

Meeting	SPA Authority Meeting
Date	24 November 2021
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	26th Conference of the Parties (COP26)
Presented By	Chief Constable Iain Livingstone QPM and ACC Bernie Higgins, ACC Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26)
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	Yes – Appendix A – COP26 Roundup Infographic

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide Board members with an update on policing of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26).

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In November 2021, the UK Government hosted the United Nations 26th Conference of the Parties, otherwise known as COP26, at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow. World leaders, climate experts, business leaders and citizens came together to discuss and agree actions on how to tackle climate change on a global scale.
- 1.2 The significance and scale of this event is unprecedented. The Conference was held over two weeks (from 31 October and 12 November 2021), although the build started in August.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 COP26 was the most complex and challenging Policing operation ever experienced in the UK and involved the largest mobilisation of Mutual Aid officers travelling to Scotland. This was the first climate conference in 2 years, with over 25,000 delegates invited and approximately 13,000 persons attending each day.
- 2.2 The overall policing operation involved a number of significant parallel events, emphasising the complexity of COP26. These operations were the World Leader Summit, the State Reception, the United States Presidential Visit, the Youth Rally which was attended by around 8,000-10,000 persons, the Climate Change rally and the visit of a former United States President.
- 2.3 The 2 significant parades (Youth Rally and Climate Change Rally) were held over 2 days with over 10,000 police officers deployed over peak days each 24 hour period.
- 2.4 During the period of COP26, there has been a record number of World Leaders in the United Kingdom, with over 180 protection packages delivered. This peaked on the 1 November 2021, where 128 World Leaders and 10 Domestic Principals were protected on this single day.
- 2.5 World Leaders and delegates were accommodated at over 90 different hotels which resulted in the co-ordination of a national traffic management plan. This combined with the communications strategy, delivered in advance to the public, ensured both Glasgow's and Scotland's Transport network was kept moving, with no major traffic disruption occurring during COP26.
- 2.6 The Policing operation encompassed 14 staging posts, which are essentially temporary places of duty for police officers where they

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are provided with briefings, food and transport to their work location, and to and from the 95 different hotels where officers were staying temporarily.

- 2.7 Over the course of the summit, Police Scotland engaged with over 400 individuals and groups where there may have been concern in terms of public safety or protest activity. Further analysis of these deployments is required to establish the complete number of interventions that may have prevented roadblocks and commercial properties being subject to 'lock-ons' by protestors. The vast number of protestors were able to protest safely and peacefully.
- 2.8 Only on 2 occasions throughout the whole operation have Police had to implement containments on groups of protestors for public safety reasons.
- 2.9 Throughout the period of COP26, there have been 97 arrests, with 21 of them being from a 'lock-on' at King George V Bridge on Saturday 6 November, and 16 arrests from another 'lock-on' at Lochburn Road, Maryhill, outside an unofficial COP26 event. There were 43 recorded 'lock-ons' and 'glue-ons' used by protestors, with 29 having to be cut free by police and 14 self-releasing.
- 2.10 In line with assurances provided by the Gold Commander regarding conditions for use, no police Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have been deployed at any point during the policing of the event.
- 2.11 The Gold Commander and senior planning team for the Commonwealth games in 2022, along with the Metropolitan Police, have been in attendance during COP26 and observed the policing operation with a view to implementing best practice observed.
- 2.12 There will be a full debrief involving mutual aid partners and a comprehensive internal debrief, all to enhance organisational learning.

3. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Monitoring of the water supplied by the Scottish Water taps indicates approximately 4000 litres of water has been consumed from the taps by officers using reusable cups, saving around 8000 plastic bottles, which is in line with the Gold Strategy of ensuring Police Scotland embrace a sustainable approach to the event.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Police Scotland maintain the position that there should be additional cost recovery for the policing of the event to ensure there is no detriment to the Scottish Policing Budget as a direct or indirect result of the conference and that the impact on day to day policing is minimised as far as possible.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Ministry of Defence Police, Civil Nuclear Constabulary and Police Federation of Northern Ireland agreed and signed the Work Force Agreement (WFA). The Federated Ranks' WFA has been reviewed by the Police Federation of England and Wales, who have accepted the principles, especially around the health and wellbeing of officers, but have not signed it. They have, however, been complimentary of the whole operation.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Written confirmation from Scottish Government regarding their position on underwriting the costs of any 'post event' litigation resulting from the policing operation is still awaited. This matter remains on the Corporate Management Board Risk Register pending such confirmation.

7. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As with all major events, there are reputational implications should there be a perception that the delivery of a safe and secure event from a policing perspective has not been fully achieved. Such implications are routinely considered and reviewed through existing governance structures. It is, however, believed that Police Scotland's approach and delivery has received positive and complimentary comments from a number of quarters.

8. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no social implications that have been identified within this paper. However, there will be social implications associated with this event. Police Scotland continue to liaise with key strategic partners to minimise such implications.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 A National Operation Urram Community Impact Assessment (CIA) has been created and is subject to weekly review taking account of intelligence reports and stakeholder engagement. This assessment became more detailed as the date of the conference approached. Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments (EqHRIA) are key elements of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and indeed all tactical plans are subject to this process.
- 9.2 Due to the size and scale of the event, COP26 has impacted on communities across Scotland. Every opportunity has been taken to minimise this impact throughout the planning and delivery of the event.

10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy has been published and takes consideration of all diversity and inclusion matters in the planning and delivery of the police operation.

11. POLITICAL IMPACT

- 11.1 COP26 has been subject to worldwide media coverage with a significant number of world leaders in attendance. The political impact has been assessed on an ongoing basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.

COP26 ROUNDUP



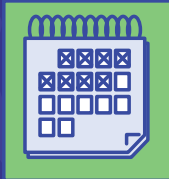
UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



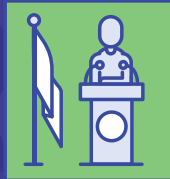
UK Government



POLICE
SCOTLAND
POLLEAS ALBA



25
DAY POLICING
OPERATION



128
WORLD LEADERS
WHO ATTENDED
CONFERENCE



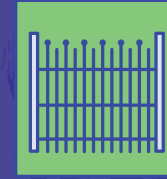
62
VENUES SECURED
AND PROTECTED



10,000
OFFICERS
DEPLOYED TO
COP26 ON
SOME DAYS



180
TOTAL
PROTECTION
PACKAGES FOR
VIPs



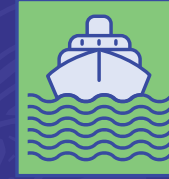
5.5km
OF SECURITY
FENCING TO KEEP
THE CONFERENCE
SAFE



40,000+
VISITORS FROM
GOVERNMENTS, CIVIL
SOCIETY, BUSINESSES
& YOUTH MOVEMENTS



LARGEST
AIRSPACE
RESTRICTIONS IN
SCOTTISH HISTORY



4
MILES OF WATERWAYS
RESTRICTED,
PATROLLED AND
PROTECTED



125
TIMES
IDENTIFIED
PROTEST
GROUPS WERE
ENGAGED WITH



2
OCCASIONS
WHERE
CONTAINMENT
WAS USED



200
POLICE DOGS
DEPLOYED



40
POLICE HORSES
DEPLOYED



66
PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS
ENGAGED WITH



97
ARRESTS
MADE



3,000
DRAINS
SEARCHED AND
SECURED



25
COMPLAINTS
MADE AGAINST
THE POLICE



0
SERIOUS
INJURIES
RECORDED