

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Authority Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>29 September 2021</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Video-conference</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>Committee and Oversight Group Reports</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Committee and Oversight Group Chairs</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

#### **PURPOSE**

To provide the Authority with an update on business progressed through the following Committee and Oversight Group which have met since the last Authority Meeting:

- Complaints and Conduct Committee
- Legal Committee
- Policing Performance Committee
- People Committee
- Policing of Cop26 Oversight Group
- Resources Committee
- Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee

The Forensic Service Committee has not met since the last Authority meeting, but is scheduled to meet on 25 October.

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<b>Committee</b>	<b>Meeting Chaired by</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Page</b>
Complaints and Conduct Committee	Alasdair Hay	19.08.21+ 15.09.21	3
Legal Committee	Paul Edie	30.08.21	6
Policing Performance Committee	Michelle Miller	01.09.21	7
People Committee	Mary Pitcaithly	02.09.21	11
Policing of Cop26 Oversight Group	Tom Halpin	07.09.21	14
Resources Committee	Grant Macrae	14.09.21	17
Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee	Jane Ryder	16.09.21	20

## **Summary report from Complaints & Conduct Committee**

**19 August 2021**

**Alasdair Hay, Committee Chair**

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*During the current period of social distancing and other restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a full recording of the public items of business taken at this meeting can be accessed at - [Scottish Police Authority \(spa.police.uk\)](https://www.scottishpolice.gov.uk/spa).*

*The formal minute of the public items of business will be available at the next meeting which is scheduled for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021. This will also be published on the SPA's website.*

### **Main items of business**

- Quarter 1 2021/22 performance reports from SPA, Police Scotland and the PIRC in relation to complaints handling, including Police Scotland report on use of suspension/restricted duties.
- 2020/21 Committee Annual Report.
- SPA and Police Scotland updates on response to Dame Elish Angiolini (DEA) Independent Review of Complaints Handling, Investigations & Misconduct Issues in Relation to Policing.
- Police Scotland Complaint Handling arrangements for COP26.
- Revised SPA Complaint Handling Procedures.
- Revised Guidance on Senior Officer Conduct Regulations.
- Report outlining proposals on public reporting of Committee items taken in private.
- SPA ongoing complaints update report.

### **Key issues raised**

#### **Public Session**

- SPA quarter 1 complaints handling performance report, including update on matters considered at recent multi-agency meetings. Members noted key statistics and trends in complaints data. There was discussion on the development of the website to minimise the volume of complaints received that are outside the SPA's remit. Members

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recommended engagement with Scottish Government 'Open Government Partnership' work on public sector complaints processes.

- Members considered a draft 2020/21 Committee Annual Report, supplementing a high-level summary to be set out in the SPA Annual Report, seeking to address recommendations made as part of the DEA Review.
- Police Scotland Professional Standards Department presented their quarterly complaints handling performance report. Discussion included the volume of complaints subject to Front Line Resolution (FLR) and trends in excessive force complaints driven by the number of public gatherings. New national complaints handling model introduced in May. Outstanding complaints now significantly reduced, and all new complaints addressed within expected timescales.
- PIRC presented the quarterly report on Complaints Handling Reviews. Increase in PIRC activity attributed to impact of lockdown last year and improvement in proportion of cases handled reasonably against same period last year. Sufficiency of enquiries and quality of final responses still feature prominently in type of recommendations made. PIRC assisting review of Police Scotland Complaint Handling Procedures, and working with SPA on planned joint audit.
- SPA report on the DEA Review. Significant progress made, with 13 recommendations complete or proposed for completion, with a further 2 due in September. Police Scotland verbal update on the DEA Review. Internal oversight board established, involving staff associations, focussed on remaining 34 recommendations specific to Police Scotland (Written report to be presented to next Committee, to further enable assurance on work progressed).

### **Private Session**

The Committee received and discussed the following:

- Police Scotland Complaint Handling arrangements for COP26.
- A report on police officers and police staff who are currently suspended or restricted in their duties within Police Scotland.
- Revised SPA Complaint Handling Procedures.
- Revised Guidance on Senior Officer Conduct Regulations.
- Public Reporting of Items Taken in Private.
- A report on current ongoing complaints and workload being managed within the SPA Complaints Team.

