

Meeting	SPA Authority Meeting
Date	23 March 2022
Location	Video-conference
Title of Paper	SPA Chair's Report
Presented By	Martyn Evans
Recommendation to Members	For discussion
Appendix Attached:	NO

Purpose

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chair since the February 2022 Authority meeting.

Russia and Ukraine Conflict

Following our Authority meeting in February and the subsequent escalation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, I discussed with Police Scotland's leadership team the potential implications for policing in Scotland. Scotland's activity, command and response is being coordinated by ACC Mark Williams as Strategic lead and Police Scotland is now providing weekly briefings to my office on any relevant issues.

Regional Meeting with Police Scrutiny Leads

The Authority's [Local Authority Engagement Plan 2021-2023](#) contained a commitment to organise at least three regional meetings for local authority Police Scrutiny Committee Leads and representatives to come together with the relevant ACC to discuss policing issues in their area. I hosted the first of these meetings with representatives from the North in early February, the second with the East on 8 March 2022 and with the West on 16 March 2022. Each meeting has been constructive and insightful, covering a range of policing issues important to each region. These meetings have been well received and I intend to continue them again in the next year as we further strengthen the Authority's engagement with our local authority partners.

HMICS

Gill Imery will step down as HMICS at the end of this month. Gill's contribution as Chief Inspector over the last 4 years has been hugely valuable. There is no doubt she leaves policing across Scotland stronger as a result and I want to put on record the Authority's thanks for her commitment and dedication to improvement. We wish her well in her next chapter. I will meet with Gill's successor, Craig Naylor on Tuesday 22 March.

Strategic Review of Policing (England and Wales)

On Tuesday 8 March Sir Michael Barber published his [Review of Policing in England and Wales](#). The review contains 56 recommendations urging reforms to culture, skills and training and structure in England and Wales. I attended the publication of the report virtually. The Police Foundation's report is very detailed and it will take time for policing in England and Wales to consider the various issues and strands which flow from it. The Authority's corporate team are reviewing the report to pull out any key points the Authority will want to consider in due course. In the meantime, the Authority has produced a summary of the Reform Journey which provides context of the police reform journey in Scotland since 2013 which will be published on the SPA website.

Linked to the Review, Members will recall I have been attending and contributing to six Policing in the 21st Century Seminars organised by the Police Foundation, SIPR and CGI Scotland to inform the Review. The most recent seminars I attended were held on 28 February which focused on building police legitimacy and public confidence, and 10 March discussing what a future police workforce might look like. The last seminar will take place in April where we expect to discuss the findings and next steps for Scotland in more detail.

Assistant Chief Constable Appointments

All three of the appointed ACCs, Bex Smith, Andy Freeburn and Emma Bond have now been sworn into their new positions. I attended ACC Smith and ACC Freeburn's Oath of Office on Monday 28 February 2022 and our Vice Chair Jane Ryder attended Emma Bond's Oath of Office on 15 March. I have already met with ACC Smith and ACC Freeburn and look forward to an introductory meeting with ACC Bond in the coming weeks.

SOLACE Conference

The annual SOLACE Conference was held in St Andrew's on 10 March with a focus this year on improving wellbeing. I attended and presented on the future of policing and working collaboratively with local authorities to improve wellbeing. This was a positive conference demonstrating significant commitment to working across partnerships, to strengthen and improve services that impact on wellbeing.

Committee Membership

I am reviewing committee membership, and have initiated discussions with members with a view to any changes taking place at the end of the Q4 reporting cycle. I hope to have concluded this and will make any required recommendations to the next Authority meeting for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

To update Members on activities carried out by the Chair since February's Authority meeting.