

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	26 May 2021
Location	Virtual – MS Teams
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Chief Constable Iain Livingstone QPM
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached:	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Authority with information relating to the Police Service, policing and the state of crime.

This report is submitted as a Standing Agenda Item.

1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of Police Scotland is 'to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland' and our focus is Keeping People Safe. This paper is intended to provide Members with an update on key activity and events.

2. TACKLING THREAT AND RISK

SERIOUS VIOLENCE INCLUDING HOMICIDE

Homicides

Since the last meeting of the Scottish Police Authority Board on Wednesday 24 March 2021, Police Scotland has carried out investigations into eight murders at various locations across Scotland. Each death is a tragedy, which has a lasting impact on individuals and families, and in the communities where they occur.

A professional investigative response by officers and staff from the Major Investigation Teams and Local Policing Divisions, driven by the particular circumstances of each death, has resulted in the identification and arrest of an accused person or persons in each of the murders.

The ability to respond to multiple incidences of serious criminality occurring within a compressed time period, and conducting complex investigations while supporting the families and communities affected, demonstrates the value of the integrated and effective national Service.

Murder of Mary McLaughlin – Glasgow

As previously reported, Mary McLaughlin, aged 58, was found dead within her home address in Patrick, Glasgow, in October 1984. Despite extensive police enquiries at that time, no person was identified as being responsible for her death. Following a Police Scotland re-investigation, led by detective officers from the Homicide and Governance Review Team, in December 2019, a 58 year old man was arrested and charged with her murder.

On Friday 9 April 2021, at the High Court in Glasgow, the accused Graham McGill was found guilty of Mary McLaughlin's murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. The conviction and sentence was the culmination of diligent enquiries carried out during the homicide case review, based on work carried out by the SPA Forensic Services Cold Case Review Team, which utilised the latest advances in DNA technology.

Attempted Murder of Police Officers – Lanarkshire

On Sunday 14 June 2020, two police officers suffered serious injuries when they were subject of a violent and unprovoked assault by an armed man in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, while they were dealing with an unrelated incident. A 25 year old man was arrested at the scene and charged with attempted murder. On Friday 14 May 2021, at the High Court in Glasgow, the accused David Dowson was sentenced to seven and a half years imprisonment following his conviction for attempted murder and serious assault.

We welcome the sentence imposed which sends a clear message that violence towards police officers and staff will not be tolerated. I have repeatedly made it clear that violence against officers and staff is utterly unacceptable and should never be seen as simply part of the job. The two officers were working to support and protect their community when they were attacked. Their determination to return to work following the traumatic incident is testament to their commitment to public service, and I commend their bravery and professionalism.

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Operation FALLRAKE – Greater Glasgow Division

Operation FALLRAKE is an intelligence led investigation into serious and organised criminal activity in Glasgow, including attempted murder, the discharge of firearms, serious assaults, and wilful fire-raising.

On Friday 23 April, as part of Operation FALLRAKE, officers from Greater Glasgow Division and Specialist Crime Division carried out enforcement action at a number of addresses in Glasgow. As a result of the operation, two men aged 29 and 33 were arrested in respect of serious assaults linked to organised crime. They subsequently appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court where they were remanded in custody.

DRUGS

Drug Recoveries

As a result of Police Scotland enforcement activity across three Local Policing Divisions, four men were arrested and subsequently appeared at court, following the seizure of controlled drugs.

On Monday 3 May, an intelligence led operation involving officers from Greater Glasgow Division resulted in the recovery of a cannabis cultivation containing approximately 300 plants, with an estimated street

value of around £175,000 at an address in Balloch. On Saturday 8 May, following a vehicle stop during routine police patrols in Carstairs, officers from Lanarkshire Division recovered cannabis with an estimated street value in excess of £100,000. On Tuesday 11 May, following a search under warrant at an address in Port Glasgow, officers from Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division recovered a cannabis cultivation with an estimated street value of around £123,000.

ROAD SAFETY and ROAD CRIME

Motorcycle Safety Campaign

On Monday 12 April, the annual Motorcycle Safety Campaign commenced, with a national week of action led by Police Scotland Road Policing officers. Recognising the increase in motorcycle sales during the pandemic, activity focussed on local motorcycle events and areas of the road network which are popular amongst motorcyclists. During the weeklong campaign, 354 motorcycles were stopped, with information and advice provided to riders, 45 offences detected, 90 warnings issued and 5 motorcycles seized.

