



## Research and Evidence Forum

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 1000 - 1130

### MS TEAMS MEETING

#### Attendees:

##### Scottish Police Authority

Deputy CE Barry Sillers (SPA)  
Scott Ross (SPA)  
Martin Smith (SPA)  
Jennifer Galbraith (secretariate) (SPA)  
Matthew Kirk (SPA)  
Rachael Nicolson (SPA)

##### Police Scotland

DCC Alan Speirs (Chair) (Police Scotland)  
Claire McGarry (Police Scotland)  
James Crane (Police Scotland)  
Caitlyn Channing (Police Scotland)  
Kim Lyner-Hume (Police Scotland)  
Sup't Richard Thomas (Police Scotland)

##### SPA Forensic Services

Joanne Tierney (Forensic Services)

##### Additional Members

Professor Liz Aston (SIPR)  
Nerys Thomas (College of Policing)  
Rhys Howell (Scottish Government)  
Benjamin Havers (British Transport Police)  
Gillian Murphy (British Transport Police)  
Kate Carr (British Transport Police)

##### Invitees

Dr Allison Kurpiel (University of Edinburgh)  
Lesley Weber (COSLA)

#### Agenda

##### 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all and requested that everyone introduces themselves when speaking.

##### 2. Apologies

**Jennifer Galbraith (JG)** noted the following apologies:

- Tom Halpin QPM (SPA)
- Amanda Coulthard (SPA)
- Fiona Douglas (SPA Forensic Services)
- Vicki Morton (SPA Forensic Services)
- Tom McMahon (Police Scotland)
- ACC Wendy Middleton (Police Scotland)
- ACC Catriona Paton (Police Scotland)
- Professor Susan McVie (University of Edinburgh)
- Stu Lewis (Scottish Government)

##### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Action Log

**JG** noted one ongoing action, due to be reported on at JREF in February 2025.

Members agreed the minutes of the previous meeting and action log.

#### 4. Member Updates

##### 4a College of Policing

**Nerys Thomas (NT)** provided an updated from the College of Policing. This included a recent publication, working to set up a police productivity centre, proof of concepts on enhanced video response (testing in Avon and Summerset after positive findings in Dorset), developing a version for policing of the model hospital that the NHS have - producing analytics for forces to identify where they are delivering lower than other forces (e.g. due to inefficiencies or circumstance)). The UK Government announced wanting to set up a new HQ for policing. The College are currently holding workshops with stakeholders to look at current problems in the policing system and solutions to inform a white paper due to be published in Spring. They are also developing a research strategy for policing and identifying where there are priority evidence gaps so resources can be filtered into those gaps. They are hoping to have this shared by end of March 2025.

##### 4b SIPR

**Liz Aston (LA)** provided an update on the work of SIPR. This included, awarding three ECR grants and funding for SIPR has been agreed until August 2027. SIPR have responded to calls from policing academic centres of excellence, held a number of events and are planning future events throughout 2025. Ongoing activities include a responsive research fund on implementing antiracism in a policing context with a final report due mid-January 2025. They have appointed a new Communications and Engagement Officer who will start in January 2025 part-time. There is one responsive research fund topic to assign – hoping to do this at the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 SIPR executive meeting. Any suggestions for that from members would be welcome.

##### 4c SPA Forensic Services

**Joanne Tierney (JT)** provided an update and committed to circulating a paper after the meeting. Forensic Services (FS) are undertaking internal RDI. They are involved in two key partner activities with PS, SIPR and Leverhulme – Clarus Project and the fire investigations project. There is also the value of forensic science project which is ongoing and has a working group that is now chaired by Fiona McQueen.

##### 4d Police Scotland

**Claire McGarry (CM)** noted Police Scotland have developed accessible resources to support BSL users looking for information on domestic violence and how to report it. Currently there are over 80 live projects supported by the academic research team led by James Crane. Regarding internal engagement, the highest profile currently underway is the workforce survey which is being discussed across the service.

##### 4e SPA Corporate

**Martin Smith (MS)** provided an update which included the completed publication of the Community Confidence Action Research Project final report with a final event to be held in February 2025 which will bring together the four communities into an online event and reflect on main findings of the report. **MS** requested views from members on the next steps for the project and the implications of the findings. Additionally, the SPA has hosted a webinar on recorded police warnings which brought together various stakeholders. The event can be viewed on the SPA YouTube site. Ongoing activities include a final sweep of public polling for late-January 2025, with a focus on biometrics, with findings due early Spring to be reported at the Policing Performance Committee in March 2025. Work is also taking place to renew the SPA's public polling contract.

## OFFICIAL

**CM** queried if the biometric questions are live. **Scott Ross (SR)** noted they would go live in January 2025 and are similar to questions that have gone before. They are tied to conversations on Live Facial Recognition (LFR).

