Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Police Scotland’s proposed use of digital device triage systems (cyber-kiosks)

Written submission from the Scottish Police Authority

Cyber Kiosks

In the period of time since the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) provided written and oral evidence to the Sub-Committee in June 2018, the SPA has continued to engage with Police Scotland on the next steps taken by them towards deployment of ‘cyber kiosks’, and in particular the process by which policy, operating procedures, and ethical considerations will be developed to govern the use of the kiosks.

An External Reference Group and a Stakeholder Reference Group have been established by Police Scotland and have met over the summer period, with further meetings scheduled. The SPA is a member of the Stakeholder Reference Group, and is being represented by SPA Board member Robert Hayes. The key objectives of the Stakeholder Reference Group include the following:

- to provide challenge, test and scrutiny of the Police Scotland review process and of the outcomes to be delivered;
- to highlight areas of compliance with relevant legislation that should be considered in any future model in accordance with human rights, data protection and employment law; and
- to assist in the development of a Code of Ethics and associated behaviours.

The next meetings of the External Reference and Stakeholder Reference Group are scheduled to take place in September, and will involve reviewing both the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment and the Data Protection Impact Assessments undertaken so far.

Cyber Resilience

The SPA has been working with Police Scotland on an initial baseline assessment of progress regarding implementation of the Public Sector Action Plan (PSAP) for Cyber Resilience. The Sub-Committee will be aware that in November 2017 the Deputy First Minister published the Scottish Government Cyber Resilience Public Sector Action Plan “Safe, Secure & Prosperous: A Cyber Resilience Strategy for Scotland:


Police Scotland has established a Cyber Resilience Board (CRB) chaired by DCC Johnny Gwynne. The aim of the Cyber Resilience Board is to provide assurance on the Scottish Government Action Plan and provide a governance and assurance framework considering the role which Police Scotland has in cyber resilience, namely:
• internal resilience within Police Scotland;
• Police Scotland’s wider role in delivering the Action Plan including providing support to other public bodies; and
• the overarching role of tackling crime and protecting Scottish communities.

SPA member Robert Hayes attends the Cyber Resilience Board.

Digital, Data and ICT Strategy

The SPA Interim Chief Officer’s letter of 20 July to the Convenor of the Sub-Committee mentioned the SPA’s ongoing engagement with the development of Police Scotland’s Digital, Data and ICT Strategy, within which cyber forensic capability is being developed, and the associated Outline Business Case. The SPA Board last considered this strategy at its meeting on 31 May 2018.

Since that time SPA officials have monitored the development of the related Outline Business Case, and the SPA Audit Committee asked the SPA’s internal auditors to undertake an independent review of the development of the Digital, Data and ICT Outline Business Case. That review is currently ongoing. The SPA’s Finance Committee will scrutinise the draft Outline Business Case on 7 September 2018 and, subject to that discussion, the Outline Business Case is expected to be presented to the SPA Board meeting on 27 September 2018 for approval.

Scottish Police Authority
6 September 2018