



**JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLICING**

**AGENDA**

**3rd Meeting, 2013 (Session 4)**

**Thursday 18 April 2013**

The Committee will meet at 1.15 pm in Committee Room 6.

1. **Local policing:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Deputy Chief Constable Rose Fitzpatrick QPM, Local Policing, Chief Superintendent Julian Innes, Local Police Commander, Highland and Islands Division, and Sergeant Kate Blundell, Lothians and Scottish Borders Division, Police Scotland.

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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda item 1**

Note by the clerk

JSP/S4/13/3/1

SPICe briefing (private paper)

JSP/S4/13/3/2 (P)

## Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday, 18 April 2013

### Local policing

#### Note by the Clerk

#### Purpose

1. This paper invites the Sub-Committee to consider the next steps following its evidence session on local policing with Deputy Chief Constable Rose Fitzpatrick.

#### Early areas of interest

2. At its meeting on 28 March, the Sub-Committee considered its approach to developing its work programme and agreed to consider local policing arrangements and accountability at its next meeting.

3. The Sub-Committee further identified a number of other early areas of interest for consideration in the coming months. It agreed to write to the SPA and PSoS advising them of its early areas of interest and indicating that it would welcome updates on any of these issues, including timescales for their delivery to ensure that the Sub-Committee considers the issues at the most appropriate time. Responses from the SPA and PSoS are attached at Annexes A and B respectively.

4. The early areas of interest identified by the Sub-Committee are listed below, along with an indication of when the SPA/PSoS consider it would be most timely to consider each and which would be the most appropriate lead on providing the updates:

#### *Early areas of interest: short term*

- **The delivery of national responsibilities, including counter-terrorism and organised crime:** the PSoS is best placed to provide an initial update on the current status of this.
- **The Scottish Government's strategic policing principles<sup>1</sup>, SPA strategic plan<sup>2</sup>, Police Scotland annual plan<sup>3</sup>, and Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary's work plan<sup>4</sup>:** Both the SPA and PSoS are happy to provide updates on the SPA strategic plan and PSoS annual plan respectively at any time. (The Police Investigations and Review Commissioner has also updated his statutory guidance on the handling of complaints<sup>5</sup> to reflect the 2012 Act; the Sub-Committee may therefore also

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government (March 2013). *Strategic Police Priorities*. Available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/Police/ConsultationFuturePolicin>

<sup>2</sup> Scottish Police Authority (March 2013). *Strategic Police Plan 2013-14*. Available at:

<http://www.spa.police.uk/about-us/consultation-on-draft-strategic-plan/>

<sup>3</sup> Police Scotland (March 2013). *Annual Police Plan 2013-14*. Available at:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/138327/150739/police-scotland-annual-police-plan-2013-14>

<sup>4</sup> Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (March 2013). *HMICS Programmed Work Plan 2013-14*.

Available at: <http://www.hmics.org/publications/hmics-programmed-work-plan-2013-2014>

<sup>5</sup> [http://pirc.scotland.gov.uk/news/1079\\_commissioner\\_updates\\_his\\_statutory\\_guidance](http://pirc.scotland.gov.uk/news/1079_commissioner_updates_his_statutory_guidance)

wish to look at this as part of any scrutiny of the main strategic policing documents.)

- **The policing of trunk roads:** The PSoS would be best-placed to provide an update on the current status of this.
- **The relationship between the Scottish Police Authority (SPA), Police Service of Scotland (PSoS) and the Scottish Government:** both the SPA and PSoS could provide an update on the current status of this.

*Areas of interest: longer term*

- **Budget allocation and savings:** both the SPA and PSoS would provide an update on this. The SPA has suggested that the best timeframe for the Sub-Committee to consider this issue would be after summer recess.
- **Police staff numbers, including the impact of any staff reductions on front-line officers:** the PSoS is best placed to provide an update on this and has suggested that the Sub-Committee allows “a period of operational delivery” before considering this matter further.
- **Scheme of arrangements for the SPA and PSoS on human resources and finance responsibilities:** both the SPA and PSoS would provide an update on this. The SPA has suggested that the best timeframe would be after a quarter of the financial year has passed and once the SPA has had a chance to review it.
- **Information technology provision:** The SPA could provide an initial update at this stage. The PSoS suggested that the Sub-Committee allows “a period of operational delivery” before considering this matter further.
- **Independent custody visiting and complaints handling:** The SPA has indicated that it would be happy to engage with the Sub-Committee to explain the rationale behind the approach to delivery of independent custody visiting and complaints handling, which has recently been agreed. However, it has suggested that the Sub-Committee notes the need for the new arrangements to be “tried and tested” before it is in a position to provide practical evidence on how they are working.

