



Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	25 May 2023
Location	Crowne Plaza, Glasgow
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

Since the last meeting of the Scottish Police Authority Board on Thursday 23 March 2023, nine murders have sadly taken place across Police Scotland. Every death is unique and every homicide investigation presents its own particular challenge.

The professional investigative response by officers and staff, driven by the particular circumstances of each death, has resulted in the identification and arrest of an accused person or persons in each of the deaths. 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.

Significant Convictions

Murder of Lauren Wilson

On Wednesday 26 May 2021, the body of Lauren Wilson, aged 34, was found within the home address of the accused Craig Walker (41), having sustained significant injuries. A murder investigation was launched, led by the Major Investigation Team, and Craig Walker was charged with her Murder.

On Monday 3 April 2023, Craig Walker was found guilty of the murder of Ms Wilson at the High Court in Glasgow, and sentenced to life imprisonment with the punishment part set at 21 years.

Our thoughts remain with the family and loved ones of Lauren Wilson.

Murder of Fawziyah Javed

On Thursday 2 September 2021, Police Scotland officers and other emergency services responded to reports of a woman having fallen from the hillside at Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh. Fawziyah Javed, aged 31, tragically died at the scene and an investigation commenced into the circumstances surrounding her death.

The investigation led to the arrest of her husband, Kashif Anwar, who was charged with her murder. Fawziyah was pregnant at the time of her murder.

On Thursday 6 April, Kashif Anwar was convicted at the High Court of murdering his 31-year-old pregnant wife. He was sentenced to a minimum of 20 years.

Our thoughts remain with the family and loved ones of Fawziyah Javed.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

As part of our commitment to continually listening as we strive to always improve our response to Violence Against Women and Girls, Police Scotland led an engagement event with stakeholders at Dalmarnock Police Office, Glasgow, on Friday 21 April.

Deputy Chief Constable Jane Connors LVO QPM and Assistant Chief Constable Bex Smith took this important opportunity to thank those who had contributed to the development of our VAWG Strategy and Implementation Plan and outline how we are addressing the matters raised.

Stakeholders including Victim Support Scotland, Scottish Women's Aid and Scottish Government described the process as innovative, open and honest and commented positively on the integrity and transparency from Police Scotland which included acknowledging issues of sexism and misogyny within our organisation.

We remain committed to building trust and confidence in this crucial area and sharing progress and development with partners in Scottish Government, COSLA and other key organisations.

Domestic Abuse Task Force (DATF)

From 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, the DATF secured the conviction of 41 high tariff perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. A total of 272 years' worth of sentencing was passed, equating to an average of six years and eight months per perpetrator. Additionally, three Orders for Lifelong Restriction and 377 years' worth of Non-Harassment Orders were granted.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation. Police Scotland will not tolerate it, and tackling domestic abuse is a priority. We will continue to work with partners to reduce the harm it causes and eradicate it.

Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE)

The OCSAE Unit of the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit (NCAIU) was formed as part of Police Scotland's response to the investigative challenges of online child sexual abuse and provides a proactive response to this significant issue mainly through enforcement of National Online Child Abuse Prevention (NOCAP) packages.

The premise of NOCAP is to prevent online child abuse by targeting individuals who are suspected to have a sexual interest in children. This is achieved by developing intelligence from a number of sources and creating Intelligence Packages that target the individual concerned.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, NOCAP work and enforcement action was undertaken in relation to 709 investigations. 54.5 percent of these investigations and enforcement activity led to the recovery of indecent images of children and sexual abuse material.

776 children have been protected through this work and 486 arrests made.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

TACKLING CRIME IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Theft of Cryptocurrency

Cryptocurrency theft and fraud has increased more than 2000% since 2019, and in this financial year alone, Police Scotland has dealt with 47 requests to track and trace transactions.

On 27 March, Police Scotland was made aware of a theft of around £1m worth of cryptocurrency coins. A number of investors had purchased VOW coins on a virtual 'structure' known as Blockchain prior to the coins being released on the open market. Following that purchase, customers discovered their cryptocurrency wallets had been accessed and funds emptied.

Police Scotland analysis has recovered coins to the value of £563,000 and work is continuing between COPFS and other law enforcement partners including the National Crime Agency around additional investigative opportunities. This represents a landmark achievement and is the first time UK Law enforcement has been able to achieve this.

Cybercrime arrests

On 4 and 5 April, officers from Police Scotland's specialist Cybercrime Unit arrested two men, aged 31 and 43 years, and executed a number of warrants in a global operation to target one of the biggest dark web marketplaces, Genesis Marketplace, selling stolen credentials to criminals worldwide.

Genesis Marketplace was a dark web marketplace seeking to defraud victims, having hosted approximately 80 million credentials and digital fingerprints stolen from over two million people across the world.

Enforcement activity took place at four addresses in Dunfermline, Glasgow, Carlisle and Aberdeen, as part of an operation led by the FBI and Dutch National Police. The UK operation follows an investigation of the site by the FBI and forms part of international action in 17 countries.