### **Conclusions reached / actions agreed**

- Importance of ensuring ease of understanding for the public routes to complain.
- Committee Annual Report approved for publication, a key milestone in highlighting trends in respect of complaints and their handling and providing assurance in respect of Authority scrutiny in this important area linked to public confidence in policing in Scotland.
- Welcome developments to future Police Scotland performance reports, ensuring meaningful, easily understandable content.
- Significance of the new National Complaints Handling Model, which is already having a positive impact. Welcome the opportunity to visit the team to further understand its work.
- Importance of use of language in respect of Complaint Handling Reviews, in terms of whether 'reasonable'/'not reasonable' sufficiently conveys that challenges are being addressed and resulting learning adopted.
- Importance of responding appropriately to recommendations of the DEA Review, recognising that good progress is being made, whilst maintaining awareness on wider partner actions and planned consultation on proposed legislative change.
- Update from Police Scotland (also considered by SPA COP26 Oversight Group) provided confidence in planned complaint handling arrangements during COP26.
- SPA Complaints Handling Procedures approved for publication. Will be regularly reviewed in light of changes in best practice or learning arising from application.
- Revised Guidance on Senior Officer Conduct Regulations considered. Expected to be finalised following feedback from ongoing consultation.
- Approach approved for development and agreement of 'public' versions of private Committee sessions, including a version of the May private minute for publication.

An additional Committee meeting was held in private on 15 September 2021 to consider the closure of specific complaints cases and to discuss the SPA's handling of senior officer complaints during COP26.

## **Summary report from Legal Committee**

**Meeting date: 30 August 2021**

**Paul Edie, Committee Chair**

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The Committee met in private on 30 August to consider a number of items.

### **Main items of business**

- Report for approval regarding ongoing Employment Tribunal case
- Report for approval regarding ongoing claim
- Update on ongoing pension forfeiture case
- Update on Operation Iona
- Update on Operation Tarn
- Report on specific litigation
- Litigation tables

### **Key issues raised**

- As noted above and below.

### **Conclusions reached / actions agreed**

- Approval of recommendations regarding ongoing Employment Tribunal case
- Approval of recommendations regarding specific litigation
- Updates noted in respect of Operations Tarn and Iona, and ongoing pension case
- Updates noted to cases listed in Litigation tables.

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## Summary Report from Policing Performance Committee

01 September 2021

Michelle Miller, Committee Chair

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*During the current period of social distancing and other restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a full recording of the public items of business taken at this meeting can be accessed at [Policing Performance Committee - September on Livestream](#).*

*The formal minute of the public items of business will be available at the next meeting which is scheduled for 9 December 2021. This will also be published on the SPA's website.*

### **Main items of business**

- Performance, including Benchmarking and Drug Related Deaths
- 101 Call Handling
- Operational Policing Issues
- HMICS Reports
- Demand and Productivity

### **Key issues raised/ Actions agreed**

#### **Performance Reporting**

Members discussed the increase in hate crime across all aggravators, and the increased reporting across both sexual and hate crimes; acknowledging that levels of reporting may reflect an increase in confidence. Members asked to see enhanced demand metrics and more detailed outcome analysis in the quarterly report.

Committee sought reassurance around appropriate timescales for taking action on learning and insights – specifically related to 'truth to power' sessions. Assurance was given around the impact that data and analysis have in terms of day to day operational tasking, and longer term practice and policy development.

The value of the benchmarking framework, currently being developed, was discussed, with members focused on the enhancement of the model to include more operational benchmarking. All agreed that this should be

viewed as a tool for learning and improvement – with a continual evolution of the approach. Members stressed the importance of finding ways to benchmark areas that are of interest and have the potential to improve performance, despite the challenges that many of these areas present, rather than limiting consideration to those areas that are more straightforward to benchmark.

Members welcomed the update and detail on work to tackle drug related deaths, and the link to the drugs death taskforce. The critical and central role of the newly created Partnership, Prevention and Community Wellbeing Division was discussed.

