

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	25 August 2021
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Chief Constable Iain Livingstone QPM
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached:	No

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

Murder of William Leiper - Glasgow

On Wednesday 4 August 2021, William Leiper, aged 31, was found dead within Househill Park, Glasgow, after officers from Greater Glasgow Division had responded to reports of a fire within the park. Following extensive initial enquiries to establish the circumstances surrounding his death, a murder investigation commenced, led by detective officers from the Police Scotland Major Investigation Team. On Friday 13 August, a 40 year old man was arrested and subsequently charged in respect of the murder. He appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court where he was remanded in custody.

Murder of Gary More – Airdrie

On Thursday 6 September 2018, Gary More, aged 32, died after being shot outside his home in Airdrie. Following his death, Police Scotland conducted a complex and extended investigation into the targeted attack, which led to the arrests of two men. On Friday 9 July 2021, at the High Court in Glasgow, Neil Anderson was convicted of murder. This was the second murder conviction following an earlier guilty plea by Thomas Guthrie. Both men were sentenced to more than 21 years imprisonment. Investigations continue in respect of others who may have been involved.

The use of firearms to commit acts of violence, threats and intimidation in the communities of Scotland is completely unacceptable. Police Scotland remains committed to disruption and enforcement activity to prevent the criminal use of firearms, and to bringing those who commit such acts of violence to justice.

Murder of Annie Temple – Kinglassie

On Friday 25 October 2019, Annie Temple, aged 97, was found dead within her home in Kinglassie, Fife. An extensive and challenging murder investigation was conducted, leading to the arrest of Sandeep Patel. On

Tuesday 29 June 2021 at the High Court in Glasgow, he was convicted of the murder of Annie Temple, and will be sentenced in due course.

SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

Enforcement Activity – West of Scotland

On Tuesday 6 July, as part of an intelligence led Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism (OCCT) operation, Police Scotland officers carried out a number of searches at addresses in the Paisley area. This resulted in the seizure of controlled drugs including etizolam and cannabis, with an estimated street value of around £890,000. In addition, a firearm, silencer and ammunition were seized. During the operation, a 24 year old man, and two women aged 24 and 29 were arrested. They subsequently appeared at Paisley Sheriff Court where the man was remanded in custody.

On Thursday 15 July, also as part of an intelligence led OCCT operation, a number of searches were carried out at various properties in the Glasgow area, resulting in the seizure of cannabis with an estimated street value of around £26,000 along with £126,000 in cash. During the operation, seven men aged between 25 and 38 were arrested. They subsequently appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court and were released on bail.

Operation GADGET – Significant Conviction

As previously reported, Operation GADGET was an intelligence led operation targeting an organised crime group in the West of Scotland. Between March and June 2020, the operation, led by officers from Greater Glasgow Division and supported by Police Scotland's Specialist Crime Division, resulted in the seizure of controlled drugs including cocaine, heroin and etizolam, with an estimated street value of around £220,000, along with firearms, ammunition, grenades, and an industrial pill press machine.

On Friday 9 July 2021, at the High Court in Paisley, a 43 year old man was sentenced to 4 years 5 months imprisonment in respect of serious organised crime and drug offences, and issued with a Serious Crime Prevention Order. This was the fourth member of the organised crime group to be imprisoned as a result of Operation GADGET, and demonstrates Police Scotland's ongoing commitment to tackling those who cause the most significant harm in our communities.

Organised Crime Partnership - Police Scotland and National Crime Agency

On Monday 9 August at the High Court in Glasgow, a 44 year old man was sentenced to seven and a half years imprisonment in respect of drug supply offences, aggravated by serious organised crime. The conviction and sentencing was the culmination of an intelligence led operation involving officers from Police Scotland and the National Crime Agency, which recovered cocaine with an estimated street value of around £875,000 during the search of a van in Bathgate.

DRUGS**County Lines Day of Action – Edinburgh**

County Lines is the practice of drug dealers from larger cities expanding their activities into smaller towns and rural areas, exploiting young and vulnerable people to sell controlled drugs, often using violence and coercion. On Wednesday 21 July, detective officers from Edinburgh City Division conducted a day of action designed to disrupt County Line drug supplies. During the operation, six men aged between 21 and 38 were arrested in Edinburgh and Wolverhampton, and subsequently charged in respect of drug supply offences.

County Lines by its very nature operates across borders. Police Scotland will continue to work with partners in Scotland and across the United Kingdom to target those involved in such activities.

