



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Authority Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>23 February 2023</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Crowne Plaza, Glasgow</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Chief Constable's Report</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Sir Iain Livingstone QPM Chief Constable</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Noting</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Authority with information relating to the Police Service, policing and the state of crime.

This report is submitted as a Standing Agenda Item.

## 1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of Police Scotland is 'to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland' and our focus is Keeping People Safe. This paper is intended to provide Members with an update on key activity and events.

## 2. TACKLING THREAT AND RISK

### SERIOUS VIOLENCE INCLUDING HOMICIDE

#### Major Investigations

In December 2022, US Authorities formally notified Police Scotland that Abu Agila Masud, suspected of being involved in the Lockerbie Air Disaster in 1988, had been extradited to the USA from Libya.

The bombing of Pan Am 103 and the terrible loss of 270 lives has had a profound impact in Lockerbie, right across Scotland, and internationally.

Following this development, Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham and the Lord Advocate Dorothy Bain KC led a delegation from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and Police Scotland to Washington, to meet with the US Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, and the Director of the FBI. DCC Graham met a number of the victims' families, and reiterated our unwavering commitment to bringing those responsible, to justice.

On 8 February 2023, Abu Agila Masud appeared at court in Washington charged with two counts of destruction of an aircraft resulting in death, and a further count of destruction of a vehicle resulting in death. He pled not guilty to all three charges, and will appear at court later in February.

#### Murder of Jacqueline Kerr - Aberdeen

On Monday 16 January, the body of Jacqueline Kerr was found by police responding to a concern for person call at an address in Aberdeen. Following investigation by detective officers from Police Scotland's Major Investigation Team a 43 year old man was arrested in connection with her death and appeared at Aberdeen Sheriff Court on 18 January charged with her murder.

Jacqueline's death is a tragedy for her family and my thoughts remain with them at this difficult time. The incident also had a significant impact on the community in Aberdeen and I thank everyone for their support during our enquiries.

### **Murder of Bennylyn and Jellica Burke**

On Monday 6 January, at the High Court in Edinburgh, Andrew Innes, 52 years old, was sentenced to life imprisonment and ordered to serve a minimum of 36 years, following his conviction for the murders of Bennylyn Burke and her two-year-old daughter Jellica in Dundee.

Police Scotland had been made aware of significant concerns regarding their safety and an immediate policing response was initiated, led by officers from Police Scotland's Major Investigation Team supported by Dundee City Division. Tragically, their bodies were discovered within a property on Troon Avenue, Dundee.

I wish to thank everyone involved in bringing Andrew Innes to justice, and to Bennylyn and Jellica's family for the courage they have shown throughout.

### **Murder of Jeanna Maher**

On Wednesday 26 September 2018, Jeanna Maher was found dead in her home in Drumchapel, Glasgow. Following an investigation by Police Scotland's Major Investigation Team, supported by colleagues from SPA Forensic Services into the circumstances surrounding the death, her husband Peter Maher, was charged with her murder and remanded in custody.

In 2019, Peter Maher was assessed as unfit to stand trial. Prosecutors later re-raised proceedings against him and on Wednesday 14 February 2023 at Glasgow Sheriff Court, Peter Maher was convicted of his wife's murder.

Our thoughts remain with families who have lost a loved one. We will continue to focus on prevention and investigative activities to ensure that Scotland remains a safe place to live.

### **COUNTER TERRORISM**

On Thursday 9 February, James Farrell, 32 year old, was convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000. The male had been arrested for using an online messaging platform to exchange terror manuals, share racist ideology and post videos of atrocities with individuals in the North-East of England.

This conviction is testament to the work of Police Scotland officers and shows the value of partnership working with colleagues in Counter Terrorism Policing across the UK.

## FATAL FIRES

On 2 January, following the declaration of a major incident at the New County Hotel, County Place, Perth, an extensive multi agency response with SFRS and Scottish Ambulance Service was instigated. The hotel and neighbouring properties were evacuated, but tragically, 3 residents died.

Significant enquiries continue as part of the ongoing investigation led by SFRS to determine the cause of fire, supported by Police Scotland and SPA Scene Examiners.

On 23 January, a further major incident was declared at the premises previously occupied by Jenners Department Store, Princes Street, Edinburgh, when SFRS confirmed a spreading building fire in the building which was undergoing renovation. Police Scotland officers supported SFRS colleagues to evacuate nearby buildings and ensure the safety of members of the public. 5 firefighters and 1 police officer were treated for injuries. Tragically on 27 January, firefighter Barry Martin, aged 39, passed away.