Operation CLOSE PASS

On Wednesday 14 April, the second campaign from the 2021/22 National Calendar of Road Safety Activity took place, focusing on cycle safety. Supported by Cycling UK and Cycling Scotland, Local Policing Division and Road Policing officers throughout Scotland participated in the day of action, which was accompanied by a social media campaign to raise awareness of cycle safety. Over 50 warnings were issued to drivers, with one being reported in respect of careless driving. In addition, a number of non-campaign related road traffic offences were detected.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Labour Exploitation Campaign

On Wednesday 31 March, Police Scotland launched a Labour Exploitation campaign, designed to break the chain of modern slavery in Scotland.

The campaign, which included a five week run of TV advertisements supported by online material, is aimed at business owners, managers and employees who operate in areas with high levels of ongoing or seasonal

labour needs. Supported by business leaders, industry bodies and 'Unseen', a charity that hosts the Modern Slavery Helpline, the awareness raising campaign provided information about how to recognise the signs of exploitation, how to ensure a business is not contributing to the problem, and offered advice to potential victims on how to access help.

Human Trafficking Arrests – Tayside Division

Operation BARRAMUNDI is an intelligence led multi-agency human trafficking operation targeting labour exploitation in the Perthshire area. The associated enquiry team comprises Police Scotland officers from Tayside Division and Specialist Crime Division, working closely with partner agencies including Perth and Kinross Council, Migrant Help, and the Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority.

On Friday 30 April, as part of Operation BARRAMUNDI, enforcement activity under warrant was carried out in the Blairgowrie area. Three men aged 37, 39 and 53, and a woman also aged 53, were arrested and charged with offences under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act 2015. All four appeared at Dundee Sheriff Court where they were remanded in custody.

Modern slavery and human trafficking have no place in our communities, and those who engage in it seek to exploit the most vulnerable in society. Police Scotland will continue to work with local, national and international partners to support those affected, identify and uncover exploitation networks, and pursue the organised criminal gangs who engage in human trafficking and exploitation.

Naloxone - Test of Change

As outlined in my last report to the Board, following thorough consideration and consultation, Police Scotland introduced a Test of Change for the carriage and use of Naloxone intra-nasal spray by officers. The Test of Change is designed to inform future decision on whether Naloxone should be carried more widely by Police Scotland officers. Delivery of a custom training package in the three test areas of Glasgow East, Falkirk and Dundee City is almost complete. Carriage of Naloxone is voluntary, with over 75% of the officers who have completed the training electing to carry it while on duty.

Since the training commenced on Monday 1 March, there have been a number of instances where Naloxone has been administered at a suspected opioid overdose, where officers in attendance have assessed there to be an immediate threat to life. On each occasion, the casualty who received this initial application of Naloxone stabilised, with

emergency medical care then provided by Scottish Ambulance Service personnel.

The Test of Change in respect of the use of Naloxone reinforces our commitment to tackle problem drug use in our communities through a range of interventions that support our work with the Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce. The Test of Change will continue to be subject of monitoring, assessment and evaluation.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Public Confidence in Policing

Policing in Scotland is founded on the principle of consent, and public confidence in policing is a critical factor in maintaining and enhancing the bond of trust which exists between the communities of Scotland and their Police Service. We recognise the importance of listening to Scotland's diverse voices, and developing a better understanding of the range of views and priorities which exist.

The year-long 'Your Police' Survey for 2020/21 concluded on 9 April, and received over 36,000 responses. This was a significant public engagement exercise conducted throughout the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey indicates an overall level of public confidence of 57%, which is a nine point increase on the results from 2019/20. Confidence in Police Scotland is further illustrated by results from the User Satisfaction Survey, which indicates that in March 2021, 71% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall experience following contact or interaction with police officers and staff. We continue to analyse the open text responses from the survey, which will help inform our policing approach in the future. The 'Your Police' Survey for 2021/22 was launched on 30 April and will remain open for the next year.

Public Engagement – Seldom Heard Groups

We continue to build on our approach to maintain and enhance confidence in policing, and are progressing a number of activities to maximise our engagement with diverse communities, with oversight from the Police Scotland Public Confidence Governance Board. Seldom heard communities include members of the public who may be less likely to engage with Police for a variety reasons, one example being communities isolated through geography or deprivation.

On Wednesday 19 May, Assistant Chief Constable John Hawkins chaired a public event for academics, researchers and practitioners with an interest in seldom heard groups and communities. Co-hosted by Dr Megan O'Neill

from the Scottish Institute for Policing Research, the event invited attendees to explore areas for research that will enable policing to further enhance support for all of our communities.

SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

Revised Complaints Handling Model

A revised operating model for the handling of complaints commenced within Police Scotland on Monday 3 May. This will result in all complaints about the police being retained and handled by trained officers and staff from the Professional Standards Department.

The revised model is designed to enhance ownership, accountability, quality and communication in respect of complaint handling, and improve timescales for conclusion. It supports our commitment to efficiently and effectively manage, investigate and resolve complaints, and support learning and development for our people. The model will be reviewed after six and 12 months, involving key internal and external stakeholders.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES BOARD

On Friday 26 March, I attended a virtual meeting of the Home Office Strategic Capabilities Board, which again provided a valuable opportunity to engage with colleagues from policing and other agencies, and consider matters of strategic importance to the United Kingdom. I will attend the next meeting of this important forum on Friday 28 May.

LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY CONVENERS' EVENT

On Tuesday 13 April, Scottish Police Authority Chair Martyn Evans and Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr jointly hosted an online consultation event for Local Authority Scrutiny Conveners. The event was designed to provide an opportunity to discuss a number of policing related issues with local leaders, including the use of Taser, Body Worn Video and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.

Following presentations from Assistant Chief Constables Mark Williams and Kenny MacDonald, there was facilitated discussion about the use of such technology in policing, which included valuable reflections from the Conveners.

STAFF ASSOCIATION CONFERENCES

On Monday 26 April, both the Scottish Police Authority Chair and I participated in the Scottish Police Federation (SPF) 2021 Conference, which was held virtually. I contributed to a pre-recorded interview, as well as a live question and answer session with officers. On Tuesday 25 May, I will also participate in the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents (ASPS) Annual Conference.

These conference events were important opportunities to thank officers and staff for their dedicated service, and to discuss important operational and organisational matters. I greatly value the ongoing support and challenge from the SPF and ASPS, as we collectively strive to ensure Police Scotland enables and empowers officers and staff to meet the policing needs and requirements of the communities whom we serve.

CHIEF CONSTABLES' COUNCIL

On Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 May, I attended a virtual meeting of the Chief Constables' Council. Over the two days, a number of significant areas were considered including local policing, operational independence, criminal justice recovery, and the implications arising from EU-Exit.

The topics under consideration once again underlined the shared challenges and issues faced by policing throughout the United Kingdom, and the mutual value derived from continued close co-operation.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS**POLICING RESPONSE TO COVID-19 – OPERATION TALLA**

Police Scotland continues to deliver a proportionate and effective policing response to the evolving circumstances associated with the COVID-19 public health pandemic.

Recent weeks have seen the easing of some restrictions relating to travel, non-essential retail, hospitality, tourism, and meetings with others. As previously reported, changes to restrictions can present challenges for policing. While the vast majority of people continue to adhere to restrictions in support of the national effort to combat coronavirus, there are a minority of individuals who appear determined to blatantly ignore the restrictions which remain in place. We are focused on providing a visible presence to support communities throughout the period of the pandemic, and will continue to take appropriate enforcement action when required.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26)

Along with key stakeholders across the United Kingdom, Police Scotland continues to carry out intensive preparation and planning activity relating to the United Nations COP26 Climate Change Conference, which is to be held in Glasgow in November.

On Thursday 22 April, 12 Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) took part in a Police Scotland Youth Ethics Advisory Panel. Members of the panel were invited to offer an additional perspective on the challenge of policing demonstrations and protests ahead of the COP26 Conference. The panel was chaired by Perthshire South and Kinross-shire MSYP, Jack Bell, with Assistant Chief Constable Alan Speirs representing Police Scotland. It provided a valuable opportunity to consider the independent insights and perspectives of the young people involved, and the advice from the panel will be considered as part of our ongoing preparation and planning.

A cadre of 15 MSYPs have agreed to participate in youth panels over a period of two years, and will consider a variety of dilemmas throughout that period.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

In advance of and during polling for the Scottish Parliamentary Election which took place on Thursday 6 May, Police Scotland worked closely with a variety of partners including the Electoral Commission, Electoral Management Board and Local Authorities. The significant planning which took place over a number of months, enabled a nationally co-ordinated policing operation to be delivered within the 13 Local Policing Divisions across Scotland. The operation was designed to support Returning Officer's plans and other local arrangements, and ensured that voting could take place in a safe and secure manner.

A wide variety of policing challenges manifested over the three days of voting and counting. The officers and staff involved, displayed professionalism to manage these incidents under considerable scrutiny and focus.

