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| Meeting | Authority Meeting |
| Date | 29 September 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 John McGregor – Glasgow

On Saturday 28 August 2021, John McGregor, aged 44, died in hospital having been shot in what is believed to have been a targeted attack in Westray Street, Glasgow two days earlier. A murder investigation was launched, led by detective officers from the Police Scotland Major Investigation Team (MIT). This included activation of the Major Incident Public Portal, an online system which enables members of the public to send information directly to the MITs. On Wednesday 15 September, a 59 year old man was arrested. He subsequently appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court charged with murder, where he was remanded in custody.

Murder of Gary More – Airdrie

As reported last month, two men were sentenced in July to more than 21 years imprisonment in respect of the murder of Gary More, who died after being shot outside his home in Airdrie in 2018. On Tuesday 31 August 2021, a third man, aged 33, was arrested and charged in respect of the death. He appeared at Airdrie Sheriff Court where he was remanded in custody.

Murder of Fawziyah Javed – Edinburgh

On Thursday 2 September, Police Scotland officers and other emergency services responded to reports of a woman having fallen from the hillside at Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh. Fawziyah Javed, aged 31, tragically died at the scene and an investigation commenced into the circumstances surrounding her death. As a result of the investigation, a 27 year old man was arrested and subsequently appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court charged with murder. He was remanded in custody.

SEXUAL ABUSE**Significant Convictions - Fife**

On Tuesday 7 September, a 67 year old man was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment at the High Court in Edinburgh, following his conviction in respect of sexual offences against a woman and child. The offences took place in Fife over a 22 year period between 1988 and 2010.

On Thursday 16 September, a 73 year old man was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment at the High Court in Paisley, following his conviction in respect of sexual offences against teenage girls. The offences took place between 1981 and 1999, while the man was operating as an athletics coach in Fife.

These convictions and sentences followed extensive investigations by detective officers from Fife Division, with support from national capabilities. During the investigations, those who suffered from abuse demonstrated courage and resilience to share their accounts. In conjunction with partner agencies, Police Scotland is committed to supporting victims of sexual crime, and to bringing those responsible to justice, irrespective of the passage of time.

DRUGS**Drug Recoveries**

On Thursday 26 August, during separate intelligence led operations, officers from Greater Glasgow Division recovered herbal cannabis with an estimated street value of around £200,000. The recoveries followed searches carried out at addresses in Glasgow, where two men aged 40 and 29 were arrested and charged in respect of drug offences. Both subsequently appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court where they were remanded in custody.

As previously reported, as part of a pre-planned operation carried out by officers from Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division in June, more than half a million etizolam tablets with an estimated street value of around £250,000 were recovered at an address in Foxbar, Paisley. During the operation, a 45 year old woman and 44 year old man were arrested. On Tuesday 31 August, a further four men, aged 35, 32, 26, and 22, were arrested and charged in connection with the seizure, and will appear in court at a later date.

On Monday 6 September, officers from North East Division recovered heroin with an estimated street value of around £120,000, following the

search of a 32 year old man from Liverpool at Stonehaven Railway Station. The man was arrested and subsequently appeared at Aberdeen Sheriff Court in respect of drug offences, where he was released on bail.

On Thursday 9 September, officers from the Lothian and Scottish Borders Division recovered cocaine with an estimated street value of around £120,000, following the pro-active stop of a vehicle in Galashiels. Two men aged 32 and 31 were arrested and charged in respect of drug offences. They will appear in court at a later date.

ROAD SAFETY

Drug Driving Campaign

Following on from the Summer Drink and Drug Driving Campaign which took place in July, Police Scotland conducted a further Drug Driving Campaign between Monday 16 and Sunday 29 August. The first week of the campaign focused on awareness raising via social media, and was followed by a week of enforcement activity across Scotland. In the second week of the campaign, officers carried out 109 roadside drug screening tests at various locations, which resulted in 42 drivers being arrested having provided a positive roadside test.

Through focused enforcement activity, Police Scotland will continue to target those who selfishly put others at risk by driving after taking drugs, while working with partners to raise awareness of the dangers associated with such reckless behaviour.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Naloxone Awareness

As previously reported, Police Scotland fully supports the Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce in its primary role of identifying measures to improve health by preventing and reducing drug use, harm and related deaths. As part of our preventative approach, we are working in partnership with the charity 'Scottish Families Affected by Drugs', to provide Naloxone Awareness Cards to officers and staff working in the custody setting, and operational officers who currently carry Naloxone. The cards, which are designed to be distributed to substance users and their families and friends, provide information and guidance on how to obtain take home Naloxone kits, which may be used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

Recorded Police Warnings

The Recorded Police Warning (RPW) Scheme operates in Scotland as an alternative to prosecution for certain types and levels of offending. As one of a range of disposal options available to deal with particular offences, the appropriate use of RPWs provides an intervention mechanism which is timely and proportionate to the crime or incident under review. On Wednesday 22 September, the Lord Advocate made an announcement on behalf of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Service (COPFS), amending the guidelines in respect of offences which could potentially be dealt with by means of an RPW. The revised guidelines mean that within certain parameters, RPWs may be used in relation to the possession of Class A controlled drugs, where the circumstances are clearly indicative of personal use.

Over many years, policing in Scotland has supported and utilised diversion from prosecution, as part of a health-led, collaborative approach with partners, based on the principle of harm reduction. The guidelines which underpin the RPW scheme are a matter for COPFS, and Police Scotland has been involved in discussions in respect of the impact of potential amendments to these guidelines since 2020. The decision announced by the Lord Advocate to widen access to RPWs in respect of possession of controlled drugs, provides officers with an additional tool to support those at risk of becoming vulnerable in our communities. However, administering an RPW is not the only option available, and our officers will continue to use discretion to determine the most appropriate response based on individual circumstances. Police Scotland will continue to tackle those who bring misery to our communities by supplying controlled drugs, through intelligence led, proactive enforcement activity.

Banking Protocol

The Banking Protocol is a rapid response scheme, run in partnership between Police Services, UK Finance and the banking industry, supported by Trading Standards. Under the scheme, bank, building society and post office staff are trained to spot warning signs that indicate a customer may be falling victim of a scam, enabling them to alert police.

In the first half of 2021, the scheme was invoked by branch staff in Scotland on 526 occasions, preventing around £2.7 million of fraud, and leading to four arrests. The scheme also provides assistance to customers through ongoing support including referrals to support agencies, the provision of fraud prevention advice, and additional checks being carried out on future transactions. Since its roll out in Scotland in March 2018, the Banking Protocol has prevented over £22 million of fraud.

TACKLING CRIME IN THE DIGITAL AGE**Tackling Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

Police Scotland is committed to preventing and investigating online child sexual exploitation and abuse, to protect children and ensure that offenders are brought to justice. During August 2021, officers and staff from Specialist Crime Division Cybercrime Digital Forensics Unit supported enforcement activity across Scotland involving searches under warrant, which led to the arrests of 26 offenders. During the enforcement operations, 735 digital devices were examined at search locations, with 68 devices seized following the recovery of evidence relating to child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Smishing Fraud– West Lothian

Smishing is the practice of using text messaging to acquire sensitive personal information, such as passwords, usernames, or bank account details, to enable fraud. In August, officers and staff from the Police Scotland Cybercrime Investigations Unit carried out enforcement action in respect of a smishing campaign originating from West Lothian, where multiple SIM cards were being used to send text messages to enable fraud. The operation was supported by the Cyber Defence Alliance, who are part of the banking sector cyber security network. As a result of the investigation, a 23 year old man was arrested and charged with a number of offences relating to fraud, and specialist equipment recovered.

Police Scotland continues to work with partners to tackle online fraud. In addition to investigative and enforcement activity, we promote prevention information, including simple advice that a telephone call, email or text message may not be from the person or organisation it appears to come from, and recipients should never click on a link from an unsolicited email or text.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES**Wildlife Crime Campaign**

Operation WINGSPAN, the year-long campaign to tackle wildlife crime is entering its final phase and will conclude in October. Across seven phases, the campaign has focused on national wildlife crime priorities through public messaging, targeted operational policing activity, internal training, and effective partnership working, including work with Partnership Against Wildlife Crime Scotland. Throughout the year, Police Scotland officers and staff have engaged with the agricultural community, ranger services, land managers, and game keepers, to raise public

awareness and encourage the reporting of wildlife crime.

