SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

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Meeting	SPA Authority Meeting
Date and Time	**21 August 2013**
Location	Ayr
Title of Paper	**Keeping People Safe through Stop and Search**
Item Number	6
Presented By	**Chief Constable / Lesley Bain, Head of Analysis & Performance**
For Approval / For Information – please annotate (IN RED BOLD)	**For Information**
Appendix Attached: Yes or No	No

Purpose

To provide members of the Scottish Police Authority with a detailed performance report on how Police Scotland is keeping people across Scotland safe through the use of stop and search.

Background

1.1 The Chief Constable and the Scottish Police Authority agreed that Police Scotland will, from time to time and as agreed, report on specific areas of operational policing performance to the public meeting of the full authority.

1.2 This report constitutes the second such report and focuses on the Police Scotland use of stop and search to keep people across Scotland safe by reducing violence, preventing and detecting crime.

Introduction

2.1 Stop and search is the tactic used by police officers when they exercise their powers to search an individual for weapons, drugs, unlawful alcohol or stolen goods, in order to keep people safe. Use of the stop and search tactic should always be lawful, proportionate, intelligence-led and respectful to the member of the public involved. It is deployed by police officers when they have reasonable suspicion that an individual is engaged in specific kinds of criminal activity. The grounds for this suspicion cannot lawfully be based on personal factors such as age, gender, or race.

2.2 In Scottish law several different pieces of legislation give the police powers to carry out stop and search for a wide variety of reasons. The tactic also forms part of routine engagement with members of the public in Scotland who are searched after giving their consent to being searched, as any member of the public is at liberty to do at any time.

2.3 There is clear evidence that stops and searches which are intelligence-led, meaning that they are targeting known offenders, conducted at the times of day and in the locations where crime is known to occur, have a positive impact by reducing crime. Case studies in legacy Strathclyde Police area (2007-12) and Police Scotland Edinburgh Division (2013) demonstrate reductions in violence

where stop and search has been used in an intelligence-led way.

Legislative Framework for Stop and Search in Scotland

2.4   Stops and searches can be classified as either legislative (where the power derives from a specific law and does not require the consent of the person to be searched) or consensual (where the member of the public consents to being searched). Police officers in Scotland carry out both types of searches and all searches, including negative ones where no unlawful items are found, are recorded in the notebook of the police officer conducting the search. Of the searches undertaken by Strathclyde Police in 2012/13, 71.6% were consensual, the remainder being undertaken through the use of legislated powers.

2.5   The power to search an individual is provided to police officers in a variety of pieces of legislation (see Table 1 below). Under this legislation a police officer must first have 'reasonable suspicion' of criminal activity or 'reasonable cause to suspect' that an individual member of the public is in possession of a certain item, for example drugs, weapons, or stolen goods, in order to have the power to conduct such a search. In carrying out such searches, police officers are required to explain to the member of the public why they are being searched, the extent of the search must be proportionate to the item(s) being searched for, and officers must behave respectfully.

2.6   As part of routine police officer engagement with members of the public, stop and search is also carried out consensually, that is when a member of the public gives their consent to being searched. Consensual searches are also required to be intelligence-led, proportionate and respectful. To conduct a consensual search the police officer must first ask the individual for permission to search them and the individual must agree. Any refusal to agree to being searched must be noted by the police officer in their notebook but a refusal alone cannot be used as grounds to go on to conduct a legislative search.

Table 1: Legislative framework for stop and search

Search Type	Legislation
Alcohol	Sec61 Crime and Punishment (S) Act 1997
Offensive weapon	Sec 48 Criminal Law (Con) (S) Act 1995
Bladed weapon	Sec 50 Criminal Law (Con) (S) Act 1995
Drugs	Sec 23(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
Stolen property	Sec 60(1) Civic Government (S) Act 1982
Proceeds of crime	Sec 289 Proceeds of Crime Act (2002)
Firearms	Sec 47 Firearms Act 1968
Sporting events	Sec 21 Criminal Law (Con) (S) Act 1995
Public order	Sec 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
Terrorism	Sec 43, 47A Terrorism Act 2000
Hunting	Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002
Fireworks	Sec 76 Police Public Order and Criminal Justice (S) Act 2006

Public Mandate for Stop and Search in Scotland

2.7   While there is a clearly defined legislative framework for stop and search, policing in Scotland is carried out to keep the public safe from crime, and with their consent.

