

Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 - Annual Reporting Return Template

Name of Relevant Authority:	Scottish Police Authority
Reporting Period:	December 2020 – March 2022

Please describe how your organisation has had regard to island communities in carrying out its functions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Authority's main statutory functions as set out in Section 2 of the Act are to -

- maintain the Police Service of Scotland;
- promote the statutory policing principles;
- promote and support continuous improvement in the policing of Scotland;
- keep the policing of Scotland under review; and
- hold the Chief Constable to account for the policing of Scotland.

To carry out these functions the Authority has prepared a Joint [Strategic Police Plan](#) with Police Scotland reflecting the strategic priorities determined by Scottish Ministers, indicative budgets and alignment with the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF). The strategic police plan sets out the main objectives for policing in Scotland. The Authority has also prepared a [Corporate Plan for 2020-2023](#) and [Annual Business Plan](#). This strategic framework incorporates: the purpose and principal aims of the Authority; an analysis of the environment in which the Authority operates; details of planned efficiencies, describing how the Authority proposes to meet its duties relating to Best Value; alternative scenarios and an assessment of the risk factors that may significantly affect the execution of the plan but that cannot be accurately forecast.

In November 2020 a new SPA Corporate team structure was implemented to support the Authority in carrying out its functions. Prior to this the corporate team lacked capacity and capability to deliver the wide range of duties in support of the Authority. 21/22 was a year of transformation, integrating new staff and identifying improvement actions. 22/23 will be one of stability as we build on new approaches, processes and procedures. Central to that work is to improve our delivery of the range of public body duties that we must comply with, including our approach to having regard to the Section 7 duty, i.e. having regard for island communities in carrying out our functions.

During 21/22 we completed groundwork on a systematic approach to impact assessment and are planning to deliver an integrated impact assessment approach during 22/23. This will ensure that the Section 7 Islands duty is considered fully as part of our work in supporting the Authority. Thereafter it is intended to report as part of our annual reporting duty.

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Please provide a list of policies, strategies or services for which your organisation has completed a Section 10 assessment Island Communities Impact Assessment.

None for this reporting period.

What other steps has your organisation taken for those policies for which an ICIA was not required (under the section 10(b)(ii) assessment).

As described above, until 21/22 and into 22/23, the Authority did not have the capacity to ensure the capture of this information. The ground work for our systematic approach to impact assessment that will result in an integrated impact assessment is underway. In the future reporting period we will put processes and procedures in place to capture this information accurately. Also, we will ensure that due consideration and mitigation of any impact to Island Communities is given through our support for and oversight of Policing in Scotland.

During the reporting period the Scottish Police Authority has had engagement with COSLA and Local Scrutiny Convenors on key aspects of Policing including Local Police Plans, Tasers, Drones and Body Worn Video. These sessions included feedback from island and remote communities and led to further insight of local issues in the Scottish Police Authority's oversight of Policing in Scotland.

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