

Meeting 04 June 2021 13:00

Members attending:

John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate (Chair)
Ephraim Borowski, Chair of the National Independent Strategic Advisory Group
Maria Galli, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
Gill Imery, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)
Chief Superintendent Linda Jones, Police Scotland
Dr Elizabeth Kelly, 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
Diego Quiroz, Scottish Human Rights Commission
Brian Scott, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Apologies:

Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
Aamer Anwar, Solicitor and Human Rights campaigner
Tressa Burke, CEO Glasgow Disability Alliance
Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, Police Scotland
ACC Gary Ritchie, Police Scotland
Barry Sillers, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Performance, SPA

Also in Attendance:

Amanda Coulthard, SPA
Jennifer Galbraith, SPA
Martin Smith, SPA

Secretariat:

Jennifer Blackwood, SPA
Eleanor Gaw, SPA

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Karen Vallance, SPA

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees. Apologies were noted as above.

2. Note of the previous meeting and matters arising

The group noted the minute of the meeting held on the 28th May 2021.

3. SPA Opinion Surveys: A geographical analysis of public views on policing during the pandemic.

The Group welcomed Martin Smith, Amanda Coulthard and Jennifer Galbraith to the meeting.

The group were provided with a presentation on geographical analysis of data obtained via the Authority's public confidence surveys about policing during the pandemic, specifically the regional and urban/rural variations, areas of consistency between differing geographic areas, as well as any notable variations.

The group discussed the unusually high number of 'don't know' responses and the trends identified through them, and suggested consideration be given to undertaking further analysis.

The group agreed the use of 'wave' to describe different surveys could be confusing to the lay person as it may be mistaken for pandemic peaks. The group suggested different terminology be used.

The group sought information on future research and heard that SPA and Police Scotland were working collaboratively to look at research/analysis from seldom heard groups.

The group discussed the similarity in responses relating to questions on speed of police response and effectiveness of police response, noting that the subtleties in the different questions may allow for similar responses.

4. Easing of restrictions - issues arising, including travel

It was noted that the latest data report had been uploaded to Egress. Changes highlighted were an increase in online reporting and an increase in work for C3, which may have been related to good weather and restrictions easing. The group heard some reports through online reporting related to incidents which were not actual breaches as the numbers were within recently increased limits for gatherings.

5. Data Update

OpTICAL Update/Citizen Space

The group heard the work being progressed by Susan McVie relating to charges reported to Crown Office, and analysis of fixed penalty notices. A further report

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will be brought to the next OpTICAL brought prior to being presented to the group.

It was confirmed that there had been 2 responses within Citizen Space with communication shared that the platform would be closing.

6. Preparing the IAG report for 30 June.

The group discussed whether the report to the SPA Board should include feedback from the recent officer interviews on wellbeing matters and the decision not to prioritise police officers and staff at the start of the vaccine roll out. The group agreed the IAG's remit was more focussed on public impact and would therefore not include this subject which is, in any event, addressed elsewhere.

The Chair suggested more in depth discussion take place on 18 and 25 June regarding the data report for the SPA Authority Meeting.

7. AOCB

The group heard papers would be brought to the next meeting on children and young people, and equality and diversity.

Date of next meeting

Friday 11 June 2021 – 13:00 – 15:00

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