It is therefore important to maintain the public mandate for the use of stop and search by ensuring that members of the public can have confidence that it is used only to keep people safe from violence and other crime, that it does so effectively and that it is carried out with respect for members of the public involved.

2.8   In preparation for the creation of Police Scotland, consultation involving over 19,600 people was carried out at ward level across Scotland's communities to identify those issues of most concern to individuals and communities. The results of this consultation showed clearly that the issues of highest concern to the public across Scotland are violent crime, antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related disorder, road safety, drug dealing and drug misuse. These priority issues and our commitment to tackling them robustly are set out in the first interim Police Scotland Annual Plan 2013-14. Stop and search is an important and effective tool in tackling violence, alcohol-related disorder and anti-social behaviour and drugs, which are the issues the public across Scotland wants its police service to prioritise.

2.9   Focusing police action on the public's priorities means that police officers will use their powers to stop and search individuals where there is reasonable suspicion that they may be carrying knives or other weapons, in possession of illegal drugs, consuming alcohol underage or drinking publicly in the street in an area where local bye-laws forbid it. Police officers are provided with the local intelligence necessary to enable them to use this tactic in areas identified as hotspots for violence, drugs or antisocial behaviour. This use of stop and search is mandated by the public who have clearly told Police Scotland that these issues concern them most and they want their police service to tackle them at a local level.

2.10   More detailed information is contained in the Police Scotland Annual Plan 2013-14, which is available online at: http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/. The 32 Police Scotland Local Policing Plans, one for each local authority area across Scotland, and the 353 Police Scotland Multi-Member Ward Plans show how important the issues addressed by tactics including stop and search are to local communities. All of these plans can be viewed online at: http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/.

Practical Application of Stop and Search: 1. The Intelligence Base

2.11   Across all 14 local policing Divisions analysis is regularly undertaken of the victims, offenders and locations of crime and incidents to inform stop and search at a local level. This intelligence analysis specifically identifies where and when relevant crime and disorder has been taking place. It identifies locations where stops and searches can prevent and detect crime and disorder, the times of day relevant offending takes place, the identities of known offenders and where particular vulnerabilities may exist such as an area close to a school where street drinking takes place. This is used to brief officers and to focus stop search activity to those locations/ times where it will maximise the potential to impact positively on crime and reducing the number of victims.

2.12   Such intelligence is an important part of the briefing for individual officers, and will form part of the overall grounds for reasonable suspicion or reasonable cause to suspect criminal activity which may lead to a stop and search. It is built into the briefing to officers at the start of a shift and is also part of the de-briefing process at the end of the shift. Every officer is required to account for the stops

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and searches he or she conducts, and to keep the appropriate records which are themselves then analysed to contribute to the intelligence evidence base and ensure it is accurate and up to date.

Practical Application of Stop and Search: 2. Operational Activity

2.13   Police Scotland recognised that, whilst the intelligence basis for stop and search should be based on local crime and disorder profiles, stop and search practice should be consistent across a single service. A Police Scotland Stop and Search Toolkit was therefore developed for operational officers, drawing together best practice from across Scotland. The toolkit supports the practical application of this tactic in a consistent and proportionate way. It explains the legislative framework for stop and search and the individual officer's powers and responsibilities. It outlines the practical considerations and requirements for an officer conducting a stop and search. It reinforces the code of ethical conduct to require that all searches are conducted with respect and dignity, especially if they are conducted in a public place. Information is also provided on officer safety considerations, particularly in respect of individuals who may be in possession of syringes, needles or blades when being searched. The toolkit also covers best practice for officers searching property and vehicles.

2.14   The Stop and Search Toolkit was distributed to all officers in Police Scotland on the Force intranet and this was backed up by a variety of briefings to operational officers and supervisors in the run up to and during the first three months of the single service. It has also been briefed to managers across the service through Local Policing workshops for Divisional Commanders, Superintendents and Chief Inspectors. The national Local Policing Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit regularly conducts divisional visits where awareness and application of the best practice set out in the toolkit are tested, and fed back to Divisional Commanders for any additional action necessary.

