

Meeting	SPA Board Meeting
Date	30 June 2020
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Chief Constable Iain Livingstone QPM
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached:	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Authority with information relating to the Police Service, policing and the state of crime.

This report is submitted as a Standing Agenda Item.

1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of Police Scotland is 'to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland' and our focus is on Keeping People Safe. This paper is intended to provide Members with an update on key activity and events within Police Scotland.

2. TACKLING THREAT AND RISK

SERIOUS VIOLENCE INCLUDING HOMICIDE

Murder of Paul Cairns – Ayrshire Division

On Sunday 24 May 2020, a 42 year old man died after being shot within his home address in Ardrossan. Following investigation led by detective officers from the Police Scotland Major Incident Team, two males aged 42 and 50 years were arrested and charged with murder and attempting to defeat the ends of justice. Both appeared at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court and were remanded in custody.

This serious crime caused significant impact in the local community. As well as offering support to the family of Mr Cairns, in the days following the incident, officers from Ayrshire Division delivered a high-visibility presence in the local area to provide additional community reassurance.

Attempted Murder of Police Officers – Lanarkshire Division

On Sunday 14 June, two police officers suffered serious injuries when they were assaulted by an armed male as they were dealing with an unrelated incident in Wishaw, North Lanarkshire. Both officers were admitted to hospital for treatment. A 25 year old male was arrested and appeared at Hamilton Sheriff Court charged with attempted murder and possession of an offensive weapon. He was remanded in custody.

This traumatic incident further highlights the dangers that officers and staff can face as they carry out their duties to protect the people of Scotland. I have repeatedly stated that being abused and assaulted is not part of the job. Police Scotland will continue to ensure officers and staff who are assaulted are shown the same care, compassion and commitment afforded to members of the public, and are provided with the best after care and support.

SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME**Operation GADGET – Firearms and Drugs Seizures**

On Wednesday 10 June, officers from Greater Glasgow Division, supported by Police Scotland’s Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit, carried out an intelligence led operation in the West of Scotland at addresses in Glasgow, Johnstone and East Kilbride. The operation resulted in the seizure of four firearms, two grenades, ammunition and an industrial pill press machine. It also led to the recovery of controlled drugs including heroin, cocaine and etizolam tablets with an estimated street value of over £180,000, as well as the seizure of a five figure sum of cash.

A 42 year old male was arrested and appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court on Friday 12 June, in respect of firearms and drug related offences, where he was remanded in custody. Two other males were also arrested and released pending further investigation.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Reduced traffic on the road network due to COVID-19 restrictions has had a resulting impact on road safety. In the period to Friday 19 June, there were 10 road fatalities compared to 37 in the same period in the previous year.

As the volume of traffic begins to increase, Road Policing officers will continue to maintain proactive patrols in identified hotspots, targeting the minority of road users who continue to drive in an inappropriate and reckless manner, often involving excessive speed. In addition, national enforcement and safety campaigns continue with the Police Scotland Summer Drink and Drug Driving Campaign commencing on Saturday 27 June.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES**PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE****COVID-19 Care Home Deaths**

Board members will be aware of the significant number of COVID-19 related deaths which have occurred within care homes in Scotland. On Wednesday 13 May, the Lord Advocate James Wolffe QC confirmed that the Crown Office was setting up a dedicated unit to examine the circumstances of these deaths. Police Scotland is supporting the work of

the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Care Inspectorate and other partner agencies, through the gathering of information to inform this review work.

National 'Shut Out Scammers' Campaign

Police Scotland recognises that doorstep crime can have a devastating effect on victims and impact on their emotional wellbeing and health. The period of COVID-19 restrictions reduced the likelihood of traditional doorstep crime taking place, however as restrictions begin to ease, there is the potential for such criminality to increase.

On Monday 15 June, Police Scotland launched the 'Shut Out Scammers' campaign in conjunction with key partners including Trading Standards Scotland, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, Advice Direct Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The two week campaign aims to raise public awareness and offer preventative advice on how to identify a rogue trader or bogus caller.

Information Sharing

As previously reported to the Board in August 2019, following the introduction of General Data Protection Regulations, Police Scotland worked closely with partners and relevant authorities to determine appropriate mechanisms for sharing information relating to individuals assessed as requiring intervention to prevent future harm, but who may fall below the threshold for formal child or adult protection measures.

Engagement has been ongoing with third sector organisations to introduce a 'Public Task' based approach to information sharing. Following the development of relevant Information Sharing Agreements, briefing material and communication plans, the new approach was fully implemented on Monday 22 June 2020.

