

Independent Advisory Group on Police Use of Temporary Powers during the Coronavirus

Meeting 27th April 2020

Members attending:

John Scott QC Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Tressa Burke, Chief Executive Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martyn Evans, Member of the Scottish Police Authority

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

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

Alastair Pringle, Executive Director, Equality and Human Rights Commission

Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

Action note

1) Introduction from the Chair and matters arising

Terms of Reference

The chair thanked members for their contributions and feedback. The TOR is now finalised and will be published on the SPA website along with biographies of those members who have recently joined the group.

Action: SPA Jennifer Blackwood (publication online)

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Operation Talla Short Life Working Group (Optical)

The Chair referenced discussions at the Police Scotland OPTICAL Short Life Working Group, in which he, Martyn Evans and Susan McVie participated.

The Optical group will co-ordinate the demands placed on the service around data and evidence to support accountability and reporting, understanding impact, and forward planning for future transition.

Optical is happy to support the work of the IAG, and there is a request that the IAG provide as much clarity as possible when framing requests for information.

2) Communications Engagement and Reporting

The Chair noted the range of comments received online and via social media. He indicated that members receiving feedback could share any concerns with the group, or seek advice or support if that is required or will assist.

The Chair thanked group members for their suggestions offered to date, including the suggestion to seek assistance from umbrella organisations in reaching out across their networks and to test awareness of differential impacts.

The group discussed the development of public access channels and methods for accepting information from interested groups and members of the community.

It was agreed that an engagement framework would be beneficial to ensure the different levels of communication are complementary rather than cutting across each other.

Alastair Pringle informed the group of a national proposal from EHRC to bring members of key characteristic groups together, and agreed to share more information on this.

Actions:

SPA: paper for discussion at the next meeting (as agreed 24 /4/20)

Alastair Pringle: to offer summary of EHRC proposed work

The group agreed to undertake further work to identify key questions in evidence gathering and to underpin engagement

3) Priorities for evidence gathering

The discussion was introduced by Professor McVie, and framed around the supporting papers she had provided.

Discussion focused on key questions around three priorities

1. Application of the Powers

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2. Acceptability of the powers

3. Compliance

There was a wide ranging discussion on all 3 elements, which will inform a further paper to the group.

Points covered included:

- Scope for partners to utilise their own networks to access information and public perspectives on impacts and to help the group understand disaggregated impact more fully
- Requirement for the group to quickly shape and clarify its key questions
- The increasing challenge for policing as we emerge from lock down, with potential for less use of engagement and an increase in enforcement
- The scope for partners and IAG members to offer advice to assist effective transition
- Strengthening clarity and alignment of communication on legal position and public health advice
- The need for regular data updates to be provided by policing
- The benefits of contextual framework in understanding the data

Actions: Professor McVie offered to update her paper in light of comments from members, for consideration 1st May.

An invitation to attend the next meeting will be extended to -

ACC Bernard Higgins, Conference of the Parties 26; Operation Talla Lead, Recovery Co-ordination Group

Stephen Reicher Professor of Social Psychology at St Andrews

Dr Ben Bradford Professor of Global City Policing at the Department of Security and Crime and Science

Professor McVie: will share paper from Professor Reicher to inform discussions

Dr Liz Aston / SIPR to be invited to contribute to future meeting (**Chair/ Secretariat**)

4) AOCB:

- The group will link with Scottish Government and seek early alert of any pending changes in relevant legislation. John McCroskie confirmed that a lead officer contact in Police Division had been confirmed as point of liaison.
- Sharing information and clear guidance: It was agreed that the briefing note from SPA Head of Legal may be a useful guide for members wishing to share more information on relevant powers and the law. There was,

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members considered, a gap in accessible and clear information for sharing across wider networks.

5) For future consideration: the communication approach for exiting lock down.

6) Date and Time of next meeting

Friday 01 May

12:00 to 15:00

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