



Scottish Police Federation

5 Woodside Place Glasgow G3 7QF

Joint Central Committee Health & Safety Subject Committee

Ref: CS/DJK/LS

MINUTES

1 August 2017

1. Attendance, Opening of Meeting and Minutes of Previous Meeting

North Area Committee	Grant Letham
North Area Committee	Steve Thomson
North Area Committee	Linsey Burns
East Area Committee	Andy Malcolm
West Area Committee	Alan Thomson
West Area Committee	Paul Connelly
Vice Chair	David Hamilton (meeting Chair)
Assist. to the General Secretary (H&S) AGSH	Brian Jones
Business Administrator	Lesley Stevenson

Apologies were received from Wilkie McCloskey, Hugh Loudon, Steven Clark and Stuart Finnie.

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The Minute of the previous meeting had been circulated with JCC Circular 19 of 2017 and was noted.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Action Log

Three actions from the previous Minute were identified as follows:

1. Former AGSH to send letter to the DCC regarding the failure of airwave batteries (primarily in the North Area)

It was agreed that no letter was required relevant to this matter and the action could be closed.

2. The DGS to ascertain the up-to-date position regarding TAC vests and PPE redeployment

It was agreed that the AGSH would progress this matter further with Chief Inspector Bob Glass.

3. Former AGSH to contact ACC Higgins with concerns regarding the apparent reluctance to deploy firearm resources

The Committee discussed this matter and it was agreed that the SPF Vice Chair would speak to Chief Superintendent Roddy Newbigging about this.

3. Standing Items

3.1 SPF H&S Updates

Area Committees

North

Steve Thomson told the Committee that the NAC met on 31 July and the Minute would be circulated in due course. Amongst the matters discussed were the Control room in Dundee and the requirement for ear protectors for officers at eg football matches and music events. The AGSH said he would raise the matter at the next UPPE meeting.

East

Brian Jones said that the EAC met on 20 July and amongst the items discussed was the redeployment of PPE from the TAC vest to the utility belt. A variety of issues had been raised regarding this ranging from entanglement with seatbelts and steering wheels to concerns relative to back and hip pain. A significant number of complaints had been received relative to this from across the country and the AGSH said he would carry out work on this matter and report back.

Other items discussed included modifications to police vehicles, custody transfers by minibus, OBL levels in the East and a firearms incident in Bathgate.

West

The WAC last met on 19 July and the main issues discussed were firearms briefings, refreshment/comfort breaks and estates maintenance.

It was noted that the SPF Vice Chair would raise the concerns relating to refreshment/comfort breaks with Mr Steve Simpson of the PSoS Wellbeing Programme.

It was further noted that the AGSH would be meeting James Bertram and ACC Mark Williams later that week regarding the estates.

Custody Sub Group

It was noted that the Custody Sub Group had met that morning and amongst the items discussed was the concern with the apparent lack of evacuation drills from custody and satellite supervision.

Operational Support Division (OSD) Sub Group

There had been no meeting. Concerns had been recorded from armed policing regarding the redeployment of PPE from TAC vests to utility belts and a number of concerns had been highlighted nationally.

It was agreed that the AGSH would contact Superintendent Steve Irvine regarding the health and safety consultation structure within OSD

3.2 PSoS H&S Updates

Force Executive H&S Board

The AGSH said he had been unable to attend the last Board meeting and no minutes had yet been received. The next meeting was to be held on 28 August and the AGSH was scheduled to attend.

APHSA

Two meetings had now taken place with the AGSH and James Bertram and were now scheduled to take place on a monthly basis. A program of station inspections have been identified where joint inspections will take place between SPF, ASPHSA and UNISON/UNITE and PSoS. It was hoped that the entire estate would be inspected over a two year period.

It was reported that Safety Alerts had been issued regarding fentanyl and asbestos with a further safety alert being prepared regarding blood borne viruses and HIV. Annual RIDDOR reports were almost up to date with initial figures highlighting approximately 1000 working days lost each quarter representing a figure of £0.5m in lost revenue.

It was hoped to have joint training between APHSA and area leads in areas such as fire regulations.

Uniform/PPE/OST

The last meeting of this Group was held on 8 May 2017 at the SPC. Amongst the items discussed was the review of body armour, the budget for PPE, winter hats, tick repellent, airwave radio clips, Keila jackets for kennel staff and CS sprays. The next meeting is scheduled for 29 August.

3.3 Other H&S Meeting Updates

Joint UK H&S Meeting

A meeting of this Group was held in Birmingham on 30 June 2017 and the Minutes were awaited. The main points discussed were national concerns regarding the accuracy and recording of working time; the introduction of advice leaflets from the PTC on how body armour should be worn to avoid future concerns; issues regarding the promotion of websites of terrorist groups and how to overcome body armour; fatigue and stress in the workplace; the impact of nightshift working; temporary road signs and asbestos and associated dangers at crime scenes.

TTEWG

A meeting of this Group was held the previous week in Leicester. Amongst the items discussed was the lack of Gold Commanders nationally following on from the Hillsborough enquiry; concerns that the National PSU fleet was not as prepared as required; issues regarding the apparent lack of uniformity across the UK regarding Officer safety training and the impact this has when teamed up with a full time PSU. Concerns were also raised regarding the national concerns relative to the lack of communication between prison staff and police regarding PSU entry into prisons in cases of riot and disorder. Thanks had been given to all forces who provided mutual aid following the terrorist incidents in Manchester/London and also the incident in Grenfell.

3.4 Inspections/Investigations

It was noted that there were currently two outstanding investigations.

The Committee discussed locus protection at road traffic collisions and the Vice Chair was to meet with Chief Superintendent Roddy Newbigging about this.

3.5 Training

The AGSH said he had attended the PFEW Health & Safety Training Course for new safety reps in England. This had been an extensive training course with extensive input regarding HSWA 1974, European legislation, surround PPE, PUWAR, DSE, WTR, RISK Assessment and risk management.

4. Correspondence

The Committee had been provided with an updated Near-miss Guidance document prior to the meeting. No issues were raised regarding the Guidance document and thanks was given to Paul Connelly for the work he had done on the paper.

5. Competent Business

It was noted that the Health & Safety Leaders Seminar would be held on 25-27 September and Steve Thomson and the AGSH would be attending,

6. Closure

Date of next meeting: 10 October 2017.

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