Case Study 1: Strathclyde Police 2007-2012

2.15   The Strathclyde Police Campaign Against Violence (CAV) was the operational priority for Strathclyde police officers during the period 2007 to 2012. High levels of public space violence were being recorded in the west of Scotland, with significant links to the carrying of weapons and the misuse of alcohol. Every tactic available to the police service was explored as well as other innovative partnership strategies in an effort to reduce violence levels in the west of Scotland. This included using intelligence-led stop and search in all Strathclyde police divisions.

2.16   What is evident from crime figures recorded by Strathclyde Police during this period (see Table 2 below) is a drop of 49.2% in serious crimes of violence between 2007/08 and 2012/13. This means that there were 3,844 fewer victims of a serious crime of violence during this period. There was an even bigger numerical drop in the number of victims of common or petty assaults with 5,692 fewer victims of these more minor crimes of violence, equating to a reduction of 17.4% in this type of crime.

2.17   This drop in recorded violent crime went against the national trend at that time. It was significantly larger than any shown by the other Scottish police forces

during this period, some of whom in fact recorded rises in violent crime.

2.18   Further analysis of the recorded crime data held by legacy Strathclyde Police shows that there was also a shift away from outdoor violence to indoor violence in some violent crime categories such as common assaults. The number of common assaults taking place outside in a public place, where they could more easily come to police attention or be prevented by tactics including stop and search, fell as the total number of common assaults overall fell. While the overall number of such assaults taking place indoors did not increase, the reduction in the number taking place outdoors resulted in a greater proportion of the violence taking place indoors.

2.19   Prior to 2007 there had been a culture of knife-carrying among young men in the west of Scotland which was of major public concern. Knives and bladed weapons were routinely used in violent assaults, with often life-threatening and life-changing results. Analysis of the recorded crime data for the period 2007-2013 in the Strathclyde Police area reveals that during this period, when the Campaign Against Violence was in operation, there was a reduction in the number of offensive weapons, knives and bladed instruments being carried over the six year period. Recorded crime in all categories was significantly down (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: Strathclyde Police: changes in violent crime between 2007/08 and 2012/13

	2007/08	2012/13	Percentage Difference	Victims Difference
Group 1 Crimes of Violence	7,810	3,966	-49.2%	-3,844
Murder [incl. Homicide (common law)]	66	39	-40.9%	-27
Attempted Murder	361	135	-62.6%	-226
Serious Assault	4,041	1,878	-53.5%	-2,163
Robbery (incl. Assault w.i. Rob)	1,873	930	-50.3%	-943
Common Assault [incl. of Emergency Workers]	32,759	27,067	-17.4%	-5,692

				Crime Difference
Poss. Of Offensive Weapons	3,298	898	-72.8%	-2,400
Carrying knives/bladed instruments	2,389	1,284	-46.3%	-1,105

Source: Strathclyde Police Corporate Database.

2.20   In 2012/13 Strathclyde Police recorded its highest ever number of stop and searches during a year of record performance against reducing violent crime. A total of 612,110 stop and searches were carried out in the Strathclyde area with an overall positive rate (the percentage of searches in which an unlawful item is found) of 13.7% (see Table 3 below). The highest percentage of searches and the greatest proportion of positive searches were for alcohol, the misuse of which is

widely recognised to be a key factor in all types of violent crime, including domestic abuse.

2.21   Analysis of the demographic breakdown of these searches shows that most were carried out on that section of the population we know to be most at risk of being a perpetrator of violence and/or at some point also becoming a victim of violent crime: young men. Of all stop and searches 55.2% were carried out on the age group 16-29, 83.8% were male and 97.1% white. Overall 12.6% were carried out on youths aged 15 and under. The black and minority ethic (BME) population of the Strathclyde Police area in the 2011 census was recorded at 2.45% of the total population.

2.22   This momentum in reducing violence in the west of Scotland has been maintained since 1 April 2013 with the creation of Police Scotland. A continuing focus on preventing violence by effective intelligence gathering and targeting crime hotspots using tactics such as stop and search has resulted in a drop in violent crime in Glasgow City Centre between 1 April 2013 and 30 June 2013 to almost half that of the same period last year. Serious assaults have been reduced by 40% with the number of people carrying a knife down by 21%. 2,155 of the 12,000 stops and searches carried out in Glasgow during this period were positive with alcohol, weapons and drugs being found.

