

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Authority Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>22 January 2021</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Video Conference</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>SPA Interim Chief Executive's Report</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Lynn Brown, Interim Chief Executive</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached:</b>	<b>NO</b>

**PURPOSE**

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Interim Chief Executive since the previous Authority Meeting.

## **1. Background**

1.1 This report provides Members with an update on key SPA activity which is not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

## **2. Engagement with the Scottish Parliament**

2.1 The Authority has had a number of engagements with the Scottish Parliament since the last Authority meeting as follows:

- 30 November 2020 – [Independent Review of Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct issues in relation to Policing](#)
- The Authority's Deputy Chief Executive (Strategy and Performance) Barry Sillers gave evidence to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing on Monday 18 January 2021 in relation to Police Scotland's use of remote piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) and body worn video. Evidence focused on the Authority's oversight of these technologies and was supported by a written submission which is available to view on the Authority's website - [Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems \(RPAS\) and Body Worn Video \(BWV\)](#)

1.2 There are a number of engagements with the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing scheduled for the coming months covering issues such as Dame Elish's Independent Review of Complaints; Brexit and policing; an update on the use of facial recognition technology, progress against HMICS's Report on Training and Development and information in relation to the policing of COP26 and the Euro 2020 Championships.

1.3 In addition, the Interim Chair and I will also be giving evidence to the Public Audit and Post-Legislative Scrutiny Committee in February 2021 in relation to Audit Scotland's s.22 report.

### **3. SPA Organisational Development and Design**

- 3.1 This is the tenth report I have provided to an Authority meeting on the SPA 2020 organisational change project. The last quarter of 2020 saw a focus on recruiting into vacant posts in the new structure. Five new staff have started in post to date, and the remaining new recruits will take up their roles from February to March 2020.
- 3.2 The first quarter of 2021 will focus on settling in all new staff and transitional arrangements will remain in place until this process is complete. An induction programme has been developed to enable a 'virtual' introduction to the SPA. This will include arrangements for getting to know colleagues and meetings with Authority members, policing bodies and other key stakeholders. I will continue to update members and key stakeholders on the new structure and key contacts as the structure beds in. I am pleased to report that we have reached this point, particularly as we have had to quickly adapt, developing virtual recruitment and induction models in order to deal with COVID restrictions.
- 3.3 As the structure is populated and prior to the start of the new business year, we will focus on corporate planning, team building, and objective setting.

### **4. Interim Chair**

- 4.1 This is the last meeting to be chaired by David Crichton as he stands down from the Authority next month on the appointment of the new Chair Martyn Evans.
- 4.2 I would like to thank David Crichton, on behalf of the staff of the SPA, for his clear guidance and unstinting support over the last year in what were unprecedented times due to COVID-19.
- 4.3 We are also looking forward to working with and supporting Martyn Evans as he takes up his new post as Chair of the Authority.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.

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## Summary report from the Scottish Railway Policing Committee

**13 November 2020**

**SPA Members – Tom Halpin and Bob Hayes**

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### **Main items of business**

#### Performance and Delivery of BTP in Scotland

The Scottish Railway Policing Committee (SRPC) were provided an update on the performance and delivery of BTP in Scotland. Headlines discussed included:-

- Crime levels remain low but have risen since the initial lockdown period in March with Q2 seeing similar crime levels to 2019
- An increase in recorded crime related to drugs can be attributed to the increase in County Lines days of action that have taken place across BTP in Scotland in conjunction with Police Scotland. The overall positive detection rate for BTP drug crime in Scotland is 96%.
- BTP Scotland have recorded 51 breaches of COVID-19 regulations since 01/03/2020. These have all been processed via the use of Fixed Penalty Notices, except one by report and two by custody report. There have also been 55 crimes that have been directly associated with COVID-19, such as Assault by directed coughing or spitting, the smearing of phlegm on surfaces or suspects claiming to be infected to a victim whilst committing a crime.

The SRPC agreed that an update on diversity and inclusion will be provided to a future meeting.

#### COVID-19 Update

The SRPC were provided an update on the policing response and tactics employed by BTP in response to COVID-19. Key points included:-

- Overall compliance and co-operation from the public has been good
- Ongoing close oversight and tracking of staff absence. Service has been maintained throughout

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- Operational adaption to differing legislation across the UK
- Longer term use of the rail network and resultant demand on BTP not known
- Transition from current position to full vaccine roll out will be challenging

### BTP Scottish Policing Plan

A virtual meeting held in October to gain input from stakeholders and the rail industry to inform the plan for 2021/22. Draft plan to be presented to next meeting of the SRPC in February.

### Evaluation of the SRPC

The committee were presented with a framework to enable the effectiveness of the SRPC to be evaluated against the original design principles. The framework, which looks back on matters considered by the SRPC, will be supported by forward looking work plan.

### Demand and Resource Data

An update was provided to the SRPC on the resource allocation across territorial division against key measures including crime statistics, track length and journeys. This provided assurance to the SRPC on the equitable allocation of resources to Scotland

### Closed Session

Members were provided verbal updates on the Stonehaven derailment and the implications of the recent change in threat level

The formal minute of the meeting will be available at the next meeting which is scheduled for 17 February 2020. This will also be published on the BTPA's website.