

Independent Advisory Group on Police Use of Temporary Powers during the Coronavirus

Meeting 24th April 2020

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Tressa Burke, Chief Executive Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martyn Evans, Member of the Scottish Police Authority

Laura Hutchison, EQHR

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

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

Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

Action note

1. Introduction from the Chair

Tressa Burke CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance, Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie (Partnership and Wellbeing), and Diego Quiroz Scottish Human Rights Commission joined the meeting for the first time.

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Apologies were received from Alastair Pringle EHRC; Laura Hutchison Equality and Human Rights Commission attended on his behalf.

Webinar update: Chair signposted a webinar on *Social Distancing in the Pandemic: Policing and Compliance*, in which he and Professor McVie participated.

Action: papers and presentation from the Webinar will be shared with the group when available.

2. Update on agreed actions:

Information sharing and member networks / key contacts. GDPR requires group members to have relevant permissions in place ahead of sharing contacts for their own wider network of stakeholders and individuals. SPA secretariat can maintain list of information supplied by members with permissions for the duration of the work of the group and in line with GDPR, but Chair highlighted that it may also be helpful for members to use their own networks to support wider engagement and communications. To start the process, Bruce Adamson forwarded some contacts for which he had the necessary consent.

Action: SPA/ ALL

3. Terms of Reference

Following discussion, core elements of the terms of reference were agreed. Terms of reference, introduction, and group membership will be presented as three separate documents for wider communication, with comments and additional feedback from members to be further reflected in revisions to the introduction.

Action: Chair will circulate with relevant revisions to the group

- Any impact on "normal policing" would not be specifically excluded from group discussions, but it remains outwith the group's core area of focus which is the use of emergency powers. It was noted that there is some concern that the legislation may put some vulnerable groups at additional risk.

Action: Dr Catriona Stewart will provide a short paper for the group to outline concerns which have come to her attention, to share with secretariat for circulation.

- Participation of group members. The Chair indicated that members are on the group primarily as individuals, rather than solely as representatives of particular groups or interests. They are experts in their own field(s), albeit they are involved with a wide range of networks and interests
- Group membership agreed, supported by wider engagement and involvement approach, with additional representation from health to be confirmed. It may change over time, depending on requirements.

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4. Operation Talla Short Life Working Group

To note: Operation Talla is UK wide term for policing response to Covid-19 emergency.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie briefed members on the establishment of the Police Scotland Operation Talla Information and Liaison Group (Optical) which he chairs, and which will co-ordinate policing's support for related external governance and assurance.

The group will monitor ongoing oversight of the data about Operation Talla in Scotland, community impact assessment, and tasking and co-ordinating. It will provide a single point of contact for partners into the service on Operation Talla, and for any requests for data. It will engage directly with local police divisions around the response to recommendations, and work with supporting NISAG.

Police Scotland senior representation includes Corporate Communications, Local Policing, Safer Communities, and partners involved include IAG Chair, Martyn Evans SPA, Professor McVie SIPR, HMICS.

5. Communications, Engagement and Reporting

The Chair highlighted that a priority action for the group is getting the information and evidence in to support its work.

A structured approach to engagement will be developed to support this, including group members pushing messaging out across their own networks, to maximise opportunities for participation, and help ensure those impacted are not excluded. The need for awareness of digital exclusion and to consider key audiences was noted.

IAG reporting can align with public reporting at the SPA, ahead of final report being made available.

In addition to Secretariat, SPA can offer some dedicated Communications Officer support to the work of the group.

Action: SPA officers to draft paper for IAG meeting 1st May, outlining what technical support is available to underpin wider involvement and engagement approach, including potential for a public portal.

Action: SPA officers to share links to SPA website space with information on the IAG (**V Ewing**)

6. Priorities for Evidence Gathering and Research

Prof McVie presented papers and proposals on priority areas for evidence gathering and research to the IAG.

The group discussed the potential benefits and challenges around an early call for public evidence. Members noted the scope for evidence to support clear and consistent messaging; build public confidence in benefits of compliance with public health guidance; and inform policing's approach as

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measures to ease lock down are implemented over time. The challenges of gathering evidence in a rapidly changing environment were noted.

Action: Professor McVie to update proposals to reflect the revised TOR

Action: All members to consider and feedback their priorities for gathering evidence to support the work of the group for discussion 27/4/20, with particular reference to IAG Paper 1 Priorities for Evidence Gathering.

Action: ALL. Pending receipt of data and evidence, all members to share their own perspectives and reflections on whether policing is using the temporary powers in a proportionate way, and whether the service is broadly delivering what we would expect, in discussion at future group meeting.

Evidence Gathering and Research - further consideration at the IAG Meeting 27/4/20

7. AOCB

The Chair referenced the new powers for policing introduced over the course of the week, relating to regulating work place premises. The need for the group to connect with government on pending regulatory change was noted.

Meeting cycle: Regular pattern for meetings established following feedback from the group, and to be reviewed as required.

Monday – 3- 5 pm (will set priorities for the week)

Friday 12- 2 pm (including review of progress)

8. DONM

Monday 27th April 3 pm – 5 pm.

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