



Scottish Police Federation

5 Woodside Place Glasgow G3 7QF

Joint Central Committee Health & Safety Subject Committee

Ref: CS/DJK/LS

MINUTES

20 August 2013

1. Attendance

North Area Committee	Peter Jones
North Area Committee	John Drysdale
East Area Committee	Amanda Givan
East Area Committee	Brian Jones
West Area Committee	Donald Walker
West Area Committee	Martin Bertram
General Secretary	Calum Steele
Chairman	Brian Docherty
Health & Safety Secretary	David Cummings
Deputy General Secretary	Robert Milligan
Vice Chairman	David Ross (Meeting Chairman)
Business Administrator	Lesley Stevenson

Apologies were received from Gary Mitchell, Jeff Whelan, John Crawford and Jackie Lambert (APHSA).

2. Opening of Meeting

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

As this was the first meeting of the Health & Safety Subject Committee, there were no previous minutes.

4. Previous Actions

As this was the first meeting of the Health & Safety Subject committee, there were no previous actions.

5. National Health & Safety Meetings

The minutes of the three national health and safety meetings had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were noted.

5.1 Joint UK H&S Meeting

The minute of the Joint UK Health & Safety meeting which was held in Glasgow on 29 May 2013 had been circulated and was noted. The Committee was informed that the next meeting of this group would be held in Belfast in September.

5.2 Association of Police Health & Safety Advisors (APHSA)

The minute of the APHSA meeting which was held in Perth on 23 May 2013 had been circulated and was noted. The Committee was informed that the next meeting of this group would be held on 22 August and the Health & Safety Secretary would attend.

Peter Jones advised that John Hill, Health & Safety Advisor in the North Area was retiring. Mr Hill had wished everyone well for the future.

5.3 Force Executive H&S Meeting

The minute of the first Force Executive H&S meeting had been previously circulated and was noted. The Vice Chairman had attended that meeting and said that the main issue discussed was structure and how health and safety would be dealt with across the force. He spoke of the creation of an operational support division and crime, health and safety executive to monitor health and safety issues in those two specific areas, the others will be done divisionally and by territorial area.

6. Local Area Committee Updates (inc WPIs)

The General Secretary asked that all divisional representatives were identified to Woodside Place as soon as possible in order that checks can be carried out on the use of email.

6.1 North Area

The minute of the North Area Committee meeting held on 18 July 2013 had been circulated and was noted. The Committee discussed armed response vehicles and the fact that two airwave terminals were to be carried in the vehicles. This was discussed by the Committee and Peter Jones advised that the matter was ongoing.

6.2 East Area

The minute of the East Area Committee meeting would be circulated in the near future.

6.3 West Area

The meeting of the West Area Committee was held on 3 July 2013 and the minute had previously been circulated and was noted.

6.4 SPSA (or future equivalent)

The H&S Secretary told the Committee that he attended the Scottish Police Authority Health & Safety meeting the previous week. He told the committee that the keys for the

new Crime Campus in Gartcosh would be available the following week and that he would visit the campus in the near future.

The Committee discussed the SPA and the health and safety remit. There were concerns expressed about a serious under reporting of assaults on police officers. The H&S Secretary said that he had a meeting arranged with APHSA the following week at which he would raise this issue.

7. Uniform

Papers had been circulated and were noted. The Committee was informed that the second Police Scotland Clothing and Equipment Working Group had met that day. The tender for body armour was put out the previous day and was published with a view to being in place on 1 January 2014. There would be an opportunity for the SPF to attend as in previous years to review the body armour. The Committee discussed female body armour and the problems associated with that. It was noted that Colin Heppenstall had been tasked to do some research into this matter. The Vice Chairman told the Committee that he had examples of problems with the female body armour which he had previously circulated to ACC Angela Wilson (chair of uniform working group at the time) and said he would share it with the Health & Safety Secretary. It was agreed that these issues should not interfere with the current tendering process. Other items out for tender in the near future would be trousers, hats and gloves.

The Committee discussed CS spray and the problems associated with it ie spray back, cross contamination etc. The H&S advised that there was a potential to move from CS to PAVA in the future, the committee agreed to maintain a watching brief on this issue.

8. Fleet and Vehicle Equipment

The Health & Safety Secretary said that he had met recently with Tony Chalk, previous Fleet Manager for Strathclyde. The Committee discussed the standard of vehicles, equipment carried in the vehicles and fleet budgets. It was noted that it was the intention for the fleet managers to continue to meet on a six weekly basis. John Drysdale asked if there were plans to reduce the number of operational vehicles. The H&S Secretary said that it was a matter for fleet managers as opposed to Divisional Commanders. It was agreed that this matter would be monitored and kept on the agenda.

9. National Operational Planning

The Committee was informed that there had only been one unplanned major event since 1 April 2013 in addition to the Open at Muirfield and T in the Park in Balado. The matter is on this agenda to ensure that any future events are captured. Risk Assessments for officers would be required on matters including heat and body armour and any other issues identified should be passed to the H&S Secretary.

The SPF Chairman said that Andrea MacDonald attended a meeting on his behalf with Mr Bernie Higgins regarding restrictions in place relative to annual leave during the Commonwealth Games, no update was available.

10. National Incidents Statistics

Statistics had been provided by Jackie Lambert of APHSA and were circulated. Members discussed the data and the General Secretary reported that the International Council of Police Representative Associations (ICPRA) was to do work on assaults on officers and days lost as a consequence. He was particularly concerned that data in this regard was robust. The Health and Safety Secretary advised that APHSA were not comfortable with the accuracy of the figures produced due to contradictory information around staffing levels being provided and that this matter would require to be resolved prior to the SPF having confidence in any current or future figures.

The Vice Chairman questioned the process for notification of incidents to the SPF to facilitate investigation and was assured by the H&S Secretary that existing processes in the legacy Forces were still in place and that work was on-going on a national process.

11. National Federation Training

The Committee was informed that weeks had been set aside for training and the Health & Safety Secretary said he would be meeting with area leads to discuss training requirements. A one day basic safety course may be held in the near future.

12. SPF Conference Input

It was agreed that this item does not need to be a stranding item on this agenda for every meeting but should be placed on the Agenda well in advance of the SPF Conference.

13. Competent Business

The Vice Chairman raised the matter of workplace inspections and whether a program was in place. The H&S Secretary said that the benefit of routine workplace inspections was negligible but that a small number of themed inspections would be done annually. Inspections on vehicles, public order and firearms would be done in the near future.

Peter Jones raised the matter of arrangements for meetings of the Standing and Subject Committee meetings. This was discussed and it was agreed that the matter would be looked into.

The General Secretary raised the matter of custody and said that he expected a recommendation from the Operational Duties Standing Committee to establish a H&S Sub Committee on this subject.

14. Closure

Date of next meeting: 15 October 2013

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting and wished them a safe journey home.