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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>27 May 2021</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>P&amp;F/04/21/HS</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update report (May 2021)</b>		

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## 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 a further update from the Scottish Parliament's Justice Sub-Committee on Policing in respect of Police Scotland's use of remote piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) and body worn video cameras, an update from the COSLA Police Scrutiny Convenor's Forum in respect of RPAS and the proposed future template report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland to the Committee.

## 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;
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland;
- The Scottish Parliament Justice Sub-Committee on Policing;
- COSLA Police Scrutiny Convenors' Forum
- The Scottish Fire & Rescue Board;
- Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland;
- Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee

## 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 met on [24 March 2021](#) and considered a number of regular updates. The Board also considered updates in respect of the [SPA Budget 2021-22](#), a discussion paper on the [26th Conference of the Parties \(COP26\)](#) and the [Draft Annual Police Plan 2021-22](#).

In respect of the Draft Annual Police Plan 2021-22 there are a number of outcomes relevant to local policing within Inverclyde and contained within the Inverclyde Local Police Plan. The five outcomes contained within the Draft Plan also considers a number of 'change activity' functions including "*public consultation and wider engagement programme on the introduction of Body Worn Video*".

- 4.2 **Policing Performance Committee:** The Committee met on [9 March 2021](#) and there was submitted a report on [Body Worn Video Roll Out Approach Considerations](#). The report highlighted "*The engagement process for armed policing (using body worn video) has commenced with an online public survey, which closes on 24 February 2021. As of 19 February the survey had over 8,000 responses which is a very positive response rate. The feedback thus far is overwhelmingly in favour of Police Scotland using BWV*".

The Committee also considered operational policing policy reports on [RPAS Evaluation](#), [Digital Triage Device \(Cyber Kiosks\) Evaluation](#) previously raised at Committee.

- 4.3 **SPA Board Membership:** The SPA confirmed six new Board Members to serve from 1 April 2021 following a previous recruitment exercise and confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice. The new members are:

Dr Robert Black CBE - Scotland's first Auditor General and serving chair of the Audit Committee of the British Library.

Mr Paul Edie - Chair of the Care Inspectorate since 2013 and a Council Member of the Scottish Social Services Council.

Mr Alasdair Hay CBE QFSM – Former Chief Fire Officer of Scottish Fire and Rescue.

Mrs Katharina Kasper - A senior risk and compliance professional and non-executive member of the NHS Lothian Board.

Professor Fiona McQueen – Former Scottish Government Chief Nursing Officer.

Dr Catriona Stewart, OBE – Has worked in an advisory capacity at national level, including to the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act (Scotland) and the Scottish Government's Improving Understanding of Autism/DifferentMinds campaign.

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

- 5.1 **Crime Audit 2020:** The aim of the [Crime Audit 2020](#) was to assess the state, efficiency and effectiveness of crime recording by Police Scotland and the extent to which recording practice complies with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard and Counting Rules. This audit follows similar audits of crime recording carried out by HMICS in 2013, 2014 and 2016.

The results of this audit show that Police Scotland's level of compliance is generally good at over 90%. That said, the overall force figures fail to reach Police Scotland's self-imposed target of 95% compliance, and mask variations in performance across the territorial divisions. These local variations (at their worst, ranging from 70.7% in one division to 98.6% in another), are an issue for Police Scotland as a national police service, aspiring to provide the same quality of service to communities across the country.

Members in the first instance are directed to consider the audit methodology as outlined in sections 22-31 to provide background to the audit particularly in sections 25-27 which details the 'tests'. The tests are incident closure (test 1), crime counting and classification (test 2) and timelines (test 3). Only test 1 is applied to non-crime related incidents, incidents which result in a crime proceeds to test 2 and test 3.

The tests are considered at a local policing division level and is therefore not considered at

sub division level (KC Sub Division) or local authority wide (Inverclyde). Therefore Inverclyde is considered in the context of Renfrewshire and Inverclyde.

- In respect of test 1, the compliance rate in 2020 ranged from 85% to 96%. The Renfrewshire and Inverclyde compliance rate was 89.7% up from 88.7% in 2016.
- In respect of test 2, the compliance rate in 2020 ranged from 87% to 96%. The Renfrewshire and Inverclyde compliance rate was 87.1% down from 97.2% in 2016.
- In respect of test 3, the compliance rate in 2020 ranged from 70% to 97%. The Renfrewshire and Inverclyde compliance rate was 96.4% down from 97.5% in 2016.
- In relation to no-crimes, one division, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (K division), performed worse than Scotland as a whole, at 80.6%.

## 6.0 THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLICING

6.1 **Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems and Body Worn Video Cameras:** The most recent report by the Justice-Sub Committee was [published 18 March 2021](#). In respect of both RPAS and BWV the Sub-Committee make a number of recommendations. Members should also note the Inverclyde's submission to the Sub-Committee in January 2021 is noted within the published report.

