



**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe

**Communities Committee**

**North East Division**  
**Aberdeenshire**

**April 2022 – March 2023**



## Contents

- Introduction
- Staffing
- Complaints About the Police
- Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder
- Acquisitive Crime
- Road Safety and Road Crime
- Protecting People at Risk of Harm
- Serious Organised Crime
- Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism
- Miscellaneous



## **Introduction**

I am pleased to present the latest Communities Committee report on behalf of Police Scotland, North East Division.

This report details performance in Aberdeenshire aligned to the agreed priorities at local and national level from the period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

This has been an extremely challenging period for policing across Scotland as the impacts of post-COVID recovery on society become ever more apparent. As is evident throughout this report, demand on policing is increasing, not only in the crimes recorded but also in the demands placed upon our Officers to respond to vulnerabilities in our communities and assist those in need.

This increase in demand comes at a time when policing budgets are dropping to a level where the number of police Officers across Scotland has reduced from 17,234 to 16,600. The impact on North East Division has been the loss of 39 posts, which will have a significant impact on our policing activities across all local authority areas.

We are working hard to realign and redesign functions to ensure we maximise the skills and experience of our Officers, while still maintaining our ability to meet core demand placed upon us by the communities we serve.

I am therefore extremely proud of the efforts of Officers in Aberdeenshire, supported by divisional and national specialist teams, to deliver upon response policing while still introducing innovation and initiatives to prevent harm and support the vulnerable.

Our preventative initiatives in conjunction with key partners, highlight the dedication of Officers to try to do the right thing in the face of competing demands: the partnership work we deliver in schools and the pilot of the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation drug education programme could deliver positive outcomes for years to come; the Driver Engagement North initiative will prevent deaths on our roads; Operation Protector will enable vulnerable people to get the help and support they need and our work with Violence Against Women Partnerships will promote equality between genders and prevent harm to women and girls.

There are however challenges ahead and the report highlights a reduction in detection rates across a number of areas. There are a number of reasons for this but the impact of policing 'cyber space' and online criminality cannot be underestimated. This has had a direct impact in Group 1 crime where Threats and Extortion crimes have increased, in Group 2 crime where the prevalence of online activity in furtherance of sexualised crimes is increasingly prevalent, and in Group 3 and 5 crime where Organised Crime Groups maximise the criminal benefits of operating online, out with the sight of the public.

Finally, I wish to make comment upon the Chief Constable's statement regarding Police Scotland being institutionally discriminatory. His comments have been reported, debated and speculated on in the media and in wider society, both in Scotland and the rest of the UK. In order to make the improvements necessary, North East Division is fully committed to the Police Scotland Policing Together Strategy which will drive improvements to how policing in Scotland reflects, represents and serves all our communities and ultimately improve the experiences of our communities, including our Officers and staff.

Racism, homophobia, sexism and misogyny and discrimination of any kind is utterly deplorable and unacceptable. It has no place in society and no place in policing.



Regards

**Graeme Mackie**  
Chief Superintendent



## Staffing

	Authorised Establishment	March 2022	Difference
Police Officers <sup>1</sup>	1072 FTE	1022.47 FTE	-49.53 FTE
	March 2021	March 2022	Difference
Police Staff <sup>1</sup>	119.46 FTE	117.31 FTE	-2.15 FTE

<sup>1</sup> North East Division (Moray, Aberdeenshire, and Aberdeen City) Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

In the previous report covering April to September 2022, the Authorised Establishment for Police Officers in North East Division was **1092**. This has **reduced by 20 Officers to 1072**, during this review period due to a realignment of our Divisional Intelligence Officers who are now managed by the Specialist Crime Division. These 20 Officers are still dedicated to policing the North East and now merely line managed differently, and therefore there was no impact as a result of this restructure.

However, as has been well publicised, budgetary restraints upon Police Scotland do not allow us to maintain our workforce at the levels of previous years. While the figure of 1072 above was accurate on 31 March 2023, our establishment has since been **reduced by 39 posts** and for future reports will be documented as **1033**.

These posts have been lost from different areas across the Division in order to minimise the impact but this significant reduction in resource will undoubtedly impact policing in the North East, including Aberdeenshire. The effect of these reductions are felt not only in North East Division but across Police Scotland in both national teams and local divisions.