TACKLING CRIME IN THE DIGITAL AGE

National Online Child Abuse Prevention

Protecting children is a key priority for Police Scotland and reports of online child sexual exploitation continue to rise, with contributory factors including improved reporting from industry and increased proactivity from worldwide law enforcement agencies. Our officers and staff are committed to preventing and investigating online sexual abuse, tackling what is one of the most serious crime threats in Scotland.

Since January, Specialist Crime Division's Internet Investigations Unit has

prepared over 350 National Online Child Abuse Prevention packages to support enforcement action in Local Policing Divisions. Priority has been given to high-risk offenders and children most at risk of online exploitation during the period of COVID-19 restrictions. With support of staff from the Digital Forensics Unit, enforcement action has resulted in the arrest of over 100 offenders, increasing protection for more than 180 vulnerable children.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT - OPERATION TALLA

Police Scotland has provided regular updates to the Board in respect of the policing response to COVID-19 in recent months. Not only has the Service delivered the policing response to the coronavirus pandemic, it has also contributed to broader national co-ordination arrangements. Engagement continues with national and local governments, as well as representatives from the SPA, HMICS, COSLA and SOLACE, alongside wider engagement with UK policing colleagues through the National Police Chief's Council and Strategic Capabilities Board. Local partnerships continue to operate effectively, with resilience partnership arrangements reinforcing existing local relationships.

I have participated in a number of First Minister's Daily Briefings which focused on the public health response required across the country. I emphasised Police Scotland's commitment to common sense policing, founded on our core values and principles, with enforcement only being used as a last resort. The briefings also provided a further opportunity to reiterate my thanks to Police Scotland officers and staff for their outstanding commitment to public service, as we help address the national health emergency.

PARLIAMENTARY EVIDENCE SESSION

On Tuesday 9 June, I provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Justice Sub-Committee on Policing, which focused on policing during the coronavirus pandemic. During the evidence session, I reflected on the strong bond of trust which exists between communities and the police service in Scotland. I also reaffirmed my view as Chief Constable that during the COVID-19 response, Police Scotland has faced many challenges and demands, but has approached its work based on the foundation of policing by consent, maintaining our core function and focus on public service.

The Committee also heard evidence from John Scott QC, Chair of the

Independent Advisory Group, which is considering Police Scotland's use of the temporary police powers to tackle coronavirus.

SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME TASKFORCE

On Monday 1 June, Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham and Detective Chief Superintendent Pat Campbell represented Police Scotland at a virtual meeting of the Serious Organised Crime Taskforce, chaired by Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Mr Humza Yousaf MSP. The meeting of the Taskforce considered the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on serious and organised crime in Scotland. As demonstrated by recent operational updates to the Board, Police Scotland remains committed to tackling serious and organised crime and will persistently pursue those who set out to cause harm and misery to our communities.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

PUBLIC INQUIRY - DEATH OF SHEKU BAYOH

On Thursday 21 May, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice announced Terms of Reference for the Public Inquiry into the death of Sheku Bayoh, to be chaired by Lord Bracadale. Police Scotland will participate fully in the Public Inquiry in an open and transparent manner. It is vital that the role and independence of the Public Inquiry is respected to ensure society sees the application of the rule of law, due process, and justice being served.

The death of Sheku Bayoh was, and remains, a terrible tragedy. It has had a traumatic impact on his family and friends, as well as affecting many people within policing, and the wider community of Kirkcaldy and Scotland. As Chief Constable, I am committed to supporting all those who have been affected by Sheku Bayoh's death throughout this time.

POLICING RESPONSE TO COVID-19 – OPERATION TALLA

Police Scotland's contingency planning and response measures continue to address the evolving circumstances and impact of COVID-19. Recent weeks have seen renewed challenges for policing, particularly throughout the last weekend in May following the easing of restrictive measures. There was an almost 30% increase in incident demand compared to the previous weekend, with beaches and beauty spots in rural areas being a particular challenge. The policing style and tone remained consistent with our well-established approach, evidenced by the high number of dispersals which took place compared to the low number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued.

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

During the first two weekends in June, a pre-planned policing operation was undertaken across Scotland to facilitate demonstrations by those wishing to express solidarity with the 'Black Lives Matter' Movement. Over 20 events took place across Scotland with an estimated combined attendance in excess of 12,000 people. There were three arrests for disorder offences over the two weekends, with one incident being racially aggravated. In general, the demonstrations were peaceful with those in attendance attempting to adhere to physical distancing requirements. Police Scotland advice in advance of the demonstrations was to discourage physical attendance to minimise risks to public safety and health, encouraging those who wished to protest to do so in an alternative manner.

