

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>SPA Board Members</b>		
<b>Meeting Date:</b>		<b>Agenda Item:</b>	
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Operation Talla Weekly Update</b>		
<b>Sponsored by:</b>		<b>Presented by:</b>	<b>DCC Graham</b>
<b>Appendix Attached:</b>	<b>APPENDIX A – Weekly COVID-19 Bulletin</b>		
<b>Report Classification</b>			
<b>Police Scotland:</b>	<b>For Noting</b>		
<b>SPA:</b>	<b>For Noting</b>		
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>			
<b>1.</b>	<b>Purpose</b>		
1.1	<p>This paper provides the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) with a weekly update on policing changes seen during Operation TALLA, Police Scotland’s COVID-19 response.</p> <p>This report contains the preceding week’s information and data on changing demands within the service centre, incident attendance and crime. It will also consider our COVID-19 response including our use of the emergency legislation and how we are assisting our officers and staff welfare throughout these challenging times.</p> <p>This update will have a reporting period, Thursday to Wednesday. For the purpose of this report, the week of Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 is considered.</p>		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Decision Requested</b>		
2.1	N/A		
<b>3.</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>		
3.1	N/A		
<b>4.</b>	<b>Alignment to Police Scotland Strategic Outcomes*</b>		
4.1	<p>This report aligns to both Police Scotland’s Strategic Outcomes and the Operation TALLA Strategic Objectives as set out by DCC Malcolm Graham.</p> <p>This report discusses the flexible and adaptable response to the challenges posed by COVID-19 by Police Scotland (SO1, SO2 and SO5). It further highlights the activities undertaken by Police Scotland to protect our people (SO4). The levels of intervention activity discussed in the report serve to protect our communities from COVID-19 (SO1, SO2). The frequent, transparent publication of papers, such as this, and those published on the Police Scotland website provide engagement with communities, to maintain trust and confidence (SO3).</p>		

<b>5.</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
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## **5.1 CURRENT LANDSCAPE**

Over the last week, as Scotland moves towards 'Phase 2' of the 'Route map through and out of the Crisis' Police Scotland have continued to apply guidelines in line with 'Phase 1' which were implemented on 29th May. The initial changes in 'Phase 2' will come into effect from Fri 19th June and will allow those in the shielded community some additional freedoms, as well as extending groups that are permitted to meet. Face coverings will also be made mandatory for anyone using public transport in an effort to suppress the virus as we move into, and through this phase.

The weather during this week has been changeable and not assessed to have had any significant impact on the behaviour of the public, indeed there have been several days where no COVID-19 fixed penalty notices have been issued.

Protest activity has continued in the last week. There have been a number of arrests as counter protests place additional demands and challenges on Police Scotland, given the incompatibility of these mass gatherings with the prevailing COVID-19 legislation and social distancing guidelines.

## **5.2 SERVICE CENTRE DEMAND**

In the last week, the volume of 101 calls answered increased by 9% whilst the volume of 999 calls answered by Police Scotland also increased by 9%. Calls to 999 are almost on a par with levels seen during the same period last year, at the same time as there is a reduction in 101 calls for the equivalent time period in 2019.

## **5.3 INCIDENT DEMAND**

When compared to the previous week, incident volumes have increased by 9.5%.

Public nuisance incidents saw an increase of 16.3% when compared to last week. Noise complaints have increased by 23.8% and theft incidents have also increased by 6.1%. Incidents relating to assault increased by 11.7% and missing person incidents have increased by 24.4% when compared to the previous week.

However in comparison to the previous year, each of these incident types are trending at lower levels with the exception of public nuisance and noise, which continue to trend at considerably higher levels.

## **5.4 CRIME**

Crime is currently trending lower than seasonal averages. Recorded crime has decreased by 14.6% from the previous week and is down 11.8% from the previous year.

There has been an increase of 16.8% in the level of fraud from the previous week and the volume of fraud remains considerably higher than the previous year. The increase this year may in part be due to a change in the reporting standards for fraud introduced at the beginning of April, making a comparison to last year less appropriate.

