

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	23 June 2022
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Sir Iain Livingstone QPM Chief Constable
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached:	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Authority with information relating to the Police Service, policing and the state of crime.

This report is submitted as a Standing Agenda Item.

1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of Police Scotland is 'to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland' and our focus is Keeping People Safe. This paper is intended to provide Members with an update on key activity and events.

2. TACKLING THREAT AND RISK

SERIOUS VIOLENCE INCLUDING HOMICIDE

Murder of Gary Handling – Stranraer

On Monday 6 June 2022, Gary Handling, aged 33, tragically died after being attacked near to his home address in Stranraer. Following an immediate policing response involving Local Policing Division officers, detective officers from the Major Investigation Team, and specialist resources including air support and armed policing, a 23 year old man was arrested and charged with murder. He subsequently appeared at Stranraer Sheriff Court where he was remanded in custody.

Murder of Graham Williamson - Blantyre

As previously reported, in August 2020, 26 year old Graham Williamson died after being shot within his garden in Blantyre. Following investigation led by detective officers from the Police Scotland Major Investigation Team, three men aged in their 20s were arrested and charged with murder. On Friday 17 June 2022 at the High Court in Edinburgh, following their earlier murder convictions, the men were sentenced to life imprisonment with minimum sentences of over 20 years.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Significant Conviction

On Thursday 26 May, at the High Court in Edinburgh, 42 year old Keith Donald was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, following his conviction in respect of serious sexual offences. The conviction and sentence followed a Police Scotland Public Protection Unit investigation into offences, including rape and attempted rape, against a number of women over a nine year period in Aberdeenshire from 2004.

DRUGS**Significant Convictions**

On Monday 6 June 2022, at the High Court in Glasgow, seven men aged between 22 and 47 were sentenced to a combined total of over 26 years imprisonment, following their conviction in respect of the supply of controlled drugs. The convictions and sentencing were the culmination of a complex investigation by detective officers from Police Scotland's Specialist Crime Division into drugs supply in the Dundee area in 2018, which led to the seizure of heroin and cocaine with an estimated street value of around £380,000.

Drug Seizures

On Thursday 9 June 2022, detective officers from Police Scotland's Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit carried out an intelligence led operation at an address in Dundee, which led to the recovery of cocaine with an estimated street value of around one million pounds. In a linked operation following a vehicle stop, Road Policing Division officers recovered cocaine with an estimated street value of around £200,000, as well as a six figure sum of cash. Two men aged 33 and 26 were arrested during these operations and subsequently appeared at Dundee Sheriff Court in respect of drug supply offences.

FIREARMS**Firearms Surrender Campaign**

Between Thursday 12 and Sunday 29 May, Police Scotland participated in a UK wide national firearms surrender campaign designed to remove unlicensed weapons from our communities. Proactive local and national messaging highlighted the campaign, which resulted in the surrender of over 300 firearms, including shotguns, air-weapons, and imitation firearms, as well as a significant amount of ammunition.

We continue to target those who cause greatest harm in our communities and pose a threat to public safety and wellbeing. The removal of firearms from communities across Scotland supports public safety, and prevents such weapons from being appropriated and used for criminal purposes.

ROAD SAFETY**Motorcycle Safety Campaign**

Throughout the summer months, Police Scotland will continue prevention,

education and enforcement activity as part of our Motorcycle Safety Campaign. The campaign, which runs from April to September, is designed to promote safe and responsible riding and driving, and reduce the number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured on our roads. In addition to direct engagement with motorcyclists, there is a strong focus on the contribution all road users can make to motorcycle safety by adopting positive driving behaviours. In the first month of the campaign, Road Policing Division officers engaged with over 330 motorcyclists, detecting over 260 offences.

In tandem with the Motorcycle Safety Campaign, Police Scotland and a range of partners including local authorities in the north and east of Scotland, and the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), are promoting 'Rider Refinement North', which provides face to face safe riding guidance to motorcyclists. Led by police motorcyclists and accompanied by an observer from the IAM, the course involves demonstration rides, observed rides with feedback, vehicle examination, and an explanation of safety checks that should be carried out before any journey.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Domestic Abuse Taskforce

Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority for Police Scotland. We recognise that the trauma associated with domestic abuse has a significant impact on victims and families, and to support those affected, officers and staff are trained to respond professionally and effectively. Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Taskforce (DATF) provides a national capability in respect of more complex domestic abuse investigations, and in April and May, five serial domestic abusers from across Scotland were sentenced to a total of 61 years imprisonment following separate investigations by the DATF. These investigations related to offending over a number of years, as well as more recent offending covered by the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.

In addition to enforcement, Police Scotland continues to focus on prevention activity, working closely with a range of partners to support victims. A vital prevention tool is the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS), and in 2021-22, applications to the DSDAS increased by 12.4%, including a 30% increase in 'Right to Ask' applications, where people can establish whether their current partner has a history of abuse.