2.23   The number of stop and search related complaints allegations received by the police remained very low when compared to the number of stop and searches actually carried out. Twenty two stop and search related complaints allegations were recorded in 2012/13, and 14 in 2011/12.

Table 3: Strathclyde Police: stop and search profile 2012/13

2012/13	Overall	Drugs	Alcohol	Weapons	Stolen Property
Total Number	612,110	273,524	185,465	121,963	30,381
Total Number Positive	84,081	20,734	49,507	3,159	10,387
Proportion Positive	13.7%	7.6%	26.7%	2.6%	34.2%

Source: Strathclyde Police Corporate Database. Note: Remaining categories not detailed, however included in totals.

Case Study 2: Police Scotland Edinburgh City Division Apr-Jun 2013

2.24   Since 1 April 2013, Police Scotland has adopted the Campaign Against Violence and rolled it out across the country as best practice, building on the success achieved in reducing violence and improving public safety across the west of the country. An example of where the CAV approach has been adopted and adapted for local priorities, based on local intelligence analysis, is that of Edinburgh City Division.

2.24   In the first three months of this financial year, Edinburgh City has focussed its intelligence, briefing and development processes in support of reducing violence through a range of tactics, including stop and search. Of the 8,261 stop and searches conducted in Edinburgh City between 1 April and 30 June 2013, 20.9% or 1,727 of these have been positive, leading to the confiscation of unlawful items. Weapons were taken off the streets in 1,666 searches, drugs in 3,926

searches and alcohol in 877 searches. Police officers in Edinburgh City have conducted an almost even split of stop and searches with 51.4% consensual and 48.6% legislative.

See Table 4 for more detail.

Table 4: Police Scotland Edinburgh Division: stop and search profile Apr–Jun 2013

E Division	Overall
Total YTD 13/14	8,261
Total YTD 12/13	4,706
Numerical Difference	3,555
% Difference	75.5%

	Drugs	Alcohol	Weapons	Property
No. YTD 13/14	3,926	877	1,666	1,229
% positive YTD 13/14	18.2%	42.1%	10.7%	28.4%

Source: Police Scotland ScOMIS.

2.26   Although it is early yet to evaluate fully the impact of the Police Scotland approach to stop and search in the capital city, the first three months show reductions in violent crime which mirror the effect seen in the Strathclyde legacy force area. The number of most serious crimes of violence in Edinburgh City division has reduced against the same period in 2012 and there have already been 69 fewer victims of serious violence in Edinburgh (see Table 5).

2.27   It should be noted that whilst the number of common assaults has increased, analysis shows that this is almost entirely due to an increase in common assaults being identified in a domestic abuse context, arising from standardisation of policing practice across Scotland. The creation of a single service has resulted in a consistent approach to policing some issues such as tackling domestic abuse, which is thought to be the main driver of increased common assaults being reported. Further detail on the topic of domestic abuse is subject of a separate paper to the Scottish Police Authority in August 2013.

2.28   Another notable change post-1 April 2013 in Edinburgh is the increase in the recovery of offensive weapons, knives and bladed instruments and the consequent increase in the recording of these crimes. This again was to be expected and is a consequence of the increased use of stop and search which means that when an individual is found carrying a knife or offensive weapon, not only is the weapon taken off the streets but a crime is also recorded.

Table 5: Police Scotland Edinburgh City Division: changes in violent crime Apr–Jun 2013

	YTD 12/13	YTD 13/14	Percentage Difference	Victims Difference
Group 1 Crimes of Violence	254	185	-27.2%	-69
Murder [incl. Homicide (common law)]	0	3	~	3
Attempted Murder	7	10	42.9%	3
Serious Assault	71	50	-29.6%	-21
Robbery (incl. Assault w.i. Rob)	110	59	-46.4%	-51
Common Assault [incl. of Emergency Workers]	1,401	1,820	29.9%	419
				Crime Difference
Poss. Of Offensive Weapons	44	99	125%	55
Carrying knives/bladed instruments	47	56	19.1%	9

Source: Police Scotland ScOMIS.

