

Meeting 12 February 2021 13:00 – 15:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)

Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group

Maria Galli, CYPCS

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

John Logue, Deputy Crown Agent Operational Support, COPFS

Professor Susan McVie, University of Edinburgh

ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland

Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Attending for item 2

Chief Superintendent Eddie Wylie, Scotland Commander, British Transport Police

Apologies:

Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner

Bruce Adamson, CYPCS

Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance

Dr Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Carnegie UK Trust

DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland

Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director Scotland, Amnesty International

Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Dr Catriona Stewart, SWAN Scotland

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA

Eleanor Gaw, SPA

Fiona Miller, SPA

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1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Chief Superintendent Wylie.

The Chair noted that Susan Kemp had stepped down from the group as her term as a Commissioner with SHRC was ending. He thanked her for her contribution to the IAG and wished her well.

2. Chief Superintendent Wylie, Scotland Commander, British Transport Police

CS Wylie provided background to the operation of British Transport Police services in Scotland, with the network being served by approximately 200 officers. He provided a copy of the Covid-19 update being presented at the Scottish Railways Policing Committee on 17 February:

<https://btpa.police.uk/livesite/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Item-7.-COVID-19-briefing.pptx>

Like Police Scotland, British Transport Police has adopted the 4E's approach, to protect both officers and members of the public who require to travel on the rail network during this public health crisis.

In Scotland, overall compliance, both with the requirement to only travel for essential purposes and to wear a face covering, has been good, with more than 90% of travellers complying with the latter.

Key points highlighted included:

- Demand is generally low with passenger footfall down approximately 80%.
- Across the UK 1,193 FPN's have been issued with 136 of these in Scotland.
- Problem areas have been identified, including young people travelling throughout the UK linked to county lines and associated concerns around their exploitation in transporting drugs.
- Some issues with individuals attempting to use the sleeper service from London to Scotland have been resolved by liaison with BTP London officers.
- Forthcoming quarantine legislation may raise issues for officers with individuals who fly into airports in England and then use the rail network to travel on to Scotland.
- FPN Data for BTP Scotland had not been subjected to deep analysis however Professor McVie expressed an interest in this area of work and will be put in touch with the BTP personnel to discuss further.

CS Wylie advised that Modern Slavery legislation was being used more frequently particularly in relation to young people and safeguarding. Maria Galli expressed an interest in the work of BTP vulnerability team, CS Wylie advised he will ensure the relevant details are forwarded to the CYPCS office.

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ACC Ritchie updated members on Police Scotland awareness and information on forthcoming legislation related to quarantine.

Members discussed a number of concerns relating to the forthcoming legislation and operation of the scheme:

- Any potential for infringement of the human rights of individuals.
- Issues relating to mental health for those having to stay in a confined space for a significant period of time, for example, for those with PTSD.
- Clarity on the role of Police Scotland. should there be any disorder or attempt by individuals to leave prematurely.
- Concern at lack of consultation with those who may be most adversely affected, for example families with young children, minority ethnic groups and disabled people.

The Chair on behalf of the IAG thanked CS Wylie for his insight into the work of BTP Scotland and input to today's meeting.

CS Wylie will forward contact details of the BTP vulnerability team to the secretariat, to share with Maria Galli. **Action – IAG Secretariat**

Contact for BTP data staff member to be forwarded to Professor Susan McVie. **Action – IAG Secretariat**

3. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising.

The Chair advised that he had spoken with Martyn Evans, SPA Chair and DCC Kerr earlier today regarding joint Police Scotland/ SPA funded evaluation of the work of the IAG. A tender document will be posted shortly with an early start date for this work to take place.

March meeting schedule/guest contributors

Invitations to attend the IAG have been sent to Adam Wagner, John Wadham and Eleanor Hourigan. Dates with each, likely to be in March, will be confirmed when availability is confirmed.

CYPCS Report

Maria advised that this report should be available to accompany the report to the March SPA board meeting.

4. SPA Board Meeting 24th February

The Chair has been allocated approximately thirty minutes to present the IAG report at the next meeting, with a proposal for a follow up webinar style event to look in more detail at the data and work of the group.

5. Letter to Cabinet Secretary

Members discussed the draft letter circulated by the Chair. It was agreed that while the letter would go on behalf of the group and with the clear support of the

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majority of members, the Chair would revise the wording to specify those members who are not signatories, due to the nature of their substantive role and responsibilities.

Action

Chair will revise the draft letter for circulation and agreement.

6. Data and OpTICAL Update

Professor McVie advised that the FPN report will be available as an appendix to the Chair's report to the board.

The weekly report is now available for members to access on egress. The broad range of incidents Police Scotland are called to have highlighted that breaches in regulation cut across all age ranges, and are not particularly associated with young people.

The FPN report is now completed, has been scrutinised at the OpTICAL group, and submitted for peer reviewed by the Scottish Government analytical team. There is little change to the recent draft report circulated to members.

Citizen Space

There were no additional responses this week. Jennifer will tweet information about the availability of the portal next week.

7. AOCB

Maria Galli advised that that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Bill stage 2 has been passed, and early commencement within the next six months is expected.

Peter Neyroud from Cambridge University will be attending next Friday's meeting.

Kirsty Louise Campbell and ACC Hawkins will be scheduled for a later date.

Members were advised that the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey will be published next week.

6. Date of next meeting

Friday 19 February 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00

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