

**Meeting 5 March 2021 13:00 – 15:00**

**Members attending:**

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

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

CS Linda Jones, Police Scotland

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

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

**Attending for item 2**

Anna Saunders, Katrina Caldwell and Lisa Magnani, Scottish Government Analytical Services

**Apologies:**

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Maria Galli, CYPCS

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Dr Catriona Stewart, SWAN Scotland

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

**Secretariat:**

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Eleanor Gaw, SPA

Fiona Miller, SPA

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### 1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Anna Saunders, Katrina Caldwell and Lisa Magnani from Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services.

### 2. The Scottish Victimization Telephone Survey 2020

Anna Saunders, Katrina Caldwell and Lisa Magnani, Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services (Safer Communities Division).

Anna Saunders presented on the Scottish Victimization Telephone Survey 2020. The survey, involving 2,700 individuals, was undertaken during September and October 2020. It is separate from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, which uses face to face interviews and has a greater sample size, but which has been suspended for a period of time due to the pandemic. This is the first time that this telephone social survey has taken place, and was published 26 February 2021.

The following points were noted:

- The survey confirms that most adults, 91%, are not victims of crime
- Crime is experienced disproportionately by some groups, with around 3% of the population experiencing multiple victimisation
- No specific cybercrime information was available
- From the data, there were approximately 445,000 incidents of crime experienced by adults in Scotland between September 2019 and September 2020, including incidents not reported to the police
- Around two-thirds of all crime measured by the SVTS was property-related
- Around 41% of crimes reported in the survey came to the attention of the police in some form
- The survey also reported on the perceptions of crime and safety and policing during the pandemic, with 74% of people satisfied with the way police in their area have responded to the virus outbreak
- 58% of adults in the most deprived areas felt safe walking in their area after dark, compared with 75% of adults overall
- The figures indicated a lower level of satisfaction in areas of higher deprivation, and also among disabled people.

It was noted that the 2019/20 SCJS Survey will be published March 2021. The team are also considering options for wave two of the Scottish Victimization Telephone Survey.

Members considered potential for gathering greater insight in this type of survey on the experiences of individual minority ethnic groups. It was noted that this would require significant increases in sample size.

On behalf of the IAG, the Chair thanked Anna, Lisa and Katrina for their contribution to the meeting. The presentation will be circulated to members.

**Action- Justice Analytical Services** will share the presentation for the **Secretariat** to circulate to members.

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**Action – Anna Saunders** offered to provide more information to Professor McVie, on the extent to which the sample size allows results to be broken down to sub population level.

### 3. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

Additional information provided by Professor Sarah Armstrong and Professor Michele Burman, last week's contributors, has been circulated to members.

The response to IAG correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, will be uploaded to the IAG website. **Action: Secretariat**

Ephraim Borowski highlighted two matters from the previous meeting that require to be noted. Firstly he had contacted Professor Armstrong to discuss ethnic categorisation; and secondly, how best can the independence of the IAG be represented externally when policing representatives and officials attend. A distinction between ex officio and other members may require to be considered. The Chair noted that this distinction had been reflected in recent correspondence with the Cabinet Secretary.

All other matters are on this week's agenda.

### 4. Coordination of Media and Communications

Members discussed the potential benefits of issuing a press release to accompany the Chair's future reports to the SPA, and that it would be helpful to agree on the right process to support this work. It could help boost the profile of the work of the IAG, although there always remains an element of risk as to how it is then interpreted. An alternative option would be to invite one publication to write an exclusive article which may then be picked up by other sources.

The draft media paper circulated at the most recent OpTICAL meeting was referenced.

Members reinforced the critical importance of the IAG retaining clear lines of independence from Police Scotland, and there will be a follow up discussion led by the Chair on this.

### Reporting to the board

Due to the short time period between SPA meetings, the next full report to the SPA board is due for the 24 May meeting, with scope to offer a webinar during April between board meetings

The Chair would wish to offer a letter ahead of the March board, however, to be included as an appendix to the SPA Chair's report. This is particularly important, in light of increasing levels of enforcement, and increasing instances of aggression and violence towards officers when they are enforcing Covid regulations. Members supported this approach.

Members noted that ,whilst there is a substantial amount of data on police activity and enforcement, the impact of inequalities, and on children and young people and vulnerable groups, remain highly significant. The added value of the work of the IAG is likely be a key focus of the group's report to the Authority in May, and the chair indicated that, at this point, the group may be considering its final report as lockdown eases and restrictions are lifted

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## **5. Data Update**

### **OpTICAL**

The weekly report is now available on egress. Whilst there is an increase in the number of interventions this has not translated into a similar increase in FPNs.

Issues relating to violence and aggression remain an issue for Officers attending incidents.

Online reporting has increased, although it was noted that this does not necessarily translate to a physical police response. C3 will be invited to offer a further presentation to OpTICAL.

The CVI report prepared by Professor McVie is available on egress for members to access.

Members noted that the tier system seems likely to be re-implemented across local authorities as lockdown eases. Generally compliance is still high and the uptake of the vaccination programme exceeds expectations which will undoubtedly have a positive effect on a managed exit from restrictions, but concerns around the tipping point for public adherence remain.

As the weather improves, the numbers of people outdoors in parks and at local tourist areas is likely to increase. Police Scotland are planning for recovery, working with partners across civic society to support a smooth transition.

It was agreed to invite a member of Police Scotland's Recovery Group to attend a future IAG.

**Action – Secretariat** to contact Police Scotland regarding a member of the recovery group attending a future IAG meeting

### **Citizen Space**

One additional submission has been received. A meeting has been organised for 11<sup>th</sup> March with the student who may be able to undertake additional qualitative analysis of Citizen Space responses.

## **6. AOCB**

The HMICS officer group interviews will likely take place in April to enable the outcome to be included in the May or June report.

### **Date of next meeting**

Friday 12 March 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00