

**Strategic Independent Advisory Group Meeting Minutes**  
**Official**

DATE:	Wednesday 21 October 2020
TIME:	18:00 – 20:00 Hrs
LOCATION:	MS Teams Meeting Only

Attendees:		Position and Area
	JBarl	Chair SIAG
T/ACC Christian Bunt	CW	T/ACC Local Policing - Thames Valley Police
T/Ch/Supt Bobbi Rai	BR	T/Ch/Supt - Head of Local Policing
Christine Kirby	CK	Assistant Director for People – Thames Valley Police
Nita Pankhania	NP	Business Partner - Diversity and Inclusion
Ch/Supt Rob France	RF	Head of Governance and Service Improvement Department – Gold Commander for TVP Response to Covid.
Supt Kelly Glister	KG	Governance and Service Improvement Department - Silver Commander for TVP Response to Covid.
	AKC	Chair – West Berkshire IAG
	JR	Deputy Chair SIAG and Chair of SSIAG
	MT	Bishop – NLCC Oxford – Pastor Forum
	DT	SIAG – Oxford IAG
Claire Widdison	CW	Strategic Governance Unit
Simon Godsave	SG	Strategic Governance Unit
	RMoz	Chair –Wycombe IAG
	MC	CTSE Regional Prevent Project Supervisor - Observer
	CL	School of Law – Oxford Brookes University
Emily Roberts	ER	Staff Officer to T/ACC Bunt
Jo Braithwaite	JoBr	COA to T/ACC Bunt
Apologies received:		
	SJ	IAG – Wycombe & TVNHWA
	OS	SIAG - South Oxfordshire
	JT	SIAG – Windsor & Maidenhead
	CM	IAG – Cherwell
	RA	IAG – Abingdon & South and Vale
	SM	SIAG – Reading
	PS	SIAG – My Life My Choice
	RMal	IAG – Bicester
	PC	IAG – Chesham and Amersham
	DO	IAG – South and Vale IAG and Rural Crime
	AK	SIAG – Milton Keynes
	RG	IAG – Wokingham and Bracknell

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1. Admin. (129) Welcome, introductions and apologies noted. Chair
2. MOLM. (130) Review of minutes of the last meeting held on 22 July 2020 for accuracy and matters arising. The minutes were agreed as an accurate recording of the meeting.

### (131) Matters Arising / Actions

- NH Policing – Objectives and outcomes. JBarl asked the question whether there is any clarification on what the objectives and outcomes are.  
T/ACC Bunt: We are conducting a Neighbourhood Policing Review. We are currently at the very early stages – the purpose of the review is to be clear around what our priorities will be for Local Policing, what our model will look like, work force mix, and engagement. This work is ongoing. An update will be provided at the meeting in January 2021.
- Disproportionality – T/ACC Bunt – this was discussed at the recent SSIAG meeting. We were originally going to have a Disproportionality Board, focusing on our operational side of disproportionality. This Board is now going to be called Legitimacy Board. There is still lots of work to do to make sure we have legitimacy within our communities especially around some of our powers around Stop Search, Taser, Use of Force and Covid powers. The Legitimacy Board is in the process of being set up. Will also be looking at independent scrutiny around this work and can bring reports to this meeting. The Force is conducting a disproportionality review, which Cat Hemmings and her Team are undertaking. An update can be provided at the next meeting if required.
- VRU – Reducing violent crime – an input was provided to the SSIAG by the VRU Team and feedback was provided on some briefing documents.
- TVP Policies – verbal updates were provided at the last meeting. Additional policies have been received by the Chair who will forward to the members for their views.
- IAG Training – training for IAG members.

### 3. Standing Items:

#### (132) Equality & Diversity Board – JR – Highlights only

- Black Lives Matter was an agenda item for the Police Chief Council Meeting and moving forward will continue as an agenda item for discussion
- Data quality. Data that was taken from April 2019 to March 2020 was broken down into victims and suspects but there was an issue with the data – a significant portion of the data, ethnicity was not stated. This could have been due to Officers not being confident to ask a person's ethnicity and record on the form.