ROAD SAFETY

Following the further easing of COVID-19 restrictions from Monday 9 August, the volume of traffic across the roads network in Scotland has risen sharply, in particular around popular holiday and tourist destinations. Officers from Police Scotland's Road Policing Division work closely with the Visitor Management Strategy Group and Transport Scotland to ensure that emerging traffic trends are identified and an appropriate response provided, in conjunction with Local Policing Divisions. In support of this approach, the Safety Camera Unit continues to provide high visibility speed enforcement through flexible mobile camera deployments to busy tourist and priority routes across Scotland.

Motorcycle Safety Campaign

Between April and July, officers from Road Policing Division carried out a number of focused prevention and enforcement activities as part of the national Motorcycle Safety Campaign which runs until the end of

September. In the first four months of the campaign, there has been engagement with over 2,300 motorcyclists, and over 500 offences detected.

Summer Drink and Drug Driving Campaign

The summer Drink and Drug Driving Campaign took place between Monday 5 and Sunday 11 July. The nationwide campaign focused on reducing road casualties by increasing awareness of the risks associated with drink and drug driving, combined with targeted enforcement activity. During the campaign, officers carried out over 427 roadside breath screening tests, as well as 75 roadside drug screening tests, leading to the detection of 156 drink or drug driving offences.

Police Scotland is a key partner in the Scottish Government's Road Safety Framework 2030, which sets ambitious targets to reduce road casualties in Scotland. We continue to prioritise road safety and are committed to improving driver behaviour to reduce injuries and deaths on our roads.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Joint Investigative Interview (JII) Training

Police Scotland continues to work in partnership with Social Work Scotland and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), to take forward new JII Training as part of the response to recommendations from the Evidence & Procedure Review carried out by the Scottish Courts Service. Key stakeholders in this area of work include the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). Pilot sites in Lanarkshire, North Strathclyde and Dumfries & Galloway continue to develop practice and identify improvements through data collection and evaluation.

The revised JII Training programme will be introduced in Local Authorities and Local Policing Divisions across Scotland over the next three years, and is designed to ensure that every decision in respect of interviewing is welfare focused and made in the best interests of the child.

Naloxone - Test of Change

Police Scotland continues to conduct a Test of Change for the carriage and use of Naloxone intra-nasal spray by officers. Over 775 officers have

now received training in the use of Naloxone and been provided with the opportunity to carry it during operational deployments. As previously reported, Naloxone has been successfully administered by police officers on a number of occasions following their attendance at suspected opioid overdose where there is assessed to be an immediate threat to life.

An independent academic evaluation has now commenced and will report following conclusion of the Test of Change in November. The evaluation will allow elements of learning and best practice to be identified, and inform future policy decisions around the wider delivery of Naloxone carriage and administration by Police Scotland officers and staff.

Drug Deaths Taskforce

Police Scotland fully supports the Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce in its central aim of identifying measures to improve health by preventing and reducing drug use, harm and related deaths. We are represented on the Taskforce and continue to work with partners to explore opportunities to reduce harm, in addition to ongoing enforcement activity. On Monday 5 July, a Taskforce sponsored Test of Change commenced in the Inverness area. Running in parallel with established criminal justice processes, the Test of Change will enable officers at the initial point of contact, to refer vulnerable people who use drugs to identified pathfinders within relevant support services.

Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs)

Police Scotland recognises that AEDs are life-saving pieces of equipment that should be easily accessible by police officers, staff and members of the public when required. Work is ongoing to identify the locations of AEDs across the Police Scotland estate, and share this information with the British Heart Foundation for inclusion in 'The Circuit', which maps the location of all known AEDs across the United Kingdom.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Collaboration Framework – Public Health Scotland

On Tuesday 20 July, senior leaders from Police Scotland and Public Health Scotland met at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan to formalise a Collaboration Framework, designed to address public health and wellbeing in communities across Scotland. Key priorities for the collaboration include a specific focus on mental health and wellbeing, supporting local systems, data and analysis, as well as the role of public health in policing, and public health approaches to address societal issues through partnership.

Police Scotland recognises that improvements in the wider public health of Scotland can reduce the likelihood of people becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system, improve life chances, and create safer communities, while also protecting vulnerable people at risk of falling into criminality or becoming a victim. Strengthening and renewing the collaborations between Police Scotland and Public Health Scotland will contribute to building stronger foundations for our communities to thrive, and help to deliver on shared outcomes.

Gaelic Language Plan – Public Consultation

On Friday 23 July, a public consultation was launched seeking views on Police Scotland's draft Gaelic Language Plan for the period 2021-26. The Plan, which is required under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, is the second Police Scotland Gaelic Language Plan, and has been designed to build on the successful aspects of the previous version. The public consultation process will close on Sunday 5 September.