**LA** queried how questions were finalised, if the questions were evidence based and informed, and requested more detail on LFR. **SR** responded that the questions have been developed from research by the Biometrics Commissioner and committed to update the Forum on LFR as part of AOB at the end of the meeting.

**Barry Sillers (BS)** asked **Rachael Nicolson (RN)** to provide an overview of work on PEEL analysis. **RN** provided an overview of the PEEL compendium.

### 4f Scottish Government

**Rhys Howell (RH)** gave an update on Scottish Government activities. This included multiple publications, the creation of a journey time dashboard, and the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) results to be published in Spring (including extra data on fraud victimisation).

**BS** asked about the sampling for the SCJS – if the methodology was back to the one prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and if it was face to face. **RH** committed to checking this, but noted the sample is smaller than it was.

## 5. Emerging Legislation / Horizon Scanning Update

**Sup't Richard Thomas (RT)** provided an overview of legislation review group, what it is for and upcoming legislation coming through the group. Over the year it has been established, RT noted they have developed a process for accessing (both financial and operational impact) and collating legislation that impacts Police Scotland. The group reports to a legislation oversight group chaired by ACC Middleton with members of SPA and Scottish Government. They have assessed the impact of 55 pieces of new/amended legislation, completed 18 legislation impact assessment documents and cost calculations and compiled over 20 consultation responses to legislation coming through the process. In 2025/26 new and amended legislation will cost Police Scotland over £6 million. In terms of new and emerging items, the open consultations that are being tracked include draft regulations around the transfer of the police appeals tribunal to the first tier tribunal, the Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming Strategy, the Female Genital Mutilation Protection Guidance Scotland Act, Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Act 2021, Children (Scotland) Act 2020, the financial memorandum of the Criminal Justice Modernisation and Abusive Domestic Behaviour Reviews (Scotland) Bill, the National Speed Management Review consultation. Finally, new forthcoming items are the Fraud, Error and Debt Bill, and Prisoners Early Release Scotland Bill.

There was a update from **RN** on horizon scanning. SPA is proposing to work on a joint horizon scanning report covering biometrics and the impact of technology on children and young people for May 2025 JREF. **JT** notes they are keen to support activity from FS perspective with use of biometrics and will link in the New Year. **SR** noted that the SPA has been engaging with the Home Office and had discussion about them sharing their horizon scanning products with us and us with them.

## 6. Strategic Research Priorities

### 6a Data Linkage Project Update

**Dr Alison Kurpiel (AK)** provided an update on the Project. The research team is currently waiting for the indexing specification form required to submit the PBPP application to eDRIS at Public Health Scotland. Once the indexing specification form is completed by the National Records of Scotland (to be prioritized by NRS in January), The

OFFICIAL

## OFFICIAL

National Records of Scotland and Police Scotland will complete the Data Processing Agreement (DPA) while the health and social care PBPP is under review. The team is currently aiming to have the PBPP under review for the panel's January 21st meeting. The team is also waiting on the completed DPIA form from Police Scotland, which needs to be seen by the PBPP before full approval.

In summary, the linkage between a cohort of Police Scotland's VPD data and PHS health data should be making good headway in the new year so that the larger-scale administrative data project regarding policing and mental health distress can get underway soon. However, at present the project is still in the pre-approval stage.

### 6b JREF Work Plan - Knowledge Exchange Series

**MS** outlined an emerging knowledge exchange series which will commence on 4th February 2025 at COSLA Conference Centre in Edinburgh. SPA is currently developing a draft programme for the series and the 4<sup>th</sup> February event, in partnership with Police Scotland's Academic Research Team.

### 7. AOB

**The Chair** invited **SR** to talk about LFR. **SR** notes PPC received update paper on this and it is still at early stages in terms of what conversation around LFR looks like. There is a Short-Life Working Group in Police Scotland looking at LFR at a tactical level. **SR** highlights it is a conversation, it is not Police Scotland, SPA or the Biometrics Commissioner trying to create a policy around LFR. Instead, it is about what is acceptable to the public and how LFR could help Police Scotland carry out its duties. Currently there is a plan to pull together an evidence report that takes views from stakeholders to determine a position on if and how LFR can be used.

**LA** notes they want to make sure learning from the IAG is not lost in terms of an evidence informed public consultation and engagement. **LA** notes that making it a deliberative and informed process can be valuable. **SR** responds it will be taken through the rights-based pathway established from the IAG.

**Gillian Murray (GM)** highlights British Transport Police (BTP) are interested in that part of the business and queries BTPs involvement. **SR** notes they will be, but right now the discussion is internally focused.

**JT** highlights that Forensic Services (FS) is having a series of insight sessions around building an RDI strategy for FS. Have to take it to FS Committee in May and will be in touch with JREF members to involve them.

### 8. Date of the next meeting

**The Chair** thanked everyone for their participation. It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held in person on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the COSLA Conference Centre in Edinburgh (Haymarket).

OFFICIAL