5. In addition, the Sub-Committee agreed to inform COSLA of its intention to hold its first evidence session on local policing. COSLA has informally indicated that it intends to consider how the new arrangements are working in practice once they have had a few months to bed in.

### **Fact-finding visits**

6. The Sub-Committee agreed at its last meeting to hold a number of fact-finding visits to inform its future work. The first visit is to Gartcosh Crime Campus, which has been arranged for the afternoon of Thursday 25 April. The Sub-Committee has received correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in relation to the Sub-Committee’s visit to Gartcosh, which is attached at Annexe C.

7. The Sub-Committee also expressed an interest in visiting St Leonards police station in Edinburgh to examine how their police custody arrangements work in practice. Clerks will be able to provide an update on progress with this at the meeting.

8. In its letter (at Annexe A), the SPA suggested that the Sub-Committee may also wish to visit a forensics facility such as the new laboratory at Rushton Court in Dundee. The SPA states that this “was the first new forensic facility to be built in Scotland in 15 years and will give members a sense of the forensic facility that will in due course be part of the complex at Gartcosh”.

**9. The Sub-Committee is asked to consider whether it would wish to visit the forensics facility at Rushton Court in Dundee.**

### **Next steps**

**10. The Sub-Committee is asked to consider, in the light of DCC Fitzpatrick’s evidence session, whether to further explore any issues relating to local policing or to consider any of its other early areas of interest at its next meetings.** (The Sub-Committee has agreed the following schedule of fortnightly meetings up until summer recess:

*Thursday 25 April – visit to Gartcosh Crime Campus*

Thursday 2 May

Thursday 16 May

Thursday 30 May

Thursday 13 June

Thursday 27 June.)

## Letter from the Scottish Police Authority to the Convener

### Areas of early interest

Thank you for your letter of 2 April highlighting the areas of early interest likely to be considered by the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing.

In terms of the areas your letter highlights, a number of those are operational in nature, whether under the direction and control of the Chief Constable in the case of counter-terrorism, or the Chief Executive of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) on the provision of ICT services. These will of course also be areas of scrutiny for the SPA as well as the sub-committee and it may in the first instant be more relevant for each of them to provide an update at this initial stage.

The relationship between the SPA, Police Service of Scotland and Scottish Government is clearly a new one and an issue that MSPs have already taken evidence on. The Board would be happy to discuss that with the sub-committee at its convenience, as we would with the SPA strategic plan which was laid before the Scottish Parliament last week. The document can be found also on the SPA website at:

<http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/128635/strategic-police-plan-web>

A number of the issues raised in your list have been the subject of recent papers considered by the SPA and I hope it is helpful for the Committee to have sight of these.

### *Budget allocation and staffing*

At the Board's meeting on 28 March we considered and agreed a budget allocation and related efficiency savings for 2013-14. The Board will be keeping the budget under close review and options are likely to be presented to us in the first quarter of the financial year, and I would advise that an update to the sub-committee might be appropriate after the summer recess when we have more data and practical evidence of spend against budget at our disposal. This is also likely to be a sensible timeframe for setting out in more detail for the sub-committee how the restructuring necessary to deliver efficiencies will impact on overall staff headcount.

A link to the associated paper which sets out the background to the budget allocation is attached below:

<http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/147077/Item02-budget-final>

### *Scheme of arrangements*

A scheme of arrangements was agreed at the Board meeting on 28 March and is published on the SPA website at the link attached below. This document is intended to be dynamic and be amended over time to reflect practical experience and changing circumstances. To provide the sub-committee with the best evidence available, it may be sensible to allow the new arrangements to bed in for at least a quarter of the financial year and to have been reviewed by the SPA Board before being subject to scrutiny of the Sub-Committee.

