

The Scottish Institute
for **Policing Research**



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) addresses the relationship between the Scottish Institute of Policing Research (thereafter referred to as SIPR) and the Police Service of Scotland (thereafter referred to as Police Scotland) in the context of their joint desire to work together in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration in order to make significant contributions to the evidence base for policing policy and practice in Scotland, and develop Scotland's national and international reputation for police training and research.
- 1.2 It replaces all extant MOUs originally drawn up and signed between SIPR and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS), The Scottish Police College (SPC) and former Scottish Police Forces.
- 1.3 SIPR is a collaborative venture involving investment by 12 participating Higher Education Institutions¹ and receives additional funding from Police Scotland. It has been established with the aims of:
- undertaking high quality, independent research of relevance to policing in Scotland;
 - facilitating the effective use of research findings by the police so that research makes evidence-based contributions to the development of policing policy and practice;
 - enhancing national and international recognition for policing research carried out in Scotland.
- 1.4 The overall aim of the MOU is to facilitate co-operative working between the police service and SIPR. It is expected that this will encourage the enhanced contribution of academic knowledge, experience and expertise, as brought together through SIPR, to policy, procedure and practice within the police service.

2. NATURE OF THE MOU BETWEEN SIPR AND POLICE SCOTLAND

- 2.1 Police Scotland contribution to the funding of SIPR provides for a range of short to longer term benefits for both parties, these are:
- a) The development and conduct of a high quality research programme which will engage with the interests and priorities of the Police Scotland and which will be articulated through police involvement in SIPR's Executive Committee and the three research networks (Police-Community Relations, Evidence & Investigation, and Education and Learning). The improved evidence base, including enhanced awareness of international

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

and comparative perspectives, will contribute to policing policy and practice in Scotland.

- b) More broadly, the partners seek the development and enhancement of the capacity of the Scottish higher education sector to undertake high quality, relevant research on policing. This will be achieved through the immediate recruitment to Scottish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of new, permanent academic staff with expertise in policing; post-doctoral researchers linked to the three research networks, and the longer-term development of early career researchers initially through a programme of doctoral scholarships.
- c) Police Scotland will, where appropriate, provide opportunities for researchers to link and work with the organisation in the development of applied academic research that blended with practitioner experience gives an evidence base to the training products delivered by the SPC, both nationally and internationally.

3. RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER (KT) ACTIVITIES

3.1 SIPR will seek, via the active dissemination of evidence and expertise, to:

- contribute to evidence-based policy development and practice;
- inform decision-makers on the evidence base on topics of current and future policy interest;
- contribute to the development and enhancement of research capacity within the Scottish police service via opportunities for the secondment of police staff to SIPR;

3.2 The Research and KT activities of SIPR in collaboration with Police Scotland may include the following:

- conduct of research on topics agreed in consultation with Police Scotland via the Post-Doctoral studentship programmes;
- organisation of a Policing Research Seminar series and Annual Lecture programme;
- participation in a range of ad hoc policy and research meeting
- production of short reviews/briefing papers of research evidence on substantive policy topics; preparation and delivery of oral presentations on substantive topics;
- provision of a gateway to the HEIs in terms of offering research opportunities that impact on the evidence base to enhance the quality training products provided by the SPC;
- assist in joint applications for relevant research and KT funding from research councils and other sources in order to support initiatives such as placements, internships and fellowships where there is a mutual benefit to be derived from collaborative working.

- 3.3 Delivery of KT activities will involve institute members across all participating HEIs. In addition those staff directly supported by SIPR will have an additional responsibility to offer consultancy-style advice to Police Scotland on topics where they have relevant expertise.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTNERS TO THE MOU

4.1 FOR SIPR

- 4.2 Researchers whose work is supported or facilitated by SIPR have a responsibility to ensure that such research is carried out in accordance with the ethical codes of conduct of the relevant academic discipline and meet established academic conventions in terms of research rigour and validity.

- 4.3 Researchers with responsibility for research staff (including PhD students) whose work is either supported or facilitated by SIPR must ensure that such staff are appropriately managed and supervised.

- 4.4 It is the responsibility of researchers to ensure that appropriate research governance arrangements are in place for any research supported or facilitated by SIPR so that issues relating to intellectual property rights, confidentiality, anonymity and related matters are addressed at the outset of any research project.

- 4.5 Products of research and KT activities supported or facilitated by SIPR may be used for legitimate academic purposes. Police Scotland will require at least 14 days advance notice from SIPR prior to the publication or public announcement of research and analysis it conducts.

4.6 FOR POLICE SCOTLAND

- 4.7 Police Scotland will endeavour to keep SIPR up to date about research or policy matters relevant to SIPR's research activities through SIPR's Executive Committee.

- 4.8 Police Scotland will provide assistance with obtaining access to data, people and relevant organisations in relation to SIPR's research and KT activities.

- 4.9 Police Scotland will facilitate the process whereby the results of research are taken back into the organisation and will have a responsibility for ensuring that the 'absorptive capacity' of the organisation is such that sufficient opportunities exist for feeding research findings into discussion about policing policy and practice.

- 4.10 SIPR will require reasonable advance notice from Police Scotland of any reference to SIPR unpublished output prior to publication or any public announcements.

4.11 ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGING THE MOU

- 4.12 Responsibility for the management of this agreement will lie with the senior Police Scotland representative on SIPR's Executive Committee and the Director of SIPR who will review performance on the MOU and provide regular reports to SIPR's Executive Committee.
- 4.13 Police Scotland and SIPR will agree measurable objectives, in terms of expertise, time and outputs, in relation to the provision of knowledge transfer activities. Performance under this agreement, including the quality of SIPR activities and the effectiveness of the engagement of Police Scotland with the KT activities, will be monitored on an ongoing basis and reviewed every 6 months. A formal report, detailing the nature and quantity of KT activity provided, will be produced by SIPR annually.
- 4.14 It is recognised that SIPR will not be able to respond to all requests for professional advice. The availability of resources for engaging in collaboration activities will be reviewed as part of the broader regular performance review and may be subject to change with mutual agreement.
- 4.15 Should conflicts arise between Police Scotland and SIPR in relation to the activities covered by this MOU attempts to resolve these will, in the first instance, be the responsibility of the Executive Committee. If this should be unsuccessful, advice will be sought from the Advisory Committee on the resolution of any conflict.

5. REVIEW

- 5.1 Either partner may withdraw from this MOU on the expiry of 28 days after the delivery of any such written notice to that effect in writing to the otherparty.
- 5.2 The terms and conditions of the MOU are to be reviewed after six months and on an annual basis thereafter and may be varied with the agreement of Police Scotland and SIPR. All changes require to be endorsed by SIPR's Executive Committee.

6. SIGNATURES

Neil Richardson
Designated Deputy Chief Constable
On behalf of Police Scotland

Date: [14/11/2014](#)

Nick Fyfe
Director
On behalf of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research

Date: [17/11/2014](#)

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED