

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	24 February 2021
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	SPA Interim Chief Executive's Report
Presented By	Lynn Brown, Interim Chief Executive
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached:	NO

PURPOSE

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Interim Chief Executive since the previous Authority Meeting.

1. Background

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on key SPA activity which is not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Engagement with the Scottish Parliament

- 2.1 The SPA has had a number of engagements with the Scottish Parliament since the last Authority meeting including correspondence to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing related to Police Scotland's use of remotely piloted aircraft systems; a submission on Dame Elish Angiolini's Independent Review of Police Complaint Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Investigations; a response in relation to HMICS Thematic Inspection of Police Scotland Training and Development – Phase 1; a response in relation to policing arrangements for COP26 and Euro 2020 Championships; a response on the use of facial recognition technology; and, a response on international secondments to Police Scotland. In addition, I gave evidence alongside the Chair Martyn Evans and former Interim Chair David Crichton to the [Public Audit and Post-Legislative Scrutiny Committee on Audit Scotland's s.22 report of the Authority's 2019/2020 accounts on 11 February](#).

3. Review of SPA Strategic Risk

- 3.1 Members will have an opportunity in the private session to consider recently updated SPA strategic risks, reflecting input provided by both members and staff. Our strategic risks were reported to the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee on the 28 January 2021 where they were endorsed for reporting to the full Authority. These risks are the highest level risks within the SPA's stratified approach to risk management and include key risks that require careful and robust management and mitigation. Steady, consistent progress in developing and maintaining a robust strategic risk register is a crucial element of our governance, with success in this area due, in part, to improving SPA Corporate capacity and capability, enabling the role and responsibilities of the Authority to be discharged.

4. Joint Research and Evidence Forum

- 4.1 The work of the Joint Research and Evidence Forum continues to develop during this Quarter, with the SPA and Police Scotland co-hosting a half-day webinar on the theme of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Policing and the public sector more generally, and specifically from an oversight and governance perspective. The event is taking place on Friday 26 February 2021 and will be co-chaired by Martyn Evans, Chair and DCC Fiona Taylor, People and Professionalism. Staff within the SPA are taking a lead role in its organisation and facilitation.
- 4.2 The webinar will feature a number of expert speakers from across Scotland and UK, and will cover the strategic direction for AI in Scotland and the wider digital strategy for policing, as well as explore the use of best practice ethical frameworks and other toolkits to generate assurances. Approximately 100 delegates are expected to participate in the event, and a newsletter summary will be published on our website during March at:
<https://www.spa.police.uk/strategy-performance/joint-evidence-and-research-roundtable/>

5. SPA Organisational Development and Design

- 5.1 This is the eleventh report I have provided to an Authority meeting on the SPA 2020 organisational change project. Since my last report an additional six new staff have started in post, with the remainder starting in March 2021. Chris Brown will take up his role as Deputy Chief Executive Resources in early April 2021.
- 5.2 The new structure is bedding in and we are already beginning to see the positive impact of this. This is being supported by a range of induction, learning and development activities. The provision of high quality virtual induction is particularly important in the current circumstances where both existing and new staff continue to work remotely.

5.3 Staff were delighted to hear from Martyn Evans at a recent staff briefing who provided thoughts on his approach and priorities as the new Chair of SPA. A staff session on 16 February 2021 focused on business planning for 2021-22. Once agreed, the new Annual Business Plan will set out the activities SPA Corporate will take forward to support members to deliver the Authority's responsibilities and strategic ambitions over the next reporting year. This will underpin team and individual objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.