There is however still recruitment ongoing to replace those leaving the organisation and we have sought to encourage local applicants. An additional **28** Probationary Officers have been recruited during the reporting period. There are currently **46** Probationary Officers at various operational stations across the Aberdeenshire area and a further **9** Officers at the Scottish Police College who will transfer to Aberdeenshire in September 2023

**43** Special Constables routinely work alongside full time Aberdeenshire Officers in Community and Specialist Policing teams in Aberdeenshire. These Special Constable colleagues volunteer considerable personal time in service to our communities and the value of their support cannot be overstated.



## Complaints About the Police

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident <sup>2</sup>	N/A	67.2%	67.1%		+0.1%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	200	200	-	0.0%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	44.7	44.0	+0.7	+1.6%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	181	231	-50	-21.6%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	0	1	-	-
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	150	110	+40	+36.4%
Total Allegations	N/A	331	342	-11	-3.2%

<sup>2</sup> North East Division (Aberdeenshire, Moray, and Aberdeen City)

Levels of overall satisfaction remain consistent at 67.2% which is in line with the national average

The number of Complaints About the Police remains unchanged when compared to the previous reporting period with 'On Duty' allegations within these complaints **decreasing by 21.6%** and no 'Off Duty' allegations against Police Officers having been made.

A number of complaints stem from the use of Police powers and procedures and are categorised as 'Quality of Service Allegations' which have seen an **increase of 40 or 36.4%**. Allegations stemming from 'service delivery' and 'service outcome' also feature within the wider figures and this incorporates the 'type' of Police response which the public receive. Call demand and the requirement for Police attendance is decided by a national call handling assessment process based on the level of threat, vulnerability and risk of immediate harm. This can lead to frustration over perceived lack of action or 'face to face' contact however ensures resources are directed to those most in need of assistance.

While any increase in Complaints About the Police is disappointing, our Front Line Resolution process, which affords complainers an opportunity to ask questions and receive an explanation regarding Police action, or perceived lack thereof, remains the primary means by which complaints are resolved. Where complaints are not resolved in this manner, they are subject of a robust investigation by the Professional Standards Department with opportunity, if further dissatisfied, to request a review of the handling of the complaint by the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC).

North East Division continues to promote the use of Body Worn Video (BWV) within operational policing which delivers significant benefits in terms of public trust and confidence. There is also a clear indication that BWV utilisation may lead to a reduction in complaints against Officers. This is due mainly to its ability to support an investigation by offering a credible, concise and somewhat irrefutable recording of an incident as it happens. This further reduces the amount of police time required to deal with such complaints therefore providing additional benefits.



Monthly overview of 'User Experience Data' is now embedded in North East Division with public feedback scrutinised at senior management level to ensure appropriate sharing of learning amongst staff and positive action, where required, to proactively reduce Complaints About the Police.



## Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	1,667.6	1,673	1,633	+5.4	+0.3%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	74.7%	69.3%	72.9%		-5.4%
Robbery - Recorded	37.0	39	27	+2.0	+5.4%
Robbery - Detection Rate	84.9%	87.2%	77.8%		+2.3%
Serious Assault – Recorded	84.8	90	85	+5.2	+6.1%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	94.1%	87.8%	100.0%		-6.3%
Vandalism - Recorded	1,109.4	1,089	1,077	-20.4	-1.8%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	29.7%	28.9%	29.2%		-0.8%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded <sup>3</sup>	N/A	369	328	+41	+12.5%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	62.6%	72.3%		-9.7%
Number of Complaints of Disorder <sup>5</sup>	N/A	3,911	5,038	-1,127	-22.4%

<sup>3</sup> Crimes of Violence include Murder, Attempted Murder, Culpable Homicide, Cruelty, Neglect and Un-natural Treatment of Children and Adults, Abduction, Robbery, Assault with intent to Rob, Serious Assault, Threats and Extortion and Coercive or Controlling Behaviour (which was added in 2019).

<sup>5</sup> Disorder includes Public Nuisance, Disturbance, Noise, Neighbour Dispute and Nuisance Phone Call incidents.

Group 1 Crime is a term used to encapsulate all forms of serious non-sexual Violent Crime and incorporates a range of diverse offences. During the reporting period there has been an **increase of 41** recorded Group 1 crimes with a **decrease in detection rate of 9.7%** compared to the same reporting period last year. A significant reason for the rise in such crimes and the reduction in detection rate is the increasing prevalence of online Threats and Extortion crimes, which due to their nature are extremely challenging to detect and therefore adversely affect the overall Group 1 detection rate.

