

**Meeting 25 June 2021 13:00**

**Members attending:**

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Bruce Adamson, Children and young People's Commissioner

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

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

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Superintendent Tim Ross, Police Scotland

**Apologies:**

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Maria Galli, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Barry Sillers, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Performance, SPA

**Secretariat:**

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Deborah Christie, SPA

Eleanor Gaw, SPA

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### **1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed attendees. Apologies were noted as above.

### **2. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising**

The group noted the minute of the meeting held on the 18 June 2021.

### **3. OpTICAL update and impact of changing regulations**

John Scott updated the group that recent OpTICAL meetings had been shorter than in previous weeks and months, due to the reduction in Coronavirus related policing. The intention is to draw the work of the group to a close in the near future.

The weekly briefing confirmed that reported incidents are either down on the previous week or maintaining a low level, and business as usual activity is increasing.

One Covid related area expected to require continuing police attention over the summer months is quarantine on return to the UK.

Superintendent Tim Ross confirmed there are no areas of particular concern from a Police Scotland point of view on the data, and the return to business as usual policing activity had been anticipated.

The group discussed some of challenges and the presentation of new regulations impacting travel to Manchester and Salford. As with previous geographic restrictions, Police Scotland do not intend to patrol boundaries or specific train stations, and have been clear that some geographic restrictions are largely unenforceable, at least proactively.

It was noted that Police Scotland had recently seen higher than average absence rates for the time of year, due to officers and staff having to self-isolate.

John Scott confirmed that, although OpTICAL meetings will reduce in frequency as the group winds down, weekly reports will remain in place to allow continued monitoring and oversight of the data.

### **4. Reports circulated –**

- Joint Committee on Human Rights. Legislative Scrutiny: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, Part 3 (Public Order)
- House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution. COVID-19 and the use and scrutiny of emergency powers
- Impact assessment of the work of the Independent Advisory Group: Independent report jointly commissioned by the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland

The Group noted the reports.

### **5. IAG letter to SPA Chair for the Authority meeting 30 June**

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The independent review report from consultants Simon Anderson and Jen Waterton, and the update letter from the IAG, will be considered as part of the Authority meeting, and referenced in a panel discussion.

A draft letter from the IAG to the SPA Chair will be shared over the weekend for feedback and comment. The letter is expected to include an update on the data analysis work, reference to the HMICS police officer interviews, online reporting data, compliance data and the University College London Covid19 study.

### **6. AOCB**

Future meetings:

- 2 July – short agenda for this meeting
- 9 July – to include CYPCS report
- 23 July – to include SCTS combined data report
- 30 July – to include near final draft of FPN data report

It was agreed that further discussion is required regarding the future of the IAG, recognising the winding down of Covid regulations. The Chair will also engage with the SPA Chair and Police Scotland on expectations.

The IAG will meet weekly in July, to prepare for the August board, there will no meetings during the first fortnight in August, and the group will then reconvene 16 or 17 August.

The Chair thanked members of the group, commenting that the work of the IAG had continued significantly longer than had been originally foreseen in response to the pandemic, and that the time and contribution of members had been greatly valued.

### **Date of next meeting**

Friday 02 July 2021 – 13:00 – 14:00

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