
Report To:	Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee	Date:	25 March 2021
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	P&F/03/21/HS
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Subject:	Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update report (March 2021)		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee on current and emerging issues relating to Police and Fire and Rescue Services.
- 1.2 The report includes an update from the Scottish Parliament's Justice Sub-Committee on Policing- Police Scotland's use of remote piloted aircraft systems and body worn video cameras as well as a public consultation on the use of body worn video by Police Scotland.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to be made aware of national initiatives, reviews and consultations and, where appropriate, to inform Members' consideration of future agenda items relating to Police and Fire and Rescue matters.
- 2.2 This report is intended to draw these elements together with a view to informing and shaping future meeting agendas as appropriate and raising awareness of emerging issues.

This report provides updates for the following:

- The Scottish Police Authority and Scottish Police Authority Board;
- Police Scotland
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland;
- The Scottish Parliament

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee notes the current and emerging national issues relating to Police and Fire and Rescue matters.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

- 4.1 **SPA Board:** The SPA Board have met on two occasions and members are directed to the links for those meetings. The meeting of [22 January 2021](#) considered a number of items including a presentation of [Independent Review of Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in relation to Policing](#) focusing on those recommendations directly linked to the Scottish Police Authority. There was also submitted a report [Local Policing Programme](#) which provided SPA members with a high level overview of the proposed themes and activities to be included in the Local Policing Programme for 2021/22. These themes and activities evolve and build on some of the current activities from the 2020/21 year as well as establishing new priorities, added to ensure that the Programme continues to strengthen, improve and modernise Local Policing in Scotland.
- 4.2 The SPA Board meeting of [24 February 2021](#) considered a number of regular updates with no public papers relevant to this committee.

5.0 HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND (HMICS)

- 5.1 **Assurance Review- Policing of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26). Terms of Reference:** The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) brings together heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. COP26 was initially scheduled to take place in Glasgow in November 2020 however, as a direct consequence of the global Coronavirus pandemic, representatives of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, with the United Kingdom (UK) and Italian partners, decided to postpone the event which has now been rescheduled to 1-12 November 2021.

The aim of this assurance review is to provide independent assessment of the state, effectiveness and efficiency of policing arrangements for COP26 with focused assurance work across three key areas:

- Police Scotland's Business as Usual (BAU) capacity and capability arrangements for non-COP26 related policing activity
- Police Scotland's arrangements for monitoring and supporting staff wellbeing pre, during and post COP26
- Police Scotland's co-ordination, management and mobilisation of resources including mutual aid support in response to COP26

The [Assurance Review](#) document can be accessed via the link.

6.0 POLICE SCOTLAND

- 6.1 **Body Worn Video Survey:** There was submitted via email a letter from the Assistant Chief Constable (Criminal Justice) to the Committee Convenor in respect of a Police Scotland consultation on the use of Body Worn Video (BWV). The online survey, which opened for three weeks from February 1 2021, allowed members of the public to engage and offer their opinions on the deployment of BWV in Scottish policing for the future. In order to ensure that a wide representation of the Inverclyde community had the chance to participate in the survey, the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership led on the distribution of the survey across a range of digital and print platforms.

Owing to the layout of the consultation, and in conjunction with Council Officers and the Committee Convenor, there is no formal response from the Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee to this consultation.

7.0 THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLICING

- 7.1 **Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems and Body Worn Cameras:** The Justice Sub-Committee

on Policing is considering how Police Scotland currently makes use of remote piloted aircraft systems, also known as drones, and body worn video cameras, this also included a consultation response which members approved at the previous meeting of the Committee.

7.2 The Sub-Committee met on the 18th January 2021 and heard representations from Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. Members should note a response from Deputy Chief Executive of the SPA to the Sub-Committee:

“The authority recognises the efforts that Police Scotland has gone to on local engagement with communities and sectors since prior to the deployment of RPAS. However, a possible learning point that we can take from the submission from Inverclyde Council is that a formal communication to the local authority may be helpful as part of that local engagement. Inverclyde has expressed concern that that was not part of the communication schedule. That would be an easy enhancement for Police Scotland colleagues to make to the current arrangement and it would build trust in the local authority as well as the local community.”

7.3 The current business of RPAS/BWV is still being considered by the Justice Sub-Committee and members will be notified of any relevant updates to Inverclyde and local policing.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

8.2 Legal

None

8.3 Human Resources

None

8.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

8.5 Repopulation

This structure is intended to protect and assist the local communities.

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

9.1 None

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 **Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update report (February 2021)**
Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee 4 February 2021 (P&F/01/21/IH)