



POLICE
SCOTLAND

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Policing and the pandemic – the Scottish Experience

DCC Malcolm Graham

Organisational Impact

- Community Disorientation
- Uncertainty
- Fluidity
- Expectation
- Role of policing
- Organisational Disorientation
- Staff and Officer wellbeing and protection
- Changes in risks and demands



Police Scotland Response

- Strong foundations
- Rapid and continual re-shaping
- Public communications and engagement
- Internal communications and engagement
- Role of independent scrutiny, advocacy and accountability



Challenges

“Police Scotland has been front and centre in controversial events which have seen it’s legitimacy questioned; criticised by some as going beyond its powers while at the same time criticised by others who feel it hasn’t gone far enough in its actions.”

“Since the first Covid regulations were passed in Holyrood to deal with the pandemic, the police have found themselves in a position which absolutely places them in spaces and places rather more grey than black or white.”

Scotsman, 31st July 2021



"The best protection - both for the integrity of the rule of law, and for the protection of rights of every citizen in Scotland - lies in the operational independence of policing, and its ability to rise above media and political noise and make decisions based on the law and public safety.

"That operational independence may be an important point of constancy in a period of increasingly unsettled constitutional politics."

John Scott, QC



Strategic Implications

1. What kind of policing do people in Scotland want?
2. Benefits of national co-ordination with local context
3. Rights based policing, pandemics and inequalities
4. Policing as part of wider systems
5. Enhanced scrutiny and accountability can improve public trust and confidence
6. People step up to the challenges



Thank you



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