#### (133) Stop and Search IAG – JR – Highlights only.

- There was not a great deal on the agenda due to it being T/ACC Bunt's first meeting.
- Violence Reduction Unit Team provided an update and consulted with members on a briefing document.
- SVRO – Serious Violence Reduction Order. A separate informal meeting was held and reported back as a critical friend.
- T/ACC Bunt – the SSIAG was a very good meeting - there was some useful discussions and an emotive input around Stop Search experience, which we want the Force to learn from.

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### 4. Main Items.

(134) Covid-19 Enforcement: Ch/Supt Robert France

Presentation and examples of Fixed Penalty Notices were provided to the Group.

Views were put to Ch/Supt Rob France on the way Thames Valley Police have been treating possible breaches of Covid regulations.

AKC: Issue with not recording the ethnicity. It should not be at the discretion of the police officer and should be addressed

Ch/Supt France: This is part of the quality control process. When an officer fails to record the ethnicity, this is fed back to them. We focused our enforcement on high-level non-compliance through intelligence.

JBarl: It is reasonable, that if someone does not volunteer his or her ethnicity, the officer does need to enter what he/she thinks the ethnicity is.

Ch/Supt France: This is recorded under the IC Code – it is not the self-defined record.

CL: TVP have given out just under 800 fixed penalty notices since the start of Covid-19.

Ch/Supt France: 700 is correct – the Regulation 1 Enforcement. 25 are the ones that have been formally through ACRO (Central Ticket Office) and are on the National Data. The 55 includes those 25 as we know they are going through the system. 3 of the FPN shown, the Engage, Explain, and Encourage, did not happen, but went straight to Enforcement. It would be interesting to see, out of the 800 you have on record, how many went straight to Enforcement. The approach should be the same on every incident. However, members of the public who have appeared to make a conscious decision, in the knowledge of the regulations, to breach those regulations we would not expect the first 3 E's when someone has followed that course. Officer's discretion is a fundamental fact of almost every decision that happens on the streets all the time. We are making it clear to officers, to move to enforcement, they have to have concluded through their engagement that this is a clear and deliberate breach rather than a lack of understanding the regulations. For information, these tickets are not recordable and should not prevent people getting employment in the future.

### 5. Other items:

(135) Review of IAGs (Prev item 121). Chair

This is part of the policy review work that the Governance and Service Improvement department are undertaking.

T/ACC Bunt referred to at the beginning of the meeting, a review of Local IAGs to ensure they are representative of the community. The vetting requirements for potential members of IAGs can often put people off.

JBarl stated that he, along with the Chairs of the 12 Local IAGs should be involved in any review of IAGs.

T/ACC Bunt advised his review that he will be undertaking will be around the make-up of IAGs. Some of it will be around the requirements to join an IAG which may be members of the community off. T/ACC Bunt explained the SIAG has not been left out – the review is not as advanced as we would like. At a point when it is ready, we will be engaging with members of the SIAG.

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The Local Police Commanders have been tasked to increase representation, particularly on the back of Black Lives Matter Movement, to make sure they are reaching out to organisers of protests – High Wycombe has been successful- they have 4 x new members coming into their IAG.

We are also going to do some work around data sets/data analysis around the make-up of our IAGs and at the appropriate time, this work will come through this SIAG. . The policy also refers to the requirements of vetting – this is quite an onerous process for potential IAG members to go through, and could put off certain members of the community.

This work is still very much work in progress and will come through the Local Policing Governance Meetings.

JBarl disagreed with T/ACC Bunt – he stated the SIAG should have been consulted with first, who would then have advised a set of parameters to cascade down. Previous discussion had with former ACCs was that the SIAG was keen to get a change in the policy that would effect local IAGs – the IAGs are in a privileged position as local Commanders want to know their views and the views are represented in the Community. If there is no change on this, the current position will continue and that you will have no way of guaranteeing communities are being represented through the IAGs and outcomes reported back to communities. This is what we wanted in the Terms of Reference.

