

**Meeting 11 June 2021 13:00**

**Members attending:**

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)  
Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group  
Maria Galli, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland  
Chief Superintendent Linda Jones, Police Scotland  
Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust  
John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS  
Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International  
Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh  
Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

**Apologies:**

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner  
Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance  
Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)  
Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, Police Scotland  
ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland  
Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance  
Barry Sillers, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Performance, SPA

**Also in Attendance:**

Chief Inspector Jim McMillan

**Secretariat:**

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA  
Eleanor Gaw, SPA

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### **1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed attendees. Apologies were noted as above.

### **2. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising**

The group noted the minute of the meeting held on the 4 June 2021.

### **3. COVID-19 Equality and Diversity Considerations**

The Chair welcomed Chief Inspector Jim McMillan to the meeting. CI McMillan briefed members on the report prepared for Police Scotland's Equality, Diversity Inclusion and Human Rights Oversight Board.

He indicated that Police Scotland have been engaging with a range of partners over the course of the pandemic. He highlighted the service's work to understand the impact of Covid-19 on people with protected characteristics, and what that means for policing's response.

Some of the concerns and potential impacts which had been identified over the period include -

- Difficulties for children and young people aged 8 – 14 in accessing opportunities for outdoor exercise
- Anxiety, particularly for disabled people or those with additional vulnerability to Covid-19, related to coming out of lockdown
- People being frightened not to wear masks, when they have a legitimate reason not to do so, due to potential challenge or hate crime
- The impact of restrictions on religious observance
- Confusion over changing regulations, leading to people reporting legitimate activity to the police as a breach of the Covid regulations

Jim reported that the team review all reported hate crimes on a daily basis, and link local teams with support networks. Work is underway to enhance data collection and provision on a more proactive basis. Future update reports can be shared with the IAG, and Jim is happy to share contact details with individual IAG members, to link with the work of their organisations.

Members welcomed the presentation, and discussed a range of related issues including -

- Detailed consideration of human rights impacts, going beyond protected characteristics, and considering factors such as economic or immigration status.
- Work to improve policing's understanding of hate crime.
- The extension of COVID-19 legislation, and the lack of opportunity for consultation and related scrutiny. The Chair intends to reference this in the next report to the Scottish Police Authority.
- Understanding the potential impact of extending Covid-19 regulations on the incorporation of UNCRC.

**Actions:** The CYPCS report will be prepared for inclusion in the report to the SPA 30 June, and is expected to be available for discussion at the IAG 18 June.  
(Maria Galli)

### **4. Weekly data update and impact of easing of restrictions**

#### **OpTICAL Update**

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Chief Superintendent Jones briefed members that in many areas, policing is returning to something like business as usual, and that there had been a significant decrease in the number of Covid related interventions and FPNs during the previous week.

The weekly report is available to view on egress.

The HMICS report on officer interviews has been discussed at OpTICAL, and may be available for the next IAG meeting.

### **Data reports**

Professor McVie indicated that the COPFS Data Report and Part One of the SCTS data report will be ready for consideration at the IAG 18 June and should be available to report to the June Authority meeting.

A further report, linking data sets, is unlikely to be available ahead of the August SPA Board meeting.

### **Report to the SPA 30 June 2021**

The report to the Authority 30 June may be substantial, with reports from CYPCS, HMICS and two data reports potentially included as appendices.

The Chair and secretariat will liaise further on preparations for the June report, and options for a further report in August.

### **5. AOCB**

No further Citizenspace responses have been received, and the Citizenspace portal will close Monday 14 June. The dedicated IAG email address for public contact remains in place.

### **Date of next meeting**

Friday 18 June 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00

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