

Minutes

Scottish Railways Policing Committee

Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 11.00am in Burns II, COSLA Conference Centre, Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh, EH12 5BH and via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Iain Whyte (Chair)
Willie Gallagher
Tom Halpin (SPA Co-Opted Member)
Kenna Kintrea

Apologies:

Mary Pitcaithly (SPA Co-Opted Member)

In attendance:

British Transport Police Authority Executive

Hugh Ind (Chief Executive)
Kate Carr (Head of Legitimacy and Performance)
Lynsey Luthra (Risk and Assurance Manager)
Fiona Mackie (Head of Chief Executive's Office)
Jon Newton (Analyst)
Alistair MacLellan (Board Secretary / Minutes)

British Transport Police

Alistair Sutherland (Deputy Chief Constable)
Gill Murray (Chief Superintendent)
Lara Adamson (Analytical Insight and Statistics Manager)
Adrian Atherley (Head of Risk and Assurance)
Russell Beattie (Staff Officer to Chief Superintendent Murray)
Johnny Shilton (Head of External Affairs)

Scottish Police Authority Corporate

Amanda Coulthard (Head of Strategy and Performance)
Lesley Carnegie (Performance and Impact Lead)
Matthew Kirk (Interim Operational Policing Policy Lead)

Police Scotland

Hilary Sloan (Chief Superintendent)

External

David Lister (ScotRail)
Pete Kingham (BTP Federation)
Brian MacInulty (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland)

Apologies

Agenda Item 1

1. Apologies were received from Mary Pitcaithly.

Declarations

Agenda Item 2

2. There were no declarations.

Minutes

Agenda Item 3

3. **RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2024 be approved, subject to a typographical error at paragraph 6 being corrected.
4. **RESOLVED**, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2024 (circulated as a late paper) be approved.

Actions

Agenda Item 4

5. Members considered actions arising from previous meetings and the following points were made.
 - a. Members were minded keeping Action 6/2024 open for the time being, as well as recommending it to the Full Authority for consideration.
 - b. Members agreed that Action 4/2024 and 7/2024 could be closed.
6. **RESOLVED**, that the actions arising from previous meetings be noted.

Policing Plan Performance

Agenda Item 5

7. Members considered a paper regarding Policing Plan Performance for Q2 2024/25, and the following points were made.
 - a. The Chief Superintendent introduced the paper and highlighted,
 - i. Violence remained an area of focus and challenge, albeit with an improved solved rate on year for violence against rail staff.
 - ii. Shoplifting, one of the main crime groups affecting D Division at the outset of the year, was reduced by 52% in Q2.

- iii. Positive engagement with stakeholders on violence against women and girls, including Partick Thistle Football Club and several educational establishments.
 - iv. The continuing challenge of disruption, typified by efforts to secure satisfactory hand back times.
 - v. The importance, in the Force's corporate view, of securing adequate funding and resources to implement the Optimised Policing Model. The Chair noted that funding and resources for programmes such as the Optimised Policing Model would be dealt with as part of the Full Authority's consideration of the Force's Medium-Term Financial bid on 10 December 2024.
- b. In response to a question, the Deputy Chief Constable noted that violence and suicide were both concerns for the Force, and Christmas/New Year plans had been adopted for hotspots. Whereas fatalities and suicides were down in Scotland, the Force was being challenged on non-suspicious hand back times.
 - c. A SPA Member commented on recent media interest in the role of organised crime in shoplifting and queried whether there was a corporate affairs element to take into account when addressing topical crime issues. The Chief Superintendent acknowledged that the Force needed to be on the front foot in terms of its social media. The Deputy Chief Constable added that, more broadly, the Force's External Affairs Team was integral to addressing issues and sentiments identified in the Force's Staff and Passenger Surveys.
 - d. An SPA Member noted the spike in sex offences in September 2024 and noted this merited further scrutiny in the next quarter.
 - e. A Member commented on D Division's level of disproportionality. Whilst acknowledging the small sample size, she welcomed the Chief Superintendent's assurance that disproportionality was subject to rigorous analysis in order to mitigate it as far as was possible.
 - f. In response to a comment, the Chief Superintendent confirmed she was mindful that, whereas the Divisional find rate was positive, it was nevertheless down on year and this deserved further monitoring into the next quarter.
 - g. In response to a question, the Chief Superintendent confirmed that the Force was a member of Police Scotland's GOLD Group for the Commonwealth Games. Members noted that the Force and Authority would need to keep a watching brief on whether the Force qualified for central funding for policing of the Games.
8. **RESOLVED**, that the paper regarding Policing Plan Performance for Q2 2024/25 be noted.

