

Meeting Monday 29 June 2020 15:00 – 16:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Chief Supt Davie Duncan, Police Scotland

Martyn Evans, Scottish Police Authority

Maria Galli, CYPCS

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

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Diego Quiroz, SHRC

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

Apologies:

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust

Susan Kemp, SHRC

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Secretariat support:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA Communications

Eleanor Gaw, Community Accountability

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1) Welcome and introductions

2) Interim Report on IAG Data

Professor McVie thanked members for feedback received, and introduced the revised version of her Interim Report on IAG Data, which is included in the papers for the SPA Board 30th June.

Findings from the Police Scotland Survey, further consideration of the SPA survey, demographic analysis, and information specific to children and young people are not included in the interim report, and, where available, will be considered as part of the IAG report to the 19th August SPA Board.

Professor McVie introduced the key findings, and highlighted that overall the report reflects a positive picture and that any variations in data make sense within context.

There are some regional variations which have either flattened out over time as the new processes have bedded in, or which can be related to local conditions, for example higher levels of dispersals during peak visitor periods or hot weather in popular visitor destinations such as national parks.

The report also considers complaints received during the period. There is no increase in the number of complaints or geographic bias evident during the period. There does appear to be a reduction in more serious complaints, with more complaints received capable of resolution at a lower level of intervention by way of frontline resolution.

Members welcomed the updated report from Professor McVie.

Catriona Stewart also referenced emerging findings from the SWAN Scotland survey, which are currently being collated. Her initial impression is that this particular group had a slightly less positive experience overall. It was agreed that the group would find it helpful to see the results of the SWAN Scotland survey when these become available.

Diego Quiroz asked about data on people in custody. Gill Imery confirmed that HMICS are monitoring any impact of the COVID-19 on custody arrangements on an ongoing basis, and a report will be available in due course.

3) Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

The Chair indicated that he had received additional advice from EHRC on data gathering and protected characteristics, to inform discussions with Cllr Rhodes and a potential update to the Citizen Space Portal.

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It was noted that while there are challenges in collecting data on personal characteristics, there is also a significant opportunity during the next phase of IAG work, to place additional focus on gathering information on the impact of the temporary powers on particular groups.

4) Report to the SPA Board 30th June 2020

The Chair introduced his revised report. This had been updated to reflect member feedback, draw on the findings included in Professor McVie's Interim data report and the HMICS report on officer and staff interviews, and to cross reference the range of available evidence including public feedback.

He highlighted that evidence to date was broadly in alignment across the range of available sources. Public responses via the portal had offered illustrative examples and insight into people's perceptions of policing during the period, to inform the report.

Members welcomed the chair's report and the range of supporting evidence and work reflected in the public suite of reports to the SPA Board.

5) AOCB, including future IAG discussions

Reporting timelines

Members welcomed the suggestion from Martyn Evans of an interim discussion online or webinar for the IAG, SPA Board and Police Scotland, with potential to include other key stakeholders, ahead of the August 19th Board Meeting. This would provide an opportunity for a much fuller discussion of the work and findings of the IAG, and be predominantly focused on the examination and assessment of policing's response during the earlier stages of lockdown. It was agreed to progress this in discussion with the SPA.

Action: Secretariat/ Chair

The Chair outlined future reporting plans

- The report to the SPA Board 19th August will reflect the transition period over the summer, during which new challenges for the service are anticipated.
- A final IAG report to the SPA Board is anticipated October/ November 2020, after the temporary regulations lapse at the end of September 2020. It was suggested that this be accompanied by key recommendations or priority considerations, should a further lock down be required.

It was noted that the NISAG Chair is now participating in the OpTICAL Group. NISAG can provide a forum for consideration of any issues which arise in the course of the IAG's work, but which are outwith its terms of reference.

Future work plans

Impact Assessments (to be shared via egress system)

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The Children and Young People's Impact assessment is still under development, with the support of CYPCS. Police Scotland agreed to provide a briefing to an IAG meeting on the overall impact assessment process.

Action: CS Davie Duncan / Secretariat

The Chair and Eleanor Gaw will liaise on co-ordinating follow up on previous work commitments and completion of relevant priorities against terms of reference.

Action: Chair/ EG

Other items for future consideration and already noted include -

- Marches and Parades – invitation to Dr Michael Rosie has been issued.
- Use of social media in public messaging. The group noted the associated work of Marty Chamberlain. Police Scotland confirmed that social media messaging informs Op Talla Environment Scanning.
- Any further evidence of gaps in powers.

6) Date of next meeting: Friday 3rd July 12:00

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