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| Meeting | SPA Authority Meeting |
| Date | 23 February 2022 |
| Location | Video-conference |
| Title of Paper | SPA Chair's Report |
| Presented By | Martyn Evans |
| Recommendation to Members | For discussion |
| Appendix Attached: | NO |

Purpose

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chair since the January 2022 Authority meeting.

Assistant Chief Constable Appointments

The Authority announced the appointment of the three new ACCs on Friday 21 January 2022.

Emma Bond and Andy Freeburn will join Police Scotland from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and Bex Smith will join the Service from the National Crime Agency.

All three are highly accomplished police officers who bring a broad and complimentary range of skills to strengthen and support the Chief Constable and wider leadership team. I am confident they will make a significant contribution to policing in Scotland in the period ahead

Policing in the 21st Century: Seminar 3

I attended a 'Policing in the 21st Century' virtual seminar organised by the Police Foundation, SIPR and CGI Scotland on 28 January 2022. These seminars are intended to provide a Scottish perspective of policing and inform the work of the Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales which is being independently led by Sir Michael Barber. I contributed to the first seminar on the governance of policing in Scotland and I will contribute again at the last event scheduled for March. The conclusions of the review and a discussion on findings will be shared with policing stakeholders in Scotland later this year.

Joint Research and Evidence Forum Event: New and Emerging Technologies in Policing

On Thursday 10 February 2022 DCC Fiona Taylor and I jointly hosted an online RoundTable event on the theme of new and emerging technologies in policing. The event was developed as one of a series by the SPA Police Scotland Research and Evidence Forum. The event brought together a diverse range of speakers and panellists from various organisations across the UK and beyond.

Three panel sessions constituted a large part of the event, with participants sharing expertise, valuable insights and their own experiences on a range of matters relating directly to technological innovations in policing. Several public interest matters stood out as key themes police-community relations; public confidence and trust; community and officer safety and wellbeing; ethical issues and privacy considerations; risk management; and effective decision-making.

OFFICIAL

The event was broadcast live to the public who could participate by posing their own questions for panellists to consider.

The Authority and Police Scotland are grateful for all of the contributions made on the day, and would like to extend particular thanks to Andrew Hendry, Police Scotland's Chief Digital Information Officer, for presenting and facilitating the event.

The Authority will produce a summary of the main outcomes of the event as part of its next Research and Evidence newsletter, and a copy of the LiveStream can be viewed on the Authority's website for anyone who was not able to watch the event at the time.

I want to congratulate the Corporate team for their work in developing this well received seminar.

Regional Meeting with Police Scrutiny Leads, North Division

The Authority's [Local Authority Engagement Plan 2021-2023](#) contained a commitment to organise three regional meetings for local authority Police Scrutiny Committee Leads and representatives to come together with the relevant ACC to discuss policing issues in their area. I hosted the first of those meeting with representatives from the North Area on 3 February 2022. ACC John Hawkins was in attendance and the session was well attended by local authority representatives. The local convenors expressed positive views about policing and police leadership in their areas. Issues discussed included 101 call handling, technology, visibility of local policing and policing availability on the islands. The next meeting is scheduled for 8 March 2022 with the East and 16 March 2022 with the West.

FBI National Executive Institute

The FBI National Executive Institute (NEI) was established in 1975 as an intensive training programme for Executive Officers of the largest municipal, state and county law enforcement organisations in the US. It has since expanded to include a small number of international delegates, and DCC Kerr is among them. On 7 February 2022, Police Scotland virtually delivered two days of this year's final module and I was invited to attend and present along with DCC Kerr on the Scottish approach to policing. It was a positive session and a great opportunity to showcase Scotland's approach to policing in an international arena.

Recording of sex and gender in policing

The recording of sex and gender has been the subject of much discussion and debate. This is a complex and contested issue which extends beyond policing and the Authority has had a number of discussions with Police Scotland and Scottish Government officials about the recording of sex and gender in policing.

The Authority has been clear that it expects Police Scotland to comply with all relevant legislation and professional guidance in relation to sex and gender data recording. We also expect all such data collection to be consistent with the European Statistics code of practice, in that data collection must be carried out in a way that treats all people with dignity and respect.

Police Scotland's recording practice makes every effort to comply with the law, guidance and the European Code of Practice. It also seeks to deal with each case with humanity and sensitivity which we welcome. I appreciate that this is an area of significant public interest and Police Scotland is rightly reviewing internal policies and recording procedures. The Authority will consider any recommendations that flow from that review or from guidance in due course.

RECOMMENDATION

To update Members on activities carried out by the Chair since January's Authority meeting.