

**Meeting 28 May 2021 13:00**

**Members attending:**

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)  
Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group  
Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust  
John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS  
Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh  
ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

**Apologies:**

Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland  
Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner  
Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance  
Maria Galli, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland  
Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)  
Chief Superintendent Linda Jones, Police Scotland  
Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, Police Scotland  
Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International  
Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission  
Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance  
Barry Sillers, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Performance, SPA

**Also in Attendance:**

Dr Sarah Charman, University of Portsmouth  
Lynne Davies, Partnership Development Manager, Hampshire Constabulary  
Geoff Newiss, University of Southampton  
Aram Ghaemmaghami, University of Southampton  
Camille Ilet, University of Southampton  
Paul Smith, University of Southampton  
Robert Inkpen, University of Southampton

## OFFICIAL

### **Secretariat:**

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Karen Vallance, SPA

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

### **3. Partnership project, University of Portsmouth and Hampshire Constabulary.**

The group welcomed Dr Sarah Charman, Lynne Davies, Geoff Newiss, Aram Ghaemmaghami, Camille Ilet, Paul Smith and Robert Inkpen to the meeting.

Dr Charman and colleagues presented on their research on policing and Covid-19, and the impact on police and public, within Hampshire Constabulary. The work focussed on public compliance, police wellbeing and organisational resilience.

Research was conducted by interview, video diary and focus groups, and on the following subjects: experience and challenges faced by police officers; and, identifying individual worldviews, relationships with demographic characteristics, public perceptions and policing interactions.

The group were briefed on the analysis of results relating to public compliance with lockdown regulations, public attitudes towards policing, body worn video footage and policing perspectives.

Dr Charman summarised conclusions by detailing the implications of 'othering' such as invoking fear and constructing new enemies; and the return to 'policing by consent'.

Lynne Davies highlighted that the research was a good example of partnership working between the University and Hampshire Constabulary, which brought mutual benefits.

John Scott reflected on the use of social media by police forces, citing the events in George Square, Glasgow, as a positive example of using social media to provide communications.

ACC Ritchie sought comment on the challenge of consistency across various police forces in policing the regulations. The group heard that research showed that communication on regulations could be somewhat diluted by the time it reached front line officers. It was possible therefore that, especially with the frequency of changes, national regulations could be interpreted differently by different forces.

The group discussed the issue of invoking fear, noting concern that some of the language used in Government messaging might sometimes be a contributing factor.

OFFICIAL

## **OFFICIAL**

Lynne Davies updated the group on how the analysis results are being used, including to inform communication and wellbeing within the Constabulary.

John Scott thanked the guest participants for taking the time to attend the IAG and for their insights.

### **4. Easing of restrictions - issues arising, including travel**

It was noted that the latest data report had been uploaded to egress, with no significant change noted from the previous report.

### **5. Feedback from discussions with the Scottish Police Authority**

John Scott reflected on the SPA Authority Meeting, highlighting that it had been a good discussion and his letter had been well received. He thanked members for their feedback prior to submission to the SPA.

### **6. Data Update**

#### **OpTICAL Update/Citizen Space**

The group noted there had been no OpTICAL group that week.

Susan McVie briefed members that she is progressing analysis of data from SCTS and COPFS, and will report on this to the next OpTICAL group.

It was confirmed that there had been no activity via Citizen Space. Members agreed the platform should close within the next two weeks. John Scott requested Jennifer Blackwood publicly communicate the intention to close.

### **7. AOCB**

Members discussed areas for discussion at future meetings and agreed to suspend any further invitations to speakers, in order to allow time to review work undertaken by the group. John Scott noted that weekly meetings would continue until the June SPA Authority Meeting, with a decision to be taken on future meetings thereafter.

### **Date of next meeting**

Friday 4 June 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00

**OFFICIAL**