

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	30 June 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

HOMICIDE

Our priorities cut across all aspects of criminality and policing and we will tackle the areas that pose greatest threat and risk

Murder of Esther Brown - Glasgow

On Tuesday 1 June 2021, Esther Brown was found dead within her flat in West Princes Street, Glasgow. Esther, who was aged 67, had last been seen in the Woodlands area of Glasgow four days previously. Following the death, an extensive investigation was undertaken, led by detective officers from the Police Scotland Major Investigation Team. On Friday 4 June, a 30 year old man was arrested and charged with rape and murder. He subsequently appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court where he was remanded in custody.

Esther was well-known locally, and her tragic death caused significant distress and concern in the local community. In the days following her death, local policing division officers carried out additional high visibility patrols to offer reassurance and support to residents.

COUNTER TERRORISM

Terrorism Arrests - Edinburgh

On Tuesday 15 June, as a result of a pre-planned intelligence led operation in Edinburgh, a 35 year old man and 32 year old woman were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000. They subsequently appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court where they were remanded in custody. Following the arrests, there was an increased police presence in the area, and Chief Superintendent Scott, the Local Police Commander, confirmed that there was no wider risk to the community.

The operation related to a suspicious package, which was destroyed by controlled explosion following its discovery in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, in January 2018. The arrests were the culmination of a challenging and protracted investigation by officers from the Police Scotland Counter Terrorism Unit, which involved close co-operation with

international partners and policing agencies.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

Significant Conviction

On Friday 11 June 2021 at the High Court in Edinburgh, an 85 year old man pleaded guilty to non-recent sexual offences involving children. The offences, which took place over a number of years, related to the man's position of authority and trust at the Fort Augustus Abbey School, Inverness-shire. The conviction followed a diligent and complex investigation by Police Scotland detective officers into non-recent sexual offences at the school, and also involved the instigation of extradition proceedings in Australia. During the investigation, former pupils demonstrated considerable courage and resilience to come forward and share their accounts.

The abuse of children causes untold trauma for those affected, and we recognise that the psychological effects can be lasting and significant. Police Scotland will investigate all reports of child sexual exploitation and abuse, no matter when they occurred, to ensure that those who prey on the most vulnerable are brought to justice. Officers from the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit continue to investigate reports of non-recent abuse at a number of establishments in Scotland.

SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

International Co-operation – European Convictions

In December 2019, following an international operation involving officers from Police Scotland and the National Crime Agency in respect of the attempted importation of a firearm, two men aged 18 and 19 from Inverclyde were arrested for firearms and drugs offences. Both were subsequently convicted, and sentenced to 20 months imprisonment at the High Court in Edinburgh.

During the investigation, information relating to the supply of firearms and controlled drugs in Sweden was recovered from digital devices by the Police Scotland Digital Forensic Unit. Intelligence was shared with European policing colleagues, which resulted in enforcement activity in Stockholm. This led to the recovery of significant quantities of controlled drugs including cocaine and heroin, and the arrests of a 26 year old man and 29 year old woman. In May 2021, both appeared at court in Sweden and were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

These convictions demonstrate the value of international co-operation

between policing agencies. Police Scotland will continue to work with national and international partners to protect the communities of Scotland.

DRUGS

Drug Recoveries

On Wednesday 9 June as part of a pre-planned operation, officers from Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division executed a warrant at an address in Foxbar, Paisley. During the operation, more than half a million etizolam tablets with an estimated street value of around £250,000, were recovered. A 45 year old woman was arrested in respect of drugs supply offences. She subsequently appeared at Paisley Sheriff Court and was released on bail.

On Friday 18 June, also as part of a pre-planned operation, officers from Greater Glasgow Division carried out a search at an address in Crowhill Street, Glasgow. A 35 year old woman and 31 year old man were arrested following the recovery of heroin and cocaine with an estimated street value of around £420,000. On Monday 21 June they appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court where they were released on bail.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

National Seatbelt Campaign

Police Scotland continues to carry out focused patrols across the road network to positively influence driver behaviour and enhance road safety, in addition to carrying out enforcement activity, targeting those who put themselves or others at risk.

Between Monday 24 May and Sunday 13 June, a National Seatbelt Campaign took place, focusing on the importance of wearing a seatbelt, regardless of the type of vehicle. Recognising that failing to wear a seatbelt remains a significant factor in fatal and serious injury collisions, the campaign was designed to reinforce the safety message that seatbelts save lives through positive messaging and enforcement activity. Safety messages associated with the campaign were supported and endorsed by Transport Scotland, and child seat safety experts accompanied officers on patrol in various parts of the country, offering child restraint safety advice to parents. During the enforcement phase of the campaign, over 150 seatbelt offences were detected.