Performance Framework for Stop and Search

2.29   Police Scotland uses two key performance indicators (KPIs) directly related to stop and search activity in its overall performance management framework. These have been developed as a result of the experience outlined in the case studies above. The KPIs are used to ensure that intelligence-led stop and search activity is being effective in reducing crime and tackling the public's priorities of reducing violence, disorder, anti-social behaviour and drugs. They form part of the Police Scotland Performance Framework, and as such are monitored weekly, monthly and quarterly by the chief officer team through a series of formal performance meetings.

2.30   The first KPI is the number of stop and searches conducted. This is recorded as an important indicator of the level of proactive policing being undertaken across Scotland to keep people safe by reducing crime. It is particularly important to note, however that no target is set for the number of stop and searches carried out by any individual police officer, team or division, so as to prevent any inappropriate focus on quantity at the expense of quality. Every stop and search

is recorded in the individual police officer's notebook and is also entered onto a central database for Police Scotland, which leads to the number of stops and searches conducted by officers being recorded in every police division. The specific information recorded by officers as a result of individual stop and searches is entered on the local database and becomes part of the ongoing local intelligence picture.

2.31 The second KPI is the number of <u>positive</u> stop and searches carried out, where an illegal item is recovered and a crime is therefore recorded. This KPI has a target attached to it to encourage stop and search that is intelligence-led and used proportionately, and to discourage a random stop and search approach or any inappropriate focus on numbers rather than reducing crime. Building on the experience previously in the west of Scotland and seeking to improve on it, Police Scotland has set a target that overall in the first year of having a consistent operational application of the stop and search tactic across Scotland, at least 15% of all stop and searches should recover weapons, drugs and other unlawful items and thereby reduce crime. This target is currently being achieved, and in fact exceeded, across all police divisions.

2.32 Both of these KPIs are recorded at a local level and are compared to the individual crime levels in each division to ensure proportionality in stop and search activity. There is no league table comparison of these KPIs between Divisions. This is because the local crime profiles, including violent crime profiles, vary in both volume and type across the 14 Divisions and the use of stop and search should therefore vary according to local need and intelligence. Comparison of performance between Divisions is actively discouraged, to maintain the Police Scotland operational policing principle that all stop and searches should be individually lawful, proportionate, intelligence-led and carried out respectfully. Stop and search must be used to keep people safe, particularly from violence, not to reach a numerical target or exceed the number carried out elsewhere.

2.33 Equally important is that there are no individual officer targets for stop and search activity. Police officers in whatever role they perform carry out stop and searches as part of their routine engagement with the public and to reduce crime. At no time are officers to be set individual or team targets to carry out a specific number of stop and searches. It is the responsibility of operational leaders at every level to ensure that officers are briefed, tasked and managed to balance their stop and search powers with their responsibilities to the public, in order to keep them safe.

2.34 The impact of stop and search is also routinely measured, to ensure that the use of the tactic is proportionate across the population and individual communities, and that officers are conducting it properly in individual cases. Figures for the first three months of 2013/14 indicate that 2.7% of stop and searches related to individuals from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds, who make up 3.7% of Scotland's population. Across the whole of Scotland, a total of 19 complaints allegations relating to stop and search have been made, which is the same number as for the same period last year.

Table 6: Police Scotland stop and search breakdown Apr–Jun 2013

	No of Stop and Search Records

Total Stop and Searches	186,463
Total Ethnic Group (BME) Stop and Searches	5,022
Ethnic Group (BME) as a % of Total Stop and Searches	2.7%
Ethnic Minorities % of Scottish Population	3.7%

Source: Police Scotland ScOMIS, Census 2011.

England and Wales

2.35 In recent weeks there has been widespread media reporting about the use of stop and search activity by police in England and Wales. There are significant differences between Scotland and England and Wales in terms of legislation and crime patterns which mean that great care should be taken in drawing parallels between the two jurisdictions. National reporting from England and Wales shows that 9% of stop and searches result in the arrest of the individuals stopped and searched by police. Scottish financial year to date stop and searches, by way of comparison, have a 21% success rate. Although direct comparison is not possible as a result of differing disposal categorisations, the figures suggest that the Scottish stop and search approach has a greater positive success rate.