### **101 Call Handling**

Members welcomed the report on 101 call handling, including the detail provided on the work underway to address the difficulties identified, and on medium and longer term plans for the service. The Committee expressed support for both the assessment model and the staff implementing it, and emphasised that any challenge to/interrogation of the data and Police Scotland's response should be seen as problem-solving and supportive of staff whose commitment in extremely difficult circumstances was much appreciated. Members noted the positive step to add a question on 'ease of access' to the current user experience survey to enhance current understanding of call abandonment levels.

Discussion focused on current and future understanding of the customer journey when contacting the service. Reassurance was provided on the detailed specification for the replacement unified contact system, which will enhance the user experience and provide more robust analytics for continuous improvement of the service. Members were also assured around service resilience and continuity planning for the forthcoming COP26 and winter periods, where demand may be higher.

Members also sought, and were provided with, assurance around solutions which can be implemented in the immediate and short term to alleviate pressures in the system where possible. Detail was provided on work underway at present to redirect call activity which is not focused on crime or incident reporting – such as seeking information which could be better accessed on the website, or seeking to contact police officers or members of staff where a direct contact is not available. Committee highlighted the need to track improvement activity over the short to medium term on progress to alleviate pressures in the system, recognising the limitations of the current system and the need to focus resource on solutions without adding significant additional reporting burden.

### **Operational Policing**

Members welcomed the detailed report on Taser roll out and were comfortable with the work carried out by the Chief Constable and his team in preparation for operational roll out; commending the efforts to collect feedback and views from several national organisations. This report provided assurance on the questions raised by committee in March and June on engagement, consultation and impact assessment processes. Members sought detail regarding the use of Taser on children and young people. ACC Williams committed to provide further information on this. ACC Williams reiterated that Taser is a last resort in any engagement with the public, when the need to protect life is identified. Members sought assurance on governance and oversight on the use of taser, ACC Williams explained processes around use of Taser and confirmed that feedback to date from PIRC is that the use of Tasers has been proportionate and justifiable in each case.

The Committee received a comprehensive update on the BWV-Armed Policing roll out, which is going to plan, including detail on the national consultation. The finalised code of practice, EqHRIA and DPIA will be submitted by email once complete. Members asked whether there is a Children's Rights Impact Assessment for BWV. Police Scotland re-assured members that the Children and Young People's Commissioner has been engaged on BWV and that an assessment will be undertaken as the national approach develops.

Members received an update on the programme for implementation of the Cyber Strategy. There was recognition that there will be a need for upskilling on cybercrime for all areas within Police Scotland. Members queried whether this work is on track and asked what risks there were to delivery. Police Scotland confirmed that the work is on track and is a priority for policing. A more in-depth briefing of the cybercrime programme was offered to board members.

### **HMICS Reports**

Committee received an update on Police Scotland improvement activity in relation to the recent Crime Audit and an overview from HMICS on their recent follow up review in relation to Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. Members welcomed the detail provided on improvement activity related to the Crime Audit and noted its relevance to the work of the Committee. The focus on understanding demand was welcomed by members and the need for a robust evidence base for operation response reinforced.

### **Demand and Productivity**

Committee was given an overview of the work of the demand and productivity unit over recent months, with a focus on the products that are now provided for use at a strategic and local level. Members sought

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detail on plans to understand and capture demand where this is as yet unquantified, and the process to understand the overall resource demand across different crime groups – which includes complexity and duration as well as incidence.

## **Summary report from People Committee**

**2 September 2021**

**Mary Pitcaithly, Committee Chair**

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*During the current period of social distancing and other restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a full recording of the public items of business taken at this meeting can be accessed at [People Committee - September on Livestream](#).*

*The formal minute of the public items of business will be available at the next meeting which is scheduled for 25 October 2021. This will also be published on the SPA's website.*

### **Main items of business**

- Health & Safety Q1 2021/22 Report
- Wellbeing Q1 2021/22 Report
- People Management Information Q1 2021/22 Report
- Smarter Working Verbal Update
- Q1 2021/22 P&D activity update aligned to 2021/24 People and Professionalism Delivery Plan
- Chief Constable's Commitments
- Your Voice Matters Survey Results

### **Key issues raised**

#### Health & Safety Q1 2021/22 Report

The Committee was updated that the Health & Safety Team have moved from People & Development within the ACC Professionalism & Assurance Portfolio. Members considered the Q1 report and interrogated the information provided.

