



West of Scotland
Branch

Public Services Group Report

Thursday 30th September 2021

by **Kenny Brown**

The build up to COP26 has started with public announcements and information on how the event will be policed. This is a huge event and the emergency services and transport undertakings are working together to deliver this against a background of what may be unprecedented levels of protest. A major exercise took place in August with the three emergency services, military and others on joint working leadership and strategic management of the event recognising that the Scottish legal system will need to be observed and the Lord Advocate in Scotland has a part to play which colleagues in England and Wales may not appreciate. Some of the exercise is shown on a Police Scotland video on armed policing. I had the pleasure of coordinating the risk assessments for the event.

<https://twitter.com/PoliceScotland/status/1437340326788796422>

The NHS continues to work under tremendous pressure and we will do all we can to support them. They will take part in Glasgow Airports relicensing exercise on Thursday 21 October which will be the people handling element dealing with survivors and evacuees in which the Police and Ambulance Service will participate, along with the Airlines and Airport staff.

One issue that comes up time and again is regular reports of violence and aggression to colleagues working across the public sector simply trying to do their job to the best of their ability. At the IOSH Public Services Group we have been considering how we might support our colleagues come up with meaningful policies and procedures that may assist reducing this all too common risk. This is why the Group has committed to this being a major theme of our work programme for the next 12 months and beyond.

Our first event will be a webinar held at 14:00 on 4th October 2021 entitled Violence and aggression to staff in the public sector – an organisational approach. More detail on the event and how to book is available at https://iosh.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2KXsDI2-RsapTI253IZgyQ

It is hoped that this event will be start of a number of sector specific webinars which we can host to provide engaging and supportive sessions to assist in creating solutions to this difficult topic.

Within Police Scotland there is a group termed “Your Safety Matters” using the tagline #notpartofthejob! which is encouraging a Public Health Approach to violence and this event has been shared with the members of that group to share the IOSH knowledge and influence the approach to this important subject. Thank you for placing your trust in me to lead on this group and I will keep you all updated on progress.