Recorded Robbery (which is also a Group 1 crime) has risen by **5.4%** and is comparable with the 5 Year Average. We remain in a strong position in terms of detection across the division which is evidenced in Aberdeenshire where we maintain an **87.2%** detection rate. This is a reflection of the robust and professional standard of investigation, and the focused efforts of our teams to protect the community.

Serious Assaults (also a Group 1 crime) have **risen by 5** crimes when compared to the previous year and the 5 Year Average. Detection rates remain strong at **87.8%**. Recognising the impact these crimes have on victims we continue to ensure those intent on committing acts of violence are held accountable.

Common Assaults have risen since the last reporting period however are in line with the 5 Year Average while the detection rate of **69.3%** is only slightly below that achieved last year and the 5 Year Average. Preventative and proactive measures have been implemented across our communities, developed





through the Divisional Violence Prevention Board to effectively understand, manage and direct our resources to where there is an identified need.

Through the Violence Prevention Board, the 'No Knives Better Lives' campaign, launched in 2009 by the Scottish Government with the aid of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, has been offered and widely accepted across all secondary school settings and is currently being delivered throughout the North East, including Aberdeenshire. This preventative strategy will be further developed to include a reintroduction of knife amnesty bins assisted by a media campaign supported by our Partnerships, Preventions and Interventions business area.

Vandalism has remained comparable to previous years, while Complaints of Disorder have dropped, showing a significant **22.4% reduction**. This is much welcomed by the local communities we serve and can be attributed to the efforts of our Community Policing Teams who carried out a number of local initiatives over the review period to tackle these issues.

We are aware that local communities continue to experience quality of life issues and working together with partners, we continue to design bespoke initiatives ensuring there is an appropriate balance of enforcement, education and diversion.



## Acquisitive Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	2,406.2	2,447	2,449	+40.8	+1.7%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	48.2%	40.5%	42.5%		-7.7%
Housebreakings - Recorded	247.0	168	185	-79.0	-32.0%
Housebreakings - Detection Rate	37.3%	25.0%	44.3%		-12.3%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded <sup>6</sup>	201.2	184	188	-17.2	-8.5%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	44.8%	43.5%	55.9%		-1.3%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	89.6	96	91	+6.4	+7.1%
Common Theft - Recorded	625.2	629	565	+3.8	+0.6%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	31.6%	30.2%	32.2%		-1.4%

<sup>6</sup>Theft from secure motor vehicle; Theft from insecure motor vehicle; Theft of a motor vehicle; Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

Overall crimes of dishonesty have increased slightly over the reporting period in comparison with the 5 Year Average, with a **1.7% increase**. This is potentially indicative of the cost of living crisis, as we have seen increases in Common Thefts including shopliftings. However this is tempered by the significant reduction in recorded Housebreakings and a reduction in Motor Vehicle Crime.

Divisional Proactive teams have supported Community Policing Teams in the investigation of Housebreakings, vehicle crime and other linked Acquisitive Crime across Aberdeenshire. This ensures a thorough and consistent approach to investigations, with the detection rates for these crime types in the main comparable to previous years.

We monitor national crime trends and work closely with other divisions and forces across the UK to ensure we are fully aware and involved in the investigation of any thefts committed by individuals from out with the area. Examples of this being the response to reports of thefts of cooking oil from business premises across the area. These were identified early as generally tying into larger Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), who are operating nationally, processing the cooking oil and financially gaining from its onward supply. This ensures all investigative opportunities, crossovers between incidents and links to OCGs are explored.

Although there are slight increases in Acquisitive Crime across Aberdeenshire, the level remains relatively low when compared with other localities. However the area has suffered from a small number of mobile criminals travelling into the area, often committing crimes in more rural and remote areas. We encourage communities to report incidents of suspicious activity to Police, CrimeStoppers and to sign up to 'Neighbourhood Watch' and 'Rural Watch' schemes.

The 'North East Partnership Against Rural Crime' (NEPARC) targets a variety of issues including acquisitive and other criminality affecting our rural communities in Aberdeenshire and across the North



East. The 2023 – 2025 'NEPARC' strategy was formally launched in March 2023. This comprises key areas which the partnership of some 34 representatives and organisations will work collaboratively to target.

