



Scottish Police Federation

5 Woodside Place Glasgow G3 7QF

Joint Central Committee Health & Safety Subject Committee

Ref: CS/LS

MINUTES

9th April 2020

1. Attendance and Opening of Meeting

North Area Committee	Mike Purdie
North Area Committee	Ross Polworth
East Area Committee	Stephen Clark
East Area Committee	Heather Macdonald
East Area Committee	Ricky Wood
West Area Committee	Dougie Chalmers
West Area Committee	Gordon Cumming
West Area Committee	Ian Florence
West Area Committee	Kenny Kean
West Area Committee	Michael McCaughey
West Area Committee	Dougie McKinlay
West Area Committee	Campbell Smith
West Area Committee	Elaine Sutherland
Chair	Brian Jones
Assistant to the General Secretary (H&S) AGSH	Gordon Forsyth
Business Manager	Doug Keil
Business Administrator	Lesley Stevenson

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

Apologies were received from David Hunter and Graeme McLaren.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 situation the meeting was done by Video Conferencing. The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and invited all to take an active part.

The Minute of the previous meeting had been circulated with JCC Circular 5 of 2020 and was approved.

3 Violence

It was reported that the Draft Assault pledge was due to be taken to the Strategic Leadership Board in February but had been postponed for the moment.

The Committee discussed assaults on the police and it was noted that there had been a rise which was thought to be due to better recording. It was noted that there was still a massive disparity between the number of incidents recorded on SCoPE and the number of charges being brought against offenders.

The Chair said that many matters had been postponed due to the current crisis, however there was a team looking at the topics to ensure they remained on the agenda.

It was noted that the matter of officers being spat/sneezed/coughed on had been reviewed by the Lord Advocate and any examples should be sent to him. Incidents should also be recorded on Scope. Campbell Smith asked whether offenders were being held in custody however the Chair said although they were not, such incidents were being treated as an aggravation. Kenny Kean asked if the SPF had access to the new PSoS app for recording incidents. The Chair said they had not and Kenny agreed to send the link to him in order that he could circulate it.

4 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Chair told the Committee that PSoS were first notified of COVID-19 on 31st January 2020.

The Committee discussed PPE and it was noted that surgical face masks were not appropriate as they did not give any protection to the wearer, only protected the environment they entered. The Committee discussed PPE at length and raised concerns should PSoS be prepared to reduce the levels of protection. Health Protection Scotland Guidance recommended FFP3 masks were only required for aerosol general procedures (AGP) however there was differing advice given. It had been suggested that if FFP3 masks were not available then FFP2 masks could be used as long as they were face fitted. SPF advice from the panel of experts giving advice to SPF had said that they were not appropriate. Stevie Clark said PSoS had been put under pressure by the Government to relax their views however it was noted that the SPF were not in agreement with this. Further meetings were to be held relative to this issue.

The Chair told the Committee that he had spoken to Civil Litigation Lawyers relative to officers receiving payments for slips/trips/falls and it was noted that the SPF Chair and General Secretary attended daily meeting with the Gold Commander every morning and afternoon. Kenny Kean asked how this message was being conveyed to members and the Chair said that a policy statement was awaited. The AGSH asked members to encourage any officer exposed to a situation relative to COVID-19 to record it on Scope in order that there was an evidence trail.

It was reported that the delivery of new body armour continued.

It was reported that the paper on footwear was due to be presented to Chief Superintendent Louise Skelton at the SLB but had been stalled during the current pandemic and a decision was still awaited.

5 Operational Equipment

Regarding fleet, the AGSH said he expected the vehicles that had been due to be replaced will be replaced as per the programme. He reported that due to a fatal road traffic collision in England, BMW had announced a further recall of certain 3 litre diesel engine vehicles. This affected around 40 vehicles in the fleet and was in relation to the same engine part as was previously recalled. It had been decided that all vehicles should be recalled whether or not they had previously been rectified.

The Chair reported that there was an issue relative to the easy contamination of "cell vans" and said that an external contractor had been used to de-contaminate them. The Committee discussed the cleaning of vehicles and it was noted how important it was to sanitise them between shifts. Kenny Kean told the Committee that many officers in his division had purchased their own cleaning products however the Chair reported that due to Operation Talla, PSoS had been given latitude to purchase these items.

6 First Aid

The AGSH reported that the Clinical Government Group meeting had been cancelled. The Chair advised that he and Stevie Clark had attended a naloxone meeting and it had been agreed that there would be a "proof of concept" carried out due to the potential side effects related to it.

7 Wellbeing

There had been no meetings.

8 Administration & Governance

It was noted that the RIDDOR reports already recorded had been reviewed by the Health & Safety Manager individually. The Guidance was clear in relation to the reporting of COVID-19 related incidents at work. It was expected that there would be underreporting of these incidents. This matter had been raised at the relevant meetings.

It was noted that inspections/investigations had been stalled and the Committee were asked to send all issues to the AGSH in order to be raised with the force.

9 Training

The AGSH reported that the 23 reps had been IOSH trained which he hoped would be beneficial to all. The Chair said that all representatives who had sat the exam had passed and their certificates would be sent in due course, when it was safe to do so.

10 Competent Business

Michael McCaughey asked if there was any shared learning from the meeting that could benefit divisions. The AGSH reported that guidance was available to all through the force intranet and asked members to review the document and highlight any issues from it. It was noted that procedures were not being followed in many divisions and instances should be fed in to the centre.

The Chair asked that members pass the message out to Areas reminding them that social distancing should be adhered to and guidelines should be followed due to the severity of the virus.

Stevie Clark raised the matter of Section 5 offences and the handheld intoximeter which many officers refused to use due to Aerosol Generating Procedures. He asked if there was guidance available relative to the handheld devices and the Chair said that it was awaited. The Committee discussed whether the test should be carried out without appropriate PPE and the Chair said he had raised the matter with the Operation Talla Health & Safety Group.

Ian Florence asked if there was Legal Advice Guidance available and the Chair said he would raise the matter with the SPF Chair to raise at the appropriate meetings. The Committee discussed this issue.

Ricky Wood raised that matter of officers being asked to carry out foot patrols at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and asked if this was happening in any other areas. It was noted that Heather Macdonald, as H&S Lead for the East, would look into the matter. The Chair had raised the matter with Divisional Commanders.

Kenny Kean said he had raised the matter of probationers being used to accompany experienced officers at incidents. The Chair said that the SPF Chair had raised concerns with DCC Fiona Taylor and the matter was to be reviewed with a further risk assessment to be carried out.

11 Closure

The meeting Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting: 16th July 2020