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION – GLASGOW

In the morning of Thursday 13 May, officers from United Kingdom Immigration Enforcement (UKIE) attended the area of Kenmure Street, Glasgow, and detained two men in regard to suspected immigration offences. A protestor lay underneath the UKIE vehicle, and other protestors gathered to prevent the vehicle moving. Within a relatively

short period of time, this developed into a significant protest involving several hundred people. Police attended due to the public safety concerns. A command structure was implemented, and local policing officers were deployed, supported by public order and other officers. The situation quickly attracted significant community, media and political attention, and a critical incident was declared.

Having considered the risks, including those associated with large gatherings in contravention of coronavirus restrictions, Police Scotland assumed control of the incident and decided to end the detentions of the two men. The decision was taken to protect the safety, public health and wellbeing of all involved, and to minimise disruption to the local community.

During the incident, two men aged 32 and 31, and a woman aged 23, were arrested in respect of minor disorder offences. All were subsequently released and will be reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

PUBLIC DISORDER – GLASGOW

On Saturday 15 May, several thousand Rangers supporters congregated in Glasgow at the conclusion of the Scottish Premiership football league season. The mass gatherings breached coronavirus restrictions, and contravened requests by Police Scotland, the Scottish Government and Rangers Football Club, that fans should take personal responsibility for their actions and not congregate in large numbers. Despite the prior requests, it was anticipated that crowds would gather, and a robust response plan had been developed, involving significant numbers of Police Scotland officers and other partners.

The gatherings were initially peaceful, and there was a proportionate policing approach designed to tackle anti-social behaviour, minimise wider disruption, and encourage dispersal to keep everyone safe. Due to the large number of supporters involved, there were limited tactical options to prevent the convergence at Ibrox Stadium and George Square, Glasgow, other than the use of significant force, which was not assessed to be proportionate or reasonable.

During the day, the crowd dynamic within George Square changed, leading to alcohol fuelled disorder, aggression and violence. In response to the shifting dynamic, public order officers were deployed to disperse the crowd, which led to missiles being thrown and violence directed towards officers, a number of whom were injured. As a result of the professional policing response, the crowd was eventually dispersed. During the operation, 28 people were arrested for a variety of offences,

and investigations continue to identify and arrest others who were involved in the violent disorder.

The events on the day were extremely challenging. The unacceptable actions of a sizeable minority within George Square placed police officers and the citizens of Glasgow at risk. Officers who were discharging their public duty to maintain public safety were attacked and injured, and I utterly condemn the actions of those involved. I place on record my sincere thanks to the officers and staff involved in the policing operation, who acted with bravery and integrity while facing significant provocation and danger.

MUTUAL AID PROVISION – G7 CONFERENCE

Police Scotland derives benefit from close co-operation with policing across the United Kingdom. In this regard, as Chief Constable I have agreed to provide mutual aid support to Devon and Cornwall Police in respect of the G7 Conference, scheduled to take place in Cornwall between Friday 11 and Sunday 13 June. Conventional, public order, search and other officers and staff will be deployed to support the policing operation. Planning for the operation will ensure there is appropriate mitigation of coronavirus risks and that officer welfare is prioritised.

6. OUR PEOPLE

YOUR VOICE MATTERS SURVEY

The SPA and Police Scotland Wellbeing and Engagement Survey, 'Your Voice Matters', concluded on Tuesday 27 April. The two part Survey was run by Durham University Business School, who have significant experience and credibility in this field, having worked with over 30 police forces throughout the United Kingdom. The Survey attracted 7,671 responses, a response rate of around 32%. This is in line with Durham University Business School expectations, and will enable robust analysis and reporting.

I look forward to receiving the reports from the Survey, and remain fully committed to improving how we enable and support officers and staff to discharge their duties, as they serve the citizens and communities of Scotland.

SENIOR LEADERS' FORUM

On Friday 23 April, I hosted the latest Police Scotland Senior Leaders' Forum. The virtual session provided an opportunity for senior officers

and staff to meet and discuss matters of strategic importance. Topics which were considered included the policing response in respect of the COP26 Conference and the Euro 2020 Championships; budget and finance; leadership; and the ongoing Police Scotland change programme.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

On Wednesday 5 May, I welcomed over 170 participants to the first 'Your Leadership Matters' online summit. Your Leadership Matters is a new programme, taking place between May and July, designed to enhance senior leadership skills, and enable senior leaders to contribute effectively to shape the future of policing in Scotland. Supporting our ambition to develop further our experienced, capable and collaborative leaders, the programme involves three half day summits, where participants explore different leadership themes, supplemented by group coaching sessions and access to online material.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the information contained in this report.