Officers have commenced an initiative termed 'Arcadian Patrols' as part of NEPARC activity in Aberdeenshire. These are dedicated rural patrols overnight to deter and detect those involved in rural criminality. Alongside these patrols Officers have recently erected 'Rural Watch' signs were along primary road routes in Aberdeenshire. It is known from research elsewhere in the UK that this tactic has a positive effective in deterring travelling criminals.

Increased use of technology has resulted in anticipated rises in reported 'Non-Contact' Frauds and in particular, Cyber Enabled Frauds. The Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT), within the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), have responsibility for all investigative and preventative strategies in this area of criminality.

Prevention work undertaken by DCECT over the reporting period has included representation at the Grampian Adult Protection Group's Adults at 'Risk of Financial Harm' sub group. As part of this group, DCECT entered into an agreement with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Trading Standards to identify victims of crime who would benefit from government funded call screening technology. Vulnerable individuals who have been victims of telephone scams have been approached and a number of devices will be delivered near future.

DCECT have delivered 'Cyber Security' advice to secondary school pupils across the Division in line with the roll out of a new 'Student Online Safety Guide'. These have been well received by pupils and parents and are tailored to different age groups. With the success of the sessions, separate engagements took place for parents.

## Road Safety and Road Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
People Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	115	104	+11	+10.6%
Children Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	6	1	+5	-
People Killed	N/A	12	14	-2	-
Children Killed <sup>7</sup>	N/A	0	0	0	0.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	69.0	120	42	+51.0	+73.9%
Speeding Offences	2,186.6	1,984	2,208	-202.6	-9.3%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	230.2	277	284	+46.8	+20.3%
Dangerous Driving	117.8	111	150	-6.8	-5.8%
Disqualified Driving	50.0	40	46	-10.0	-20.0%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	5,505.6	5,333	5,752	-172.6	-3.1%

<sup>7</sup> Child is under 16 years of age.

Tragically, 12 individuals lost their lives on the roads in Aberdeenshire during the review period. While this is a decrease of 2 compared to the previous year, the loss of any life on our roads is tragic and that is why we are committed to influencing driver behaviours to improve road safety as a priority for policing. Analysis of the collision data in respect of persons who have been killed or seriously injured provides that older drivers are disproportionately affected.

We have invested resource towards a number of wider partnership initiatives which aim to have a long term impact in reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on our road networks. For example, Police Scotland chair the Older Road User Group which is a partner led group which has the intention of working in collaboration to reduce the number of older road users killed or seriously injured in line with the targets set out in Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030. The group monitors trends to identify current and emerging opportunities to improve Road Safety for older road users with the current key focus being on ensuring fitness to drive. Part of the work delivered by this group is 'Driver Engagement North', a simulator based approach to assist older road users and their families make informed choices about their fitness to drive safely. This simulator allows the driver to assess their hazard awareness in a safe virtual setting.

Police Scotland have secured funding from the Transport Scotland to support and promote the roll out of Fitness to Drive Assessments in conjunction with Driving Mobility and DriveAbility Scotland who offer these



assessments on a self-referral or agency basis. This work is in the initial stages and further engagement will take place in due course.

Local road safety initiatives remained a constant focus of the Community Policing Teams across Aberdeenshire under Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce). Part of the focus this year has been on targeting drivers under the influence of drink/drugs as can be seen by the **20.3% increase** in detections in this area.

Officers have responded to road safety concerns with targeted activity, positively influencing driver behaviour through education and enforcement. This has been supported by Officers from the North East Road Policing Unit (NERPU) with targeted activity aligned to national Road Safety campaigns and patrolling key routes. While the number of detected speeding offences has **decreased by 9.3%**, we recognise that speeding is an issue in our communities and we remain committed to deploying Officers and the Safety Camera Unit on an intelligence led basis.

During the reporting period the joint working initiative 'Operation Close Pass' was launched again in Aberdeenshire in order to focus on the safety of cyclists. Cyclists are regarded as vulnerable road users and with cycling increasing in popularity across Scotland this area has become a key area for focus.

The Police Scotland 'New Drivers Scheme' continues to be delivered, targeting people learning to drive, people who have recently acquired a full licence and employers of new drivers by providing key safety messaging, reinforced through a hard-hitting case study featuring real life footage.



## Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes – Recorded <sup>8</sup>	541.4	625	625	+83.6	+15.4%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	57.4%	54.9%	46.4%		-2.5%
Rape - Recorded	70.2	92	74	+21.8	+31.1%
Rape - Detection Rate	48.7%	48.9%	37.8%		+0.2%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	1,629	1,624	+5	+0.3%
Domestic Abuse Incidents Detection Rate	N/A	67.8%	72.1%		-4.3%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	100	122	-22	-18.0%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	76.0%	74.6%		+1.4%

<sup>8</sup> Group 2 Crimes of Indecency include Rape, Assault with intent to Rape, Indecent Assault, Sexual Assault, Prostitution related crime and others with an indecent element.

During the reporting period North East Division saw a further increase in the number of Group 2 crimes reported. In Aberdeenshire recorded Group 2 crime remained consistent with the previous year but saw an increase of **15.4%** against the 5 Year Average.

It is important to note that 5 Year Average figures still remain impacted by the COVID pandemic, during which there was a decline in the number of sexual offences reported.

The detection rate for Group 2 crimes **increased by over 8% to 54.9%** against 2021-22, slightly below the 5 Year Average. Our local divisional Officers and public protection specialists continue to review all crimes for investigative opportunities through governance processes while ensuring a victim based approach is adopted in all cases.

Of note, the reporting period saw a significant increase in the number of on-line 'sextortion' type offences, whereby individuals are induced to perform sexual acts via an online chat facility which are covertly recorded and used in an attempt to extort money. 'Operation Tambo' is the national response to such crimes and is delivered locally through the support of the Divisional Cyber Enabled Crime Team. Despite significant efforts, the investigation of such offences remains extremely challenging with those perpetrating the crimes often linked to sophisticated Organised Crime Groups operating out-with the UK.

In relation to recorded Rape, **18 more** crimes were reported during 2022-23 compared to 2021-22, representing a **31.1% increase** against the 5 Year Average. The detection rate rose by **over 10%**, when compared to last year's figures, up to **48.9%**, just over the 5 Year Average. It should be noted that of the 92 crimes reported, approximately 54% had occurred over a year prior to reporting and 26% over 10 years prior. There are significant challenges faced when investigating crimes of a non-recent nature, where



forensic opportunities, as well as investigative lines of enquiry, are either significantly diminished or often non-existent. Of the 92 Rapes recorded during the reporting period only 22 of the crimes were reported within timescales allowing forensic evidence to be obtained in relation to the victim or perpetrator.

While it is only right to note and scrutinise any increase in sexual offences reported, the rise positively demonstrates an emerging willingness of victims to contact Police regarding crimes that may historically have gone unreported.

In respect of Domestic Abuse incidents reported to Police, this year remained consistent when compared against the previous year and there was a slight reduction of the detection rate to **67.8%**.

All domestic incidents reported to Police Scotland are subject of intense scrutiny and robust investigation. A new toolkit has been developed by North East Division for all frontline supervisors, to assist them in ensuring enquiries are progressed fully and timeously and all available evidence is gathered. With the support of our Partnership and Coordination Unit and Public Protection Unit, a Divisional oversight process continues to ensure those most at risk are supported and action is taken against those posing the most risk. Locally we are linked into the National Domestic Abuse Working Group, ensuring that good practice and revised guidance is quickly adopted in our working practices.

Our efforts are further supported by the Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Tasking & Co-ordination (MATAC) process which targets domestic abuse perpetrators who present the greatest risk of offending. The key aims of MATAC include the identification of individuals who present the greatest risk, proactive enforcement/active targeting of offenders, and the sharing of information for intelligence development, prevention or enforcement as appropriate.

Perpetrator Management Plans (PMPs) are another tool utilised by Police to proactively target perpetrators of domestic abuse. The ethos of this process being to disrupt, deter or detect the subject by focusing on other areas of offending.

With the majority of Domestic and Group 2 offences being recorded with female victims, we are committed to supporting the Aberdeenshire Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership with Officers participating in and delivering a number of events, training sessions and briefings. We strongly support the 'Equally Safe' strategy and are proud of our role in actively delivering upon its aim to eradicate violence against women and girls to, "achieve a Scotland in which women and girls are safe to thrive, fulfilling their potential free from violence and abuse". This is further strengthened by the newly publicised Police Scotland Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy, the content of which represents significant and unprecedented levels of engagement with women and girls as well as a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

The national '16 Days of Activism' campaign was also fully supported in Aberdeenshire during the reporting period and specifically, enforcement days were carried out by Divisional Officers, from Community Policing Teams and specialist units. Media messaging also continued to be driven forward in support of local and national campaigns, most notably the award winning 'That Guy' campaign challenging men's attitudes and behaviour towards women.