National Football Engagement Strategy

Police Scotland recognises the important role that football plays in Scottish life. Effective and constructive communication and engagement with football supporters is vital to ensure that we understand their expectations, and that they understand the role of officers at matches. A number of supporters groups are now an integral part of Police Scotland's planning in respect of football matches, and attend the Football and Events Working Group which meets regularly to discuss issues relating to the policing of football and other events. The Working Group also includes representatives from Scottish Government, COPFS, British Transport Police, the Scottish Football Association, the Scottish Professional Football League, and the Football Safety Officers' Association Scotland.

On Tuesday 10 August, Police Scotland published its National Football Engagement Strategy Report. Coinciding with the return of football supporters to stadiums across the country, the report followed the first Supporter's Engagement Survey, which was designed to reinforce our commitment to building and enhancing relationships with football supporters. Almost 7,000 people participated in the survey, which asked for views on a number of aspects relating to policing and football. The views expressed will help to shape the way we police football matches, and our future communication with supporters.

Support for Operational Policing**Hate Crime Improvement Plan**

Police Scotland is fully committed to keeping people safe and protecting communities throughout Scotland. Hate crime is unacceptable, and we understand the impact that this type of incident can have on individuals, their families, friends and the wider community. We know that hate crime is under-reported in Scotland, and that our response to hate crime is vital to maintain and enhance the strong relationship of trust which policing has with the public, ensuring that people feel able to report hate crime in order that offenders can be held to account.

On Thursday 3 June, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland published its Thematic Inspection of Hate Crime which included 15 recommendations. Following consideration of the report and recommendations, a Hate Crime Improvement Plan has been developed, containing actions to address the recommendations, including a number of actions which have already been completed. Police Scotland will oversee progress through the Hate Crime Strategic Oversight Group, chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Ritchie, and reported to the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights Strategic Oversight Board, chaired by Deputy Chief Constable Taylor.

What3Words – Summer Safety Campaign

From Monday 26 July, a national campaign took place to highlight the existence of the what3words app, which may be of particular value during the summer months when members of the public are increasingly visiting remote and rural locations. What3words is a mobile phone app which helps to identify the location of those requiring assistance from an unknown, remote or hard to describe area. It grids the Earth into three metre squares by encoding GPS coordinates and allocating each square a unique set of three words. Police Scotland introduced the use of what3words to its call handling arrangements in March, providing another layer of support which will help officers and staff to quickly locate members of the public should they require police assistance.

Call Handling

As previously reported, Police Scotland receives over two and a half million emergency 999 and non-emergency 101 calls each year. The introduction of the Contact Assessment Model has improved our service to the public by using an enhanced assessment and decision making model based on threat, harm and risk.

The challenges associated with COVID-19 have been significant, including reduced capacity within Contact, Command and Control (C3) Division necessitated by social distancing requirements, and an increase in policing demand and call volume in Scotland. Similar challenges in respect of public contact have been faced by emergency and other public services across the United Kingdom. This significant demand has continued as COVID-19 restrictions ease and community and social activities move towards normality. Dedicated call handlers within C3 Division continue to demonstrate commitment and professionalism to respond to call demand and support those who require police assistance, with 999 emergency calls remaining our highest priority for handling.

Call handling is scheduled to be discussed as a substantive agenda item at the SPA Policing Performance Committee on Wednesday 1 September.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

NATIONAL POLICING BOARD

On Wednesday 7 July, I participated in a virtual meeting of the National Policing Board, chaired by the Home Office Minister for Crime and Policing. During the meeting, which included senior policing colleagues from across the United Kingdom, there were discussions on a number of important issues including cross border criminality, the policing of major events, and recovery, reform and learning following the policing response to COVID-19.

CHIEF CONSTABLES' COUNCIL

On Wednesday 14 July and Thursday 15 July, along with other members of the senior leadership team, I attended a virtual meeting of the Chief Constables' Council. Areas under consideration across the two days included crime operations, local policing, technology and sustainability, and policing performance.

Forums such as the Chief Constables' Council and the National Policing Board continue to provide valuable opportunities to learn from the policing challenges and opportunities in other jurisdictions across the United Kingdom, and to share insights and reflections from our experiences in Scotland.

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT

On Friday 23 July, I hosted an introductory meeting with the Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Criminal Justice Committee, Audrey Nicoll MSP.

We discussed topical policing matters including the challenges associated with the policing response to COVID-19 and the forthcoming COP26 Conference. I recognise the import role of the Criminal Justice Committee to both scrutinise and support the criminal justice system, and look forward to Police Scotland's participation in future evidence sessions.

