

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	19 February 2020
Location	The Barracks, Stirling
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
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.

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

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 on Keeping People Safe. This paper is intended to provide Members with an update on key activity and events within Police Scotland.

2. TACKLING THREAT AND RISK

SERIOUS VIOLENCE (INCLUDING HOMICIDE)

Our priorities cut across all aspects of criminality and policing and we will tackle the areas that pose greatest threat and risk.

Murder of Louise Tiffney – Edinburgh City Division

In May 2002, Louise Tiffney, aged 43, was reported missing from her home in Dean Village, Edinburgh. An extensive investigation was undertaken into her disappearance which led to her son, Sean Flynn, being charged with her murder. Following criminal trial in 2005 at Perth High Court, a not-proven verdict was returned.

In April 2017, the remains of Louise Tiffney were discovered in undergrowth between Longniddry and Aberlady. This led to a reinvestigation of the circumstances being carried out by Police Scotland. On Thursday 9 January 2020, the original trial verdict was set aside and it was confirmed that Sean Flynn would be retried for murder, following a double jeopardy application on the basis of new evidence which was not available in 2005. On Friday 17 January 2020, he appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court and was subsequently released on bail.

Operation HOB – Lanarkshire Division

On Thursday 23 January, a 27 year old man was seriously injured following a disturbance and discharge of a firearm in Brunswick Gardens, Cumbernauld. A 52 year old passer-by suffered minor injury during the incident, which also resulted in the death of her dog. An investigation, led by officers from the Major Investigation Team, led to the arrest of a 23 year old male on Thursday 30 January. He was later released pending further inquiries and the investigation remains ongoing.

Investigative tactics included the first operational use of the Major Incident Public Portal (MIPP) by Police Scotland. MIPP is an online portal which provided a mechanism for members of the public to submit information directly to investigation teams based at the Scottish Crime Campus.

ROAD SAFETY

Our priorities cut across all aspects of criminality and policing and we will tackle the areas that pose greatest threat and risk.

Operation Drive Insured

Between Monday 20 and Sunday 26 January, officers from Road Policing Division, supported by Local Policing Divisions, carried out a week of enforcement activity as part of the national Operation Drive Insured campaign. During the week of action, 113 vehicles were seized and 271 drivers without insurance reported for offences or issued with Fixed Penalty Notices.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES**PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

Supporting people considered vulnerable and working with partners to reduce harm.

Operation RISBALIT – Human Trafficking

Operation RISBALIT was a joint operation to tackle human trafficking across the east and west of Scotland. Led by officers from Edinburgh's Public Protection Unit, the operation was also supported by the Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit, Financial Investigation Unit and key partner agencies. On Tuesday 4 February, intelligence led enforcement activity resulted in the arrest of three males aged 41, 24 and 23 and a 25 year old female, who were charged in connection with human trafficking offences.

Police Scotland will continue to work within local communities and with national and international partners to identify and support victims of human trafficking, and to target offenders who exploit people in this manner.

National Offender Management

The legal basis for examination of internet enabled devices used by Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) is provided by specific conditions contained within Sexual Offences Prevention Orders or Risk of Sexual Harm Orders.

In 2019, Police Scotland received a financial award from the Scottish Government Justice Digital Transformation Fund for the purchase of a technological solution to assist in the examination of such devices. As a result, Mobile Triage Devices will be provided to Offender Management Units from Spring 2020, to assist in the management and monitoring of

RSOs who are subject to relevant orders. This will provide a more efficient, effective and consistent means of examining internet enabled devices used by RSOs, to better inform risk management decisions and protect the public from serious harm.

Police Scotland Drugs Strategy

As previously reported to members, Police Scotland fully supports the work of the Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce in its central aim of identifying measures to improve health by preventing and reducing drug use, harm and related deaths. To enhance our approach to drug misuse and the contribution made to relevant national strategies, a Drugs Strategy for Police Scotland and supporting governance structure has been created under the Partnership, Prevention and Community Wellbeing portfolio. This will take an intelligence led whole systems approach with key partners, focusing on prevention and enforcement activity, to reduce the harm caused by the supply and consumption of controlled drugs and substances in communities across Scotland.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Engaging with the public and communities to build resilience and prevent crime.

Purple Flag Award – Aberdeen

Purple Flag is a national accreditation scheme which looks at wellbeing within city centres at night. Following a recent accreditation process, Aberdeen City Centre was successful in retaining the Purple Flag for a seventh term. Aberdeen was awarded a grading of 'outstanding' in respect of wellbeing, which focuses on aspects including city centre policing, connectivity between the police and partners, and safety initiatives in the city centre. As a result, Aberdeen is one of three cities to be shortlisted for a UK-wide award in this category.

SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

Delivering change that enables our people to deliver an effective and sustainable service.

National Network (Nat Net) Project

As previously reported to members, the Nat Net Project is being rolled out across Police Scotland to deliver network capacity and capability which underpins our Digital Data and ICT Strategy. It provides the foundation for the introduction of new technologies designed to support officers and staff and drive efficiencies.

In February, a Scottish Government Technology Assurance Review of the Nat Net Project was undertaken. It provided a delivery confidence

assessment rating of 'green', indicating that successful delivery of the project in respect of time, cost and quality appears highly likely, with no major outstanding issues identified. Identified good practice included communication, planning, preparation and flexibility. Roll out of Nat Net connectivity is approximately 70% complete and the Assurance Review assessment provides further evidence that the project is well managed with a robust implementation approach.

Mobile Working

The roll out of mobile working for officers continues, with Lanarkshire, Dumfries and Galloway, and Ayrshire Divisions receiving devices in January 2020. As of Friday 7 February, over 6,000 officers have been trained and issued with mobile devices. There have been in excess of 550,000 digital notebook entries and 57,000 witness statements recorded using mobile capability. Feedback from officers using the devices operationally continues to be extremely positive.