Observing the Q1 Report provided evidence of significant levels of H&S activity to protect officers and staff, Members requested that the report is further developed to provide additional data highlighting areas of concern, resulting planned action and how the impact is being measured. This would include analysis to understand causes of incidents and inform preventative interventions, and to track resulting performance improvement over time. Members requested a lessons learned report in respect of the policing of George Square incident and for that report to

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provide assurances that the lessons learned will be used to inform activity which will reduce assaults on officers and staff going forward.

Wellbeing Q1 2021/22 Report

Members considered the Q1 Report and welcomed an assurance that the next quarterly report would incorporate a Wellbeing Dashboard which had been previously requested by Members. The planned review of existing Wellbeing activities was welcomed by the Committee and Members heard this work would take cognisance of the Voice Matters survey findings.

A People Committee Wellbeing Information Session took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> September.

People Management Information Q1 2021/22 Report

Members considered the quarterly report and interrogated the information provided. Recognising the importance of effective management of re-rostered rest days and TOIL, Members welcomed the assurance that this was being actively managed to ensure sufficient rest.

Smarter Working Update

Members were advised that hybrid working remained in place and a paper, which would outline longer term plans would be brought to the November People Committee.

Q1 2021/22 P&D activity update aligned to 2021/24 People and Professionalism Delivery Plan

An update was provided that the work to develop the new Strategy continued with stakeholder engagement underway. It was noted that development of the new Strategy would be informed by the results of the Your Voice Matters survey. Members sought assurance that equality is to be being mainstreamed throughout planned activity, which was confirmed as being the planned approach.

Chief Constable's Commitments

Members received update on delivery against the Chief Constable's 2020/21 Commitments and considered an overview of the Chief Constable's Commitments for 2021/22 which will bring a focus on key issues where the Service can better support officers and staff.

Your Voice Matters Survey Results

Members received an update on the high-level results of the recent Your Voice Matters survey.

**Conclusions reached/actions agreed**

Police Scotland teams will work collaboratively with SPA colleagues to develop and improve the approach to reporting (Health and Safety, Wellbeing and MI Dashboard) so that future committee reports highlight

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key insights as a result of data analysis and that they identify areas of assurance and areas of concern and action being taken in response Lessons Learned Report in respect of the policing of George Square incident to be considered at November Committee.

An extra committee to be organised to ensure an opportunity for committee scrutiny in advance of the results of the Your Voice Matters survey being presented to a meeting of the Authority.

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## Summary report from COP26 Oversight Group

7 September 2021

Tom Halpin, Committee Chair

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### **Main items of business**

- Operational Planning Oversight
- Independent Advisory Group
- Justice System Partnership, including Custody
- COP26 Policing the Protests Roundtable
- Internal Assurance and HMICS

### **Key issues raised**

- The Gold Commander provided the Group with an operational update and reassurance around transitioning from the planning phase into operational delivery: G7 continued learning with systematic actions being implemented by the Operations Team; private security arrangements; and logistical preparations around staging posts, accommodation, transport and equipment.
- Members were provided ongoing assurance around finance recover, indemnity and the budget, according to the central principle of no detriment to the Police Scotland budget.
- As a key element of the Group's Terms of Reference, Members were given assurances around the continued engagement with Staff Associations, Trade Unions and other representative bodies, through the establishment of a Wellbeing sub-group. The forum continues to focus on the health and wellbeing of all Police and Support Staff personnel, taking cognisance of the unique operational demands of policing COP26 and to ensure best practice is captured for the policing of future events.
- The Oversight Group sought assurances around the maintenance of local policing, with Police Scotland confirming a risk-assessed approach to non-essential areas of business as usual. Members were given an overview of divisional engagement at a local government level, and through the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) Briefings.