On Friday 17 February I attended the funeral service, and on behalf of Police Scotland sent sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Barry, who died protecting others.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

### Significant convictions

On Thursday 22 December 2022, at the High Court in Edinburgh, 33 year old Robert Findlay was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment and a ten year non-harassment order, following his conviction in respect of a number of sexual offences including sexual assault and rape. The conviction and sentence followed an investigation into historical offences spanning six years against one victim.

On Thursday 5 January 2023, at the High Court in Edinburgh, 47 year old Stephen Whyte was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and a five year supervision order, following his conviction in respect of sexual offences, assault and abduction. The conviction and sentence followed an investigation by Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Task Force, into offences against four women from Fife, which took place over a fourteen year period. This conviction was enabled by the bravery, courage and dignity of the women who came forward to report what had happened to them.

On Tuesday 14 February, Duncan Stanners, aged 35, was sentenced to seven years imprisonment at the High Court in Edinburgh after having been found

guilty of the serious sexual abuse of women between 2010 and 2020 in Fife and East Lothian.

Police Scotland remains committed to tackling violence against women and girls by targeting offenders, delivering a professional and sensitive response for victims, and continuing to encourage those who face abuse to come forward.

### **'Is That Me' Campaign**

Our domestic abuse campaign 'Is That Me' commenced on Tuesday 13 December 2022. The campaign challenges attitudes that drive abusive behaviour in men aged 18 – 25 years, and encourages them to reflect on their current attitudes and behaviours with regards to relationships and how they treat partners and take action to stop domestic abuse before it starts.

### **CONTINUOUS INTEGRITY SCREENING**

Public confidence is critical to effective policing and legitimacy, and it is right that police officers and staff are held to high standards. The onus is on us to maintain and build our bond of trust with the public we serve.

Police Scotland has been driving improvements in how we safeguard our values and standards. As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining the organisation's values, code of ethics, and standards of professional behaviour, we will introduce a programme of Continuous Integrity Screening.

The programme will include additional checks announced last month in the wake of the conviction of a Metropolitan Police Service officer for a number of serious sexual offences and other crimes. These checks against the Police National Database (PND) were announced by the National Police Chiefs' Council for all police services in England and Wales. Police Scotland is committed to carrying out these checks and has also introduced a Continuous Integrity Screening Programme. Not only will all officers and staff be checked against the PND, but in addition, they will be checked against the Scottish Intelligence Database (SID) and Police National Computer (PNC).

This work has commenced and the initial screening is due to be concluded by 31 March 2023. Police Scotland will also commence a rolling programme to review vetting decisions and will also continue the re-affirmation vetting for all new recruits. Any issues which emerge from continuous integrity screening will be considered on a case by case basis.

Further details on this important work will be outlined later in today's meeting.

## SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

### Operation VIRION

Operation VIRION was launched in response to a significant number of break-ins across the country where high-value gold jewellery and cash was stolen from residential properties. Between 3 and 14 January 2023, police received reports of 17 housebreakings in the Glasgow and Newton Mearns areas.

On Tuesday 17 January, five men were arrested and charged in connection with these crimes.

Police Scotland will continue to disrupt the activity of individuals and groups involved in these types of crimes, which have a significant and lasting impact on the householder, families and the local community.

### Significant Drug Seizures and Arrests

On Wednesday 14 December 2022, Road Policing officers stopped a vehicle on the M74 and discovered a quantity of cannabis with an estimated street value of £100,000 within the vehicle. A 33 year old male was arrested and will appear at Dumfries Sheriff Court at a later date.

On Friday 16 December, in a joint intelligence led policing operation by the Organised Crime Partnership (Scotland) and the Metropolitan Police Service, disrupting the large scale transportation of class A & C drugs throughout the west coast of Scotland by an organised crime group. A total of 55 kilograms of cocaine, with an estimated street value in excess of £2.2 million, was recovered and a 38 year old male arrested in respect of drug supply offences.

## ROAD SAFETY

### Drink and drug drive enforcement action

Our Festive Drink and Drug Drive operation took place between Thursday 1 December 2022 and Monday 2 January 2023.

The intelligence led campaign was supported by public messaging and involved targeted deployment of officers from Road Policing and Local Policing Divisions, to deter and detect those who continue to put themselves and others at risk of harm through driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

During the campaign, officers carried out over 3,000 roadside tests, leading to the detection of over 720 drink or drug impairment offences.

### 3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

#### SCOTTISH POLICE BUDGET 2023-24

On Thursday 15 December, the Scottish Government published the Scottish Policing Budget for 2023–24. There are unprecedented financial pressures upon the public sector and upon individuals and families.

Hard choices lie ahead to deliver effective policing within the revenue budget available and our capital funding remains significantly lower than that needed to progress improvements to our technology, buildings and vehicles.