British Transport Police and Police Scotland / Joint Working

Agenda Item 6

9. Members considered a paper regarding joint working between British Transport Police and Police Scotland and the following points were made.
 - a. The Chief Superintendent (Police Scotland) introduced the paper and highlighted in particular,
 - i. Positive joint working across Op TRUIN (152nd Open Golf at Troon), Safer Shores, Pavilion Music Festival, and the Scottish Air Show.
 - ii. Police Scotland's Summer Youth Disorder Action Plan, delivered in conjunction with BTP throughout the summer holidays to tackle spikes in youth disorder.
 - iii. BTP's cooperation with Police Scotland in developing and adopting BTP's Naloxone policy, and delivery of training to BTP officers to allow them to participate in a Naloxone carriage pilot.
10. **RESOLVED**, that the paper regarding joint working between Police Scotland and British Transport Police during Q2 2024/25 be noted.

Industry Voice / Rail Staff and Passenger Survey

Agenda Item 7

11. Members considered a paper regarding BTP's Rail Staff / Passenger Survey 2024 and the following points were made.
 - a. The Analytical Insight and Statistics Manager introduced the paper and highlighted,
 - i. The fact that the annual survey had secured its highest level yet of respondents, with 363 from Scotland.
 - ii. Safety and confidence measures were generally higher in Scotland compared to the rest of the UK, but free text responses nevertheless demonstrated negative feedback around officer visibility and a general fear of crime. Rail staff in particular noted workplace violence as their prime fear.
 - b. In response to a question, the Deputy Chief Constable agreed the Force could be smarter in its use of social media and other channels to address concerns around officer visibility. There was a corporate engagement piece across all BTP Divisions in that regard. The proposed Optimised Policing Model would provide the best opportunity for the Force to be where it wanted to be in terms of visibility.

- c. A Member encouraged the Force to adopt a longer-term i.e. 10-year view on where it wanted to be in terms of visibility and its role in relation to industry and wider stakeholders. He worried that both the Force and the Authority could be too focused on incremental short-term change in seeking to address the themes identified in the surveys. The Deputy Chief Constable concurred and noted the relevance of Artificial Intelligence in such longer-term thinking.
- d. A SPA Member commented that there was a piece for ScotRail and the effective use of signage beyond the central belt to build a more positive perception of officer visibility.
- e. In response to a question, the Analytical Insight and Statistics Manager confirmed that staff survey respondents were drawn from all rail industry staff i.e. train managers, drivers, and revenue staff and – to a lesser degree – back-office staff. It was also possible to provide a geographical breakdown of respondents – she would provide further detail outside of the meeting (Action 8/2024).

12. **RESOLVED**, that the paper regarding BTP's Rail Staff / Passenger Survey 2024 be noted.

Thematic / BTP Disruption Review

Agenda Item 8

13. Members received a presentation from an Assistant Chief Constable regarding BTP's Disruption Review and the following points were made.
- a. During the course of his presentation, the Assistant Chief Constable highlighted,
 - i. The partnership response approach to disruption across the Force, local Home Office forces, and Network Rail, and in particular Op GREENLAW, the Force's response to disruption.
 - ii. The role of the Major Crime Investigation Manual in the event of complex disruption incidents such as that at Pangbourne in January 2024, and the need for the Force to be mindful of the role of coroner in deciding cause of death.
 - iii. Common myths around the Force's ability to deal with disruption, including the fact that the Force did not in fact have immediate access to relevant CCTV.
 - iv. The Force's recent review of disruption had revealed it could be better joined up with industry in ensuring passenger welfare during disruption incidents. The review had also resulted in a Superintendent assuming command of an incident after a given period of time to ensure adequate seniority was applied to resolving an incident.

- v. The complexity posed by differing types of persons in precarious positions (PIPPs) i.e. protestors were generally compliant, whereas vulnerable persons were generally non-compliant.
 - vi. The fact that the Force had retained its Senior Duty Officer in Scotland following its *Layers and Spans* review.
 - vii. The application of JESIP was perhaps strongest in BTP Scotland e.g. typified by the Force response to the Stonehaven derailment and the fact body worn video from that incident was used as best practice examples in national training.
- b. In response to a question, the Assistant Chief Constable confirmed the Force remained committed to using drones in Scotland and working within the parameters set out in Police Scotland's 2022 consultation exercise. He expected deployment to take place in early 2025.
 - c. In response to a question, the Assistant Chief Constable replied that the balance between a person's right to protest versus the rights of the travelling public was a difficult one to gauge, but that nevertheless Force leadership encouraged officers on the scene to make a continuous assessment during an incident to ensure an appropriate balance was struck.
 - d. The Chair welcomed the presentation and requested a further update on disruption at the next meeting.

14. **RESOLVED**, that the presentation from an Assistant Chief Constable regarding BTP's Disruption Review be noted.

The meeting was adjourned for a comfort break between 12.25pm – 12.30pm.

Policing Plan Review Update

Agenda Item 9

15. Members considered a BTPA Executive Cover Paper and associated paper from the Force regarding the BTP Policing Plan and the following points were made.
- a. The Head of Legitimacy and Performance introduced the two papers and highlighted,
 - i. The Force and Authority's refreshed approach to developing the Policing Plan, that had culminated in establishing three Force-wide priorities that would be underpinned by efforts to address local, Divisional level issues through Local Rail Safety Action Plans.
 - ii. Policing Plan development engagement in Scotland had been convened in September 2024, and this had included comparisons with Police Scotland's Policing Plan.

