The Scottish Institute for Policing Research: a model for Knowledge Exchange

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The establishment of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) was the product of a remarkable collaborative effort involving the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council and Scotland’s universities. This collaboration has resulted in a unique institute. There is no other policing research centre in the world that can boast of such a wide ranging partnership between the police and the university research community.

SIPR brings together researchers from 12 universities working in at least 15 different disciplines - from forensic science to psychology, computing to international relations, criminology to human geography - all committed to working with the police to undertake high quality, relevant research and to ensuring that such research provides a robust evidence base to inform policing policy and practice.

SIPR is engaged in a range of Knowledge Exchange activities

By providing a single focus for policing research in Scotland, SIPR facilitates the development of national and international links with other researchers, policy makers and practitioners involved in policing research.

SIPR’s activities are centred on three Networks (Police-Community Relations, Evidence & Investigation, and Police Organization), the aims of which are to coordinate research and Knowledge Exchange activities within their particular fields of interest.

These include: organising seminars and cpd events that bring together academics, practitioners and policy makers; providing information on recent and on-going research on policing in Scotland and identifying researchers with expertise in particular topic areas; facilitating access to relevant police personnel and police data; providing resources for a range of different types of research, from three year PhD studentships and Post-Doctoral Research Assistantships (see below), to shorter Practitioner Fellowships aimed at police staff and others working in the policing field who wish to spend time at a university undertaking a piece of supervised research.

Examples of SIPR-supported research

SIPR is funding three FORA positions and nine PhD studentships; these are a crucial part of SIPR’s strategy for delivering relevant research on policing and building the research capacity and critical mass of the networks.

www.sipr.ac.uk

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1 The consortium of Higher Education Institutions involved in the Institute are: the Universities of Aberdeen, Abertay, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews, Stirling, Strathclyde, and The West of Scotland, and Glasgow Caledonian University, Robert Gordon University and Napier University.