2.36 An independent review of stop and search by English and Welsh police forces was carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in England and Wales, and published on 9 July 2013. The main finding of the HMIC report was that police use of stop and search in England and Wales was too often ineffective in tackling crime and procedurally incorrect. Searches in England and Wales were not being carried out properly by police officers and sufficient information was not being recorded such as whether the item searched for was found. The report also found failings in the *"absence of training for officers about how to judge they have reasonable grounds, and poor supervision and absence of oversight by senior officers"*. Further information on this report and its findings are available from HMIC England and Wales online at:
http://www.hmic.gov.uk/publication/stop-and-search-powers-20130709/ .
As a result of the report, the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Theresa May announced that a six week public consultation would be launched in England and Wales on stop and search.

2.37 The HMIC report specifically examined the use of stop and search by police forces in England and Wales. The legislative framework, public mandate, and crime profile which exist in Scotland create significant differences in the context and application of stop and search, which make it inappropriate to draw direct parallels with the experience in England and Wales. The higher proportion of consensual searches carried out as part of a police officer's routine engagement with the public in Scotland compared to England and Wales are indicative of a more routine engagement between the public and the police on stop and search in Scotland. Extensive recent consultation shows that the public want Police Scotland to prioritise tackling violence, disorder, anti-social behaviour and drugs, all of which are addressed by stop and search. In addition, the demographic breakdown of stop and search activity in Scotland indicates that there is no age or racial bias towards individuals from black and minority ethnic backgrounds: the vast majority of stop and searches are carried out on young, white males who are also most likely to be victims and/or perpetrators of violent crime (see Table 6 above).

2.38 Importantly, the professional policing practice of stop and search in Scotland is

now closely managed. Regular intelligence analysis for each Division ensures that the intelligence-led approach to stop and search is maintained. The Police Scotland national Stop and Search Toolkit has been rolled out to ensure that officers have a clear professional reference point for best practice relating to their power and responsibilities. Each stop and search and its grounds are recorded in both the police officer's notebook and the national database. Local supervisors are required to ensure compliance by individual officers with the toolkit and with recording requirements, and Divisional Commanders are required to ensure that no individual, team or divisional numerical targets are set for stop and search. Two additional forms of scrutiny are also applied: the Police Scotland Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit, and the Police Scotland Analysis and Performance Unit, regularly quality assure these processes. Scrutiny of how this important tactic is used, its effectiveness and its impact on our communities also forms part of the Police Scotland performance framework itself, with oversight at chief officer level.

Conclusion: Keeping People Safe through Stop and Search

2.39   Stop and search is an important police power which in Scotland has been at the heart of a successful campaign to reduce violence since 2007 in the west of the country, and since 1 April 2013 across Scotland. Analysis of crime statistics evidences that intelligence-led and proportionate use of stop and search has a positive impact by reducing crime, particularly serious violence in public places.

2.40   Consultation for the 353 Multi-Member Ward Plans, the 32 Local Policing Plans and the Police Scotland Annual Plan 2013-14 identified violent crime, anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related disorder, road safety, drug dealing and drug misuse as the issues of highest public concern across Scotland, all but one of which are directly reduced by the effective use of stop and search. Police Scotland recognises the mandate this gives to continue to use stop and search effectively to keep the public safe, and the responsibility it has to ensure that the tactic is used appropriately.

2.41   Police Scotland has put in place a framework for using best practice to ensure that stop and search is intelligence-led, locally relevant, proportionate and conducted by individual officers with respect for members of the public involved. The Police Scotland performance framework is used to ensure that stop and search focuses on the removal of unlawful items from causing harm, leading to a reduction in crime – particularly violence crime - and keeping people across Scotland safer.

Financial Implications

3.1   There are no financial implications associated with this paper.

Personnel Implications

4.1   There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

5.1   The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012) legislates for the provision of

this information.

Reputational Implications

6.1   There are no reputational implications, other than those set out in this report.

Social Implications

7.1   There are no social implications, other than those set out in this report.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the content of this paper and how use of the stop and search tactic by Police Scotland makes a significant contribution to keeping people safe.