

Meeting	Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee
Date	6 May 2020
Location	Tele-conference
Title of Paper	Overall SPA Approach
Presented By	Lynn Brown, Interim Chief Executive
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an overview of the overall SPA approach to Covid-19.

In line with its statutory foundations, Police Scotland has been asked to play a key public health role in warning, informing and enforcing the extraordinary emergency powers that have been brought in to underpin this phase of the country's response to the coronavirus, and do so with the continuing consent of the public. As the statutory governance body for policing in Scotland, the strategic outcomes for the Authority's oversight are to:

- maintain and support the police service and its workforce to respond effectively to these unprecedented circumstances, utilising its statutory responsibilities, networks and advocacy with Government and other partners to ensure that the service now and in the future is well-placed to address both immediate challenges and future recovery , and;
- ensure that proportionate and visible scrutiny of policing and forensic services takes place so that key issues of public interest are raised and addressed, while reflecting and balancing oversight requirements with the demands on operational leadership and service response.

The key priorities for SPA's scrutiny and oversight in this phase will be to:

- track continued public confidence and consent for policing in Scotland as it fulfils the expanded and unprecedented public health role it is playing and in utilising the emergency powers placed at its disposal, including considering the advice and findings of the Independent Advisory Group chaired by John Scott QC;
- capture, review and report to funders the short and medium-term financial impacts on policing from COVID 19, both direct and indirect, and assess the risks and opportunities for the longer-term programme of transformation in policing, and;
- raise, test, and understand key issues of public, employer and stakeholder interest relating to the strategic objectives of Police Scotland's Gold Command Operation (Op Talla) and the commensurate strategy for Forensic Services.

In doing so, the SPA approach will:

- be consistent with the strategic outcomes of good governance outlined in its Corporate Plan and Excellence Framework;
- utilise its existing governance and scrutiny arrangements, scheduling fora on the basis of emerging requirements and circumstances and not relying on the existing forward schedule of governance meetings;

- draw upon a range of insights, perspectives and expertise to inform its scrutiny and advocacy, including those of independent custody visitors in Scotland (ICVS), and;
- ensure that regular outputs of oversight are communicated, and that every effort is made to maintain public transparency and access to SPA oversight within current advice.

The Authority's current planned governance timetable can be viewed on the SPA website at the following link:

<http://www.spa.police.uk/news/617110/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this paper.