

Meeting 29 January 2021 13:00 – 15:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Martyn Evans, SPA Board Member

Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Dr Catriona Stewart, SWAN Scotland

Apologies:

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Maria Galli, CYPCS

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

DCC Will Kerr

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Eleanor Gaw, SPA

Fiona Miller, SPA

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1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed David Crichton to the meeting. David is retiring from his role as Interim Chair of the SPA. He offered his personal thanks and appreciation for the remarkable contribution the group has made, supporting additional scrutiny of the use of these exceptional temporary powers, but without putting an additional undue burden on the service as it responds to an emergency situation.

He reflected on the role of the group in both challenging and supporting Police Scotland, supporting the SPA's oversight, extending the reach of assurance work across a broad section of society, and adding a unique perspective and value to the range of oversight of policing during the pandemic.

It has been an inspiring piece of work, and he thanked the group, particularly the Chair for his leadership, and for the value and insights shared in reports to the Authority.

Note of the previous meeting and matters arising.

Item 4 - Future IAG meeting schedule

Confirmed for February:

- 5 February. Dr Liz Aston, Napier University
- 12 February. Chief Superintendent Wylie, British Transport Police; Kirsty Louise Campbell and Davina Fereday, Police Scotland
- 19 February. ACC John Hawkins, Police Scotland
Dr Peter Neyroud, Institute of Criminology
- 26 February. Sarah Armstrong, University of Glasgow

The group will invite Adam Wagner, Eleanor Hourigan and John Wadham to contribute to a meeting in March.

3. Data Update

Data and OpTICAL Update

Professor McVie briefed members on evidence from CVI data and her related report.

She outlined trends over time, with just under 100,000 inventions recorded by 3 January. The vast majority are within the first 3E's. Less than 10% resulted in a Fixed Penalty Notice, and less than 1% resulted in arrest or required the use of reasonable force.

In Wave 1 there was more day to day variation, with larger spikes during warm weather, public holidays and weekends. In Wave 2, from mid-September onwards, the pattern of demand shifted increasingly to weekends and house

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parties, with less activity mid-week. In Wave 1 most of the interventions occurred in civic/public space, and in Wave 2 more occurred in private space.

The first 3E's remain the dominant form of intervention, with a more robust response used only when necessary. Local circumstances are taken into account by policing teams, and are reflected in the type of intervention.

The Chair thanked Professor McVie for her report, and noted that it will be useful in the forthcoming weeks, to inform further reports to the SPA board. ACC Ritchie confirmed that findings align with what Police Officers are reporting with regard to their own experience on the ground.

The Police Scotland weekly report is available to members via egress, with additional information now available on scenario reporting.

Professor McVie advised that the FPN report is now complete, and will be discussed at the OpTICAL before being presented to the IAG.

The following points were also discussed:

- What is meant by "reasonable force" in specific contexts at the lower end of the scale, for example, escorting people home or to a place of safety, and the potential for strengthening guidance on how this is recorded.
- The role of PIRC, with a request to check when PIRC data for this period is made public. **(Action: Secretariat)**
- The definition of a key worker, which remains unchanged, albeit more people now qualify, e.g. jurors.

Citizen Space

One additional response has been received.

Jennifer advised that she had recirculated details of the portal to a number of online news organisations. Revised letters providing an update on the group's work have been circulated to members, for IAG members to share with their own networks

Action: IAG Members to share updated letters across community and professional networks, to promote feedback and participation.

5. AOCB

The Chair thanked Martyn Evans on behalf of the group for his contribution and support. Martyn has been appointed as the new Chair of the SPA Board, and will be stepping down from active participation in the IAG.

Martyn thanked the Chair and members for their joint work, and indicated that he looked forward to working with the IAG in the future in his new role. A new member for the IAG from the SPA Board will be discussed with the Chair over the next few weeks. Meantime, Barry Sillers will attend.

6. Date of next meeting

Friday 5 February 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00

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