

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	25 August 2021
Location	Video-conference
Title of Paper	SPA Chair's Report
Presented By	Martyn Evans
Recommendation to Members	For discussion
Appendix Attached:	NO

Purpose

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chair since June's Authority meeting.

Members Objectives

Following a period of member development and induction, objectives have now been set for members for the 2021/22 period. These have been published on the Authority's website at the following link: [Board Members Shared Objectives 2021/2022](#). Meetings with members will be scheduled in April next year to review progress. I want to extend my thanks to all members for their feedback and support in getting these set. We will develop and align next year's objectives with publication of the Authority's business plan for 2022/23.

Joint Research and Evidence Forum

The Joint Research & Evidence Forum met on 15 July, bringing together a range of key stakeholders including Scottish Government, SIPR and the College of Policing. The forum considered and agreed a programme of webinars for the remainder of the calendar year covering the policing of protests, policing in the pandemic and use of emerging technologies in policing. Further detail about up and coming events be shared widely and published on the Authority's website at the following link: [Joint Evidence and Research Roundtables - Scottish Police Authority \(spa.police.uk\)](#).

Policing and the Pandemic – The Scottish Experience

The most recent Research & Evidence Forum Roundtable met virtually on Wednesday 18 August to consider the Scottish approach to policing during the coronavirus pandemic. This was a joint session hosted with Police Scotland and the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR). We heard a range of interesting and insightful presentations, complemented by two panel discussions considering strategy and insights from Scotland and the Scottish context. I am grateful to Dr Liz Aston and Derek Penman of SIPR for chairing the panel discussions. My thanks are also extended to Dr Susan McVie of Edinburgh University; Dr Megan O'Neill of Dundee University, Peter Neyroud of University of Cambridge and the leadership teams and staff at Police Scotland and the Authority for their input and insight on the day. The public and stakeholders were encouraged to submit questions via an online portal to inform the discussions and I am grateful for those who took the time to do that. This valuable and worthwhile session began what is no doubt a longer narrative and discussion on the Scottish experience of policing in a pandemic. Speakers reflected on lessons learned to date, and considered emerging questions which will inform policing in the future.

Police Scotland and Public Health Scotland Collaborative Framework Event

I attended the Public Health Scotland and Police Scotland Collaborative Framework event on Tuesday 20 July at Tulliallan. This event launched the commitment of both organisations to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of communities. This strategic partnership focuses on the opportunities that working together will present to improve outcomes for citizens within a public health approach to policing. The Authority is fully supportive of this collaborative and we look forward to the reporting of activity to the Authority and its committees in the months ahead.

First Minister's Opening of International Academy

I attended on behalf of the Authority the formal opening of Police Scotland's International Academy on Monday 26 July by the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. The First Minister's visit coincided with the announcement that the Scottish Government would invest £162,000 to support the modernisation of systems used by Zambia's Police Service to support the recording and investigation of gender based violence. I took the opportunity at the event to reinforce the Authority's support for Police Scotland's international development activity, saying we were proud of the role the service plays enhancing Scotland's reputation as a global citizen and supporting rights-based and risk assessed initiatives to tackle global challenges.

UK Prime Minister's Visit to Tulliallan

I joined the Chief Constable and leadership team at Tulliallan on 4 August to welcome the Prime Minister Boris Johnson. This is the first visit of a Prime Minister to the Police College which was well received by the officers and staff who were able to meet him on the day. The Prime Minister received a comprehensive briefing on the preparations and plans for policing the COP26 conference in November. His visit attracted significant media coverage linked to a range of issues including the funding of COP26.

Director of Forensic Services

The selection panel interviewing for a new Director of Forensic Services has now recommended a preferred candidate to the Board and that appointment has been approved. Formalities and vetting are currently being concluded and we expect to be in a position to announce the successful candidate in the coming week.

Policing in the 21st Century Seminar

On 28 July, I spoke at a Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) and Police Foundation event on Police Reform alongside DCC Malcolm Graham, Professor Nick Bland and Professor Liz Aston. It was an informative session and my contribution focused on the governance and external scrutiny arrangements for policing in Scotland. I look forward to further discussions in the period ahead.

Engagement with COSLA

The Chief Constable and I are scheduled to address the COSLA Leaders meeting on 27 August. This will be the first meeting I have attended of the Leaders forum. I intend to provide an update on the Authority's recent activities and priorities and our commitment to strengthening engagement with local government.

In addition, as part of the Authority's efforts to strengthen our engagement and relations with local government, we have developed a dedicated Local Authority Engagement Plan. This is currently being consulted on and is scheduled to be considered by COSLA's Community Wellbeing Board on 17 September. Subject to any feedback, we expect to finalise the plan and schedule further local authority engagement over the next few months.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to discuss and note the content of this report.