Further road safety campaigns, including a Drink and Drug Driving Campaign, will take place throughout the summer period.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Domestic Abuse

Police Scotland recognises that some people are particularly vulnerable in the private and virtual spaces, a situation that may have intensified in the last year as a result of lockdown restrictions. Tackling domestic abuse remains a priority for Police Scotland, and we continue to work extremely hard with statutory and third sector partners to support victims and ensure they receive vital support, to reduce the harm caused, and to target those who perpetrate acts of domestic abuse.

The Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill, which received Royal Assent in May, includes provisions in respect of Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders. We continue to engage with a number of organisations as part of the significant preparations required for its enactment.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

National Volunteers Week

National Volunteers Week, which took place between Tuesday 1 and Monday 7 June, provided an opportunity to recognise and thank the Police Scotland volunteers who provide public service in their local communities. As the demands and challenges associated with the coronavirus pandemic became clear, Special Constables pledged additional hours of service, and between April 2020 and March 2021, they had collectively deployed for more than 93,000 hours, to support their colleagues and provide reassurance in communities across Scotland. This commitment was made while they faced the same challenges as their fellow citizens, and reflects the spirit and dedication of our valued Special Constabulary. In addition, although our Police Scotland Youth Volunteers were restricted in terms of deployment during the pandemic, they remained active supporters of policing, and continue to make an ongoing contribution.

National Youth Justice Conference 2021

On Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 June, Police Scotland joined with partners to participate in the National Youth Justice Conference, hosted by the Children's and Young People's Centre for Justice. The online event, with the theme of 'Children's Rights in Justice: UNCRC and Beyond', featured a number of presentations and workshops, focused on protecting and upholding child rights, and included inputs from young

people who talked about their lived experience.

Officers from the Police Scotland Children and Young People Policy Team presented an interactive workshop on 'Supporting Care Experienced in Policing', which provided an overview of our approach to children's rights, including the Corporate Parenting Plan, and outlined our support for children's rights in a policing context.

SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

Body Worn Video

In February, an initial public consultation was carried out, seeking views on the use of body worn video (BWV) by armed officers. Almost 9,000 people, including over 1,000 officers and staff, took part in that consultation, which demonstrated significant support for the use of BWV by armed officers. Progress continues to equip armed officers with BWV in advance of the COP26 Conference in November.

The ethical use of BWV is assessed to offer a number of benefits including enhanced public trust and confidence in policing through increased transparency and accountability; the provision of additional evidence; improvements in officer and staff safety; and complaint resolution. On Tuesday 1 June, Police Scotland launched a further national public consultation, seeking views on the wider use of BWV by police officers and staff in appropriate roles. The views provided from the 12 week consultation will help to shape the future use of BWV within the Service.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENT

On Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 June, I met with the newly appointed Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans, Keith Brown MSP. These introductory meetings provided a valuable opportunity to discuss a number of areas of strategic importance for policing in Scotland. During discussions, Police Scotland's vital role and contribution to Scottish public life was recognised, along with the wider and continuing interest in matters relating to policing. On Wednesday 23 June, along with Assistant Chief Constable Higgins, I briefed Mr. Brown in respect of the policing arrangements for COP26.

On Tuesday 22 June, I met with Home Office Minister for Crime and Policing, Kit Malthouse MP, during his visit to Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan and the Scottish Crime Campus at Gartcosh

(SCC). On Friday 25 June, I also met with the Secretary of State for Scotland, Alistair Jack MP, who attended the SCC to be briefed on our approach to tackling serious and organised crime, and our planning arrangements for COP26.

Aspects of police training and an overview of our work in the international arena were outlined as part of Mr. Malthouse's visit to Tulliallan, who also paid his respects at the Scottish Police Memorial. During the briefings with Police Scotland officers, staff and key partners at the SCC, the work undertaken within the Campus, and the benefits derived from a truly integrated approach were highlighted.

MEETING WITH LAW OFFICERS

On Wednesday 23 June, I met with Dorothy Bain QC and Ruth Charteris QC, following their appointments as Scotland's Lord Advocate and Solicitor General. Also present was the Crown Agent David Harvie. The meeting provided an early opportunity to discuss matters of shared interest relating to criminal justice in Scotland.