During July and August, I also met with a number of party leaders and justice spokespersons from the Scottish Parliament, to consider various aspects of policing in Scotland. I was encouraged by the level of respect for policing in Scotland that was evident during these meetings, and will continue to engage across the political spectrum, remaining of the firm belief that the more people know and understand about policing, the more they will support it.

POLICE SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

On Monday 26 July, accompanied by the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority, I welcomed the First Minister to Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan to formally open the Police Scotland International Academy. The Academy will enable shared learning across the world and builds on Scotland's rich history of global co-operation in respect of policing.

The First Minister highlighted Police Scotland's strong international reputation for delivering training overseas and in Scotland, exemplified by our partnerships with organisations and forces around the world, and acknowledged the expertise and professionalism of Police Scotland officers and staff.

UK GOVERNMENT BRIEFING

On Wednesday 4 August, the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Scotland visited Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan, and the Scottish Crime Campus, Gartcosh. Along with Deputy Chief Constable Kerr and Assistant Chief Constable Higgins, I provided a briefing on the policing operation in respect of COP26, which will involve significant numbers of officers travelling to Scotland from across the United Kingdom through mutual aid arrangements. I also highlighted Police Scotland's core values of integrity, fairness, respect, and commitment to upholding human rights and working with the consent of our fellow citizens, which will be at the heart of the policing operation throughout COP26.

During the visit, the Prime Minister and Secretary of State met with officers and staff, thanking them for their public service, particularly during the pandemic. In addition, overviews of the work of the International Academy and the inter agency co-operation which is enabled through the Scottish Crime Campus were provided.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT BRIEFING

On Tuesday 10 August, along with other senior colleagues, I briefed the First Minister and members of the Scottish Government Cabinet in respect of the policing operation for COP26. The briefing provided an opportunity to highlight the extensive planning undertaken by Police Scotland, in conjunction with key stakeholders and partners, to prepare for COP26, and the arrangements in place to ensure that we continue to support local communities throughout Scotland during the period of the Conference.

COPFS ENGAGEMENT

On Tuesday 17 August, along with Deputy Chief Constable Kerr and other members of the Police Scotland senior leadership team, I welcomed Area Procurator Fiscals and Police Commanders to a joint seminar at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. The keynote speaker was the Solicitor General for Scotland, Ruth Charteris QC, and topics for discussion included the challenges associated with COP26, local learning during COVID-19 restrictions, individual and collective strategic priorities, and the advancement of shared goals.

ROUND TABLE EVENT

On Wednesday 18 August, members of the Police Scotland senior leadership team participated in a virtual round table event titled 'Policing and the Pandemic – the Scottish Experience'. Hosted by the Scottish Police Authority, Police Scotland, and the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SiPR), the event also included inputs from Scottish Government representatives and academics, and involved questions and panel discussions on various aspects of policing during the pandemic.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS**POLICING RESPONSE TO COVID-19 – OPERATION TALLA**

Police Scotland continues to deliver a proportionate and effective policing response to the evolving circumstances associated with the COVID-19 public health pandemic. From Monday 9 August, the whole of Scotland moved beyond Level Zero of the Scottish Government's Strategic Framework. The phased reduction in the level of coronavirus restrictions has reduced the requirement for enforcement activity, however policing demand remains acute, having largely returned to pre-pandemic levels and in some cases, exceeding it. These demand levels, including resourcing requirements associated with the return of larger scale events, parades and football matches, remain challenging and may be

exacerbated by social distancing requirements and short term increases in absence as a result of self-isolation. Police Scotland regularly reviews and exercises business continuity plans, and business continuity arrangements can be implemented when required.

With the incremental easing of restrictions and a gradual return to normality in wider society, Police Scotland continues to focus on the transition towards a revised business as usual operating model. This model will build on organisational learning from the last 18 months, informed by the processes and procedures established to respond to the challenges associated with the public health pandemic. During this time, the Police Scotland operational and organisational response has also benefited greatly from the insights of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG), chaired by Mr. John Scott QC. The IAG was commissioned by Police Scotland, with support from the SPA, in April 2020, and has provided a vital additional element of public accountability through its assurance and oversight of the police use of temporary powers related to the coronavirus crisis in Scotland. The IAG will present a concluding report during August's SPA Board Meeting, and I thank Mr. Scott and all IAG members for their support, commitment, challenge, scrutiny and advice during this unprecedented period.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26)

Saturday 24 July marked 100 days until the United Nations COP26 Climate Change Conference, and Police Scotland continues to carry out extensive planning, preparation and engagement in respect of the policing operation associated with COP26. I continue to Chair the Police Scotland COP26 Strategic Oversight Board, and along with Assistant Chief Constable Higgins, represent Police Scotland at a variety of strategic forums, most recently attending the UK Government COP26 Delivery Board on Thursday 22 July.

