportunity to discuss and enhance partnership working and collaboration. The theme of this year's conference was: 'Delivery - what do we want the police to do and how can they deliver it', and DCC Graham delivered an input on Police Scotland's reform journey and public trust and confidence.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

On 3 June Hampden Park hosted the Scottish Cup final fixture between Celtic and Inverness Caledonian Thistle. Prior to the fixture, large groups of supporters gathered within Glasgow Green and walked on masse to the football stadium.

A proportionate policing response including conventional and public order policing resources was in place for the event. There were a small number of arrests across the day, and no significant disorder.

6. OUR PEOPLE

POSTHUMOUS BRAVERY AWARD

On 5 June I was privileged to present a posthumous bravery award to the family of Detective Sergeant William Ross Hunt, known as Ross, who died protecting his colleagues on 4 June 1983.

On that date, nearly 40 years previously, Ross led his colleagues in arresting an individual responsible for a serious assault at a premises in Larkhall. On attending at the suspects address, family members armed themselves with weapons and attacked the officers. Ross encouraged the other officers to return to their vehicles, shielding them from the attack, and he sustained serious injuries and tragically died as a result.

He saved the lives of his fellow officers and ensured those responsible were brought to justice and convicted of his murder. His selfless courage and public service reflect all that is good in Scottish policing. It was a privilege to meet Ross's family, and together, recognise his outstanding bravery.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Williams has been successful in his application for appointment to the National Police Coordination Centre (NPOCC) which he will undertake on secondment from Police Scotland. I congratulate Mark on this appointment, which contributes to Police Scotland's important relationship and joint working with policing right across the United Kingdom and internationally.

On Wednesday, 14 June, the Scottish Police Authority announced that Jo Farrell will be Police Scotland's next Chief Constable following my retirement.

I congratulate Jo Farrell and look forward to working with her to ensure an effective handover that will maintain stability in Police Scotland ahead of my last working day on Thursday, 10 August, and as a date is identified for Jo taking up the Office of Chief Constable with Police Scotland.

Leading our outstanding officers and staff as Scotland's Chief Constable is an enormous privilege. I have great confidence Jo will continue to develop our service to protect and serve our fellow citizens.

POLICE SERVICE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS (PSYV)

PSYV aims to deepen police engagement with young people, break down barriers with traditionally difficult to engage communities, promote positive role models and create safer communities to reduce violence.

The programme provides young people aged 13 – 18, of all backgrounds a positive means of engagement with the police through regular training, participation in community safety initiatives and through volunteering in their communities.

On Saturday 10 June, I addressed attendees at the PSYV Braveheart Challenge at the Scottish Police College where ten teams of 12 young people participated in discussions around issues that affect their local communities and worked as a team to develop a community project to counter the issues identified.

It was a great privilege and pleasure to attend the event and I was able to personally thank each volunteer for the valuable role they play in communities across Scotland.

POLICE SCOTLAND OFFICERS HONOURED

Three Police Scotland officers, one current and two retired, have been recognised for their commitment to public service in the King's Birthday Honours 2023.

Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham and recently retired Assistant Chief Constable Kenny MacDonald both receive their King's Police Medal (KPM), while Detective Inspector (retired) Simon Broadhurst is being honoured with an MBE for services to policing.

These awards are tribute to their dedication to public service and the communities of Scotland. I congratulate all three officers and thank them for their service.

PROMOTION AND RECRUITMENT

In late May, I promoted 229 police officers and 41 members of police staff, during ceremonies held at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. I thanked and congratulated my colleagues and it is a pleasure to recognise and celebrate their significant personal achievements.

On 1 June 2023, I welcomed 195 new recruits at the Oath of Office ceremony at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. I thanked each officer for their commitment to public service and for choosing to step forward into the demanding but hugely rewarding vocation of policing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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