

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	25 August 2022
Location	Technology and Innovation Centre, Glasgow
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Sir Iain Livingstone QPM Chief Constable
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

Critical Incident – Isle of Skye

On Wednesday 10 August 2022, 47 year old John MacKinnon tragically died after being shot within his home address in Teangue, Isle of Skye. In linked incidents, a 32 year old woman sustained serious injuries when she was attacked within her home address on the Island, while a 63 year old man and 63 year old woman sustained serious injuries, following an attack involving a firearm, at their address in Dornie, Kyle.

An immediate policing response was instigated involving officers from Highland and Islands Division, armed policing, specialist resources, and other emergency services. A 39 year old man was arrested at the scene of one of the incidents and subsequently appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court, charged with murder and three counts of attempted murder. He was remanded in custody.

The investigation into these serious incidents, involving the criminal use of firearms, is being led by detective officers from Police Scotland's Major Investigation Team. Officers from Highland and Islands Division continue to provide additional reassurance and support within the local communities.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Significant Convictions

On Friday 1 July at the High Court in Edinburgh, 34 year old John Todd was sentenced to 5 years 10 months imprisonment following his conviction in respect of serious sexual offences. The conviction and sentence followed an investigation by detective officers from Fife Division into offences, including rape, against a number of women in Perth, Angus and Fife over a five year period.

On Tuesday 26 July at the High Court in Stirling, 39 year old Mark

Anderson was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment following his conviction in respect of serious sexual offences. The conviction and sentence followed a complex investigation by specialist detective officers and criminal justice partners into a number of offences, including rape and sexual assault, which took place in Edinburgh and East Lothian between 2006 and 2017.

On Wednesday 27 July at the High Court in Stirling, 34 year old Derek Wellington was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment following his conviction in respect of endangering the life of his ex-partner and her family. The conviction and sentence followed an investigation carried out by Police Scotland's Public Protection Unit, working in conjunction with a number of partner agencies, into sustained domestic abuse offending in 2021, including assault and culpable and reckless conduct.

On Monday 15 August at the High Court in Edinburgh, 69 year old Stewart Polson and 63 year old David Sinclair were sentenced to 13 years imprisonment, and 45 months imprisonment, following their convictions in respect of serious sexual offences. The convictions and sentences followed an investigation by detective officers from Police Scotland's Public Protection Unit, into sexual offending against children over a forty year period.

DRUGS

Drug Seizures

Police Scotland remains determined to tackle the threat posed by those involved in the supply of controlled drugs, who continue to cause harm in our communities and impact on some of the most vulnerable in our society. Since the last meeting of the Authority, officers throughout Scotland have recovered significant quantities of controlled drugs and made a number of arrests.

Over a six week period, in seven separate operations in Boat of Garten, Edinburgh, Hawick, Paisley, Kilmarnock, Cairnryan, and Patna, and in a further joint operation with colleagues from West Midlands and West Mercia Police in Birmingham, controlled drugs including cannabis, cocaine, and crack cocaine, with a combined estimated street value of around £5 million, were seized. The various operations, which included pro-active vehicle stops, intelligence-led residential and commercial property searches, investigations into County Lines, and general patrol search activity, resulted in the arrests of eleven individuals, aged between 20 and 46 years, in respect of drug supply offences.

ROAD SAFETY

Road Safety Proactivity

The summer Drink and Drug Driving Campaign took place between Monday 4 and Sunday 17 July. The nationwide campaign focused on reducing road casualties by highlighting the risks associated with drink and drug driving, combined with targeted enforcement activity. During the campaign, officers carried out 585 roadside breath screening tests, as well as 152 roadside drug screening tests, leading to the detection of 295 drink or drug driving offences.

In addition to the summer Drink and Drug Driving Campaign, we continue to carry out various pro-active campaigns, operations and patrols on the roads network to deter and detect offending, and positively influence driver behaviour. This includes ongoing motorcycle safety activity; Operation Tramline which involves the deployment of an unmarked HGV; and the Drive on the Left Campaign, which focuses on engagement with foreign drivers who may be unfamiliar with Scottish roads during the summer holiday period.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Tackling Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Protecting children is a key priority for Police Scotland. We have previously reported that in recent years, incidents of online child sexual abuse and exploitation continue to rise. On Wednesday 13 July, almost 100 officers and staff attended a continuous professional development event relating to victim identification, hosted by the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit, at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. As part of ongoing activity to support and develop those who may become involved in tackling online child sexual abuse and exploitation, the event was designed to raise awareness and highlight the importance of the victim identification role, and included a number of presentations and case study reviews.

'That Guy' Campaign

As previously reported to the Authority, in October 2021, Police Scotland launched the sexual crime prevention campaign 'That Guy', which emphasises that men must take responsibility for ending sexual violence by changing their attitudes and behaviours towards women, as well as

challenging those of their peers.

