

Meeting 02 October 2020 13:00 – 15:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Martyn Evans, SPA Board Member

Maria Galli, CYPCS

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

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust

Susan Kemp, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Dr Catriona Stewart, SWAN Scotland

Attending for item 2: Professor Steve Reicher, St Andrews University

Apologies:

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Fiona Miller, SPA

John McCroskie, SPA Director of Communications and Relationships

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Policing and the Pandemic. Steve Reicher, Professor of Social Psychology, University of St Andrews

The Chair welcomed Professor Reicher back to the meeting, and highlighted some of the issues that the group had recently discussed.

Professor Reicher detailed some of the complexities of coming out of lockdown. As rules become less straightforward there has been some slippage in adherence, but most people are still complying with the regulations.

Issues arise when restrictions change or are eased, there are different regulations across the country, and individuals begin to return to previous behaviours. Many people would like restrictions to be more severe, but those bending the rules do not necessarily see themselves as rule breakers.

Professor Reicher considers that the issue of non-adherence has been overplayed. However, the statistics on compliance with the need to self-isolate are concerning, with less than 20% compliance among those who are symptomatic. Self-isolation, following test and protect procedures, are difficult things for people to achieve and contributing factors include -

- Financial considerations. If people can't afford to take time off work due to existing financial commitments, they may query whether or not they should get tested, even if they have symptoms.
- Multi-generational households. If families have limited accommodation and share facilities, the opportunity for the virus to spread to all family members increases.
- Caring responsibilities & emotional support. Many individuals have responsibilities both within and outwith their own household, and additional support is required to enable them to self-isolate.

The CORSAIR study was referenced (see link below): "Adherence to the test, trace and isolate system: results from a time series of 21 nationally representative surveys in the UK (the COVID-19 Rapid Survey of Adherence to Interventions and Responses [CORSAIR] study)".

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.15.20191957v1.full.pdf>

Professor Reicher supported the introduction of additional mechanisms to enable people to comply with what they are asked to do. The rise of a blame culture was considered particularly damaging, as it undermines the sense of partnership and community, and encourages people to report one another rather than help one another to adhere to rules and guidance.

He indicated that it is often in familiar circumstances where people feel safest – for example, at home or with friends and family – which have been identified as high risk for spreading infection. Marginal bending of rules around households

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meeting up or the number of people gathering together, do impact on transmission rates.

There was a wider discussion about what was seen as a rare mis-step in communications and the approach in Scotland, as students initially returned to university and college, and it was noted that attempts had been quickly made to address concerns.

The role and contribution of the media was also discussed, with scope to engage locally and via the NUJ, to support responsible and accurate reporting in the public interest. Often the narrative focuses on those failing to comply rather than the vast majority who do adhere to the regulations and guidance.

Professor Reicher suggested that the policing model of the 4E's could be usefully extended to other areas of government and other services, to support adherence to public health measures and help control the spread of the virus.

A number of issues were raised by members including the potential for students coming from other areas of the UK and abroad to be confused over which rules apply to them; the importance of clear messaging to avoid public confusion and people thinking they are doing the right thing when they may not be; the importance of government and public bodies working in partnership with the public, and the potential wider application of the 4E's approach.

The Chair, on behalf of the group, thanked Professor Reicher for his input.

Actions:

- Link to CORSAIR report to be shared with members (secretariat)
- Most recent IAG Report to the SPA Board to be shared with Professor Reicher (Professor McVie)

3. Note of previous meeting and matters arising

Matters arising are covered in the agenda.

4. Data

- **OpTICAL Update**
ACC Ritchie reported that at the last meeting the group discussed the most recent regulations, and a number of the data sets available for analysis. Professor McVie briefed members that the SCTS data on FPNs is now available to her to begin analytical work, ahead of this going into the public domain in November and the next IAG report to the SPA Board.
- **Citizen Space**
No additional responses have been received. Jennifer Blackwood will promote the portal next week on social media.
Professor McVie outlined her report on the comments received, which provide another source of evidence and support the group's understanding of public attitudes and confidence.
The Chair indicated that this further analysis and public comment will inform the next report to the SPA Board

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- **Action:** Ongoing social media promotion of the portal (Secretariat and Group Members)

5. Feedback from SPA Board meeting 30 September

The Chair briefed the group on his report to the SPA Board 30 September. Martyn Evans indicated that the report had been well received and provided additional independent assurance for members. The appendix on Article 11 was referenced as being particularly welcome, and Susan Kemp was asked to pass on the thanks of the group and SPA members to Diego Quiroz for this work.

6. IAG/SPA Webinar 5th October

The agenda for the Webinar was confirmed, and it was agreed that guidance notes for participants should be recirculated.

- **Action:** Participants' guidance to be recirculated (Secretariat)

7. A.O.C.B

A letter received from Inverclyde Council had been circulated to members of the group. It will be forwarded to Police Scotland for a response to the data request included in the correspondence.

The group will continue to meet monthly throughout October.

Date of next meeting: Friday 09 October 2020, 13:00 – 15:00.

Professor Ben Bradford will be in attendance.

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