

Meeting 11th May 2020 3pm

Members attending:

John Scott QC Solicitor Advocate (Chair)
Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner
Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group
Tressa Burke, Chief Executive Glasgow Disability Alliance
Martyn Evans, Scottish Police Authority
Martin Hayward, Equality and Human Rights Commission
Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)
Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust
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, Scottish Human Rights Commission
ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland
Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

Apologies:

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS
Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

In attendance: (for agenda item 2)

Chief Superintendent Hazel Hendren, Police Scotland Greater Glasgow Division
Chief Superintendent Alan Murray, Police Scotland Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division
Chief Superintendent Sean Scott, Police Scotland Edinburgh Division

Secretariat support:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA Communications

Eleanor Gaw, SPA Community Accountability

Fiona Miller, SPA Community Accountability

John McCroskie, SPA Director of Communications and Relationships

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

He introduced Chief Superintendent Hazel Hendren, Divisional Commander Greater Glasgow Division; Chief Superintendent Alan Murray, Divisional Commander Renfrewshire and Inverclyde; and Chief Superintendent Sean Scott, Divisional Commander Edinburgh, who joined the meeting for agenda item 2.

2. Police Scotland internal assurance processes within local command structures around Covid-19 guidance, interactions and enforcement

DCC Kerr provided an overview.

Current challenges for the service included the changing environment, with increasing numbers of people outside as restrictions on daily exercise ease, and potential for increasing confusion among people in understanding what they are able to do, as guidance and regulations across the UK diverge.

Each Divisional Commander provided an overview of the daily assurance, staff briefing and oversight processes delivered locally and local circumstances.

It was noted that reports and feedback received from the public and stakeholders at local level often reflected a desire for more intervention around perceived breaches of health guidance. This was also in communications from elected members.

Police Scotland is preparing updated communications aligned to changes in guidance, and IAG members agreed to offer their input and comment by email to support the process.

Members noted that any lack of clarity in guidance was particularly challenging for some groups of disabled people.

Group members offered to be both a sounding board for Police Scotland and to act as a conduit for information to particular communities, to respond at short notice if required to requests for feedback or to share information from or to their networks.

Actions

- All members to offer views and feedback by email via Secretariat to support Police Scotland communications. **IAG Members/ Secretariat**

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- Contact details for members who are able to assist to be forwarded to Police Scotland, with link to biographical information on SPA website. **IAG Members/ Secretariat**
- Police Scotland to offer contact details for Divisional Teams to share with members. **Police Scotland**

3. Minute of the previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the IAG meeting 8th May were approved.

It was noted that Dr Peter Neyroud has accepted an invitation to contribute in the group's next meeting on Friday 15th May.

Members agreed to invite DCC Malcolm Graham Operation Talla Gold Commander to the IAG meeting on the 18th May. **Chair/ Secretariat to issue invitation** (ACC Ritchie offered to confirm DCC Graham's availability to attend)

Communications and Engagement

A refreshed draft letter for sharing across member community and professional networks is to be circulated. **Action: Secretariat**

4. Work Planning

The Chair outlined a report containing an overview work plan, shared by the secretariat with members. The report highlighted 5 key themes, practical steps undertaken or planned, and summarised work in progress.

The Chair referenced a number of key pieces of work and progress made. He indicated that guidance from Swan Scotland has been shared with and positively received by sector colleagues in England who may make contact direct with Dr Stewart to follow up, and that additional perspectives would be provided as the Human Rights work stream led by D Quiroz develops.

S.McVie suggested that it would be helpful for the group to capture the learning by summarising expert input already received, to share with Police Scotland.

The Work Plan document will be updated as work streams progress.

The Chair asked members to consider the report, and offer any additional feedback by email.

Action: IAG Members

5. Chair's Report to the Scottish Police Authority Board 20th May

The Chair briefed members that he is preparing a report to the SPA board, which will be publicly available ahead of the Authority meeting on the 20th May. This will be circulated as draft for IAG members to consider at their meeting on the 15th May. The report is likely to include reference to the themes set out in the work plan, and the Chair asked members to share thoughts or feedback on priorities for inclusion.

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Action: IAG members/ Chair

6. Data and evidence gathering update

Professor McVie introduced discussion on two papers she had provided for the group.

- The Police Scotland Data Request, which would be shared with the Police Scotland OpTICAL Group Tuesday 12th May.
- Briefing Note 8 on Public Data Requirements, which focuses on speedy collation of available and useful evidence for the group to consider.

She referenced consideration of potential additional sources of information, including discussions with Police Scotland on how best to gather information from front line officers.

She advised that the Police Scotland “Your Police” public survey had received 15,000 responses to date, and that the SPA had indicated that the second wave of the SPA survey would be undertaken this week, with additional questions focusing on issues around compliance.

It was agreed to invite Dr Megan O’Neill to a future meeting of the IAG.

Action: S.McVie/ Secretariat

John McCroskie informed the group that the SPA Citizen Space portal had been purchased and set up will shortly be underway. The group therefore has a window of opportunity in the coming week to establish clarity on the purpose of this portal, its look and feel, and what needs to be taken account of to ensure it meets the needs of the IAG. This will include some sort of narrative or questions on the relevant page of the portal.

The group’s preference at this point was for a fairly “open access” channel, but the related challenges of analysis were noted.

Points for consideration included:

- The need to ensure IAG members can hear from people who have experience of interaction with policing during the lockdown, and are clear on whether this has informed feedback
- Whether this is fully open access or if feedback particularly sought from people who have interacted with policing on lockdown measures
- To what extent the group wishes to test out what supports people in complying with guidance
- The desire to understand how the action of police has impacted on individuals in the context of current restrictions
- The need to promote participation, including through local networks
- Minimising digital exclusion, including via local contacts and networks

Actions:

Martin Hayward will feed back to the Group via Secretariat the EHRC position on use of categories for protected characteristics in relation to the portal.

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All Members: to offer views and additional feedback to S. McVie on Briefing Note 8 and the Police Scotland Data Request.

All Members: to offer input to clarify the group's priorities for the portal to S. McVie and the Chair over the course of this week.

S.McVie: will draft, in conjunction with the Chair, a summary to shape design of the portal for discussion 15th May.

Date of next meeting: Friday 15th May 12 pm

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