The campaign video has now received more than six million global views, and has been adopted and adapted for use in a number of countries. It has received 10 national and international awards. The campaign's success reflects the importance of its message - that men must take the lead in tackling sexual violence against women and girls. While behaviour change has been a key focus of Police Scotland public protection campaigns for a number of years, this often has been targeted towards perpetrators. 'That Guy' does not focus solely on perpetrators, but rather, it speaks to all men and challenges them to look at themselves, and think about how their behaviour may contribute to women and girls feeling unsafe or threatened. Importantly, it emphasises that men have the power to tackle sexual crime against women. Work to develop Phase Two of the 'That Guy' campaign is ongoing, and is a key strand in the development of Police Scotland's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Drink and Drug Spiking

Police Scotland continues to carry out investigative and preventative activity in respect of drink and drug spiking, and on Wednesday 29 June 2022, along with key partners and stakeholder, we participated in the latest Scottish Government Roundtable relating to this issue. Over the summer, 'ByStander' briefing information was provided to event stewards and staff at a number of high profile music concerts across the country. Following positive feedback, this information, which encourages licensed premises and event staff to look for and recognise potential vulnerability, will be shared more widely across the events industry. Additionally, in advance of students returning to colleges and universities, Police Scotland is working with partners to ensure that relevant personal safety information is provided, including raising awareness of the 'Ask for Angela' scheme which enables women to discreetly alert venue staff should they feel unsafe.

Alcohol Proxy Purchasing Campaign

Police Scotland recognises the significant issues associated with underage drinking, which is often enabled by the proxy buying of alcohol for young people under the age of 18. In conjunction with community partners, we support efforts to keep young people safe from alcohol-related harm, and are committed to prevention activity designed to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.

On Thursday 30 June, the 'It'll Cost You!' programme was launched

across Scotland. The programme, which is designed to tackle underage drinking and youth disorder, is a collaboration between Police Scotland, Local Authorities, and alcohol producers and retailers, which aims to highlight that purchasing alcohol for young people under the age of 18 is a crime, and raise awareness of the damage it can cause. The national roll out of the campaign follows successful pilots by the Scottish Alcohol Industry Partnership in Lanarkshire, Edinburgh and Glasgow, which resulted in a reduction in incidents of street drinking and anti-social behaviour.

SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

Response to Major Incidents

Major Incidents (MIs) can arise from a variety of situations and circumstances. While the particular circumstances of each individual MI will be unique, it is widely recognised that in every MI situation, effective multi-agency co-operation is key to the delivery of an effective and co-ordinated response which supports affected communities. As part of continuous inter-agency training and development, on Wednesday 20 July, Police Scotland's Major Incident Support and Coordination Unit facilitated a multi-agency exercise at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. The exercise was designed to test the collective response to a major incident, enhance partner agency inter-operability, and assess the effectiveness of the activation, deployment and operation of disaster victim identification and casualty bureau specialists.

In addition to a variety of Police Scotland attendees, external participants included representatives from Scottish Government, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, SPA Forensic Services, Forensic Pathology, UK Casualty Bureau, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Local Authorities, National Health Service, Scottish Energy Networks, as well as colleagues from the National Police Chiefs' Council.

National Change Event

While we have consistently introduced and delivered service improvements since the establishment of Police Scotland in 2013, we recognise the continuing need for development and transformation to enable a 21st century policing service. On Tuesday 19 July 2022, I opened a National Change Event at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan, which outlined aspects of ongoing change and improvement work, designed to better enable our officers and staff, enhance service delivery, and support people and communities throughout Scotland. The event included inputs relating to estates, fleet, and agile working, as well as updates on a variety of programmes including Enabling Policing for the

Future, Local Policing Improvement, Policing in a Digital World, and Modernised Contact and Engagement.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

LOCAL AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT

On Friday 24 June, Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr participated in an engagement session with senior representatives from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE). This was the latest in a series of engagement sessions, and enabled discussions on a number of areas of shared interest including community cohesion, local scrutiny, and local accountability.

CHIEF CONSTABLES' COUNCIL

Between Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 July, Deputy Chief Officer David Page represented Police Scotland at the Chief Constables' Council meeting in London, where a number of matters relating to policing in the United Kingdom were considered and discussed.

INTERPOL LIAISON

On Friday 8 July, Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr hosted Jurgen Stock, INTERPOL's Secretary General, at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. The visit, which enabled discussions on national and international strategies and challenges, included a tour of Police Scotland's International Academy, and an overview of the multi-agency collaborative work enabled through the Scottish Crime Campus. It concluded with a partner discussion session involving INTERPOL, Police Scotland, the National Crime Agency, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, HMRC, and SPA Forensic Services.

