

**Meeting 4 December 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 David Duncan, Police Scotland

Martyn Evans, SPA Board Member

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

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

**Apologies:**

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Maria Galli, CYPCS

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Dr Catriona Stewart, SWAN Scotland

**Attending for Item 2**

Martin Smith, Strategy and Research Lead, SPA

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### Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Eleanor Gaw, SPA

Fiona Miller, SPA

### 1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair opened the meeting, and welcomed Martin Smith, SPA Strategy and Research Lead, who was attending to report on findings from the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of the SPA Public Opinion Survey.

### 2. SPA Public Opinion Survey

#### Martin Smith – SPA Strategy and Research Lead

The paper detailing the High Level results of the third and final wave of the survey was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Around 4,000 participants were contacted late September/early October, prior to the tier system of restrictions being introduced.

Martin briefed members on findings including -

- Confidence in policing remains high, with more than 61% of respondents rating local police as excellent or good. This is slightly lower than in wave 1 and 2, but remains higher than in the 2018/19 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey.
- There is little variation in confidence across regions, but those who find it difficult to comply tend to have lower levels of confidence in policing.
- Support for the policing approach taken by Police Scotland remains high and is unchanged since the spring.
- The number of people wishing to see a greater local police presence has increased by 9 % in wave 3, compared to waves 1 and 2.
- Most people do not see compliance as a significant issue, but 10% stated it was difficult or a struggle to comply.
- Those in the most economically deprived communities are most likely to want a greater police presence.
- Of those participating in the survey 95% had no direct contact with the police since the pandemic began.

Martin asked members for feedback on areas of work where additional analysis or research would be welcome.

Member areas of interest included –

- Polarisation of opinion, with an increase in people expressing high levels of satisfaction with policing, while there was little improvement in numbers expressing dissatisfaction across the 3 waves of the survey.
- Any correlation between people wanting more enforcement, with those either most physically at risk, or who have other issues, for example with their health (physical or mental).
- Any correlation between those struggling financially, and those most likely to receive FPNs or struggling to comply.

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- The scope for a greater geographical breakdown to better understand results across the 3 waves.
- Understanding the range of views across similar demographic groups, for example, students

The SPA plan to undertake a deeper dive into some of the findings, and is working with Police Scotland Public Confidence Governance Board, particularly in relation to views and experiences from "seldom heard" voices.

The Chair thanked Martin for his contribution, and invited him to attend a future meeting once the "deep dive" exercise into the data had been completed.

**Action:** All members to send suggestions for additional analysis to the secretariat, to share with Martin Smith.

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

- Denis Hamill, Chief Data Officer at Police Scotland, will attend 11 December
- Kirsty Louse Campbell has confirmed she will be able to attend the IAG January 2021, date to be confirmed
- The Chair has been in touch with Aamer Anwar, to follow up on the request for additional insight from community contacts
- The Chair of the Justice Sub Committee on Policing has written Police Scotland, following discussions at JSCOP 23 November

### 4. Data update

Professor McVie updated members on OpTICAL discussions.

Dr Liz Aston has prepared a summary of key learning points from the OpTICAL Group, which has been made available to IAG members on egress. The potential to undertake a similar exercise for the IAG was highlighted.

**Action: Chair/ Secretariat.** Consideration of key learning points from IAG, to be scheduled for future IAG meeting (2021).

Professor McVie updated members on the FPN report, and invited any additional feedback by email. Members discussed any related recommendations, and it was agreed that it was more appropriate for recommendations to sit within the Chair's report.

Further work on CVI data and SCTS data will be reported to the group at a later date.

Members discussed issues raised by the most recent travel restrictions. It was agreed to invite a representative from BTP to a future meeting, to better understand the extent of travel related issues for the public and the BTP approach.

**Action: Jennifer Blackwood** to identify relevant contact in BTP.

CS Duncan briefed members on the most recent data on quarantine, house gatherings, and breaches of travel regulations, which are now available on egress.

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CS Duncan briefed members on work undertaken on the Policing of Protests by CS Richard Ness, and which will be made available on egress. It was agreed to consider this as a future agenda item.

**Action: CS Duncan / Secretariat** to liaise on invitation to Divisional Commanders for IAG meeting 18 December, to consider any changes related to current restrictions.

**Action: Police Scotland / Secretariat.** The paper on the Policing of Protests to be scheduled for the IAG discussion 18 December.

Citizen Space

No further entries have been recorded.

### 5. AOCB

Dr Kelly highlighted that Carnegie UK has issued a number of reports, available on their website, which may be of interest to IAG members.

<https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/>

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