LOCAL AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT

On Thursday 24 June, Deputy Chief Constable Kerr and other members of the Force Executive participated in the latest virtual engagement session with senior representatives from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE). During the session, there were positive discussions on a number of areas including the police and local authority response to coronavirus; COP26 and major events; and the development of Local Police Plans.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON POLICING

Police Scotland has a strong international reputation for policing with consent, with a focus on the safety and well-being of communities. This reputation has been enhanced by the delivery of international training and events, the development of international collaborations and partnerships, and our support for capacity building programmes in other countries.

Between Tuesday 8 and Thursday 10 June, Police Scotland commenced the International Collaboration on Policing Masterclass Programme, which focused on legitimacy and building public trust and confidence in policing. During three virtual workshops, participants from Police Scotland and policing representatives from the USA shared valuable learning, and considered a number of leadership development and improvement

opportunities.

POLICE COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

On Thursday 17 June, Deputy Chief Constable Taylor attended a meeting of the Ministerial Group in respect of Police Complaints and Investigations. Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans, with representation from key stakeholders in the police complaint system, the Ministerial Group is part of the governance arrangements developed to oversee progress following publication of the report by Dame Elish Angiolini on Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in relation to Policing.

As previously reported, Police Scotland is already implementing those recommendations which can be delivered without the need for wider systemic or legislative change. This includes the introduction of a new national complaint handling model, and the design and delivery of bespoke training for officers and staff appointed to our Professional Standards Department.

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, as restrictions continue to ease across Scotland. Despite some easing of restrictions, the policing response to COVID-19 continues to be challenging, and call volume and associated policing demands have largely returned to pre-pandemic levels. The Conventional Response Unit, which was established in January 2021 to provide an enhanced high visibility presence and support to Local Policing when coronavirus rates were at their highest, was stood down on Monday 31 May. This resulted in over 100 officers returning to their core roles.

Police Scotland continues to develop and refine a transition plan, designed to enable a return towards business as usual processes when appropriate, while building on learning and opportunities identified during the Operation Talla policing response.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26)

Police Scotland continues to carry out extensive planning, preparation and engagement in respect of the policing operation associated with the United Nations COP26 Climate Change Conference. Following extensive

engagement, Workforce Agreements have now been reached with all United Kingdom Police Federations and Superintendent's Associations.

In addition to ongoing engagement with Police Scotland Staff Associations, on Monday 24 May and Tuesday 25 May, representatives from the Scottish Police Federation, the Police Federation of England and Wales, and the Police Federation for Northern Ireland, participated in a two day visit and workshop facilitated by the Operation URRAM Planning Team. The visit enabled discussions to take place about key aspects of the event, and incorporated a familiarisation tour of the 'Island Site'.

Between Monday 31 May and Wednesday 2 June, Assistant Chief Constable Higgins and members of the Operation URRAM Command Team met with the G7 Command and Planning Teams in Cornwall. Attendees were briefed in respect of the policing operation for the G7 Conference, and were provided with an opportunity to review plans, make recommendations, and capture key learning points to inform planning for COP26. Police Scotland will also be involved in the debrief process, which will allow for post event learning to be discussed and considered.

On Thursday 24 June, accompanied by Assistant Chief Constable Higgins, I attended the COP26 Delivery Board, hosted by the Cabinet Office. This was a positive and productive meeting involving key partners involved in the delivery of the Conference.

EURO 2020 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Euro 2020 football championships commenced on Friday 11 June, and is being held across 11 nations. Hampden Park in Glasgow is host to four matches with spectators present, and in addition, a fan zone has been established at Glasgow Green.

In conjunction with key strategic partners including UEFA, the Scottish Football Association, Scottish Government, and Glasgow City Council, Police Scotland has been involved in detailed planning and preparation to enable an appropriate and proportionate policing operation, and ensure the delivery of a safe and successful event.

MUTUAL AID PROVISION – G7 CONFERENCE

As previously reported, Police Scotland provided mutual aid to Devon and Cornwall Police to support the policing operation in respect of the G7 Conference which took place between Friday 11 and Sunday 13 June. Over 400 officers and staff were deployed from Scotland, and provided valuable support to colleagues in Devon and Cornwall, ensuring that the policing operation was delivered safely and effectively. The professional contribution of our officers and staff was positively received, and is an

excellent example of our commitment and contribution to policing across the United Kingdom. I thank those who travelled to Cornwall to provide support to the policing operation, and those involved in the planning and preparation that enabled this significant deployment to take place.