The Mobile Working Project also received a rating assessment of 'green' when it was subject of a Scottish Government Technology Assurance Review in September 2019.

Public Order Capability and Capacity

Incidents which may require a public order policing response include sporting and other major events, planned protest activity, spontaneous events, and operational incidents which pose a particular threat or challenge. Demand analysis has demonstrated an increase in the requirement for public order deployments in the last year. To mitigate risk and to address current and potential future challenges presented by a variety of issues, including the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and policing demands of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26), work is ongoing to increase public order capability and capacity within Police Scotland.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

STRATEGIC COMMAND COURSE

From Monday 27 January, Police Scotland hosted the Strategic Command Course (SCC) at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan. Senior leaders and future chief officers from Police Scotland, UK Police Forces, other law enforcement agencies and international colleagues attended. This was the first time that Scotland had hosted the SCC since 2016.

The Chief Constable delivered the opening address and members of the

Force Executive and key external contributors, including the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and representatives from Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland, delivered inputs on a number of policing themes. This provided an opportunity to consider broader learning from the Scottish experience post reform including achievements to date, challenges faced, the continuing programme of modernisation of policing in Scotland, the benefits of scale and consistency of approach, and the retention of visible and effective local policing within the context of a national organisation.

The success of the SCC at the Scottish Police College exemplifies the skills and experience within Police Scotland, which add value to ongoing developments in policing both nationally and internationally.

STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES BOARD

On Friday 31 January 2020, Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr represented the Chief Constable at the Home Office Strategic Capabilities Board meeting in London. As previously reported to members, this forum allows Police Scotland to engage with senior colleagues from policing and other key agencies, build effective partnerships, and consider and discuss matters of UK wide strategic importance.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26)

Engagement and planning is ongoing in respect of the policing operation to support the delivery of COP26. The Police Scotland Strategic Oversight Board, chaired by the Chief Constable, continues to meet on a fortnightly basis, and on Tuesday 11 February, The Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr attended the latest meeting of the COP26 Operations Board. This meeting was hosted by the Chief Executive for COP26 and attended by representatives from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

As indicated at the January meeting of the Scottish Police Authority, the Chief Constable has written to the Scottish Government to seek clarity relating to the governance, risk and funding arrangements around COP26.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

PUBLIC PROCESSION – GREATER GLASGOW DIVISION

On Saturday 25 January, a public procession by the West of Scotland Band Alliance took place in Glasgow City Centre. Approximately 200 people took part in the procession, which was met by a counter protest of

similar size. A significant but proportionate policing operation was put in place, involving local policing officers supported by specialist public order resources. Two male protestors aged 44 and 25 years were arrested in respect of assault and disorderly conduct and released on an undertaking to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court on Thursday 20 February.

During the policing operation, two officers sustained minor injuries after being struck by missiles. Investigations are ongoing to identify those responsible.

CLIMATE PROTESTS

Between January 2019 and January 2020, a policing response has been required at a number of significant climate protests throughout Scotland, including a residential climate camp outside the Scottish Parliament and the occupation of oil installations in the North Sea. Non-violent direct action has been focused on the disruption of organisations and infrastructure, considered by protestors to be contributing to the climate emergency. This demand has required the deployment of conventional and specialist policing resources, including the specialist skills of protest removal and working at height teams. It is anticipated that protest activity in respect of climate change will increase in the run up to COP26, being hosted in Glasgow in November.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Following global concerns relating to the Coronavirus outbreak, contingency planning is ongoing to ensure Police Scotland is fully prepared to respond to the evolving situation and any potential impact in Scotland's communities. A police command structure has been established to consider a wide range of contingencies and engage with key health partners and the Scottish Government. This is in response to chief medical officers' advice to plan for the possibility of wider outbreaks.

By Monday 10 February 2020, no cases of Coronavirus had been confirmed in Scotland and the risk to individuals remained low.

6. OUR PEOPLE

WELLBEING

Online Mobile Application

To complement the range of wellbeing support services available across the organisation, a Police Scotland version of an online app has been made available to all officers and staff, providing useful information in an

accessible manner at any time.

The Backup Buddy app has been specifically developed for police officers and staff in recognition of the risk to mental health associated with police work. The app covers a range of problems including anxiety, stress, PTSD, depression, eating disorders and self-harm. It contains practical advice and information on how officers and staff can maintain good mental health, spot warning signs, and how to access additional support.

STRATEGIC WORKFORCE PLAN

As part of the ongoing development of the Strategic Workforce Plan, risk assessments have been completed across Police Scotland. In addition, training in respect of a six step methodology, recognised by Audit Scotland as best practise for public sector workforce planning, has been delivered to relevant officers and staff. This is a key enabler to support delivery of the Strategic Workforce Plan by November 2020.

SPECIAL CONSTABLE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

On Monday 3 February, a national recruitment campaign was launched, aiming to increase the number of Special Constables within Police Scotland. The Special Constabulary is a part-time, volunteer body consisting of voluntary officers who work alongside regular police officers, making a real difference in communities throughout Scotland. Many Special Constables use the experience gained as a volunteer as a pathway to regular recruitment in the future. The Volunteer Coordination Unit are holding a number of events across the country to highlight the campaign, including encouragement of police staff members to consider the role of Special Constable, utilising the Employer Supported Policing Programme.

SENIOR POLICE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT CENTRE

The Senior Police National Assessment Centre (SPNAC) is a national process to identify officers and staff members who are capable of becoming an effective chief officer. Eight SPNAC candidates from Police Scotland have been supported for the 2020 assessment and provided with a development programme in preparation for this.

RECOMMENDATION:

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