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- Members were provided with a detailed update on the Police Scotland-appointed Independent Advisory Group (IAG), Chaired by John Scott QC, which includes environmental campaigners, members of civic society, Glasgow City Council, human rights experts (including representatives from national human rights institutions) and policing oversight bodies, as well as academics and a representative from the United Nations. The Group has been meeting monthly since December 2020. In addition to IAG members, there has been attendance by key Police Scotland personnel and invited experts, including from the Oversight Group. A Home Office representative has attended as an observer.
- Members were informed that Professor Steve Reicher of University of St. Andrews University will be leading an academic research project with event access that will be supported onsite throughout.
- A detailed discussion took place around Criminal Justice Partnerships, with a particular focus on custody arrangements, and how Police Scotland are meeting the recommendations set out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) in the follow-up to their wider COP26 report. Members sought specific assurances around the planned Care and Welfare Centres in relation to child welfare and protection, with Police Scotland outlining contingency plans in relation to the treatment of children and young people.
- SPA support staff provided a final update on the planned virtual roundtable – 'COP26 Policing the Protests'. Moderated by Kezia Dugdale, Director of the John Smith Institute for Public Service, the event aimed to demonstrate Police Scotland's commitment to protecting people's right to protest or counter-protest, balanced against the rights of the wider community. 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, and the Children and Young People's Commissioner, Bruce Adamson.
- Members continue to receive updates on the implementation of HMICS recommendations and monitor progress of the areas of development identified in the recent review. HMICS will also continue to observe and monitor progress through attendance at these meetings.

**Conclusions reached / actions agreed**

- Members have asked Police Scotland to provide further update on the private contractor capacity planning at the Group's October meeting.
- Police Scotland have also been asked to consider baselines for measuring welfare and wellbeing before, during and after event, including the ability to capture learning in this area and provide a response at the next meeting.
- The Group looks forward to their final scheduled pre-event meeting in October, where they will give further consideration to final preparations around issues such as: public health guidance and legislation; an update from Police Scotland on HMICS recommendations on custody arrangements; and a review of the detailed plans for independent custody visiting.
- Further consideration will also be given to post-event meeting arrangements and review.

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## Summary report from Resources Committee

14 September 2021

Grant Macrae, Chair of the Committee

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*The formal minute of the public items of business will be available at the next meeting which is scheduled for 11 November 2021. This will also be published on the SPA's website.*

*During the current period of social distancing and other restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a full recording of the public items of business taken at this meeting can be accessed at <https://livestream.com/spa/resourcessept21>*

### **Main items of business**

- HMICS assurance reports
- Period 4 financial monitoring report
- COP26 finance update
- 5 year financial planning and capital strategy
- Procurement strategy
- Initial business case (IBC): Analysis and Demand Transformation
- Full business case (FBC): Forensic Services 2026
- Body worn video (BWV) contract award lessons learned
- Enabling policing for the future: project update
- Two lease awards: Ayr and St Katherine's Centre

### **Key issues raised**

- HMICS assurance reports:
  - HMICS presented two reports: "demand analysis and management" and "transformation benefits 2019/20".
  - For this item the Chair of the People Committee was present and representing ARAC were Members who also sit on this committee.
  - Members had an in depth discussion of the findings and plans to address issues raised, linking findings to other committee work on: financial planning, strategic workforce plan and IBC for the analysis and performance unit.

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- **Period four financial monitoring report.** The Committee considered the report and raised questions relating to: cash flow management; workforce forecasts and capital receipts. Assurance was received on questions raised and for the quarter two forecast report the finance department will focus attention on workforce forecasts.
- The Chief Executive noted **updated Accountable Officer guidance** has recently been issued from SG to all AO's on required spending approvals not legally committed and above £1m. Officials are working with SG to understand the requirements and their impact on the Authority.
- COP26 – it was noted that **all business cases** had now been **approved** by the UK Government's spending approval board.
- **A 5 year financial planning report and capital strategy:**
  - Members heard plans will continue to iterate and be refreshed initially every six months.
  - Members explored the reports with a **focus on testing assumptions** made and questioning items included and excluded from plans.
  - Finance agreed to revise the paper to be clearer on items included and excluded.
- **Procurement strategy** – noted this is the public facing procurement strategy. Members considered: the implications within the cover paper; staff resources within the procurement department and strategy KPIs.
- Body worn video (BWV) contract, **lesson learned report** - Members welcomed the report and the **assurance that controls are in place** to ensure learning is taken into account for future contracts.
- **Enabling Policing for the Future** (EPF) Programme – Members received an update on this establishment of this programme which is a **re-set of TCSS** (Transforming Corporate Support Services). The Committee welcomed the principles of the project and that a TCSS lessons learned report would be provided.

