

**Meeting 18 June 2021 13:00**

**Members attending:**

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)  
Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group  
Maria Galli, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland  
Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)  
Chief Superintendent Linda Jones, 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  
Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

**Apologies:**

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner  
Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance  
Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust  
Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, Police Scotland  
ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland  
Barry Sillers, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Performance, SPA

**Secretariat:**

Eleanor Gaw, SPA  
Karen Vallance, SPA

**1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed attendees. Apologies were noted as above.

**2. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising**

The group noted the minute of the meeting held on the 11 June 2021.

### **3. HMICS Report on interviews with Police Scotland Officers and Staff – Phase II**

Gill Imery referred to the draft report which had been shared with members in advance, and provided a summary of the key findings.

Feedback on the report was positive, with members commenting that the findings were consistent with other evidence and added value. The group agreed that it was welcome that officers' voices had been heard.

The Chair noted that not all data reports would be available for the June SPA Board, and therefore proposed all reports be taken to the August authority meeting. Concern was raised that as the officer interviews took place end of April/ beginning of May, the findings may appear less relevant if not reported until August. The Chair acknowledged the interviews went beyond the remit of the IAG and suggested HMICS publish the report when they felt it appropriate to do so, and it would be referenced in both the June and August SPA Board reports.

### **4. Data reports**

Susan McVie referred to the Charges Reported to the COPFS Under The Coronavirus Legislation: March 2020 - April 2021 Report, and the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service Data on Police Fixed Penalty Notices Offered During the Pandemic Report which had been shared with members in advance, and provided a summary of the key areas.

The group discussed how the number of fixed penalty notices being paid was higher than previous years, agreeing that this was unexpected.

Susan McVie advised the group that a full years' worth of data will be available for analysis in time for the August report to the SPA Board.

### **4. Weekly data update and impact of easing of restrictions**

#### **OpTICAL Update**

Chief Superintendent Jones briefed members that there had been a slight increase in interventions overall and online reports on the previous week, but these were still significantly lower than a number of weeks ago. The intervention data related to the number of people involved, and not the number of incidents. The overall decrease was mostly like due to there being less rules to break, and the use of officer discretion as regulations changed and relaxed. There had been a decrease in fixed penalty notices.

The group heard that the increase in staff absence appeared to be linked to the increase in school aged children requiring to self-isolate.

The group heard that there is some expectation that infection rates may increase in the coming weeks, as people socialise more frequently.

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**5. IAG report for Scottish Police Authority meeting 30 June**

The Chair reiterated that a fuller report will be brought to the August Board meeting, however reference will be made to the HMICS report within his letter to the SPA Chair for the June Board meeting.

The group discussed frequency of meetings, agreeing to continue to meet in July and until the August Board meeting with the exception of the first two weeks in August.

The Chair requested the meeting scheduled for 20 August be moved to the start of that week. Eleanor will contact group members to allow them to confirm their availability to meet Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 August **(Action: EG/ ALL)**

Brian Scott tendered apologies for himself and Tressa Burke for the following week's meeting.

**Date of next meeting**

Friday 25 June 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00

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