

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Meeting | Authority Meeting |
| Date | 25 August 2022 |
| Location | Innovation and Technology Centre, Glasgow |
| Title of Paper | SPA Chair's Report |
| Presented By | Martyn Evans |
| Recommendation to Members | For discussion |
| Appendix Attached: | No |

Purpose

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chair since the June 2022 Authority meeting.

1. Police Officers Pay Award

- 1.1 On 15 August 2022, a 5% pay increase for police officers in Scotland was agreed which will be backdated to 1 April 2022. I welcome this agreement following constructive dialogue with the staff side through the Police Negotiating Board chaired by our Vice Convener Jane Ryder. This deal acknowledges the current cost of living crisis and recognises the essential and valuable role our police officers play ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Scotland's communities.
- 1.2 The increase will be applied to both pay and allowances and the agreement also includes a number of enhancements to police officer terms and conditions.

2. Joint Thematic Review of Biometrics Data relating to Children

- 2.1 The Chief Executive, Lynn Brown and I have been in discussion with Dr Brian Plastow, Biometrics Commissioner about the Authority's involvement in a Joint Thematic Review to look at biometrics data relating to children in policing. This has been discussed with Members and we are supportive of the Authority's involvement. The Review will consider procedure and practice relating to the acquisition, retention, use and destruction of biometric data relating to children and young people. The terms of reference for the review will be published on the Biometrics Commissioner's website in due course and work progressed in the months ahead. The Commissioner will submit the report to the Scottish Parliament in the spring 2023.

3. SPA Reflections Round Table: Oversight of Policing during the Pandemic

- 3.1 The Authority hosted, and I co-chaired with DCC Will Kerr, the final policing of the pandemic roundtable on Thursday 4 August 2022. This focused on the oversight arrangements and lessons, learning and legacy from the pandemic.
- 3.2 We had valuable feedback and input from Police Scotland, NPCC, HMICS, Scottish Government and academics across the UK and from the Scottish Police Federation. Professor Susan McVie of the University of Edinburgh presented her research on Covid-19 fixed

OFFICIAL

penalty notices. A recording of the session is available to watch from the Authority's dedicated [livestream channel](#).

- 3.3 The Authority concluded that policing responded with clear leadership, flexibility, resilience, strategic coherence and a strong public sector service duty. To quote from one external source of assurance, "the police rose to the challenge with dedication and commitment by taking immediate and decisive action to keep people safe and prevent crime."

4. Parliamentary Correspondence

- 4.1 The Criminal Justice Committee held a roundtable on mental health in policing on 18 May 2022 which I contributed to along with Police Scotland. The Committee wrote to me in late June requesting additional information in relation to our oversight of mental health in policing. I have responded on behalf of the Authority: [SPA Correspondence to Criminal Justice Committee on Mental Health in Policing](#).
- 4.2 The Committee also wrote seeking information about the Authority's oversight of the impact of changes to police pension arrangements on officer numbers. I have responded on behalf of the Authority: [SPA Correspondence to Criminal Justice Committee on changes to police pensions](#).

5. Visit to Forensic Services 'Junction 24' Laboratory

- 5.1 I was joined by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Keith Brown and Paul Edie, Chair of Forensic Services during a visit on Tuesday 12 July 2022 to the new Forensic Services Toxicology laboratory (Junction 24). The new laboratory space is being prepared for the transfer of Post Mortem Toxicology services from COPFS (currently undertaken by University of Glasgow) to Forensic Services on Thursday 1 December 2022. We discussed the benefits that transferring this service will bring the justice and health sectors in Scotland.
- 5.2 I am grateful to Fiona Douglas, Director of Forensic Services and her team including representatives from the University of Glasgow who provided the introduction and tour of the facilities. Members will have an opportunity to visit the facility after the transfer has taken place.

RECOMMENDATION

To update Members on activities carried out by the Chair since the June 2022 Authority meeting.