

Meeting 23 October 2020 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

Maria Galli, CYPCS

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

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

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Eleanor Gaw, SPA

Fiona Miller, SPA

John McCroskie, SPA

OFFICIAL

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

All matters will be covered in the agenda.

3. Data

The Chair reported on OpTICAL meetings. Work led by Professor McVie is continuing, including consideration of SCTS data, data around tickets which have been challenged, and nominal data. Further reports on this work will be streamed through OpTICAL and presented to the IAG in due course.

ACC Ritchie provided an update on policing and the current legislation. A key focus of policing activity in terms of breaches of regulations has been house gatherings, and this is being monitored closely. Levels of calls relating to gatherings around the weekend's old firm match had been lower than anticipated however.

ACC Ritchie advised that Public Health Scotland (PHS) now has increased resources to support monitoring of quarantine regulations and reporting to policing. For Police Scotland, this resulted in an additional 100 visits per day, which created some unanticipated and immediate service pressures. There has been additional consultation with PHS, and the process should now operate more smoothly. To date 7 individuals have received an FPN for not adhering to quarantine regulations.

With the Scottish Government's announcement earlier today of a new tier system with varying restrictions and lockdown measures, Police Scotland are considering related service and reporting implications. The 4E's approach remains the main focus for Police Scotland dealing with Covid-19 issues.

It was noted that an extension of powers of entry for police, and the potential to increase fines, are both referenced in the new Scottish Government framework.

ACC Ritchie indicated that Police Scotland are looking in detail at how systems can capture and analyse varying practice across the country.

The Chair indicated that he would wish to consider including a section on quarantine restrictions in the IAG November report. It was noted that the requirements placed on individuals are strict, and the impact of poverty and the need for people to work are undoubtedly significant factors in individual decision making.

Citizen Space

Jennifer reported that there have been no further responses this week. The Chair proposed that as the portal is due to end on the 31 October, the future of the portal be placed on the agenda for discussion at next week's meeting.

Webinar

The most recent webinar has been chunked and is available on the IAG website.

OFFICIAL

4. AOCB

Future Meetings

- Friday 30 October, Joe Griffin Scottish Government Director of Safer Communities will be attending, to discuss Covid: Safety and Compliance
- Friday 30 October, Mike Callaghan COSLA Policy Manager, will be attending the IAG as an observer
- 6 November, COSLA representatives will be attending to participate in discussions.

Members discussed a number of options in relation to the future frequency of IAG meetings. The benefit of the ongoing work and independence of the group was acknowledged, as the situation is evolving and oversight remains important. It was noted that there may be scope to reduce the frequency of meetings.

Future agenda items will include early consideration of the November report to the Scottish Police Authority.

Relevant media coverage (details circulated by Ephraim Borowski) -

- An article by Professor Stephen Reicher published in the Scotsman on Monday 19 October
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/coronavirus-language-lockdown-increasing-cases-3009507>
- Two articles on the BBC website, highlighting health and ethnicity statistics in relation to COVID 19.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54567866>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54634721>

5. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 30 October 13:00 – 15:00