We continue to support victims of Domestic Abuse using tools such as MARAC. This is our Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference, through which, we can effectively plan and support victims most at risk. Additionally, we have seen an increase in the use of the DSDAS process which allows Police to disclose, in certain circumstances, details of an offenders past that may help protect a new partner from becoming a victim. The increase is attributed to better understanding by other professionals through awareness



raising inputs provided by Police Scotland and by members of the public through increased promotion during campaigns like the 16 Days of Activism.

The Division continues to be fully represented at other local, multi-agency and national Police Scotland forums focusing on this priority area. This includes other areas of Public Protection such as the Adult and Child Protection Committees and their various work streams and sub-committees.

With specific regards to Child Protection, the review period saw the successful implementation of the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) within the Division. Supported by a single 'Interagency Referral Discussion' process, the model is resilient and fit for purpose in terms of supporting the Scottish Government's 'Bairns Hoose' model implementation programme.

**22** fewer Hate crimes were reported compared with the same period last year. While we welcome any reduction in victims, we must guard against any threats to community confidence to report crime. We have made it our priority to set up Third Party Reporting Centres (TPRC). TPRC are already operational in Aberdeenshire and are a means through which, victims can be supported to approach the Police to report crime. In conjunction with the Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC), we continue to roll out training to organisations across the North East, including Aberdeenshire Council, community groups and third sector organisations. Additionally, we are working with NHS Grampian to co-produce an online training package for NHS staff.

Our detection rate relating to Hate Crime in Aberdeenshire is **76.0%** which is above that of the previous year. Our robust investigative strategies in support of victims, has played a significant role in this. Our consistently high detection rate also gives confidence to our communities which is vital as we continue to grow existing and form new relationships.

Our teams have been visible right across Aberdeenshire, engaging with our diverse communities and taking time to understand the issues faced by our minority groups. We have supported events such as the Pride festivals as well as smaller community focused gatherings, all to provide confidence to the public.





## Serious Organised Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures <sup>9</sup>	£265,655	£89,633	£154,559.70	- £176,022	-66%
Drug Possession Offences	951.4	831	952	-120.4	-12.7%
Drug Supply Offences	155.0	117	137	-38.0	-24.5%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 – Mar 2023	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
Drug Deaths <sup>10</sup>	N/A	18	25	-7	-28.0%

<sup>9</sup> North East Division (Aberdeenshire, Moray & City) reported seizures (reported figures only, this may mean that the money might finally be returned to the defender, forfeit at court or seized and remitted to Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service).

<sup>10</sup> The data provided cannot be considered official Police Scotland Statistics; The data provided includes 'suspected' drug related deaths, which will not be confirmed, or otherwise, until the post mortem and toxicology procedures are completed- the data may therefore be subject to significant change, following a professional medical assessment as to the cause of death of an individual; comparison with 'confirmed' drug related deaths statistics (e.g. from previous YTD period or similar) will provide an unreliable assessment and should be avoided or heavily caveated; The official figures for Drug Related Deaths for Scotland are compiled and held by National Records of Scotland (NRS), who publish the data annually.

Although the monetary value of assets seized across the North East during the quarter has reduced compared to this period last year, it is noticeable that almost £90,000 in cash has been seized by Community Policing and CID teams during the course of enquiries into Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). This will be processed through the courts and may be seized permanently under Civil Recovery laws for long term benefits to local communities. With our CID teams progressing a number of SOC 'County Line' operations focussing on OCG's based in England and supplying Class A controlled drugs to the North East, a significant number of drug detections and monetary seizures can be attributed to this.

The number of Drug Supply Offences (117) has reduced in comparison with this time last year (137) and the 5 Year Average (155). This is also reflected in the number of Drug Possession Offences (831) in comparison with the 5 Year Average (951).

Drug Deaths have decreased compared to the previous year. We continue to work closely with partners and support services to better understand the causes of Drug Deaths and to signpost vulnerable individuals to referral pathways thus supporting them through addiction and dependency at the earliest possible point of intervention. SOC Interventions have been developing links into rehabilitation and addiction peer groups and intervention support will ensure Intervention and Diversion can be in place for those at a vulnerable stage in their recovery.