T/ACC Bunt: IAGs are just one forum, we would like to see at a local level much broader community engagement. Widening this engagement out from a local IAG, what does a key individual network look like for a Local Police Area Commander? Consideration around opportunities to bring people in on a less formal basis. All of this is forming part of our Neighbourhood Policing Review.

JBarl – we have accepted and encouraged that when a police officers is out and has any type of interface with any member of the public, they are seeing what the community is about. Every single LPA will have their own contacts and own way of talking to local residents, outside of IAGs. All this exists – IAGs are more of a formal way of meeting with the community.

T/ACC Bunt stated he is not convinced we are doing enough and this is why we are going to target our efforts to ensure we are reaching out to all communities. We have interactions with communities that want to speak to us but there are hard to reach communities are less trusting of the police. We want to drive community engagement at a local level and look to build those relationships with a view of bringing them into local IAGs.

JBarl – disappointed to hear that some LPAs are not liaising with their communities. If this is the case, totally accept and will support you and Thames Valley Police.

T/ACC Bunt: We do know from some of our interactions, especially around Stop Search and the impact this has with our black communities. We had a very powerful emotive input from MT at the recent SSIAG. It is very clear; we do have more work to do. It would be very neglectful of me, as T/ACC Local Policing, to say we have connections with all sections of our communities – this is why we are undertaking these pieces of work. Action 01 21.10.2020 – Meeting to be arranged with T/ACC Bunt / T/Ch/Supt Rai / Chair and Deputy Chair of SIAG and SSIAG. Confirmed – this meeting has been arranged for 18 November 2020. .

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Questions / observations from members:

- MT – Thank you for being open around the issue of engaging with communities. We have heard generic talk about engagement consultation with community groups. There is no information on which groups have been consulted. In Oxford, MT is connected to a number of Faith Organisations. He could organise for Police Officer to come and speak to a number of Faith Groups to try and get people interested in joining their local IAG – make use of SIAG members for introductions.
- AKC – with the vetting, please include people who have a VISA for UK – as if you have a VISA you cannot be part of IAG.

(136) Lack of Police Action – PC/SM .

No representation from either PC or SM.

(137) Complaints – JR .

Volume of complaints – at SSIAG there is an agenda item to review Stop Search complaints. Can this Group look and have as an agenda item for the wider complaints.

JBarl declared interest as a member of the Professional and Ethical Standards Panel of Thames Valley Police – he is paid to advise the PCC and the Chief Constable. A standing item on the agenda is the Professional Standards Department. The number of complaints, including Covid, has increased. This is due to the rules and regulations for making complaints has changed. The process of making a complaint has been simplified.

T/ACC Bunt: The recording process has changed and has resulted in an increase and has caused a capacity issue for PSD who have to deal with this increase. Everything now has to be formally recorded.

CL: If a process has been simplified, and has led to more complaints coming in, there should be some form of quality control. Don't see this as a bad thing, would like to think that the increased traffic coming in, rectifies some of the concerns raised that no one is complaining to the police. You should be able to filter out some of the junk – but it does show that communities do now have the ability to make a complaint.

Ch/Supt France –the Police complaints is very formalised. Before, if someone was dissatisfied the police could acknowledge it, and do something quickly to resolve it - now it will go into a more formalised process.

If people want to have a look at the new framework it is on the IOPC website. The new definition is: "In the context of the police complaints system, the law describes a complaint as any expression of dissatisfaction with a police force that is expressed by or on behalf of a member of the public." and the details of the current system are set out here by the IOPC <https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/complaints-reviews-and-appeals/make-complaint>

T/Ch/Supt Rai – even though the recording of complaints has gone up that does not necessarily mean there are different people complaining – it might mean we are recording the dissatisfaction. This does not take away the issue that certain communities do not have the confidence to report a complaint. How do we monitor this confidence of reporting from all our communities - perhaps PSD could look at what level of complaints from across the board

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come from different community members and then look at whether a piece of work needs to be commissioned to see whether this confidence works.

