

**Meeting Friday 19<sup>h</sup> June 2020 12:00 – 14:00**

**Members attending:**

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Bruce Adamson, CYPSC

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Martyn Evans, Scottish Police Authority (until 12:55)

Martin Hayward, Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, NHS Scotland and Associate Carnegie UK Trust

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

**Apologies:**

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Tressa Burke, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Susan Kemp, SHRC

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Diego Quiroz, SHRC

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Dr Catriona Stewart, Scottish Women's Autism Network

**Secretariat support:**

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA Communications

Eleanor Gaw, Community Accountability

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### **1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

The Chair referenced the forthcoming report to the SPA Board 30<sup>th</sup> June, focusing on data, and findings from HMICS led interviews with officers and staff.

The Chair highlighted his discussions with NISAG (National Independent Advisory Group), chaired by Ephraim Borowski, on the 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Ephraim provided an introduction to the work of NISAG. The group was established at the formation of Police Scotland and is supported by the Safer Communities Division. It provides advice to Police Scotland on policy and process with particular regard to equality and diversity impacts and community well-being. NISAG members are appointed by Police Scotland, but the roles are not remunerated and the advice of members is completely independent. Membership spans a range of individuals able to provide guidance across equalities strands.

The Chair is keen to share as much information as possible with NISAG from the IAG. Some of the matters emerging in the IAG discussions or from evidence and public feedback which are outwith the scope of the IAG, may well be relevant for NISAG and could be shared, with Ephraim as a link between both groups.

ACC Ritchie reinforced NISAG's importance as a key advisory body for Police Scotland, and invited Ephraim to join the OpTICAL Group to enhance this connectivity.

The group also discussed recent and planned protests in Scotland and the policing response. The discretion shown by Police Scotland was considered to be an important element of progressive policing and in sustaining public confidence. Members considered related remarks from the Police Federation to have been unhelpful in the circumstances.

Discussions focused on the distinction between peaceful protestors who may need protection and those wishing to use violence and intimidation; the need to protect the public; and the health and safety measures integrated into police planning, to minimise the risk of exposure to the virus.

It was noted that the context and background around public protests may have an impact on the nature of public responses received via the portal.

### **3. Independent Advisory Group report to the SPA Board 30th June 2020**

- The Chair outlined reporting timelines. There will be some delay in papers as the data overview and report is finalised. M. Evans had indicated that there is an understanding at SPA level that timelines may be stretched, and not all answers will be available at this point as the work of the group is still progressing. The structure and scope of the report was discussed,

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and the chair indicated that he intends to cover some of the emerging findings from the early part of Phase 2 in this interim report. It may be that the Chair's report provides a narrative to accompany the data report from Professor McVie and the HMICS report on interviews. The report will be presented for sign off to IAG members Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

- **Data Update**  
Professor McVie is drafting the preliminary data report which will form a key part of the report to the SPA board. This will be based around the structure of the evidence plan which has already been shared with IAG members. The overall structure and supporting timelines for some of the data will be available to share with members Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and over the course of next week, for final sign off 26<sup>th</sup> June.

The OpTICAL Group is progressing linking Police Scotland data with the wider Covid-19 data sets developed by Scottish Government, in the work led by Professor Roger Halliday which was outlined in an earlier briefing for members. This work links data from health, education, children's services and DWP with census data, and will provide much improved data on the equality impacts of the Covid-19 response. Police Scotland are currently undertaking the relevant data privacy impact assessment, to inform final plans and decisions on policing's participation.

The group discussed the challenges of pulling together data from a range of legacy systems to understand the demographic breakdown of those receiving fixed penalty notices (FPNs), and which requires manual cross checking. ACC Ritchie is progressing alternative proposals to ensure as full a data set on FPNs as possible.

Professor McVie outlined the report she had prepared on complaints data. The evidence had been considered with a view to the possible use of complaints data as a proxy measure of the acceptability of police use of the temporary powers. Overall, in the two months following lockdown, there had not been a significant rise in complaints. More complaints had been resolved quickly and at local level, suggesting that there was an increase in more minor complaints as part of the whole which could be resolved locally. There was no evidence of systematic difference across the country during the period.

Susan is also checking if any work is underway across Scotland to make use of a social media trawl to gather additional evidence on public perspectives and response, and referenced similar work undertaken in Teesside.

- **HMICS report.** Gill Imery indicated that work is underway to incorporate illustrations and examples into the draft report, and this will be ready for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**Follow up actions:**

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- Preliminary data report to be shared with members next week (S.McVie)
- The report to the SPA board will be prepared for sign off Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June – Chair / all members
- Susan McVie to be invited to attend the SPA board 30<sup>th</sup> June to support the IAG report – Secretariat to action
- ACC Ritchie will lead progression of FPN data work stream
- HMICS report on officer and staff interviews will be finalised for 26<sup>th</sup> June, and for inclusion in IAG report to the SPA Board (HMICS)
- LGIU report on the impact of Covid-19 on disabled people will be shared with IAG members (S.McVie/ Secretariat)

#### 4. Citizen Space Update

Jennifer Blackwood updated the group on responses received.

So far, 40 responses have been received via the portal.

Of these, 27 respondents indicate that their opinion of policing remains unchanged;

6 indicated their opinion of policing in since the crisis began has improved, while 5 indicate that it has got worse.

Most responses are from those aged 35 +; and there are as yet no responses received from under 18s.

#### 5. AOCB

An email response to the call for views from SCSN was discussed. It was noted that this covered some areas of work out of scope of the IAG's Terms of Reference. Eleanor will circulate to members, and check with SCSN if they are happy for this response to be shared more formally with Police Scotland, SPA, and NISAG.

##### **Action: Eleanor Gaw**

A report from Victim Support Scotland was circulated to members – Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Victims, Witnesses and Survivors.

Victim Support Scotland have indicated that this evidence paper can be shared more widely, and will be available in coming weeks on the Victim's Taskforce website <https://www.gov.scot/groups/victims-taskforce/> .

**Date and time of next meeting: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 15:00 – 17:00**

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