6. OUR PEOPLE

YOUR SAFETY MATTERS

On Monday 31 May, Police Scotland released figures which showed an increase in assaults on our officers and staff in 2020-21. There were almost 7,000 assaults recorded, an increase of more than 400 on the previous year, which continues a long term trend of increasing assaults on officers and staff. More than 1,000 of the assaults included coronavirus-related context.

I have repeatedly said that no police officer or member of staff should expect to be assaulted or abused in the course of their work. Such assaults cause physical and psychological harm to dedicated public servants, and tackling the concerning trend of increased assaults remains a priority for Police Scotland. We will continue to work to better understand how we prevent violence and abuse against officers and staff, the impact it has on our colleagues, and how we can better support them to do their job.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Deputy Chief Constable Taylor continues to lead additional focus on how policing in Scotland reflects, represents and serves our communities. On Tuesday 25 May, the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights Independent Review Group (IRG) convened for the first time. During the introductory meeting, members were provided with an overview of the work of the Police Scotland Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Oversight Board, and current priorities, objectives and outcomes for the Service relating to equality, diversity and inclusion. Work continues to support selection of an independent Chair of the IRG, and develop measurable outcomes for the Group.

Engagement sessions continue to be held between members of our Force Executive and representatives from a variety of diversity staff associations. Designed to generate honest engagement, these impactful and informative sessions provide a dedicated forum for senior leaders in the organisation to listen to the challenges of our diverse workforce. These sessions will help to inform actions to support the wider inclusion agenda.

OFFICER AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Between Thursday 27 May and Tuesday 22 June, I hosted a number of events which recognised various aspects of the commitment, achievement and dedication shown by officers and staff throughout their policing careers.

On Thursday 27 May during a virtual Promotion Parade, 43 officers were promoted, and 38 members of staff who had been promoted since December 2020, were recognised. On Tuesday 1 June, over 90 officers and staff who are due to retire from Police Scotland had their public service acknowledged in a virtual Recognition of Service ceremony. On Tuesday 15 and 22 June, over 170 officers, staff and special constables from the North and West Command areas had their long service and good conduct recognised.

On Friday 18 June I attended a Pass Out Parade at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan, for the 176 officers who had successfully completed their Initial Training Course. This was the most diverse intake since the inception of Police Scotland; comprising 46% female and 54% male, with 12% of the officers from minority ethnic backgrounds.

While current restrictions do not allow for physical attendance at ceremonies to mark the majority of these significant events, it remains important that the achievements of officers and staff are formally recognised. These events reflect the span of a career in policing, and I publicly thank all officers and staff, and their families, for their commitment to policing which supports communities across Scotland.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S FORUM

On Wednesday 9 June, the latest Chief Constable's Forum was held, giving officers and staff the opportunity to put questions directly to the Chief Constable and members of the Force Executive. Over 100 questions were received on a variety of topics including aspects of operational policing; uniform and equipment; recruitment and promotion; technology; wellbeing and inclusion; training and development; and COVID-19. These questions were considered during the Strategic Leadership Board, with responses published on the Force Intranet. The questions submitted demonstrate that officers and staff remain engaged and interested in the current and future direction of the Service.

CARERS WEEK

Carers Week took place between Monday 7 and Sunday 13 June, with the theme of 'Make Caring Visible and Valued'. Police Scotland recognises

that we have an increasing number of officers and staff who are carers, and that their circumstances may have been further complicated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Carers Week provided another opportunity to highlight the support available for officers and staff with caring responsibilities, and reinforce the importance of providing flexibility, information and proper support to carers as they progress through the various stages of their career.

ARMED FORCES WEEK

Armed Forces Week commenced in Monday 21 June, culminating in Armed Forces Day on Saturday 26 June. Police Scotland understands the value which serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to communities across Scotland, and within policing.

Police Scotland holds a Gold Award under the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, formally acknowledging the pledges made by the Service under the Armed Forces Covenant. We employ over 200 reservists, and the award demonstrates the ongoing commitment by Police Scotland to support reservists in balancing their service responsibilities with their police career.

Recognising the skills and experience that military service can bring, our national recruitment teams continue to work with the Careers Transition Partnership and Officers Association, signposting military personnel coming to the end of their military careers towards policing.

POLICE SCOTLAND OFFICERS HONOURED

Two Police Scotland officers were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2021. Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor and Chief Superintendent Roddy Newbigging were awarded the prestigious Queen's Police Medal (QPM) for services to policing. The award of the QPM reflects the dedicated public service of both officers, and their significant contributions to policing and our communities. They have my thanks and congratulations, as well as those of the Service as a whole.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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