National Youth Survey

Police Scotland is working in collaboration with the Children's Charity 'Fearless', to support and promote the Fearless Scotland National Youth Survey. The survey, which was launched on Wednesday 1 September, is aimed at young people under 21 who live in Scotland, and focuses on aspects of safety, crime, and perceptions of the police. The results from the survey will be shared with Police Scotland, and will help to inform our future relationship and engagement with young people.

SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

Specially Trained Officers – Enhanced Operating Model

As reported to the SPA Policing Performance Committee on Wednesday 1 September, following a period of extensive engagement with key national stakeholders and other interested parties, Police Scotland is implementing an enhanced operating model in respect of Specially Trained Officers (STOs) who carry Taser as part of their operational duties. This will involve an increase in the cadre of STOs over the next three years from around 500 officers, to around 2,000 officers. The revised model is being introduced in response to a Strategic Risk Assessment which identified that in recent years, there has been a gradual but sustained increase in the number of assaults on officers and staff in Scotland, along with a rise in incidents involving weapons.

Police Scotland is a rights-based organisation that puts our values of integrity, fairness, respect and a commitment to upholding human rights at the heart of everything we do. The increase in STO capability will enhance our capability to deal with significant threats to public safety in a responsive and proportionate manner, and provide our people with the tools they need to do their job as safely as possible.

Call Handling

During recent meetings of the SPA Board, there have been discussions about Police Scotland's call handling arrangements, including the impact of the unprecedented demands associated with the coronavirus public health emergency. A more detailed report in respect of call handling arrangements was provided to the SPA Policing Performance Committee in September.

Throughout the pandemic, Police Scotland has prioritised our response to emergency (999) call demand, and maintained consistently high levels of

performance in this area. Over the last 18 months we also have continued to respond to non-emergency (101) call demand, to support the citizens of Scotland. We recognise that short to medium term challenges associated with the pandemic, combined with longer term infrastructure and demand challenges, have impacted on 101 call handling performance, and a number of additional measures have been introduced in response.

The impact of the public health crisis in respect of coronavirus continues, and it is likely that this will lead to spikes in absence and fluctuations in demand in the coming months. In the last two weeks, increased absence and self-isolation levels in C3 and Local Policing Divisions have coincided with an increase in traditional policing demand following the easing of wider societal restrictions. This has been exacerbated by what is assessed to be displaced demand from other emergency and public services. In combination, these factors have the potential to have a short term impact on Police Scotland's incident management and response capability. To provide strategic oversight of the current situation, we have stood up a short life working group chaired by an executive lead, and taken immediate and tangible actions to mitigate operational risk. This group will provide a report to me and colleagues from the senior leadership team on a weekly basis.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

COSLA LEADERS' MEETING

On Friday 27 August, I attended a virtual session of the COSLA Leaders' meeting, along with Deputy Chief Constable Kerr and the Scottish Police Authority Chair. The session provided an opportunity to discuss a number of areas of shared interest including the importance of local engagement and collaboration, and the policing arrangements for COP26. Local Policing is at the heart of our relationship with citizens, and attendees expressed strong support for the work being carried out by officers and staff in communities across Scotland.

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT

During September, a number of Police Scotland officers, along with a variety of stakeholders from across the justice sector, provided evidence to the Criminal Justice Committee at four separate roundtable sessions. The sessions considered a range of topics including the impact of Covid-19 on the Justice Sector; Reducing Youth Offending; Community Justice Solutions; Victims' Rights and Support; Domestic Abuse, Gendered Violence and Sexual Offences. The roundtables were part of a series of

evidence sessions hosted by the recently constituted Criminal Justice Committee, and reflect the ongoing parliamentary interest in justice related matters. Police Scotland recognises the important role that policing holds, both within the justice system in Scotland and across wider public life, and will continue to engage with parliament in an open and transparent manner.

On Tuesday 21 September, along with colleagues from the Police Scotland senior leadership team, I hosted the convener and members of the Criminal Justice Committee who visited the Scottish Crime Campus. During the visit, briefings were provided on the policing operation in respect of COP26, and our work with other agencies to tackle serious and organised crime in Scotland.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26) ENGAGEMENT

As the United Nations COP26 Climate Change Conference approaches, extensive engagement is ongoing at strategic, tactical and operational levels. I continue to chair the Police Scotland COP26 Strategic Oversight Board, and on Thursday 9 and Wednesday 22 September, attended meetings of the UK Government COP26 Delivery Board.