6.2 **Justice Sub-Committee on Policing Legacy Report, Session 5:** [This Report](#) has been published as it established practice for Scottish Parliament committees at the end of a session to prepare 'legacy papers', reflecting on the work they have undertaken during that session, and highlighting any particular areas of work that are outstanding which a successor committee may wish to pursue. The report should seek to support any committee or sub-committee formed in session 6 of the Scottish Parliament with the responsibility of policing within its remit. In respect of local scrutiny the report notes:

*There is also, in our view (Justice Sub-Committee), still an issue with scrutiny of issues at a local level in Scotland. This is a view shared by HMICS which told us that "local scrutiny by elected councillors, council officers and others sitting on local committees, continues to be important, yet the frequency of meetings and quality of scrutiny are varied across the country".*

## 7.0 COSLA POLICE SCRUTINY CONVENORS' FORUM

7.1 On April 13 2021, the Convenor of the Committee attended the COSLA Police Scrutiny Convenors' Forum. The event hosted by COSLA was a joint consultation event by Police Scotland and The Scottish Police Authority. The event focused on three specific issues; Remote Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), Taser Capability and Body Worn Video Camera roll out. These agenda items were previously discussed at the SPA Policing Performance Committee.

7.2 The Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) of Operational Support provided an update in relation to the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) (report linked at section 4.2 of this report). The ACC advised that the deployment of RPAS is an enhancement to the current services offered by the Air Support Unit and discussed its use by outlining its operational capabilities, the operational and legal rationale for its deployment and concluded by acknowledging that improved engagement with Scrutiny Boards (by Police Scotland) would enhance understanding of their use and allow proper consideration to be given to any issues raised.

7.3 The ACC also provided an update in relation to '[Police Scotland Taser Capability](#)'. The ACC advised that representation was made at Police Scotland's Strategic Leadership Board in December 2020, seeking to enhance the roll out of Specially Trained Officers (STO), who carry Tasers. The specific request was to increase the number of officers carrying Tasers from approx. 500 to 2000, and to increase the number of locations that the officers deploy from (all over a three year period). While Police Scotland is requesting to increase the number

of officers carrying a Taser, the number is limited compared to the rest of the UK. The ACC offered to provide a fuller briefing paper, outlining some of the statistical evidence gained since the roll out of Taser to further inform of the benefits.

- 7.4 There was a presentation by the ACC for Criminal Justice in respect of 'Body Worn Video Roll Out Approach Considerations' (report linked at section 4.2 of this report). The ACC explained the background, benefits and drivers for the implementation of BWV by Police Scotland. BWV is currently used in the North East Division of Police Scotland where there are approximately 250 cameras in use. This programme was previously approved by the former Grampian Police Board in 2010. Police Scotland launched an online engagement survey on BWV on 3 February, 2021, which received 8,835 responses. The purpose of this survey was to inform the deployment of BWV for Armed Response Officers, and to initiate the discussion on a national roll-out of the equipment. A full public consultation will take place to help inform the future of the national roll-out of BWV.

## **8.0 THE SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE BOARD**

- 8.1 The SFRS Board was held on [25 March 2021](#). Members should note the inclusion of the paper '[Local Fire and Rescue Plan Consolidate Review Report](#)' which provided the Board with a review of current Local Fire Plans which had been conducted to establish: SFRS progress against local priorities and whether SFRS local priorities remain relevant to the current operating landscape. Section 3 of the paper reaffirms the position of the Local Senior Officer for East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire & Inverclyde and the Group Commander (Area Head of Prevention and Protection) at the previous Committee meeting that the local fire plan for Inverclyde shows clear links with other community based plans, and that the local fire plan priorities are based on need.

## **9.0 HER MAJESTY'S FIRE SERVICE INSPECTORATE IN SCOTLAND (HMFSI)**

- 9.1 HM Chief Inspector of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service [2020-21 Annual Report](#) looks at HMFSI's current inspection programme and reflects on work which has concluded within the past 12 months. The report concludes with the proposed inspection programme in 2021-22 which includes:

- Review of Operational and Protective Equipment
- Health and Safety- An operational focus
- Firefighting in High Rise Buildings

Where appropriate, future updates in respect of the above, will be presented to future Committee meetings.

## **10.0 INVERCLYDE LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

- 10.1 At the meeting of the Committee on Thursday 25 March 2021 there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on current and emerging issues relating to Police and Fire & Rescue Services. During the course of the discussion in relation to agenda item 4.1 of said report, there was agreement that Police Scotland would look at how statistical information on complaints made about the Police Service be presented at future Committee meetings. There was also discussion about the general content of the report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during a reported period.
- 10.2 On Friday 16 April 2021 there was a meeting jointly hosted by the Local Area Commander and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development involving representatives from Police Scotland, Inverclyde Council and Renfrewshire Council. The Convenor and Vice Convenor also attended this meeting.
- 10.3 During the course of this meeting it has been agreed that in respect of statistical information on complaints made about the Police Service, additional information will be presented by Police Scotland that responds to previous questions raised by Members of the Committee.

10.4 During the course of the meeting it has been agreed that in respect of the report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during a reported period, Police Scotland (K Division) will consider an existing template from the Ayrshire Policing Division within a Renfrewshire and Inverclyde context and present a draft during the next Committee cycle timetable. A further meeting to progress this matter is scheduled for June 2021.

**11.0 IMPLICATIONS**

**11.1 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					

**11.2 Legal**

In respect of section 10 of this report, section 45(5) of the Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 notes;

A local commander must provide to the local authority such— (a)reports on the carrying out of police functions in its area (including by reference to any local policing plan in force for the area), (b)statistical information on complaints made about the Police Service in, or the policing of, its area, and (c)other information about the policing of its area, as the local authority may reasonably require.

**11.3 Human Resources**

None

**11.4 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.
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X	NO
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(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

11.5 **Repopulation**

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

12.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 None

13.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

13.1 **Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update report (March 2021)**  
Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee 25 March 2021 (P&F/03/21/HS)