On Sunday 14, Wednesday 17 and Saturday 20 June, a significant and proportionate policing response was implemented in George Square, Glasgow to maintain public order and safety during a number of public demonstrations. On Wednesday 17 June, six arrests were made for public order offences, with a further arrest made on Saturday 20 June in respect of a minor offence. Post-incident reviews are ongoing to identify others who may have been involved in criminality.

EU EXIT PLANNING

Negotiations between the UK and EU continue as we approach the end of transition arrangements on 31 December 2020. As future arrangements with the EU are being developed, we continue to monitor potential community impact and engage with partners to plan for the various criminal justice scenarios which may emerge as a result of negotiations.

On Friday 29 May, Assistant Chief Constable Mark Williams chaired a meeting of the Scottish Resilience Partnership EU-Exit Sub-Group which focussed on the potential impact on wider resilience partnership arrangements. Discussion topics included concurrent risks; information flows; risk assessments; lessons identified from the COVID-19 response; and testing and exercising.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26)

On Thursday 28 May, following agreement with the United Nations, the UK Government formally announced that the rescheduled COP26 conference will take place in Glasgow between Monday 1 and Friday 12 November 2021.

In the period since the original COP26 conference was postponed, Police

Scotland maintained a reduced-size planning team and management structure, with ongoing representation at various UK Government governance boards. Work has continued with partner agencies to develop and review the planning assumptions as we prepare for the delivery of an effective and safe policing operation.

6. OUR PEOPLE

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Planning and preparation continues within Police Scotland to ensure that our people are safe at work as we transition from the current situation. COVID-19 related operational guidance for officers and staff remains under review, in conjunction with information and guidance from Health Protection Scotland (HPS), the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC).

As reported to the Board in May, the Scottish Police Federation (SPF) issued an improvement notice to Police Scotland and submitted a report to the HSE, regarding SPF concerns surrounding control measures to be followed when police officers carry out breath testing procedures. On Tuesday 16 June, the HSE wrote to Police Scotland to advise that they were satisfied there appeared to be a proportionate procedure to manage the work-related risks of exposure to coronavirus, and did not intend to take any further action in respect of the SPF concerns.

Joint site visits with Staff Association representatives have highlighted examples of positive working arrangements in respect of physical distancing across the police estate. Such arrangements will continue to be reviewed, particularly following the launch of the Scottish Government's Test and Protect Strategy. Access to COVID-19 key worker testing facilities remains available for officers and staff across a number of national and regional testing sites, including testing for asymptomatic officers and staff who may have been exposed to coronavirus.

In addition, the Wellbeing Hub continues to signpost officers and staff to available support services and resources aligned to our four wellbeing strands of Psychological, Physical, Financial and Social.

VOLUNTEERS WEEK

National Volunteers Week, which ran from Monday 1 June until Sunday 7 June, afforded Police Scotland the opportunity to recognise and thank our volunteers for their support and service. The commitment and dedication of volunteers who help to deliver policing in Scotland is considerable and

has been further demonstrated during the response to COVID-19.

Following an appeal, a significant number of Special Constables increased their operational deployments to support local communities, and more than 40 employers granted leave to facilitate Special Constable commitments. As a result, during the policing response to COVID-19, over 160 Special Constables have completed more than 3,500 operational shifts, amounting to approximately 30,000 hours of volunteered duties.

In addition, as part of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers Programme, in the past year over 1,100 young people and adults have volunteered approximately 64,000 hours to assist at more than 1,500 events across the country.

The dedication, commitment and professionalism demonstrated by our volunteers is exemplary and I appreciate and value their ongoing contribution to public service in Scotland.

CARERS WEEK

Police Scotland supported Carers Week which commenced on Monday 8 June. Carers week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution carers make to families and communities throughout Scotland. This year it was recognised that the COVID-19 emergency had presented new challenges, with some people becoming carers for the first time, or those already with caring responsibilities being faced with unprecedented demands.

I again pledged my support for officers and staff who undertake caring responsibilities, encouraging them to engage with supervisors and line managers should additional flexibility in working arrangements be required. This approach to protect the wellbeing of our officers and staff, and their families, will enable us to continue to provide the best possible service we can for the people of Scotland.

SENIOR OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Following an intensive selection process, we now have seven candidates who have been identified as suitable for promotion to the rank of Chief Superintendent as part of our ongoing succession planning. In addition, Tim Mairs and Judi Heaton are due to take up posts as Assistant Chief Constables on Monday 6 July.

Individually and collectively, these senior officers have considerable policing experience and will add value to Police Scotland's strong and

united leadership team.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the information contained in this report.