In addition, Police Scotland has hosted a number of briefing sessions in respect of public order policing during COP26, designed to enhance understanding of how we will approach certain situations, and demonstrate the skills and professionalism of the officers and staff involved. These sessions, which reflect our commitment to openness and transparency in terms of policing approach, have been well received by attendees including elected representatives, oversight and scrutiny bodies, media representatives and other interested parties.

On Thursday 9 September, along with Assistant Chief Constable Higgins, I participated in a live roundtable event in respect of COP26, jointly hosted by Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. The online public event included contributions from a number of panellists during sessions on crowd psychology and interactions with the police; human rights and democracy; and policing Glasgow for all citizens during COP26. There was also an opportunity for panellists to answer questions submitted by members of the public.

I recognise the significant and legitimate public interest which exists in respect of the policing operation for COP26, and sessions such as these provide an opportunity to restate our clear commitment that Police Scotland's core values of integrity, fairness, respect and a commitment to upholding human rights, and working with the consent of our fellow citizens, will be at the heart of our approach.

UK POLICE ENGAGEMENT

On Monday 6 September, I hosted the Chief Constable of British Transport Police, Lucy D’Orsi QPM, at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. On Friday 24 September, along with colleagues from the Operation URRAM team, I met with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Dame Cressida Dick QPM. Discussions focused on the policing operation in respect of COP26 and other areas of shared policing interest. Both meetings reinforced the mutual benefit derived from co-operation and collaboration between policing services throughout the United Kingdom, and following the SPA Board meeting, I will attend the Chief Constables’ Council meeting in London to discuss challenges for policing across the UK.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS**DEATHS OF LAMARA BELL AND JOHN YUILL**

In July 2015, Lamara Bell and John Yuill died following a road traffic crash at the M9, near to Stirling. Their deaths were a tragedy, and my thoughts remain with their children, families and friends.

Under the direction of the Lord Advocate, the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner carried out an investigation into the circumstances of the deaths, which led to criminal proceedings. In September 2021, Police Scotland tendered a plea of guilty to an indictment in respect of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. On Tuesday 7 September, I attended the High Court in Edinburgh, where Police Scotland was fined £100,000. Police Scotland failed in its duty to preserve life and help people who are in crisis, which goes to the heart of our duty to keep people safe. Following the proceedings at the High Court in Edinburgh, on behalf of policing in Scotland, I apologised unreservedly to their families.

When I took up the Office of Chief Constable, I gave a commitment that the Police Service of Scotland would co-operate fully with the Crown Office investigation into this tragedy. We have fully participated with the inspections, investigations and enquiries established since July 2015, to identify what went wrong, and safeguard against those failings being repeated in the future. Since that time, lessons have been learned and improvements made, including changes to our approach to reduce and mitigate risks associated with call handling and across policing. Police Scotland will continue to co-operate with any other inquiries that may take place. I reiterate my unreserved apologies to the families of Lamara Bell and John Yuill.

POLICING RESPONSE TO COVID 19 – OPERATION TALLA

As reported in August, recognising the long term nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, Police Scotland is now implementing a transition plan to incrementally and proportionately integrate all COVID-19 related matters into business as usual arrangements. The senior command structure along with the coordination and logistics cell will remain in place, with a contingency maintained to re-activate other aspects of the Operation Talla response at short notice should it be required. In the forthcoming months, we will also retain our focus on health, safety and wellbeing through a dedicated forum.

This retention of a small number of officers and staff in respect of Operation Talla will continue to enable the sharing of skills, knowledge and organisational learning to support the policing operation for COP26.

OPERATION SUMMER CITY

Operation Summer City, which is the policing operation and response to the Edinburgh Festival and associated events, concluded on Monday 30 August. Despite international travel restrictions, a significant number of visitors attended the Capital during the four weeks of the Festival. Officers deployed as part of Operation Summer City were also able to address any challenges arising from the easing of restrictions in licensed premises and nightclubs during this period. A proportionate and high visibility police presence was maintained to support the delivery of a safe event and provide public reassurance, with positive feedback received from event organisers, venue managers and local authority partners.