Human Trafficking

As has been previously reported, human trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery crosses national and international boundaries and causes significant harm. Our response in Scotland to safeguard victims and target offenders is based on integration across agencies and effective international cooperation.

On Wednesday 1 June, I spoke at a Human Trafficking Conference, jointly hosted by Police Scotland and the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance, which was attended by key national and international partners including the National Crime Agency, US Homeland Security Investigations, Romanian Police, and Justice and Care Victim Navigators. The conference provided a forum for practitioners to share knowledge, learning and experience of emerging threats, which included the trafficking of children across international borders, and people being forced to commit crime for trafficking gangs. It also focused on the crucial work carried out by Victim Navigators to build trust and confidence between victims of human trafficking and law enforcement agencies, which supports the provision of information to tackle trafficking gangs.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

National Volunteers' Week

The first week of June was National Volunteers' Week, which provided an opportunity to recognise and thank our Police Scotland volunteers who provide public service in local communities across the country, and bring additional experience, skills and local knowledge to the policing family. During the policing response to the coronavirus pandemic, Special Constables stepped forward to perform a crucial role, and in the two year period until March 2022, they collectively deployed for more than 162,000 hours, providing invaluable support to colleagues and reassurance in communities. In addition, our network of Police Scotland Youth Volunteers continue to engage with local communities, participate in community safety and fundraising initiatives, and help to keep people safe at national events, celebrations and festivals.

In advance of National Volunteers' Week, over a weekend towards the end of May, more than 100 Special Constables from across the country attended the national Special Constables' Conference at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. The conference was a valuable opportunity for colleagues to meet, share experiences, and participate in a number of policing workshops designed to enhance their continuous professional development. As Chief Constable, I was delighted to be present to welcome and thank attendees for their ongoing commitment and service.

During the weekend, a number of our Special Constables successfully completed their Basic Police Driving Authorisation, which will enable them to provide additional support within their local communities.

999 Emergency Call Data

At the end of May, 999 emergency call handling data in respect of policing in the United Kingdom was published. Police Scotland elected to be included in this dataset, which reported on the average answer time for 999 emergency calls between November 2021 and April 2022.

Police Scotland receives millions of calls to our 999 and 101 service each year. We strive for an average answer time of under 10 seconds for 999 emergency calls, and in the reporting period, recorded an average answer time of 10.1 seconds, with 84% of such calls being answered in 10 seconds or under. This compares to an average answer time of 16.1 seconds across UK Forces, with 70.9% of such calls being answered in 10 seconds or under.

Police Scotland recognises that the value of our 999 service is not simply about the number of calls we take, nor indeed how many seconds it takes to answer. The majority of 999 emergency calls are from a person who needs urgent assistance, and as necessary, we take time to ensure the right information is gathered and appropriate help is provided. We continue to prioritise emergency call handling, and remain focused on further developing our systems to enhance public contact and engagement with Police Scotland.

SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

Dive and Marine Unit

Police Scotland's Dive and Marine Unit (DMU) provide specialist support to Local Policing Divisions in respect of search activity, underwater photography, flood response, and marine patrolling. We have recently worked in conjunction with Ultimate Boats to co-design a purpose built, fully recyclable boat, which has now been provided to Police Scotland on a research and development loan basis. The boat will enhance our current fleet capability, and can be used for diving operations and other events requiring a DMU response. This innovative approach will allow us to benefit from a high performing asset as we deliver a policing response in communities across Scotland.

Operational Guidance – Wildlife Crime

Scotland is a world renowned natural habitat for wildlife, and Police

Scotland continues to work in conjunction with a range of partners, to support rural communities and tackle wildlife crime. Recognising that any officer may be called upon to respond to wildlife crime, a new online guidance package was launched at the end of May, designed to inform our initial response to wildlife crime, and enhance organisational knowledge and operational effectiveness. Aimed at first responders, the guidance includes concise information relating to wildlife crime legislation, police powers and procedures.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

SIPR CONFERENCE

Prior to the last Board meeting, on Monday 23 May, I participated in a panel discussion titled '*Perspectives on Contemporary Demands on Policing*', as part of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) Conference. Chaired by Dr. Victoria Herrington, the panel also included Mr. Martyn Evans, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority, Mr. Craig Naylor, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, and Professor Denise Martin, SIPR Executive Committee Member.

STAFF ASSOCIATION ENGAGEMENT

As Chief Constable, I recognise the important role of police staff associations, and acknowledge the organisational value derived from their support and challenge. On Wednesday 25 May, I delivered the opening address to the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents Annual Conference, which provided me with an opportunity to thank those in the superintending ranks for their continued support and dedicated service, and engage in discussion on a variety of operational and organisational matters.

