

Meeting Friday 3rd July 2020 12:00 – 14:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Susan Kemp, SHRC

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Diego Quiroz, SHRC

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

Apologies:

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martyn Evans, Scottish Police Authority

Maria Galli, CYPCS

Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust

Secretariat support:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA Communications

Eleanor Gaw, SPA Community Accountability

John McCroskie, SPA Director of Communications and Relationships

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1) Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2) Note of the previous meeting and matters arising.

The Chair updated members on discussions with Cllr Rhodes about the Citizen Space Portal and questions about protected characteristics. Cllr Rhodes is happy that the group is taking this issue seriously, and the Chair had sought additional advice from EHRC. Professor McVie has followed this up in discussion with EHRC. On balance, EHRC's view is that risk is reduced if all categories are included on the basis that it is an equalities monitoring exercise, answering is optional and no assumptions should be made.

The proposal is therefore to include all protected characteristics, and add an additional question to understand if respondents consider this is something which has impacted on their contact with policing. In addition, the wording on the landing page will be double checked for completeness.

Action: S. McVie/ J. Blackwood to progress agreed amendments.

3) Discussions at SPA Board 30th June

The Chair has a discussion scheduled with David Crichton and the SPA Secretariat next week, to follow up on discussions at the SPA board and outline the next phase of IAG work.

The report to the SPA on the 30th June was well received. The very substantial amount of work undertaken in a short period of time, the contextualisation of the data, triangulation of evidence, and the leadership of Scottish policing in inviting and supporting this level of detailed scrutiny were particularly highlighted.

The Chair proposed an additional public event ahead of the 19 August SPA board meeting, for the IAG, SPA members, and Police Scotland. This would also allow for the submission of questions from the public. From the SPA perspective, the standalone event focusing on the work of the IAG would be particularly helpful for a more in depth discussion on what is a substantial body of work.

DCC Kerr indicated Police Scotland's support for this broader public exposure of the work of the IAG, policing's response to the pandemic in Scotland, and some of the wider policy implications emerging. Members supported the idea. Work will now get underway to deliver this event.

Action: Chair/ Secretariat to develop the design and planning of the event, together with the SPA

Professor McVie briefed members that, following Tuesday's board discussions, she had had follow up contact from across the academic community. This has particularly focused on the significant amount of available data which allows for triangulation of evidence on key findings. For the next update to the board, additional data should be available on the impact on children and young people, and demographic profile information on those subject to enforcement.

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The Chair has been in touch with Policing Insight, and an article is being prepared for the journal on the work of the IAG.

4) Future IAG meetings

Meeting schedule

The Chair indicated that the current pattern of meetings will continue week beginning 6th July 2020, to accommodate input from guest speakers.

Thereafter, the group will meet once a week.

The Chair's initial preference is to continue with a regular Friday meeting, but with an afternoon slot starting at either 1 pm or 2 pm.

Action: Secretariat to email members to check availability/ preference re proposed new meeting times.

Suggested priorities for future consideration include -

- SWAN Scotland survey findings
- GDA report
- Outcomes / update from HMICS work on impact on Police Custody, subject to consideration of relevance to the TOR
- Discussion with Public Health Scotland
- Further interviews with police officers and staff (to take place later in the work of the group, and ahead of its final report)
- Refreshed "data ask". S.McVie offered to prepare a short report for IAG members for consideration 10th July 2020, including the data available; outline what data may not be available; and potential to review wider data sets, including the SPA survey and findings from the Police Scotland public survey. It was noted that, at this point, the SPA is actively considering the optimum timing for the 3rd wave of its survey.
- 2nd report from Fran Warren / Francesca Gualco Justice Analytical Services: International policing approaches and responses during the easing of lockdown and future considerations.

The Group discussed wider issues relating to changing guidance, local lockdowns, and the potential implications of the requirement to wear face masks. Local lockdowns appear to be primarily supported by public health guidance rather than additional regulation. This presents new challenges for all public services and policing in any impacted area, and it is not yet clear what the public expectation of policing will be in this situation.

It may be helpful to reach out directly to communities in Dumfries and Galloway to get their views on policing and the local lock down. Police Scotland highlighted the need for policing and local authorities, including trading standards, to work together, and ensure a joined up approach, quick response, and aligned public messaging.

Particular concerns among some disabled people and some people with autism were highlighted related to coronavirus and the changing picture of regulation and guidance. This included evidence of uncertainty and fear of

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challenge preventing some people from going out, and concern about how to deal with any challenge from the public or service providers if people cannot wear a face mask. It was noted that new draft regulations on the use of face masks are not yet available for scrutiny.

Discussions highlighted the need for the “enforceability” of any additional legislation, the vital role of discretion in supporting public confidence, and the need for trust if, for example, people are unable to wear face masks.

Members agreed that there is a role for the IAG in supporting public messaging, offering guidance on good practice, and highlighting complementary roles across policing and the wider public sector.

Action: The Chair will draft an interim report/letter for the SPA, and to share with Government, on lessons learned from the early stages of policing the pandemic which may have wider application across retail and public services, and to support the enforcement and enforceability of pending legislation.

5) Citizen Space Update

Jennifer Blackwood updated members. The majority of respondents are in the 55- 64 age group, and there are as yet no responses from under 18s. Members continue to promote and retweet links, and the Chair highlighted that we await further feedback via the Children’s Observatory.

	3 July	26 June
Responses	63	50
% police contact	22 (34.9%)	17 (34%)
% opinion unchanged	44 (69%)	34 (68%)
% opinion worse	6 (9.5%)	5 (10%)
% opinion better	10 (58%)	8 (16%)
Age Group (most responses)	55-64 (18)	(16)
Male/Female	29/30	24/23
BAME	6	6

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Happy to be contacted	23 (36.5%)	16 (32%)
Happy for response to be public	48 (76%)	36 (72%)

6) AOCB

Scheduled IAG discussions: agenda items confirmed -

6th July

Presentation from Chief Inspector Coleen Wylie, on Police Scotland Impact Assessment Processes and Covid-19

10th July

Professor Cliff Stott, Keele University, on policing and protests during the pandemic

Report from Professor McVie, on refreshed "data ask"

Autistic experience of COVID-19 legislation and guidelines survey May-June 2020 (SWAN Scotland)

17th July

GDA Advice on interventions with disabled people, June 2020
(Temporary Police Powers Relating to the Coronavirus Act)

7) Date of next meeting: Monday 6 July 15:00