The allocation for 2023-24 is an improvement on the flat cash level indicated in the Scottish Government’s Resource Spending Review and recognition of the significant transformation, savings and enhanced service delivered by Police Scotland. I am hugely grateful to our officers and staff for their continued hard work and dedication to public service.

#### TACKLING CRIME IN THE DIGITAL AGE

##### Significant Conviction

On Thursday 22 December, at the High Court in Glasgow, 31 year old Craig McNally was sentenced to a minimum 2 years 3 months imprisonment with an Order for Lifelong Restriction, following his conviction in respect of culpable and reckless conduct, with a sexual element, for preying on the vulnerable through pro-choice websites, and encouraging them to end their own life.

The conviction and sentence followed an investigation spanning more than two years, led by Police Scotland’s Major Investigation Team in conjunction with a range of partners across the UK and internationally.

Police Scotland is committed to preventing and investigating crime across all digital platforms, to protect vulnerable persons and ensure that offenders are brought to justice.

#### PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

##### Naloxone

Naloxone has now been administered at more than 100 incidents by Police Scotland officers as the national roll-out of the opioid reversal nasal spray continues. The hundredth incident occurred just before Christmas at a Glasgow hotel when officers were first on the scene and provided emergency assistance to a woman in medical crisis until paramedic colleagues arrived to take over her care.

As previously reported in September 2022, work continues at pace to distribute kits across the country. 4,000 kits have already been issued across eight divisions to operational police constables, sergeants and inspectors as well as officers in custody centres. Distribution will continue across the rest of the country, and eventually see around 12,500 officers overtly equipped with Naloxone as a first aid response to potential opioid-related overdoses as part of their standard issue equipment.

## **SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING**

### **Digital Evidence Sharing**

On Tuesday 24 January, the Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC) pilot went live in Dundee.

DESC aims to support simple, fast and effective justice by enabling secure information and evidence sharing across the criminal justice system in a secure and managed environment in an end-to-end process, from evidence capture to court presentation.

The initiative, funded by the Scottish Government and developed in collaboration with partners, has the potential to speed up the criminal justice process, significantly benefiting witnesses and victims of crime, whilst also reducing the costs involved in managing and transporting evidence.

The pilot will run for 6 months with defined success criteria and will be considered for wider implementation across the country.

## **WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES**

### **Your Police, You Decide - Participatory Grant Making Initiative**

Police Scotland have been working together with Caithness Voluntary Group (CVG) to apply for a share of a new £32,000 fund for Caithness. This unique grant making approach in Highland and Islands Division, 'Your Police, You Decide', is funded by Scottish Government.

Recruiting people from the local community, the project aims to improve engagement with decision-making in the local community to enhance safety and wellbeing. Following voting, 14 of 18 proposed projects were successful for progression with funding distributed among community organisations. Local engagement regarding the initiative has been extremely positive. The project will conclude with a community event in March 2023, where following a public vote, the successful applicants will be announced.



External evaluation is underway and will determine suitability of the project to be utilised elsewhere in the organisation.

#### 4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

##### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In December 2022, I welcomed the Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MP, and then in January 2023, the Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP, to the Scottish Crime Campus, Gartcosh. They were provided with an overview of the wider multi-agency collaboration work the campus facilitates in relation to counter terrorism, serious and organised crime and international criminality.

##### CHIEF CONSTABLES' COUNCIL

There have been two meetings of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) since the last Board. In December, I travelled to Birmingham and attended the meeting in person, and took part virtually at the Council in January 2023.

Policing and communities in Scotland benefit from our participation in, and collaboration with NPCC. Similarly, Police Scotland has a valuable contribution to offer colleagues in the NPCC, which will continue to support and enhance the provision of policing across the United Kingdom.

##### LOCAL AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT

On Thursday 13 December 2022, Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham and other members of the Police Scotland senior leadership team contributed to a virtual meeting of the COSLA Police Scrutiny Convener's Forum. The meeting once again underlined the importance of local policing across Scotland, and facilitated positive discussion on a number of areas of shared interest, including Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and local policing plans.

#### 5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

##### HOGMANAY

Operation Winter City, our response to keep those who live, work and visit Edinburgh safe throughout the festive season, ran between Friday 25 November 2022 and Tuesday 3 January 2023. To maximise public safety and provide public reassurance during increased footfall and demand, local officers, supported by specialist colleagues drawn from across Police Scotland, provided a dedicated highly visible and reassuring presence across the city centre area.

In addition to responding to incidents, officers utilised the Operation as an opportunity to engage with local residents, visitors, businesses and partners, developing new and enhancing existing relationships and providing crime prevention and safety information.