On Tuesday 7 June, I represented Police Scotland at a formal dinner in Glasgow, as part of the International Council of Police Representative Associations (IPCRA) Meeting 2022. IPCRA is an international network of police unions and staff associations, and was established to bring national police representatives together to share information and strengthen global policing networks.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

On Thursday 2 and Friday 3 June, I was invited to attend celebration events in London as part of the commemoration of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was a privilege to represent policing in Scotland at Trooping the Colour, followed by the National Service of Thanksgiving for the

Queen's reign at St. Paul's Cathedral.

POLICE COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

On Tuesday 7 June, Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor and Assistant Chief Constable Alan Speirs attended a meeting of the Ministerial Group in respect of Police Complaints and Investigations. Police Scotland continues to work with stakeholders across the wider police complaints system, following Dame Elish Angiolini's report on Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in Relation to Policing.

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON

Between Sunday 12 and Friday 17 June, Police Scotland hosted members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Executive Institute, the executive training programme of the FBI. At the outset of the programme, I addressed delegates and welcomed them to Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. Over the course of the week, attendees participated in a number of development sessions, with topics including the Scottish Approach to Policing; The Challenges of Policing in the Private Space; Partnerships, Prevention and Public Health; Events Policing; and Leadership. In the same week, in his role as one of three European Delegates, Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr attended the 214th session of the Interpol Executive Committee in Lyon, France.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The 150th Open Golf Championship will take place in St. Andrews, Fife between Sunday 10 and Sunday 17 July. Over 290,000 spectators are expected to attend the event over the course of the week, and planning and preparation for the policing operation is at an advanced stage. The policing response will involve the mobilisation of conventional and specialist resources from across Scotland, and an event command structure has been established. Working in conjunction with the local community and key stakeholders, the policing style and approach will be welcoming, visible, engaged and effective, designed to maximise safety of spectators and participants, while minimising disruption to the local community.

6. OUR PEOPLE

CARERS WEEK

Carers Week, which took place between Monday 6 and Sunday 12 June, is designed to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face, and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the United Kingdom. It also helps people who do not think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access available support. Police Scotland recognises a number of our officers and staff are carers who may have extremely demanding responsibilities outside of the workplace. Carers Week provided an opportunity to reinforce Police Scotland's commitment to wellbeing, and highlight the support available, including support from the Scottish Police Disability and Carers Association.

PRIDE MONTH 2022

As Chief Constable, I have made it clear that there is a moral imperative and operational necessity for policing to lead change to improve the experiences of all our communities, including our own officers and staff.

Pride is about acceptance, equality, celebrating the work of LGBTI people, education in LGBTI history, and raising awareness of issues affecting the LGBTI community. In a message of support for Pride Month which runs throughout June, Assistant Chief Constable Tim Mairs, who is executive sponsor for the Scottish LGBTI Police Association and lead for the LGBTI Allies network, reaffirmed Police Scotland's core values, and the critical need to challenge LGBTI discrimination internally and externally; to challenge our own behaviours, attitudes, and actions; to support officers and staff who identify as LGBTI; and to protect and serve our LGBTI communities.

OFFICER AND STAFF HONOURS

Police Scotland officers and staff were recognised for their outstanding public service in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours 2022. Former Superintendent Irene Ralston, who recently retired from Fife Division after 35 years police service, and Constable Stephen Tanner who is based on the Island of Tiree, were awarded the Queen's Police Medal. James Bertram, Police Scotland's Health and Safety Manager, was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to policing and to the community in Ayrshire. The awards recognise the outstanding commitment to public service demonstrated by each of the recipients throughout their careers, and are reflective of the commitment and dedication shown by officers and staff throughout Scotland on a daily basis.

Also as part of the 2022 Birthday Honours, I was personally, and on behalf of policing in Scotland, deeply honoured and extremely grateful to be awarded a Knighthood.

LEADERSHIP, PROMOTION and RECOGNITION

Police Scotland is committed to developing and delivering training which enables our people to lead with integrity, fairness and respect, with a commitment to upholding human rights. On Wednesday 25 May, during a virtual promotion parade, 92 officers were promoted, and 37 members of staff who had been recently promoted, were recognised. Also at the end of May, six officers completed their induction into the Accelerated Leadership Pathway Programme following success at the National Assessment Centre. At the start of June, following an intense and challenging selection process, 32 officers were identified as being ready for promotion to the rank of Superintendent, while three officers were successful at the Senior Police National Assessment Centre. Promoted officers and staff carry out vital leadership roles within policing and in wider civic society, and I am grateful for their willingness to step forward and take on that critical responsibility.

On Tuesday 7 June, a number of officers and staff who are due to retire from Police Scotland were the latest to receive their Recognition of Service and acknowledgement of public service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the information contained in this report.