

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>SPA Authority Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>29 September 2021</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Video Conference</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>SPA Chief Executive's Report</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Lynn Brown, Chief Executive</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached:</b>	<b>No</b>

**PURPOSE**

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

Members are recommended to consider this report and to raise any matters for clarification or further detail with the Chief Executive.

## **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. HMICS Thematic Inspection of SPA - Closure Report**

- 2.1 Two years have passed since HMICS published its thematic inspection of the SPA which made a total of 14 recommendations for the SPA and partners to address. It is anticipated that HMICS will inspect the SPA every three years.
- 2.2 Since the report was published the SPA has been through a period of transformation. This includes: a new corporate and leadership structure; new Board appointments and a number of governance and accountability improvements.
- 2.3 Working constructively with HMICS, SPA has now addressed the majority of recommendations. A closure report was provided to the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee that detailed progress and noted that the SPA has now concluded on all except one recommendation within our remit. The final outstanding recommendation is expected to be completed within six months.

## **3. Seldom Heard Voices Research**

- 3.1 The authority, in partnership with Police Scotland and the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) have jointly funded five projects which will support the police to improve engagement with seldom heard communities. The term 'seldom-heard' refers to communities which are historically under-represented and may be less likely to engage for a variety reasons, including race, religion, sexuality, disability, and age, as well as communities isolated through geography or economic disadvantage.
- 3.2 A total of fifteen applications were received and considered by a panel representing SIPR, the SPA and Police Scotland. Five applications have been awarded for the relevance of their focus; innovative approaches; and robust methodologies. These five

projects will received a share of £62,000 to support innovation and learning, maintaining and developing our focus on policing in the public interest. They will focus on engagement with young people in deprived communities; engagement with refugees, migrants and those from BAME communities; understanding intersectionality; and development of practical toolkits which support accountability mechanisms. All projects will be concluded by September 2022.

#### **4. COP26 Policing the Protest Roundtable**

- 4.1 On Thursday 9 September 2021, the SPA and Police Scotland hosted a live, virtual roundtable discussion to bring together key partners and academics to consider the policing of protests connected with COP26. The event, which has been widely recognised as a success, was available to view online by members of the public, who had the opportunity to submit questions in advance and during the event itself. The levels of public engagement should give us real confidence in delivering similar events in the future.
- 4.2 Moderated by Kezia Dugdale, Director of the John Smith Centre for Public Service, the event was designed to demonstrate Police Scotland’s commitment to protecting people’s right to protest or counter-protest, balanced against the rights of the wider community.
- 4.3 The roundtable also provided a forum for academic discussion around crowd psychology, and collective protest, in order to set out the context in which activism at COP26 will take place. Participants included Professor Stephen Reicher, Denise Hamilton of Glasgow City Council, John Scott QC, Gill Imery of HMICS, the Children and Young People’s Commissioner, Bruce Adamson, SPA Board Members Martyn Evans and Tom Halpin, and ACC Higgins. The unique mix of participants ensured the successful and well regarded event demonstrated the right tone of challenge, informing, and public dialogue around policing the protests.

## **5. Scottish Railways Policing Committee**

- 5.1 A meeting of the Scottish Railways Policing Committee (SRPC) took place on Friday 3 September 2021 via tele and video conference. The SPA was represented by Authority Member Tom Halpin.
- 5.2 A full report from the September 2021 meeting is included at Appendix A. The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 23 November 2021.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.

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## Summary report from the Scottish Railway Policing Committee

3 September 2021

SPA Members – Tom Halpin

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### Main items of business

#### Performance and Delivery of BTP in Scotland

The Scottish Railway Policing Committee (SRPC) were updated on the performance and delivery of BTP in Scotland by Chief Superintendent Gill Murray. Members welcomed the greater alignment of reporting with Police Scotland and encouraged continued development of this approach, with the detail provided on evidence of joint working particularly helpful.

Committee discussed disruption, anti-social behaviour and youth disorder, linked to warmer weather. Members were also interested in data in relation to violence against staff, with the link to work on reducing instances of unwanted sexual behaviour – operation Cerium - also discussed. Finally committee were provided with an update on work to tackle hate crime through the Hate Crime Charter for Public Transport.

#### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Committee were provided with an update on employee diversity in the BTP Scotland workforce and activity underway to improve representation. Members welcomed the focused activity on diverse recruitment initiatives in collaboration with Police Scotland, and the targeted workforce support.

Members welcomes the alignment of the BTP Female Police Association with the Scottish Women's Development Forum and the planned SWDF event with Chief Constable D'Orsi planned for November.

#### COP26

The Committee were provided with a standing update on progress in preparation for COP26. The update focused on the continued interoperability and partnership

between BTP and Police Scotland. A more detailed discussion took place in private session.

### Policing Rail Freight

This item formed part of a series of in-depth briefings for the Committee which seek to deepen knowledge of BTP's railway policing specialisms and demonstrate how activity carried out on Scotland Division is supported by capability from BTP's other Divisions.

Members were updated on the significant collaborative working with PS, Network Rail, Freight Operators and wider rail and policing partners. While freight related crime levels in Scotland are negligible, members were made aware of the forecast continued growth in rail traffic which will inform future planning. Additionally members were assured that the work on generic risk assessments for freight depots will now be resumed and linked to the best practice charter for the National Freight Safety Group.

### Development of the 2022/25 Railways Policing Strategy

Members were updated on early work to frame development of the 2022-25 Railways Policing Strategy, including the four high levels themes identified:

- Workforce
- Partnerships
- Service Delivery
- Innovation

Work is underway on horizon scanning, research and engagement to provide detailed areas of focus under each heading. A strategy working group will be established to progress development of detail, with SPA officers and members participating in this and thematic sessions. A stakeholder event will take place in November, with an update provided to the November meeting of SRPC before public consultation of the draft strategy in early 2022.

### Audit and Inspection Activity

A standing overview of the approved audit and inspection landscape for BTP was presented. This set out the recent, current and planned activity and includes topics for audit and inspection in which the SRPC may be interested. SRPC members welcomed the presentation and it was requested that audit findings and management responses relevant to Scotland are brought back to the SRPC. Of note is the planned HMCIFRS collaboration with HMICS on upcoming work on crime data integrity. While Scotland is out of scope for HMCIFRS they will work closely with HMICS to ensure any gaps are addressed.

Workplan 2021/22

A quarterly update on the workplan look forward was presented for discussion, capturing standing and key topics for forthcoming meetings. Members noted that strategy development work may identify additional topics for future consideration.

The formal minute of the meeting will be available at the next meeting which is scheduled for 23 November 2021. This will also be published on the BTPA's website.