MT: There is a need to look at why the complaints have gone up, as from his own experience, it was not straightforward, and computer skills are required. Also how long does it take for a member of the public to receive a response to their complaint.

JBarl – it will depend on the complaint – some within 2 weeks others within 70 days.

CK – Removing the junk emails still has to be managed. If a complaint is not dealt with efficiently this could also add to the lack of confidence from members of the public. We have to manage how we deliver an effective public service – and it is a challenge when we have to cut resources.

Action 02: 21 10 2020 – PSD to provide data before the change and after the change and to look at the ethnicity of communities making complaints to the next meeting.

(138) Downward trend in prosecutions – particular focus on Rape. CL – Document sent prior to meeting to SIAG Group.

CL provided an overview on his paper.

T/Ch/Supt Rai – in a previous role – T/Ch/Supt Rai looked at rape at a force level. We did have a dip in 2015 – 2016 but in the last couple of years our trend has been upwards. If you look at the volume of charges, not convictions, we do everything we can to make a good a case as possible, but charging rests with CPS.

A number of things have been put in place – officers learning, and supporting those reporting. Often, people report, but do not want the police to do anything because of their confidence in the process. We have also done a lot of work around behaviour science to look at increasing confidence in the process.

Action 03: 21 10 2020 – Formal meeting to be had outside of this meeting with T/Ch/Supt Rai/CL/JR/JB/AK/NG and any other member of SIAG – meeting booked for 17 December 2020.

(139) Crime clear up rates – SJ unable to connect to meeting.

(140) IAG Minutes.

TVP Policy states that Local IAG Minutes should be published on the website. .

Action 04: 21 10 2020 – Local IAG Minutes to go on website.

(141) Use of BSL on TVP Website.

<https://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk/>

JBarl asked the question whether something similar can be added to TVP Website.

6. AOB (142) As notified prior to the meeting.

ER: Access for Hearing - There is a Force Disability meeting next week and if there is anything the Group wanted covered, to let her know. .

JBarl: If we had someone who was profoundly deaf as part of this MS Teams meeting, they would not be able to join in with the meeting. JoBra informed JBarl that MS Teams has the option for live captions – this will enable a deaf person to follow the meeting in text format.

JBar: Members Handbook – A Members Handbook was produced in a word format when ACC Ross was in post and is therefore a little out of date. JBarl will try and update and send details.

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(143) Date of next meeting: 20 January 2021.

**LIST OF ACTIONS:**

April 2019

**ACTION 02: 24.04.2019**

JBarl to sort out a convenient date with Staff Officer Hogben to arrange another SIAG Training Session.

Update 31.07.2019

Outstanding. No date has been provided to SO Hogben.

Update: 06.11.2019

Will be covered in today's meeting.

Update: 22.01.2020

SO Hogben has now moved departments. JBarl is in conversation with Supt Rebecca Mears regarding a date for the training.

Carried over.

**PROPOSAL: 24.04.2019**

JR proposed for the IAG Policy to be reviewed.

January 2020

**ACTION 01: 22.01.2020**

John Barlow requested the contact details for the Chairs of the local IAGs.

No update provided 21 10 2020

July 2020

**ACTION 01: 22.07.2020**

Future Agenda item – Update on the Violent Reduction Unit

**ACTION 02: 22.07.2020**

Members to forward their written updates on the below TVP Policies to SG of Governance and Service Department: -

Physical Security / Protective Security / Ride / Walk Along / Working Time Management / Child Abuse / Independent Advisory Groups / Intelligence Led Integrity Testing / Non-Injury Road Traffic Collisions / Unauthorised Encampments.

October 2020.

**Action 01 21.10.2020**

Meeting to be arranged with T/ACC Bunt / Ch/Supt Rai / Chair and Deputy Chair of SIAG and SSIAG. Confirmed – this meeting has been arranged for 18 November 2020. **CLOSED**

**Action 02: 21 10 2020 – PSD to provide data before the change and after the change and to look at the ethnicity of communities making complaints to the next meeting.**

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