This action underlines Police Scotland's commitment to tackling all forms of serious and organised crime. We will continue to work in partnership with law enforcement agencies in this country and abroad to target and disrupt this sort of activity.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Motorcycle Safety Campaign 2023

The annual motorcycle safety campaign runs from April to September, covering the period that annually, sees the highest number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured. The campaign aims to promote motorcycle safety and raise awareness amongst other drivers.

27 motorcyclists died in 2022/23 – 22 of which were during the campaign months, and although motorcyclists make up only one per cent of road users in Scotland, they account for around 17 percent of all road deaths.

Engagement and enforcement activity is taking place throughout the spring and summer months, using both marked and unmarked police vehicles. Police Scotland's Motorcycle Unit, in partnership with road safety groups, are delivering a series of Rider Refinement training courses for motorcyclists. This one day course aims to raise awareness around the importance of road safety.

TACKLING DRUG CRIME

Police Scotland and partner agencies in Aberdeen carried out two days of activity under Operation Protector, a partnership with Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian, British Transport Police and Alcohol and Drugs Action and Turning Point Scotland, designed to provide sustained support to people with a drug

dependency. This partnership action is undertaken with a view to reducing associated risks, while also taking positive enforcement action against those who exploit vulnerable people through the supply of drugs and negatively affect our communities.

Police Scotland's purpose is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland and proactive, intelligence led activity continues to be a priority across every Local Division.

On 4 April 2023, officers from Ayrshire's Proactive Crime Team executed a warrant at a premises in Stevenson. A large-scale cannabis cultivation, with a potential street value of £2,000,000 was discovered within. Four men, aged 30, 32, 34 and 36 were arrested and charged with drugs offences.

On 4 April 2023, while executing a warrant in Selvieland Road, Glasgow, officers from the Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit discovered 1.5Kg Cocaine and 100g Herbal Cannabis worth an estimated street value of £65,000. A 27 year old male was arrested and charged in connection with drugs offences.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Seldom Heard Communities

We continue to build on our approach to maintain and enhance confidence in policing and police engagement with marginalised groups to better serve our communities.

A series of five academic reports, jointly commissioned by Police Scotland, the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR), and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) under the Policing Together programme, were published this month.

This important research underlines our commitment to listening to all our communities so we can continually improve how we represent, reflect and serve them. Providing every citizen with a fair and effective police service is fundamental to policing legitimacy and keeping people safe.

A great strength of Police Scotland is that our officers and staff are drawn from different backgrounds and experiences. What unites us is our shared and non-negotiable set of values - integrity, fairness, respect and a commitment to upholding human rights.

I am grateful to everyone who contributed to this work so that we can continue to design our services to best meet the needs of our communities.

PARK INN HOTEL INCIDENT, JUNE 2020

On 26 June 2020, Bardreddin Abdalla Adam Bosh was shot and killed by officers after he stabbed and seriously injured six people in the Park Inn Hotel, West George Street, Glasgow.

On Thursday 6 April, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) advised that following a thorough and independent investigation into the circumstances of the fatal shooting of a man, there was no evidence of criminality on the part of any police officer involved in the incident. The investigation concluded that police officers acted appropriately throughout and their actions were legitimate and proportionate.

Armed officers are amongst the most highly trained in policing and they acted quickly and with professionalism to save lives in what was a spontaneous and fast-moving incident involving significant risk.

This was a terrible and tragic incident and our thoughts remain with all of those affected.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE IN POLICE SCOTLAND

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS), the police inspectorate, is currently undertaking an inspection of organisational culture in Police Scotland.

The purpose of the inspection is to make an assessment of whether Police Scotland has a healthy organisational culture and ethical framework and if our values, code of ethics and standards of professional behaviour are consistently lived across the Service.

The organisation's values, code of ethics, and the standards of professional behaviour are vital to the culture and practice of everyone in policing. We know from reviews and inspections and through listening to officers and staff, that policing in Scotland is not immune from the cultural challenges of other police services, other sectors or industries or society as a whole.

There is already significant work underway as part of our Policing Together initiative which seeks to ensure our values of integrity, fairness, respect and a commitment to upholding human rights lie at the heart of all we do. We will continue to drive improvements to how policing in Scotland reflects, represents and serves all our communities.

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEFS' COUNCIL (NPCC)

On 29 and 30 March I attended the NPCC in York. Discussion topics included National Cyber Security Incident Response Strategy, Police Science and Technology, and Serious Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism.

I will also attend a shorter one day virtual meeting of the NPCC meeting on 24 May, which will include an update from the College of Policing regards Digital Forensics.

I remain convinced that policing and communities in Scotland benefit from our continued participation in, and collaboration with, the NPCC network, and Police Scotland continues to provide valuable contribution to colleagues in the NPCC, which supports and enhances provision of policing across the United Kingdom.

2023 PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMIT – HARVARD UNIVERSITY

I contributed to the 2023 Public Safety Summit at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, between 21 April and 23 April, as a member of the Executive Leadership Group of the Leadership for a Networked World.

This annual International Summit brings together police chiefs, sheriffs, commissioners, and other senior-level officials to share ideas on what a vision for the future looks like, and how to lead their organisations and partners with innovation and efficiency.

CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES (COSLA)

On 8 May, Assistant Chief Constable's Gary Ritchie and Steve Johnson contributed to the COSLA Police Scrutiny Convener's Forum in Verity House in Edinburgh along with the Chair of the SPA, and engaged in discussions around key strategic issues affecting our local communities.

Local Policing is at the heart of Police Scotland's relationship with our citizens, and this forum enables us to strengthen the relationships developed by Local Police Commanders with locally elected members.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

SCOTTISH GRAND NATIONAL – AYR RACECOURSE

On Saturday 22 April, just before the Scottish Grand National event at Ayr Racecourse, a large group of protesters climbed under and over fences and made their way towards the racetrack.

A prompt and professional response by stewards and Police Scotland officers prevented the group from causing significant disruption, and the race was able to commence as arranged and without further issue. A further attempt by protestors at a later race was also disrupted.

SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL RANGERS FC VS CELTIC FC

On Sunday 30 April 2023, the Scottish Cup Semi-Final football fixture between Rangers and Celtic football clubs took place at Hampden Park, Glasgow. A comprehensive policing operation was in place, involving both conventional and specialist policing resources. Five people were arrested for minor offences. One Police officer was injured and conveyed to hospital and deemed unfit to continue duty.

MUTUAL AID

Police Scotland recognises the value derived from close co-operation with policing colleagues across the United Kingdom, and as Chief Constable, I agreed to provide mutual aid support to a number of significant policing operations.

In April Police Scotland supported the Police Service of Northern Ireland during the policing operation to provide protection and security across a range of events to mark the 25th anniversary of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement along with a state visit from the US President Biden. In total, 31 officers, representing a variety of specialisms, were deployed in Northern Ireland in support of those policing operations.

Police Scotland supported the policing operation in connection with the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla in London. Between 30 April and 10 May, 77 officers from a range of specialisms were deployed to London, to support the Metropolitan Police in delivering the policing operation.

6. OUR PEOPLE

YOUR LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Leaders in Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority play a crucial role in driving forward Policing Together, our collective effort to bring renewed focus to our shared values of integrity, fairness, respect and a commitment to upholding human rights.

To ensure our leaders have the skills to lead confidently, we have developed and are in the process of delivering a programme to support the implementation of three Your Leadership Matters (YLM) behaviours;

- Lead and learn inclusively
- Have the courage to do the right thing
- Collaborate for growth.

The first phase of the leadership programme focussed on the top 250 leaders in our organisations and garnered significant positive feedback from attendees around the authenticity of inputs and the impact of sharing lived leadership experiences.

We have launched the next phase of the programme which is being delivered to over 600 middle level leaders in the organisation, and planning is underway to deliver that programme to a further 5000 first level leaders later this year.

This programme represents a significant investment, and all our people managers are being supported to attend and participate in YLM. This programme forms a critical part of how we will deliver on our cultural ambitions and Policing Together commitments and create a leadership environment that enables staff and officers to thrive in Police Scotland.

POLICING TOGETHER TO BUILD AN ANTI-RACIST SERVICE

Last week, I thanked around 60 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) officers and staff who contributed to an anti-racist event hosted jointly by Police Scotland and Semper Scotland, and attended by colleagues from our Independent Review Group and the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group.

Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor QPM and other senior leaders listened to feedback from officers and staff, and outlined action we are taking under the Policing Together programme.

Supporting officers and staff to make their voices heard and acting on any concerns is vital as we drive necessary change to give effect to my commitment to building an anti-racist Service which stands against discrimination and champions equality.

AYR POLICE STATION – NEW PREMISES

Ayr Police Station in King Street, Ayr was an iconic building that had been at the heart of delivering policing services in Ayrshire for almost 50 years. The building was no longer fit for purpose for modern policing and through our excellent working relationship with South Ayrshire Council, we identified Newton House as a location that would enable policing services to continue to be delivered in Ayr.

Re-locating to facilities like Newton House has been part of Police Scotland's long term Estates Strategy and not only facilitates greater partnership working but also helps reduce the costs of maintaining unsuitable public sector buildings.

The move to Newton House will mean a real improvement to the working environment for officers and staff, and will ensure continuation of the high standard of service delivery in Ayr and the surrounding towns and villages.

POLICE SCOTLAND OFFICERS HONOURED

Two Police Scotland officers have been named in the Demise Honours list, published following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Deputy Chief Constable Jane Connors QPM has been made a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO) for services to the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in her previous role as Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police.

Superintendent Stewart Drummond has been made a member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO), for his services to the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II whilst in his role as Head of Royalty and VIP Planning.

These awards recognise the dedication to public service to communities across the UK, a level of dedication that is reinforced by officers and staff throughout Police Scotland on a daily basis.

POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT

On 12 May, 188 probationary officers successfully completed their initial training course at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan and took part in the pass out parade. The officers will serve in communities across the length and breadth of Scotland, keeping people safe.

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.

I wish each officer success as they embark on their fulfilling and rewarding careers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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