***Business cases***

- IBC: analysis and demand transformation. Members considered the case and questioned the required investment but welcomed how proposals addressed the earlier HMICS report findings. Feedback would be incorporated into the forthcoming FBC.
- FBC: **forensic services 2026**. Members carefully considered the proposals. Assurance was sought over: project management; strategic alignment; time to deliver change; support of Police

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Scotland; impact on business as usual work and risk management. The committee welcomed the FBC whilst highlighting **the challenges of change capacity and funding**.

***Estates and Leases***

- Ayr short term accommodation – Members agreed that the current accommodation urgently required addressing, however, considered if the short term solution **represented Best Value** and explored the alternative options. Members were content to recommend to the Board subject to clarifying points in Board report.

**Conclusions reached / actions agreed**

- Prior to submitting to the Board, Police Scotland agreed to update papers to address Members comments.
- Subject to the above points, the following items were recommend to the Authority for Approval:
  - 5 Year Financial Planning
  - Capital Strategy
  - Procurement Strategy
  - Forensic Services 2026 Full Business Case
  - Ayr Short Term Accommodation Lease
  - St Katherine’s Centre Project Lease

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## Summary report from Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee

16 September 2021

Jane Ryder, Committee Chair

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*The formal minute of the public items of business will be available at the next meeting which is scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This will also be published on the SPA's website.*

*During the current period of social distancing and other restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a full recording of the public items of business taken at this meeting can be accessed at [- Scottish Police Authority \(spa.police.uk\)](https://www.scottishpolice.uk)*

### **Main items of business**

- Draft Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31 March 2021
- Audit Scotland 2020/21 Annual Audit Report
- Audit and improvements progress – (SPA and Police Scotland including custody update report)
- HMICS Thematic Inspection of SPA – Closure Report
- Internal Audit Reports
  - Environmental Impact
  - Legal Claims Payment
- Strategic assurance mapping
- Risk management updates (SPA and Police Scotland)
- Six monthly information management reports (SPA and Police Scotland)

### **Key issues raised**

- **ARA / Audit Scotland -**
  - There were only very minor differences from the draft consider in July. Audit Scotland's draft Annual Audit Report identified no significant findings and there had been good progress addressing previous actions.
  - ARAC heard positive feedback from Audit Scotland that the Annual Report and Accounts had been completed **in line with the planned timescale** and to a high standard despite the challenges and impact of COVID-19.

- **Internal audit –**
  - Changes to the internal audit plan were considered and approved (remove equality and diversity audit given the proposed scope of HMICS review, and include an audit on procurement/ tendering).
  - Two new reports were considered. Both overall found examples of good practice and effective arrangements in place. Some improvement recommendations have been made that were accepted by management.
- **Recommendations progress –**
  - Members noted the positive update from Police Scotland on overall progress of existing external recommendations.
  - Members specifically explored the recent European Committee (NPM) report on custody alongside existing HMICS recommendations and requested clarification and progress on actions fully within the remit/control of Police Scotland.
  - Members noted and welcomed the excellent progress with discharge of all except one remaining recommendation from the **HMICS Thematic Inspection of SPA** achieved. Positive engagement with HMICS supporting this work was highlighted and welcomed.
- **Assurance mapping –** Members welcomed a presentation showing the Authority’s strategic assurance map, in particular the focus on three lenses looking at assurance mapping, which ensures coverage and in due course will inform future audit planning. At the end of the financial year the SPA will prepare an integrated assurance statement bringing together outcomes from all assurance providers. The approach and detailed proposals was fully supported by Members and commended by external and internal auditors as at the leading edge of public bodies approach to assurance.
- **Risk management –** Members welcomed further improvements in risk reporting that addressed previous questions. Risks related to the Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC) project were discussed and it was noted that SPA further oversight of change would be routed through ARAC.

**Conclusions reached / actions agreed**

- The committee approved the changes to the annual internal audit plan.
- The following items were recommended to the Authority for Approval:
  - Draft Annual Report and Accounts; and
  - Audit Scotland's Annual Audit Report.