



## Agency Board Meeting 16 February 2021

Board Report Number: SEPA 08/21

### Chief Executive's Report

<b>Summary:</b>	We have made good recovery progress in the initial seven weeks since the Christmas Eve cyberattack. This paper gives a brief overview of progress to date, the planned next steps and explains how elements of the recovery will be covered during the agenda for this Board meeting.
<b>Risks:</b>	N/a.
<b>Resource and Staffing Implications:</b>	There are no resourcing or staff implications from this paper.
<b>Equalities:</b>	There are no equalities impacts from this paper.
<b>Environmental and Carbon Impact:</b>	There are no environmental or carbon impacts from this paper.
<b>Purpose and audience of the report:</b>	The purpose of this paper is to provide the Board with an introduction to progress on our initial recovery work, planned next steps and how this will be explained during the meeting agenda.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Terry A'Hearn Chief Executive
<b>Appendices:</b>	N/a

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 We have made good recovery progress in the initial seven weeks since the Christmas Eve cyberattack. This paper gives a brief overview of progress, the planned next steps and explains how elements of the recovery will be covered during the agenda for this Board meeting.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 We have worked on a lot of issues over the seven weeks since the Christmas Eve cyberattack. In my view, some of the key achievements have been:

- stabilising our most critical services (e.g. flood alerts and warnings);
- communicating with the public via our website and media coverage about the nature of the attack, the disruption to our services, the data theft, the fact we will not pay the ransom and the start of the progressive rebuild of our services;
- establishing a robust process for and making significant progress on analysing the known data theft;
- regularly updating all staff about the cyberattack and its impact on our work and any impacts on them, including the data theft impacts;
- starting the process of informing individual stakeholders and customers about the impacts on our service delivery;
- finding interim ways of assisting some stakeholders and customers who have needed urgent service support;
- assisting Police Scotland in its criminal investigation into the cyberattack;
- liaising with Scottish Government (SG) colleagues so that we could both access their assistance and help them co-ordinate any SG-wide issues;
- begin the recovery of our information services capacities; and
- setting up initial governance processes for the first six week phase and then refined governance arrangements for the rest of the recovery phase as defined up until 30 June.

## 3. The Issues

- 3.1 There are many issues we will have to deal with between now and 30 June to meet our aim of making significant progress in our recovery by then. Even then, there will be much work to do in the remainder of 2021-22 to fully recover from the cyberattack. Some of the immediate key issues that EMT is focusing on include:

- developing and approving work programmes for the six Work Streams (Corporate, Regulation, Flooding, Cyber Response, EU Exit and Coronavirus Response);
- rolling out the re-established Microsoft package to all staff;
- finalising the analysis of the known data theft;
- making quick delivery progress on the next set of priority services;
- continuing to involve, inform and support staff, especially as the workforce is dealing with the disruption caused by the cyberattack on top of, as everyone in society is, the impacts of the pandemic; and
- moving into a next level of more detailed engagement with all stakeholders and customers.

- 3.2 The agenda for the February Board meeting has been structured to cover some of the key issues described in 2.1 and 3.1. (It should be noted that I have only listed a subset of the achievements to date and the next challenges.) EMT's aim for the meeting is to inform the Board of the way we have been working, what we have achieved and what we plan to achieve next.
- 3.3. This will enable the Board to gain an understanding of progress to date and proposed next steps and test EMT's thinking and raise any issues so that EMT can refine our planning where necessary.

**4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 That the Board notes the CEO's Report.

**Terry A'Hearn**  
**12 February 2021**