## **5.5 COVID-19 INTERVENTION ACTIVITY**

As the governmental guidance moves towards 'Phase 2' of easing lockdown restrictions, Police Scotland's approach to the use of COVID-19 legislation continues to be to firstly engage with people, explain the provisions and encourage them to comply with the necessary restrictions, with enforcement action being taken only where absolutely necessary.

The overall style and tone and style of policing the pandemic in Scotland has not changed since the inception of the public health emergency.

In the last seven days, Police Scotland officers attended 19194 incidents. This provides some context to the fact that the new intervention powers have been used on 2293 occasions. This is a 26% decrease on last week's figures. Due to the manual nature of data recording for these lower level interventions, Police Scotland may not capture every occurrence of intervention activity. It is highly likely that the percentage of intervention activity which results in enforcement is actually be smaller than reported.

Officers have only had to resort to enforcement action on 41 occasions throughout the week. This is 35% lower than the previous week.

## **5.6 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

Securing suitable PPE is an ongoing priority and the dedicated Logistics cell has continued to provide extensive training, equipping and resupply, operating on a 24/7 basis. Supply lines remain fragile and this will be a long term challenge.

Up to and including the 17th June, over 14500 frontline police officers and staff have been trained in, supplied or resupplied appropriate PPE. This is in conjunction with the provision of significant measures to implement physical distancing within the workplace wherever possible.

Protest activity taking place across the country continues to impact the PPE usage, and impending legislation around compulsory wearing of face coverings on public transport could further influence current and future stocks.

## **5.7 ABSENCE**

Over the past week, employee absence levels have consistently trended below levels of the same dates in 2019, and those absences related to COVID-19 have also continued to decline. This has been an established pattern since the last week in May. It was anticipated that the Scottish approach to 'Test and Protect' in order to limit the spread of the virus

moving forwards, may have seen pockets of absence across teams or shifts. This has yet to materialise.

## **5.8 OFFICER AND STAFF COVID-19 SCREENING**

People & Development continue to support our workforce and to provide reassurance to officers and staff who are symptomatic. To assist with returning officers and staff to work as soon as possible, a formal COVID-19 testing regime continues. Up to and including 17th June over 1100 tests have been arranged. Of these tests, around 200 have returned as positive for COVID-19.

Testing of asymptomatic officers and staff based on risk commenced on 14th May and over 200 tests have been arranged up to and including 17th June. None of these tests have yet returned a positive result. Further work continues to establish if such testing could become more widely available as the Scottish Government Test and Protect strategy is implemented.

Police Scotland continues to be engaged in discussions about the opportunities to introduce workplace antibody testing should a valid test becomes available in Scotland.

## **5.9 COVID-19 NEAR MISSES**

'Near-miss' forms in the context of the pandemic situation may be submitted for a variety of reasons i.e. when officers are potentially exposed to COVID-19 whilst not wearing PPE, where PPE malfunctions, or in any other instance an officer feels a risk to themselves in a specific occurrence relating to COVID-19. This can occur due to the reactive nature of policing, as well as being influenced by training levels and supply of PPE.

In the last week we have seen 46 of these forms submitted, which has decreased from last week by around 15%. This is still slightly higher than post COVID-19 levels. The increased number of forms submitted continues to be attributable to the process for requesting an asymptomatic COVID-19 screening test due to an occupational risk requiring the submission of a 'near-miss' form. Many of the reports would not have been submitted without this requirement. The number of incidents where a lack of PPE is identified has not risen.

## **5.10 CUSTODY**

'Custody volume' refers to the amount of individuals held in Police Scotland custody facilities at a given time. The number of custodies fell on the approach to 'lockdown', reaching their lowest level on 29th March. Since that date, total custody volumes have continued to increase and, in recent weeks continue to be comparable to pre-COVID business as usual levels. The organisation is starting to see traditional weekend peaks returning which had been less noticeable during the early stages of lockdown. COVID custody levels (those custodies purported to have COVID symptoms) have been trending at a slight increase week on week.

**5.11 SUBMISSION**

This report is submitted to the SPA for information and consideration.

Appendix A – COVID-19 Weekly Bulletin contains the information which will be released publically by Police Scotland. This information will continue to be released weekly and will synchronise with the weekly SPA reporting for consistent, single data timelines.