Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Police Scotland’s digital data and ICT strategy

Written submission from the Scottish Police Authority

Cyber and ICT Developments

The Sub-Committee requested information on the Scottish Police Authority’s (SPA) scrutiny of Police Scotland’s introduction of ‘cyber kiosks’ on 20 April 2018. The introduction of cyber kiosks is an element of the Policing strategy: ‘2026 – Serving a Changing Scotland’. A parallel request has been made of Police Scotland on the specific detail of their proposed approach to cyber kiosks and ICT more widely.

SPA Scrutiny of Police Reform

A significant programme of improvement activity is currently being undertaken, at pace, within the SPA. As part of that SPA has been reviewing and considering how to focus its governance activity, so as to ensure that there is effective governance of important areas such as police reform as well as increasing scrutiny and debate on matters of significant public interest in the future development and delivery of policing.

In her report to the forthcoming SPA Board meeting on 2 May, the SPA Chair sets out a proposal to establish a designated SPA Committee to oversee police reform and transformation as it enters this crucial phase of implementation and delivery. Details of this new Committee will be brought to the SPA Board meeting on 31 May as part of a package of proposals on a revised Committee structure and Governance Framework.

Data, Digital and ICT Strategy

On the development of an ICT strategy for Police Scotland more generally, the Board expects to consider a progress report from Police Scotland on its Digital, Data and ICT Strategy work at its meeting on 2 May, with more detailed plans being considered at the Board meeting at the end of May. Previous SPA Board meetings have also reviewed progress to date on this work, most recently in November 2017.

Cyber Kiosks

The proposal for ‘cyber kiosks’ features within the section of the 2017-20 draft Implementation Plan which focuses on enhancing cyber and forensic capability, and specifically as an early element in delivery of an enhanced digital forensic infrastructure.

Police Scotland initially presented the draft Implementation Plan to the Authority in December 2017 and again on 29 March 2018. The Board agreed to consider approval of this 3 year Implementation Plan alongside the accompanying 3 year financial plan at its next meeting: 2 May 2018.
If Sub-Committee members would find it of value, SPA would support and be happy to facilitate with Police Scotland a briefing and practical demonstration of the ‘cyber kiosk’ technology at work.

The link to the implementation plan document presented in March, and coming again on 2 May, in which ‘cyber kiosks’ are referenced is attached below: http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/441011/441165/451586/451606

Scottish Police Authority
30 April 2018