- b. A Member commented that he was particularly interested in the Force's preparedness to respond to extreme weather events, including whether the Force was explicitly aligned to any industry assessments and plans.
- c. In response to a question, the Head of Legitimacy and Performance replied that the comparative exercise with Police Scotland's policing plan had revealed broadly similar priorities across both forces, with less alignment evident on counter-fraud. That said, the Chief Constable's Operational Policing Plan launched in September 2024 matched the proposed BTP Policing Plan.
- d. The Chair noted that both he and a Committee Member had been closely involved in the development of the Plan through the BTPA's Policing Plan Working Group, and offered a minor comment to the effect that the infographic dials within the plan were potentially confusing given the red/green ratings on the 'dials' were in reverse order.

16. **RESOLVED**, that Members,

- a. Endorse to the Full Authority the Policing Plan approach for BTP's Scotland Division,
- b. Note that work would continue to refine the Plan as necessary in advance of it being presented to the Full Authority on 10 December 2024 for approval.

Policing Plan Review Cover Paper

Agenda Item 9.1

17. **RESOLVED**, that the BTPA Executive Cover Paper regarding the BTP Policing Plan Update be noted.

BTP Policing Plan Update

Agenda Item 9.2

18. **RESOLVED**, that the BTP Policing Plan Update be noted.

Annual Report / Best Value

Agenda Item 10

19. Members considered an annual report regarding Best Value and the following points were made.
- a. In response to a question, the Head of Legitimacy and Performance replied that direct costs were higher in Scotland due to there being no Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), and that the forthcoming new Cost Allocation Model would likely have an impact on indirect costs.
 - b. In response to a comment, the Head of Legitimacy and Performance noted that the Vision and Leadership theme could be addressed, in part, by scrutiny of the Force's All People Survey.

- c. The SPA Corporate Head of Strategy and Performance noted that there would be a Best Value assessment of policing carried out during 2025, and there was an opportunity therefore to apply evidence secured from Police Scotland to the British Transport Police.
- d. A Member commented that there may be value in securing external review and insight of the BTPA's Best Value assessments.
- e. The Chair requested that future Best Value assessments be aligned with the Committee's Evaluation Framework going forward.

20. **RESOLVED**, that the annual report regarding Best Value be noted.

Audit and Inspections Update

Agenda Item 11

21. Members considered an Audit and Inspections Update for Q2 2024/25, and the following points were made.

- a. The Deputy Chief Constable introduced the update, and highlighted,
 - i. New actions on the Force's 4Action system, as a result of both a Government Internal Audit Agency inspection of Force risk management, and a non-Force inspection of rape and other sexual offences investigations.
 - ii. That the Force anticipated securing access to Police Scotland's interim Vulnerable Persons Database from January 2025, satisfying an action arising from an HMICS inspection.
 - iii. The excellent score for Store Management and Governance secured by the Edinburgh Waverley team following a Governance Team Health Check.
 - iv. The 'reasonable' level of assurance secured following a Information Commissioner's Office audit, and the adoption of an action plan by the Force to improve existing arrangements relating to data protection.
 - v. The recent Public Sector Fraud Authority inspection, with a forthcoming final draft report.
 - vi. The recent visit to the Force by the Angiolini Inquiry team, and the forthcoming national thematic report.

22. **RESOLVED**, that the Audit and Inspections Update for Q2 2024/25 be noted.

Workplan

Agenda Item 12

23. Members considered the Workplan, and the following points were made.

- a. The Head of Legitimacy and Performance summarised issues referenced during the meeting that would be incorporated into the workplan, namely a further update on disruption, Force preparedness for extreme weather events, and greater alignment of Best Value reporting with the Committee's Evaluation Framework (Workplan).
- b. Those present further commented on the potential to adopt deep dives of relevant strategic risks, and to review Best Value themes in greater detail to establish if that revealed any candidate items for the workplan. The SPA Head of Strategy and Performance noted the potential alignment between use of drones and responding to vulnerable persons in distress.

24. **RESOLVED**, that the Workplan be noted.

Evaluation Framework

Agenda Item 13

25. Members considered the Evaluation Framework for Q2 2024/25, and the following points were made.

- a. The BTPA Analyst noted that the BTPA's progress update to the Convenor of the Justice Committee would be provided following the November 2024 meeting, hence the current red rating for the measure on regular reporting to the SPA and Scottish Parliament.

26. **RESOLVED**, that the Evaluation Framework for Q2 2024/25 be noted.

Any Other Business

Agenda Item 14

Farewell to Willie Gallagher

27. The Chair noted this was Willie Gallagher's final meeting of the Committee prior to his term as BTPA Member concluding at the end of January 2025. The Chair placed on record his personal thanks to Willie for his support, and the thanks of the Committee and BTPA and BTP officers and staff for his championing of the work of BTP in Scotland. Willie's time on the Committee had been characterised by insight balanced with good humour.

The meeting ended at 1.13pm.