

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	22 September
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	SPA Chair's Report
Presented By	Martyn Evans
Recommendation to Members	For discussion and approval
Appendix Attached:	Yes – Appendix A – Committee Membership

Purpose

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

To seek members approval for changes to committee membership.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II marks the end of an era and the end of an exceptional life dedicated to duty and service. It was my privilege to attend and represent the Authority at Queen Elizabeth's funeral on Monday 19 September. Our thoughts remain with the King, the wider Royal Family and all those who continue to mourn her passing.

The task of supporting the Queen's journey from Balmoral to Edinburgh and on to London before her state funeral has been enormous. The plans had to be implemented a very short notice and the complexity and scale of the exceptional delivery is mostly hidden from public view and certainly under-remarked. There has been a very significant team effort, involving partners from across civic and civil Scotland. There has been widespread positive commentary.

The policing organisation and presence over those first 10-days has been central to delivering impeccably a sombre and momentous event observed by billions across the globe.

I want to pay tribute to Police Scotland for the first class planning and policing of these arrangements. I am continually struck by the professionalism and commitment of the officers and staff I meet. Their dedication to public service and to supporting the safety and wellbeing of those they serve is second to none.

Over the 10-days of mourning, I received regular updates from the Chief Constable and DCCs about the policing arrangements for Scotland and support via mutual aid for the UK policing operation. I also received regular briefings from Martin Hewitt, Chair of the National Police Chiefs Council, on the UK approach, and I met virtually with Jeremy Quinn MP, Minister of State at the Home Office to discuss the arrangements. I was asked on a number of occasions to pass on congratulations, thanks and appreciation to Police Scotland for their contribution and support.

Scottish Police Memorial Service

Tom Halpin and I attended and I laid a wreath on behalf of the Authority at this year's National Police Memorial Service at Tulliallan on 7 September. The Chief Constable, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, HMICS, BTP and the staff associations were also in attendance. This was a particularly touching service, attended by officers and family members, to remember those known to have died on duty.

Local Policing – Visit to Dumfries and Galloway

When I took over as Chair in February 2021, I said I wanted to focus on developing the Authority's focus on four key areas for policing. These are; Social Justice, Technology, Research and Evidence, and Localism. On the latter, I was pleased to have the opportunity, along with the Chief Executive, to visit the divisional team in Dumfries and Galloway on 21 September. I am grateful to Chief Superintendent Carol McGuire and her team for taking the time to take us through the complexities of policing a remote and rural area and the importance of community policing and localism in this context. The Chief Executive and I will visit N Division on 19 October to meet with the Divisional Commander and his team in Inverness.

Violence Against Women and Girls Seminar

Police Scotland reported to the Authority at the start of this year the intention to develop a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy setting out how it will contribute to tackling this crime in all its forms. To inform the strategy, the Authority and COSLA co-hosted a seminar with key stakeholders in Edinburgh on 30 August 2022. The seminar heard from organisations working at a national, community and local level to improve outcomes for women, girls and children. I want to take the opportunity to note my thanks to all those who attended the seminar, who shared their views and experience to help shape the Police Scotland approach. Further detail on the learning from the seminar will be shared over the coming weeks, and will be reflected in the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy which will be reported later this year.

Senior Officer Recruitment

On 1 September, Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr was [announced as the preferred candidate for Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police Constabulary](#). His appointment was formally confirmed on 21 September. DCC Kerr has made a significant contribution to policing in Scotland over the last 4-years. While we are disappointed to be losing DCC Kerr, we also wish him well in his new role at Devon and Cornwall.

The Authority is making arrangements to launch a recruitment process for a DCC in early October. The Authority's People Committee is responsible for considering and assuring the Authority that the process for the appointment of senior officers is fit for purpose, robust and compliant with both regulations and guidance. The Committee met on 23 September to

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consider and approve the recruitment arrangements for the appointment of any senior officers in the year ahead.

Long Service and Good Conduct Awards - West Command

On 23 August I spoke at a long service and good conduct award ceremony for staff and officers working across the West of Scotland at Tulliallan. There were 42 police officers and staff recognised at the ceremony. On behalf of the Authority, I thanked and congratulated the recipients and their families for their significant contribution and commitment to policing and public service.

Committee membership

Following discussion with members, I am proposing some changes to committee membership. I am recommending for approval that:

- Alasdair Hay takes over Chair of Policing Performance Committee from Michelle Miller.
- Katharina Kasper joins Complaints and Conduct Committee replacing Alasdair Hay as Chair.
- Tom Halpin joins the Resources Committee replacing Katharina Kasper.

RECOMMENDATION

To update Members on activities carried out by the Chair since the August 2022 Authority meeting and seek approval for the following changes to Committee membership:

Alasdair Hay – Chair Policing Performance Committee
Katharina Kasper – Chair Complaints and Conduct Committee
Tom Halpin – joins Resources Committee

The revised membership highlighting the recommended changes is attached at Appendix A.

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Appendix A - Membership of Committee and Groups

Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee Mary Pitcaithly – Chair Paul Edie Katharina Kasper Grant Macrae Catriona Stewart	Complaints and Conduct Committee Katharina Kasper – Chair Grant Macrae Catriona Stewart Fiona McQueen Paul Edie
Exceptional Circumstances Committee Martyn Evans – Chair Jane Ryder Tom Halpin Mary Pitcaithly	Forensic Services Committee Paul Edie – Chair Katharina Kasper Caroline Stuart Fiona McQueen Jane Ryder
Legal Committee Jane Ryder – Chair Caroline Stuart Catriona Stewart Grant Macrae Michelle Miller	People Committee Fiona McQueen – Chair Alasdair Hay Michelle Miller Paul Edie Tom Halpin
Policing Performance Committee Alasdair Hay – Chair Katharina Kasper Michelle Miller Mary Pitcaithly Tom Halpin	Resources Committee Grant Macrae – Chair Tom Halpin Alasdair Hay Catriona Stewart Caroline Stuart
Police Negotiating Board Jane Ryder Fiona McQueen Caroline Stuart	Forensic Toxicology Oversight Group Paul Edie - Chair Alasdair Hay Katharina Kasper Grant Macrae
Scottish Railways Policing Committee (BTPA) Tom Halpin Mary Pitcaithly	

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