

8th May 2020 12 pm

Members attending:

John Scott QC (Chair)

Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Tressa Burke, Chief Executive Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martyn Evans, Scottish Police Authority

Martin Hayward, Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

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

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

Apologies:

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Secretariat support:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA Communications

Eleanor Gaw, SPA Community Accountability

John McCroskie, SPA Director of Communications and Relationships

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, and introduced Martin Hayward from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, who joined the meeting for the first time. He will substitute for Alastair Pringle as required.

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2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Approved. The Chair indicated that all minutes will be published after the report to the SPA Board 20th May, and asked members to review for accuracy over the course of following week ahead of publication.

Action: EG to recirculate minutes

Action: All to review

3. Matters Arising

DCC Kerr asked the group to consider what input or advice it can offer to Police Scotland, to inform the service's approach to any policy change, and bearing in mind that any change may require very speedy implementation.

Aamer Anwar cited an example from personal experience of a recent exchange with police officers, where enforcing the law and public health guidance appeared to be conflated.

It was agreed that it would be helpful for the group to hear directly from Divisional Commanders on local management processes.

Action: Contribution from Divisional Commanders to the IAG Meeting 11th May.

It was noted that if guidance changes rapidly in coming weeks or diverges across UK boundaries, police officers and members of the public may end up with a range of interpretations of what officers can do, and what the public can do. Police Scotland reiterated that they would welcome the group's guidance on any change in approach and supporting communications.

Members considered that the Chief Constable's support and input at public briefings by the First Minister was extremely helpful. The Chair recommended repeating this approach, if practice changes in response to Government guidance.

The need to ensure clarity of communications on what regulations and guidance are operating where was noted, should these diverge across UK boundaries, and to reach out to UK wide agencies to ensure clear messaging for the public on what applies where.

A number of supporting actions were agreed.

- If timelines allow, Police Scotland will share draft staff guidance and supporting communications in response to any change in government guidance. However, it was noted that turnaround times may make this difficult to achieve. **Action: Police Scotland**
- Members will be prepared to respond at short notice to email updates on potential change in policing practice, in response to any change in government guidance. **Action: IAG members**
- Members will advise local police teams of any issues flagged with them at local level by their own members. **Action: IAG members**

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- IAG members will signpost formal complaints processes to their own members and contacts as appropriate, and complaint channels will continue to be signposted in formal group communications. **Action: IAG members and secretariat**

4. Data and Evidence Gathering Update

Professor McVie reported that the IAG “data ask” had now been shared with Police Scotland. Where data is unavailable, it will remain on the list. She highlighted that some data streams will require manual inputting and working across more than one data set, but Police Scotland is in a stronger position than many others as it put systems in place at the start of the current crisis and some earlier work associated with Stop and Search changes also makes this easier in some respects.

She also suggested that the group distil some of the learning from the input of Ben Bradford and Steve Reicher, to share with Police Scotland.

Additional evidence sources

Professor McVie will discuss qualitative data, including Police Scotland’s public survey, and a strategy for speaking to officers, with Police Scotland Strategy and Planning Team.

Scottish Government Justice and Analytical Services are compiling an international Evidence Review, looking in particular at locations implementing a full or partial lifting of lockdown, and how the rigour of policing can be sustained where regulations are changing.

Professor McVie referenced the SPA survey’s early findings which have been shared with IAG members, and data to be made available from an additional survey from York University. She has also drafted a revised paper on collecting public opinion with greater focus on specific groups unlikely to engage via usual channels.

The Chair thanked Professor McVie for her outstanding level of input and the very significant amount of work she had undertaken to support this work stream on behalf of the group.

5. Communications and Engagement Update

Draft letters for community members and partners. IAG members indicated that they found these letters helpful. The scope for members to use the related messaging on various channels including social media was noted.

Follow up actions agreed -

- To include an option in the letter for people to indicate if they would welcome the chance to talk to IAG members. **Action: SPA**

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- To reference complaints procedure somewhere in the letter itself
Action: SPA
- Members to copy in secretariat if circulating the letter more widely
Action: All

Public Portal. John McCroskie indicated that the order had been placed by the SPA for Citizen Space. The SPA are also exploring use of the Scottish Government Citizen Space facility, to see if this can offer a quicker access route.

The group discussed balancing free text responses and qualitative feedback, with enough structure to support analysis. Members indicated that it would be helpful to know if respondents have had any interaction with police using the temporary powers, or whether they are describing an incident which happened to someone else.

Additional suggestions included exploring the potential to use Police Scotland's system for analysing free text responses, and the use of a hash tag for social media content. The requirement to signpost formal complaints channels was reinforced. It was also noted that it would be helpful to align language with that used by Scottish Government.

Action: S. McVie agreed to draft a possible structure for feedback on the IAG public portal. Professor McVie also offered to speak to Dr Liz Aston, SIPR, on potential for research input.

6. Work Planning

Discussion deferred until week beginning Monday 11th May.

Action: Group members to consider.

7. Additional expert input into the work of the group

The Chair asked members to consider what additional input would support the work of the group, and could also inform and assist Police Scotland and the SPA in delivering their responsibilities. Potential examples might include representatives from Police Scotland or impacted groups.

Action: All members to consider

Action: S.McVie/ Secretariat. Invitation to Peter Neyroud Lecturer in Evidence Based Policing at the Institute of Criminology to join a future meeting.

8. AOCB

John McCroskie confirmed that the SPA survey data shared with IAG members is in the public domain, and can be circulated more widely.

9. Date of next meeting: Monday 11th May 15:00 – 17:00

Close of meeting

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