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**SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY**

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LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

TO: LOCAL AUTHORITY POLICE SCRUTINY CONVENER

17 December 2021

CO/149/2021

Dear Police Scrutiny Convener

UPDATE FROM THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

Following my last update of 28 September, and my recent attendance at the COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum on 2 December, I wanted to write ahead of the festive break to provide an update on some policing issues.

Policing of COP26

I was very pleased to hear such positive feedback from Conveners about Police Scotland's approach to policing COP26. It is the Authority's view that the policing of COP26 was a significant success and Police Scotland delivered a safe and secure operation, while also ensuring people's rights to peaceful protest were upheld. I have congratulated the Chief Constable and every officer and member of staff who contributed to the conference and business as usual activity in the run up to, during and after the conference.

The Authority commissioned independent polling through the ScotPulse Public Opinion Survey to gain a better understanding and insight into the public's views of the policing of the conference. The polling targeted those living in the Greater Glasgow area. We have just received the results, which we will publish on the Authority's website next week. The first indications are of a high level of support for the policing approach taken by Police Scotland to both safety of the delegates and facilitating peaceful protest. This independent evidence adds to our initial assessment and Police Scotland's own data and reporting to us.

Call Handling Response Times

Police Scotland's call handling approach and performance continues to be closely monitored by the Authority. I understand Conveners' continued interest in this important area of policing. The most recent update on service delivery was reported and discussed at the Authority's Policing Performance Committee on 9 December. Conveners can read that update in full from the [Authority's website](#).

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Police Scotland reported on a number of measures implemented to improve call handling. Unfortunately, the new variant of Covid will present significant challenges for police call answering times over the coming weeks. Staff absences are increasing and demand is remaining high. [Police Scotland is communicating these challenges to the public](#). This is a shared challenge for other emergency and public services. Police call handling will therefore pick up even more demand. Police Scotland will prioritise 999 calls and maintain the very good 'immediate' 999 response times. The Service is working to mitigate the anticipated lengthening wait times for 101 calls as much as possible and the Authority will continue to monitor this.

Review of Local Police Plans

DCC Kerr and I reported to the COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum on Thursday 2 December that we expect to finalise the tripartite review of local police plans with COSLA in the New Year. I want to record my thanks to everyone who took the time to feed back their views and inform this important piece of work. The best practice and learning identified will play an important role in informing the next scheduled Local Policing Plan development cycle, which will begin in the Spring of 2022.

Dedicated SPA Local Authority Engagement Plan

A significant commitment of the Authority's [local authority engagement plan](#) is to offer regional meetings with Police Scotland's participation to local authority scrutiny partners. Dates for these meetings have now been identified and are listed below for your awareness:

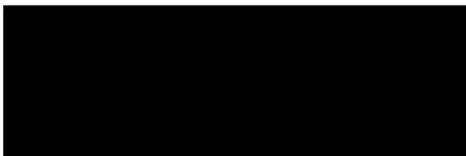
- North Division - Thursday 3 February between 9.30 - 12 noon
- East Division - Tuesday 8 March between 1.30 - 4.00 pm
- West Division - Wednesday 16 March between 1.30pm - 4 pm

Officials from the Authority will be in touch with more information and calendar invitations shortly, together with a call for any agenda items you would like to suggest. I look forward to engaging with you further at these meetings.

I hope you have found this update helpful. Should you have any feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch with my office.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable festive break.

Yours sincerely



MARTYN EVANS
Chair

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Copy to: Cllr Alison Evison, President, COSLA
Cllr Graham Houston, Vice Chair, COSLA
Cllr Kelly Parry, Community Wellbeing Spokesperson
Sally Loudon, Chief Executive Officer, COSLA
DCC Will Kerr, Police Scotland, Local Policing