This was a valuable opportunity to further enhance relationships and reinforce the vital importance of international engagement and shared learning, as we continue to tackle threats from global criminality which does not respect or adhere to borders.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Between Monday 8 and Wednesday 10 August, along with international colleagues, I was honoured to participate in the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference in Quebec City, Canada. During my keynote address to delegates, I spoke about policing the pandemic, and maintaining and enhancing public confidence and community trust, as

well as transforming police culture towards a partnership and collaborative centered model of community safety and wellbeing.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The 150th Open Golf Championship took place in St. Andrew's, Fife between Sunday 10 and Sunday 17 July. Over the course of the week, around 290,000 spectators were in attendance, with a worldwide television audience of almost one billion. Following months of extensive planning and preparation, a successful policing operation was delivered by conventional and specialist resources from across Scotland, under a dedicated event command structure. The Open Championship was one of a number of significant international golf championships hosted in Scotland over the summer months, each of which involved work with partners and stakeholders to develop and deliver appropriate spectator and traffic management plans, to ensure the safety and security of the events.

MUTUAL AID PROVISION – COMMONWEALTH GAMES

As previously reported to the Authority, recognising the value derived from close co-operation with policing colleagues across the United Kingdom, as Chief Constable, I agreed to provide mutual aid support to West Midlands Police in respect of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Between Thursday 28 July and Monday 8 August, Police Scotland supplied around 200 specialist and conventional officers and staff to support the policing operation at the Commonwealth Games, and I am grateful for their contribution to the delivery of a safe, secure, and successful event.

OPERATION SUMMER CITY

From Monday 1 August, Police Scotland commenced Operation Summer City, the policing operation and response to the Edinburgh Festival and associated events. Almost one million people are anticipated to visit Edinburgh during the month of August, and officers are providing a visible presence to help keep residents and visitors safe. As part of this enhanced visibility, mobile police stations have been based at two locations in the city, and local command teams continue to work closely with event organisers, licensees and other business owners, in support of a safe and secure Festival.

SAFER SHORES INITIATIVE

Safer Shores is a partnership initiative designed to support and enhance community safety at traditional seaside resorts in the West Coast of Scotland. The initiative, which brings together Police Scotland, other emergency services, Local Authorities, and a range of partners from health, transport, civil contingencies agencies, and the third sector, was established in response to the significant increase in visitor numbers over the summer months, and previous incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Over the course of the summer, there have been three activations of the Safer Shores plan. These resulted in the seizure of significant amounts of alcohol from large groups of young people, and the delivery of a number of community safety interventions. Examples include the co-ordinated rescue of a young family who had been swept out to sea in an inflatable dinghy in South Ayrshire, and work to provide safe transportation for more than 1,000 visitors, when all rail services from Ayr were suspended following a tragic incident on the train line.

6. OUR PEOPLE

POLICE OFFICER PAY

On Monday 15 August, it was confirmed that a pay agreement for police officers in Scotland had been reached following extensive dialogue and negotiation through the Police Negotiating Board. The agreement, which will be backdated to April, recognises police officers' dedication and commitment to public service, and the important contribution they make in keeping people and communities in Scotland safe.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday 21 August, Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor represented Police Scotland at the annual Care of Police Survivors Service of Remembrance, which took place at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The poignant occasion, which included the reading of a Roll of Honour and the laying of wreaths, was an opportunity to come together with members of the police family, to remember and honour colleagues from across the United Kingdom who have died.

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

On Monday 18 July, Police Scotland launched a new police officer recruitment campaign which aims to maximise our recruitment of probationary constables for the remainder of this financial year. In conjunction with the recruitment campaign, the police officer recruitment

pages on our website have been enhanced to ensure that potential applicants can more easily understand the application process, and what is required of a police officer in Scotland. In addition, we are strengthening our Positive Action Team, and continue to plan and develop additional recruitment events, as we maintain and enhance our efforts to attract an increasingly diverse range of candidates

On Wednesday 27 July at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan, I welcomed 300 probationary constables to Police Scotland, and thanked them for their commitment to public service, during their Oath of Office ceremony. The office of Constable is a key role in our communities, and swearing the oath is a significant moment for those entering what is a demanding, but hugely rewarding vocation. We recognise that policing should reflect our communities, and our recruits are drawn from diverse backgrounds, bringing a wealth of different experience. I encourage anyone who shares our core values of integrity, fairness, respect and a commitment to uphold human rights, to consider a career in policing, and become part of a 200 year long history of policing in Scotland.

LEADERSHIP, PROMOTION AND RECOGNITION

At the start of July, following success at the National Promotions Assessment Centre, 30 officers commenced the Police Leadership Development Programme (PLDP) in the North Command area. The PLDP is the new certified qualification through which Police Constables can progress to the rank of Sergeant in Police Scotland. As part of the PLDP, officers undertake the role of temporary Sergeant for a 12 month period, during which online learning is completed to supplement their operational deployment, with assessment focusing on work based performance.

On Thursday 21 July, during a virtual promotion parade, 237 officers were promoted, and 30 members of staff who had recently been promoted, were recognised. I was delighted to congratulate each of the officers and staff members individually, and wish them well in the next stage of their career.

On Wednesday 28 July, 102 officers and staff had their long service and good conduct recognised through the award of the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, the Police Staff 20 Year Service Lapel Pin, the Police Staff 35 Year Service Lapel Pin, and the Special Constable Long Service Award.

RECOMMENDATIONS

OFFICIAL

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