<http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/147077/ITEM03-SCHEMEOFARRANGEMENTS>

*Complaints and independent custody visiting*

The SPA's approach to its role in handling of complaints and initial approach to the delivery of independent custody visiting have also both been agreed and published in Board meetings in recent weeks. Links to those are attached below. We would be happy to engage with the sub-committee to explain the rationale behind that approach at its convenience, though again we would ask the sub-committee members to note the need for the new arrangements to be tried and tested before we are in a position to provide practical evidence on how they are working.

<http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/140136/ITEM07-COMPLAINTSANDCONDUCT>

<http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/135005/item-05-custody-visiting>

We note the sub-committee's interest in fact-finding visits, including the Scottish Crime Campus at Gartcosh. I would encourage you to also consider a visit to a forensics facility such as the new laboratory at Rushton Court in Dundee as part of that. This was the first new forensic facility to be built in Scotland in 15 years and will also give members a sense of the forensic facility that will in due course be part of the complex at Gartcosh.

If you are interested in arranging such a visit, or require assistance in visiting any other facility that falls within the responsibility of the SPA, then please contact our Interim Director of Public Affairs who will be able to ensure the necessary support and arrangements are made.

Finally, I can reassure you that the SPA Board takes very seriously its obligations to transparency in all its public considerations and decision-making.

The Board will by 10 April have held eight formal, public meetings in less than 100 working days since we established ourselves formally at our first meeting on 3 December. That is equivalent to the number held by the former authorities in over a year.

As a Board we are committed to publishing our papers well in advance of our meetings and on the small number of occasions where this has not been possible we have apologised to all interested members of the public for the late issue of papers. You should be reassured that this will be an exception to our practice and procedures.

The members of the SPA Board welcomed the recent opportunity to engage with the members of the sub-committee on an informal basis at the Parliamentary briefing that you kindly sponsored last month. We look forward to continuing to inform, and to engage with, the sub-committee going forward.

Vic Emery  
Chair, Scottish Police Authority  
8 April 2013

**ANNEXE B****Letter from Police Scotland to the Convener**

Thank you for your letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013, highlighting the areas of interest the Parliamentary Justice Sub-Committee on Policing has agreed upon. As I am sure you can appreciate many of the issues highlighted have no final date of completion and will become ongoing day to day business for Police Scotland.

From the list you provided we would be happy and able to provide for your interests, updates on current status of the following:

- local policing arrangements and accountability (as you have indicated as your initial point of focus);
- the relationship between the Scottish Police Authority (SPA), Police Service of Scotland (PSoS) and the Scottish Government;
- the delivery of national responsibilities, including counter-terrorism and organised crime;
- the policing of trunk roads; and
- the Police Scotland annual plan.

In respect of the further matters you have highlighted, namely:

- budget allocation and savings;
- scheme of arrangements for the SPA and PSoS on human resources and finance responsibilities;
- police staff numbers, including the impact of any staff reductions on front-line officers;
- information technology provision; and
- complaints handling.

It may be advantageous to allow a period of operational delivery within these areas of business prior to them being subject to the scrutiny of the Sub-Committee. This will facilitate a more detailed position within Police Scotland as matters develop. These areas will also be dependent on agreement with the Scottish Police Authority.

With regard to independent custody visiting, this is a matter for the Scottish Police Authority.

In terms of members of the Sub-Committee carrying out fact finding visits, we would be happy to help facilitate these where required. If you wish to take up this offer, please contact Police Scotland Executive Support who will make the necessary arrangements on your behalf.

Of course I would be happy to discuss any of this with you or the full sub-committee at your convenience, in person or by telephone.

Stephen House  
Chief Constable  
3 April 2013

**ANNEXE C****Letter from the Scottish Government to the Convener****The Scottish Crime Campus**

The Scottish Crime Campus is in the final stages of construction and, when operational in the early part of next year, will be a major asset in Scotland's fight against serious organised crime and terrorism. It will house the headquarters of the new Specialist Crime Division (SCD) of the Police Service of Scotland and the Forensic Service and as such I thought it would be appropriate to invite the Committee to visit to gain an understanding of what it will contribute to policing in Scotland.

I understand that my officials have already been in touch with the clerk to the Committee and some potential dates have been identified for a visit to the site at Gartcosh. I hope that you and committee members will be able to benefit from this visit and please let me know if there is anything else I can do to assist.

Kenny MacAskill MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Justice  
9 April 2013