North East Division continues to lead strongly in our approach to SOC. Through our focused monitoring of emerging trends we are able to tackle the widespread and evermore sophisticated nature of this area effectively. By using the '4D' (DETECT-DISRUPT-DETER-DIVERT) methodology, some very positive successes have been seen when reflecting on enforcement results and our work with key partners to support and signpost those linked to SOC assessed as being in need of intervention.

Following the initial success of 'Operation Protector', it has continued during this reporting period. This multi-agency approach proactively addresses the effects of SOC and substance dependency on our communities. 'Days of Action' under Operation Protector involve joint teams of Police, third sector,



Community Safety and Local Authority staff conducting drug harm outreach visits to identify and support vulnerable people. Simultaneously, drug search warrants were executed to target and remove those causing the greatest harm in our communities.

The Division have been proactive in teaming up with Substance Dependence specialists and Housing workers to carry out further Cuckooing or drug related harm visits. Initially piloted in the North Aberdeenshire area, these visits support the Operation Protector 'Days of Action'.

Recognising the importance of further 'upstream' prevention and intervention, Police Scotland and representatives from all three Local Authorities have been working with the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs (DSM) Foundation (drug and alcohol education charity) to improve the way that drugs education is delivered in schools across the North East. There was overwhelming support for a 12 month pilot of drug/peer pressure based resources into 9 schools across North East Division and work is ongoing to secure funding for the pilot which will focus on providing drug and peer pressure based education (which will include resources relating to exploitation) to all secondary pupils. The pilot will also focus on upskilling professionals (social work, teachers, support workers, school nurses and police) and partners/carers in how to spot early signs of drug use/exploitation and how to report same. It is hoped that this will support the aim of identifying those at risk of County Lines based exploitation at an earlier stage which will allow for effective intervention. The pilot is due to start in August 2023.



## **Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism**

The North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board and associated Sub-groups continue to deliver the UK National CONTEST strategy across the North East of Scotland.

The Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare (4P's) principles of CONTEST are the continued focus of the strategy which aims to reduce the risks from terrorism.

The role of all partners within the North East Division CONTEST Multi-Agency Board is to ensure all strands of the CONTEST '4P' framework are proactively and proportionately delivered in a local context, aligned to the UK National Threat Level as determined by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC).

The 'Protect' strand within the CONTEST strategy has been an area of sustained activity and focus during this reporting period, due to the intended introduction of new UK legislation which is linked to learning and recommendations from the Manchester Arena Bombing in 2017 and subsequent enquiry.

At recent Scrutiny Boards it has been highlighted that CONTEST delivery groups had been updated by respective Governments on the recent 'Protect' Duty Consultation. This contains details of the foundational Government policy elements aimed at protecting Publicly Accessible Locations (PAL's) which will form the basis of the upcoming Protect Duty Bill known as 'Martyn's Law'.

In response North East Division's Multi-Agency CONTEST board will establish a 'Protect and Prepare' sub group chaired by Local Authorities. This will ensure all Publicly Accessible Locations within Aberdeenshire are prepared for the legislative requirement that will follow the introduction of the legislation this year.

Counter Terrorism Planning (CT Planning) have continued to carry out established prepare and protect exercises which sees regular testing by Police Scotland and Ministry of Defence Police to prepare and protect critical infrastructure, such as St Fergus Gas Terminal and Garlogie Pumping Station from terrorist attacks. This reporting period also saw the visit of former American President Donald Trump to Aberdeenshire. This was significant event which saw a major security operation instigated and successfully delivered.

Furthermore, during this reporting period, resources from Ministry of Defence Police along with Police Scotland and partners attended a number of table top exercises at St Fergus. Local Counter Terrorism resources are also involved in a number of planning and preparation exercises with Borders Policing. This includes Local Contest Liaison Officers working with Borders Policing in and around Aberdeenshire Harbours to ensure measures are taken to effectively Prepare and Protect vulnerable border areas against any issues arising.



## **Miscellaneous**

### **Stop and Search**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Apr 2022 - Mar 2023</b>	<b>Apr 2022 - Mar 2023 (Positive)</b>
<b>Consensual</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Legislative</b>	<b>1286</b>	<b>367</b>
<b>Number of Consensual Stop and Searches Refused</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

*\*Guidance with respect to accessing further Stop and Search data was circulated to Members on 9 December 2021.*