### **ADVERSE WEATHER**

On Monday 12 December 2022, an amber weather warning was declared in response to a weather system arriving and impacting the Shetland Isles. High winds, freezing temperatures and heavy snow brought significant disruption, blocking roads and brought down power and communication lines, isolating communities and impacting approximately 5,000 households across Voe, Whalsay, Brae, Yell and the West Mainland.

A Major Incident was declared and local resilience partnership arrangements initiated. Community rest centres were established to provide warmth and hot food for displaced residents, and across the course of 7 days, an extensive operation was undertaken to restore power and communication lines.

On 16 December, a further amber weather warning was declared, impacting Crianlarich area. Heavy sudden snowfalls affected the A82/85 and led to around 50 motorists being stranded in their vehicles. Again, local resilience partnership response meetings were convened and chaired by Police Scotland to ensuring suitable rest facilities were provided, whilst Road Policing and Local Policing Officers worked with Local Authorities to clear the affected roads and assist affected members of the public.

## **6. OUR PEOPLE**

### **RACE EQUALITY WEEK**

Race Equality Week is an annual UK-wide awareness event uniting thousands of organisations and individuals to address the barriers to race equality in the workplace. The overall theme for 2023, set by organisers Race Equality Matters, is 'It's Everyone's Business'.

A number of events were organised for colleagues of all ranks across the country including the launch of the Race Equality and Cultural Heritage Forum (REACH) for minority ethnic officers of rank, an event for Divisional Commanders on Inclusive Leadership hosted by the University of Glasgow, a 'Talk Truth to Power Update' session and an online event for colleagues providing advice on how they can ensure their service delivery is inclusive and accessible.

Police Scotland remains committed to achieving and promoting an organisational culture where people are treated with dignity and in line with our core values of integrity, fairness and respect.

### **CHIEF CONSTABLE'S BRAVERY AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

On Friday 10 February, it was my pleasure to host the first in person ceremony of the Chief Constable's Bravery and Excellence Awards following the pandemic. These awards illustrate the bravery and professionalism demonstrated by police officers and staff across Scotland every day. I am grateful for their commitment to public service and dedication to duty.

Equally, effective policing is enabled and enhanced by our bond with the public and the trust and support of our communities. It was a privilege to recognise the bravery of our fellow citizens who stepped forward with courage when need arose and to welcome nominees, recipients and their families to Headquarters and offer my personal thanks and congratulations.

### **POLICE SCOTLAND OFFICERS HONOURED**

Three former and current Police Scotland officers were recognised for their outstanding public service in His Majesty's New Year Honours.

Former Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr OBE, Chief Superintendent Sean Scott, Divisional Commander for Edinburgh City, and recently retired Chief Superintendent Sharon Milton, will receive the King's Police Medal (KPM) for services to policing.

The awards recognise the outstanding professionalism and commitment to public service demonstrated by each of the recipients throughout their careers, and are reflective of the commitment and dedication shown by officers and staff throughout Scotland on a daily basis.

### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS**

Following a series of competitive selection processes, I was pleased to welcome a number of senior appointments into the Senior Leadership Team.

Jane Connors QPM, previously Temporary Deputy Assistant Commissioner with the Metropolitan Police has been appointed as Deputy Chief Constable (DCC). Two Assistant Chief Constables have also been appointed, David Duncan, previously a Chief Superintendent with Police Scotland, and Wendy Middleton, previously a Chief Superintendent with Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Katy Miller has been appointed Director of People and Development, joining the organisation from a senior leadership post in City of Edinburgh Council.

Police Scotland has benefited from high quality appointments to key leadership roles in the Force Executive, and I have taken the opportunity to refresh a number of the portfolios to enable us to continue to respond to the demands upon policing and drive improvements for our officers and staff and the public we serve.

### **POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT**

On Thursday 9 February, I thanked and congratulated over 300 probationary officers who had successfully completed their initial training course at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. The officers have now been deployed to communities across Scotland. I wish every one of these recruits success as they embark on their fulfilling and rewarding careers in public service.

### **PERFORMANCE AWARD**

Police Scotland's Cybercrime Harm Prevention team has won a top security award for their Social Media: A Parent's Guide initiative.

The team's work was recognised in the Outstanding Police / Law Enforcement Initiative Category at the Cyber Outstanding Security Performance Awards (Cyber OSPAs).

Beating entries from organisations around the world, the panel of international judges were impressed by 'A Parent's Guide' which has been widely shared with parents and carers. The guide aims to educate parents and carers about social media, how young people use it and how it can influence a young person's online behaviour. It also raises awareness of the positive and negative effects of social media on mental health, wellbeing, and provides advice on staying safe online and things to look out for which may cause concern.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to note the information contained in this report.