From Monday 19 July, the Operation URRAM Planning Team hosted representatives of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and their appointed private security contractor. Over four days, the representatives conducted site visits at the Scottish Event Campus, Green Zone and State Reception Venue, and were briefed on Police Scotland's logistics plan. Engagement also continues with Glasgow City Council in respect of all aspects of COP26, including associated events such as the climate procession scheduled to take place on Saturday 6 November in Glasgow.

WATER RELATED DEATHS

Between Friday 23 July and Sunday 25 July, six people died in water

related incidents across Scotland. The deaths occurred in water at Balloch Country Park, Alexander Hamilton Memorial Park, Stonehouse, Pulpit Rock, Ardlui, and Hazelbank, Lanark. A further man died in hospital later that week, having been rescued from Loch Lubnaig. Each death is a personal tragedy, and the thoughts of Police Scotland officers and staff are with the families and friends who lost their loved ones. As well as invoking a multi-agency response at each of the emergency incidents and providing family support to those affected, Police Scotland and other agencies reinforced public safety advice in respect of the dangers associated with open water.

Following these tragic events, stakeholders including Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, Police Scotland, Coastguard, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, and Loch Lomond Rescue met to consider additional actions to maximise water safety across Argyll & Bute and West Dunbartonshire. Opportunities for shared learning will also be considered.

6. OUR PEOPLE

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

As previously reported, Police Scotland has established an Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights Independent Review Group (EDIHR IRG). An independent chair has now been identified, supported by two vice chairs, and at a meeting of the IRG on Tuesday 27 July, Terms of Reference were agreed.

The IRG will have access to all material, documents and data presented to Police Scotland's Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights Strategic Oversight Board. It also has the autonomy to request additional meetings, and to consult or engage with officers and staff in order to understand, review and provide feedback on Police Scotland's EDI activity.

WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

The SPA and Police Scotland Wellbeing and Engagement Survey, 'Your Voice Matters', concluded at the end of April. The survey, which was conducted by Durham University Business School, was open to all officers and staff and received over 7,300 responses, which was in line with the Business School expectations.

Briefings on high level themes have been delivered by staff from Durham University to members of the senior leadership teams in Police Scotland

and the Scottish Police Authority, Diversity Network Chairs, the Survey Steering Group, Divisional Commanders and Heads of Service. Durham University Business School continues with analysis to understand the results, and further communication will take place with officers and staff to update on findings and progress. Police Scotland is committed to act on the findings of the survey, ensuring we address issues highlighted by our people, and improve how we enable and support officers and staff to continue to deliver effective public service.

OPERATIONAL FIRST AID TRAINING

As previously reported, on Monday 1 March, Police Scotland's revised Operational Safety and First Aid Recertification Training recommenced following a period of suspension due to COVID-19. The revised programme had been developed as part of the Your Safety Matters initiative, and followed my commitment to introduce and enhance measures to improve safety, including a review of officer safety training and equipment, and improved conflict resolution skills.

Operational first aid training has now been further enhanced, with additional aspects introduced which are designed to save lives should officers be first on the scene of a trauma related incident. The training will provide practical instruction and increase officer understanding of the vital information which supports rapid and efficient casualty handover to Scottish Ambulance Service personnel.

OFFICER AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Recent promotion processes have resulted in 205 officers being promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and nine officers being promoted to the rank of Chief Superintendent. The promotions were once again held on a virtual basis, and in the absence of a physical ceremony, I sent a personal message to each officer congratulating them on their significant achievement.

On Tuesday 27 July, 77 officers, staff and special constables had their long service and good conduct recognised, through the award of the Police Staff 20 Years' Service Lapel Pin, the Special Constable Long Service Award, and the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. On Tuesday 17 August, through a virtual Recognition of Service Ceremony, I also formally acknowledged the public service of officers and staff who are leaving policing, having served for 25 years or more.

CARE OF POLICE SURVIVORS SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday 1 August, I was honoured to represent Police Scotland at the

annual Care of Police Survivors Service of Remembrance, which took place at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The service, which was attended by more than 800 people, was an opportunity to come together with members of the police family to remember and honour colleagues who are no longer with us. The poignant occasion included the reading of a Roll of Honour, featuring 27 police officers and staff who had tragically died on duty since the last physically held Service of Remembrance in 2019.

On Wednesday 28 July, Assistant Chief Constable Higgins represented Police Scotland at a dedication event for the new UK Police Memorial within the National Memorial Arboretum, which honours the courage and sacrifice of members of the UK Police Service. The dedication event was held in the presence of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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