

**Meeting 20 November 2020 13:00 – 15:00**

**Members attending:**

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Chief Superintendent Davie Duncan, Police Scotland

Martyn Evans, SPA Board Member

Maria Galli, CYPCS

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

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

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

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

**Secretariat:**

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Eleanor Gaw, SPA

Fiona Miller, 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 update

There has been no OpTICAL Group meeting this week.

### Data analysis and contextual information for public reporting

Professor McVie provided an update on her recent data work. She is awaiting feedback from the OpTICAL Group before progressing further work on nominal data. Professor McVie has prepared a draft data paper, will liaise with the IAG Chair and OpTICAL on any amendments ahead of wider circulation, and is resuming work related to SCTS data. Next week's OpTICAL discussions will include further consideration of FPN and arrest data.

Professor McVie briefed members on progress in developing the contextual picture and evidence of those with lived experience. This has included discussions with a Romanian officer at Police Scotland on impacts and contacts in the Eastern European community, and with Dr Gwenetta Curry from the University of Edinburgh and [Usher Network for Covid-19 Evidence Reviews](#). The Usher Network covers a wider spectrum of Covid-19 impacts, including any impacts associated with ethnicity.

Key points from these discussions included –

- It is a mistake to treat broader ethnicity categories such as Eastern European or BME groupings as in any way homogenous. There are major cultural differences within these larger groupings which significantly influence the impact of the pandemic on particular communities.
- Language is a significant issue, and a barrier to understanding the regulations and expectations on compliance. With the temporary closure of many local support groups like churches or community networks, individuals can be isolated, and unclear of the guidance and regulations they need to follow. Some community members don't access English news channels, so don't get news coverage of local restrictions and guidance.
- The impact of historical distrust of the state in some sections of the community means that what, for some, are sensible public messages, seem to others to be an unwarranted infringement of their rights.
- Data gathering on police activity is focused on FPNs, so there is little data reflecting the richer picture of Police Scotland engagement with local communities. There is more general concern at the availability of meaningful data on the wider impact of the pandemic and ethnicity in Scotland.
- In highlighting the main impacts of the pandemic, policing had not been raised as an issue in these discussions.

OFFICIAL

## OFFICIAL

- Professor McVie has a further meeting scheduled with Unison Black Workers' Group, and will share a note of any outputs from all three discussions with Chair.
- There will be a fuller report from Professor McVie and discussion on data, at the next IAG meeting 27 November.

Members agreed that this contextual work is essential to provide an accurate reflection of the impact of policing the pandemic, alongside the reporting of data analysis.

### **Staff and Officer Interviews**

Gill Imery confirmed that HMICS staff and officer interviews will be scheduled for early 2021. Discussion of potential questions will take place at OptICAL in the first instance.

### **Police Scotland weekly briefing**

Chief Superintendent Duncan briefed members on policing activity relating to enforcement on house parties and quarantine referrals over the previous week. This information is now available to view on egress. There is still an issue with people using block bookings at hotels to hold larger gatherings, although the numbers of instances is small.

The 4 E's approach will continue to be used by Police Scotland, including around the new travel regulations, and it is not anticipated that the service will be proactively using road blocks.

### **SPA Public Confidence Survey**

Martyn Evans briefed members that results of the third wave of the SPA public opinion survey on policing during the pandemic would be published next week. Public confidence remains higher than before the pandemic, albeit it has dipped slightly from the previous survey. It was agreed that the IAG would invite a presentation from the SPA on the findings, and approach Police Scotland for a future update on findings from the "Your Police" survey.

**Action:** Secretariat will invite input from the SPA and Police Scotland on each set of survey findings.

### **Citizen Space**

One additional response has been received. At present there is no immediate competing demand for the Citizen Space facility, and any potential future changes will be discussed with the IAG well ahead of time.

## **4. Future Meetings**

The Chair and Professor McVie are attending Justice Sub Committee on 23 November. The Chair highlighted concerns on the absence of Equality Impact Assessments relating to Covid-19 regulations, which may be included in his evidence to the Justice Sub Committee.

OFFICIAL

## OFFICIAL

The Chair will share the new regulations which come into force at 18:00 this evening, for circulation to the group (actioned 20 11 2020).

The IAG meeting 27 November will include the data paper being prepared by Professor McVie, and may be a lengthier meeting. The paper will also be shared with NISAG members under confidential cover, with some key questions from Ephraim who will then provide feedback to the IAG.

Members agreed to meet weekly through to the 18<sup>th</sup> December, then review the schedule in the New Year. The OptICAL group is also continuing to meet throughout this period.

### **5. AOCB**

Date of the Next Meeting **Friday 27 November 2020, 13:00 – 15:00**

OFFICIAL