TRNSMT MUSIC FESTIVAL

Between Thursday 9 and Sunday 12 September, a dedicated policing operation was implemented to help ensure the safety of around 134,000 spectators who attended an outdoor concert and the TRNSMT music festival at Glasgow Green. Over the four days of the event, 15 people were arrested and 17 people reported or issued with fixed penalty notices in respect of a variety of offences, including disorder and drug related offences. Officers also carried out high visibility patrols in the surrounding areas to provide wider community reassurance.

In advance of the event, Police Scotland was involved in multi-agency planning which considered licensing, security, and public safety arrangements, as well as additional COVID-19 specific measures.

PUBLIC PROCESSION GLASGOW

On Saturday 18 September, the Annual Boyne Parade took place in Glasgow. A large contingent of conventional and public order officers provided the policing response to ensure the safety of everyone involved, and support the human rights of individuals and groups who wished to assemble, balanced against the rights of the wider community. During the event, there were a number of people arrested and others reported for a variety of offences. On occasions, there were utterly unacceptable outbreaks of racist and sectarian singing by some of those attending to support the processions, and investigations continue into those who were intent on causing harm and dividing our communities.

6. OUR PEOPLE**OFFICER AND STAFF RECOGNITION**

On Thursday 26 August, 64 officers were promoted, and 51 members of staff who had been promoted since April 2021, were recognised. The promotions were once again marked in the virtual setting, and I congratulate all involved on their significant achievement.

On the same day, 135 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 Police Staff 35 Years' Service Lapel Pin, the Special Constable Long Service Award, and the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S COMMITMENTS

As reported to the SPA People Committee on Thursday 2 September, I have announced my six personal commitments for 2021-22 to officers and staff. Through these commitments, I have promised to support operational capabilities, agile working, and leadership; to act on the findings of the Your Voice Matters Survey; to take action to ensure Police Scotland is an inclusive organisation; and to continue our focus on reducing the impact violence has on officers and staff.

I also reported on action taken in relation to my 2020-21 commitments, with four of the six discharged and two developed and retained for further progress this year.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT FORUM (SWDF)

On Thursday 23 September, I participated in the SWDF Annual

Conference which was held on a virtual basis. With a theme of 'Dare To Be You', the Conference heard from keynote speakers and attendees participated in a number of workshops. During a video address, I commended the SWDF for their continued encouragement, support, and constructive challenge, as we strive to ensure that Police Scotland is a welcoming and inclusive organisation where people know they belong and can be fully themselves.

POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT

On Friday 17 September, 188 probationary officers successfully completed their initial training course at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. On Monday 27 September, a further 140 probationary officers will begin their careers with Police Scotland, and I will speak to them personally at their Oath of Office ceremony on Wednesday 29 September. Following three weeks of essential training, these officers will be deployed to support the policing response in respect of COP26, before completing their initial training programme when COP26 has concluded.

The officers will serve in communities throughout Scotland, with a number taking up roles in areas which are recognised as hard to fill, including island postings. I wish them success as they embark on their fulfilling and rewarding careers in public service.

WINTER FLU VACCINE

Officer and staff health and wellbeing is a clear priority for Police Scotland, and this year we will again provide assistance to enable officers and staff obtain the winter flu vaccine by fully refunding the associated cost. In the context of the ongoing challenges associated with coronavirus, it is vitally important that as many of us as possible take the opportunity to be vaccinated. This will protect the health of officers and staff, protect others, and help reduce pressure on the health and social care system throughout the winter.

SCOTTISH POLICE MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Wednesday 1 September it was my privilege to participate in the annual Scottish Police Memorial Trust Service of Remembrance, which was held on a virtual basis for the second time.

Accompanied by Christine Fulton MBE from the Scottish Police Memorial Trust, I paid my respects at the Memorial in the grounds of Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan, to the police officers who have died on duty in Scotland. Through video message, we commemorated the lives and service of those who have died, underlining the support and strength

which can be drawn from the policing family.

NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL DAY

On Sunday 26 September, Deputy Chief Constable Taylor will represent Police Scotland at the National Police Memorial Day service in Lincoln Cathedral. The National Police Memorial Day unites police forces, colleagues, friends and relatives from across the United Kingdom, as we pay our respects and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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