



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Public Protection Committee

North East Division
Aberdeen City

April - September 2020



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Introduction

I am delighted to present the latest Public Protection Committee Report on behalf of Police Scotland, North-East Division providing a detailed account of Police Performance in the City of Aberdeen in support of agreed local and national priorities, between 1 April and 30 September 2020.

This report is set in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic and the significant challenges this has presented to our communities in all aspects of personal and professional life. The implications of the Coronavirus pandemic on crime and Policing are yet to be fully understood however during this reporting period there has been an impact on crime rates which may be attributed in part to the societal landscape created by the national response to the pandemic.

The almost complete removal of the late-night evening economy during the pandemic has contributed to a marked reduction in overall crimes of violence, particularly in the city centre as demand in respect of violent crime moved from the public towards the private space.

A significant reduction in Acquisitive Crime is also notable over this reporting period with the exception of crimes of Fraud, specifically non-contact and online Frauds. These crime types have continued to increase in Aberdeen City, in keeping with the trend throughout the country. This is attributed in part to the increased online presence created by the lockdown measures implemented in tackling Coronavirus. Significant Police operations are ongoing locally and nationally to raise awareness and prevent such crimes and these are dependant, like all our activities, on strong partnerships within the City of Aberdeen in pursuit of improving the lives of the communities we serve.

The Police have had a pivotal role to play in the response to Coronavirus during this period, supporting communities to stay safe and implementing regulatory measures introduced to support this aim. We have at all times sought to work with communities, our response based on the 4 E's approach, specifically to engage, explain, encourage and as a last resort, enforce compliance with the legislation.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to all members of our community, businesses and partner organisations who have supported Officers in the collective effort to keep our communities safe from the effects of the virus and in the execution of our more traditional role. I would also like to pay tribute to our Local Policing Teams including Police Staff, Special Constables and Police Scotland Youth Volunteers for their tireless efforts in a time of such significant adversity.

Regards

George Macdonald
Chief Superintendent



Staffing

	Authorised Establishment	September 2020	Difference
Police Officers ¹	1114.0 FTE	1045.12 FTE	-68.88 FTE
	September 2019	September 2020	Difference
Police Staff ¹	119.37 FTE	119.18 FTE	-0.19 FTE

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

The authorised establishment of North East Division remains unchanged at **1114.0 FTE**. During the reporting period we were below our establishment of Police Officers by **68.88 FTE** across the Division and dipped just under our Police Staff establishment by the smallest of margins.

An effective balance between those leaving the organisation and those joining is maintained through established governance processes. We have two groups of newly recruited Officers who will be joining the Division in the coming months following their initial training at the Scottish Police College.

In Aberdeen City we currently have **70** Probationary Officers based at various operational stations throughout the area.

Our Community Policing Teams are supported by **23** Special Constables working alongside their full time colleagues across the City. As ever these officers continue to show tremendous dedication and commitment to their role, and even more so during the challenging times of the pandemic.



Complaints About the Police

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	%Change 2020 v 2019
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident ²	N/A	75.0%	87.0%		-12.0%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	165	130	+35	+26.9%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	42.1	33.2	+8.9	+26.8%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	187	153	+34	+22.2%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	0	1	-1	-
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	26	14	+8	+57.1%
Total Allegations	N/A	213	168	+45	+26.8%

² North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray)

Levels of overall satisfaction remain high at **75%** and while down on the previous year, are in line with the national average. It is acknowledged that the service, like many others, has faced significant challenges associated with the Coronavirus pandemic. With dynamic and evolving laws, regulations and guidance throughout the reporting period, we have had to make swift, and at times difficult, decisions around Officer deployment and attendance in our efforts to keep both the public and our Officers safe. As we continue to adapt and learn how to provide the best service in challenging circumstances, a continual process of self-assessment and sharing good practice continues to be at the forefront of our commitment to service delivery

While it is encouraging to note that no off duty allegations were raised, there has been a 26.9% increase in the number of complaints about the Police received during this reporting period. With any rise in complaint numbers there is also a rise in the number of allegations, particularly so in light of recommendations from the Police Investigations & Review Commissioner (PIRC) which aim to ensure that each aspect of a complaint is recorded separately. Ultimately this can result in one complaint generating several allegations.

A number of complaints stem from a lack of understanding of Police powers and procedures particularly during this challenging time. These allegations are categorised as 'Quality of Service' allegations which have increased by **8** in total, or **57.1%**. Our Front Line Resolution process, which affords the complainer an opportunity to ask questions and receive an explanation regarding actions taken by Police, remains the primary means by which complaints are resolved in the North East.

Where complaints are not resolved in this way our Service Delivery Unit ensure a robust investigation is undertaken, in partnership with the national Professional Standards Department where appropriate. This model ensures consistent and timeous investigations which are important components in any complaint handling process. Of the 165 complaints about the



Police received, 14% required action by our Service Delivery Unit, with only 10% of allegations contained within these complaints upheld.

Through 'User Experience Surveys' and a robust governance process, we ensure that learning points and areas for improvement are identified, shared and acted upon to improve our overall service to the public.



Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	1,524.2	1,259	1,420	-265.2	-17.4%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	70.5%	83.1%	66.6%		+12.6%
Robbery - Recorded	50.0	58	41	+8.0	+16.0%
Robbery - Detection Rate	85.2%	89.7%	90.2%		+4.5%
Vandalism - Recorded	1,006.0	847	811	-159.0	-15.8%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	25.5%	33.3%	25.5%		+7.8%
Fire Raising - Recorded	57.8	83	44	+25.2	+43.6%
Reports of Street Drinking	68.4	15	53	-53.4	-78.1%
Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct	123.6	25	107	-98.6	-79.8%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct	46.2	52	53	+5.8	+12.6%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct - Detection Rate	88.3%	88.5%	83.0%		+0.2%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 2019
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded ³	N/A	224	250	-26	-10.4%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	88.8%	71.6%		+17.2%
Serious Assault - Recorded ⁴	N/A	54	80	-26	-32.5%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	N/A	103.7%	91.3%		+12.4%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	175	124	+51	+41.1%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	62.3%	76.6%		-14.3%

³ 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, and Threats and extortion and Coercive or Controlling Behaviour.

⁴ April 2016 - implementation of broader definition of what constitutes a Serious Assault, 5 year comparison is therefore not possible at this point.

Group 1 Crime is a term used to encapsulate all forms of serious non-sexual Violent Crime and incorporates a range of diverse offences.



The overall figures for Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour are unsurprisingly framed by the Coronavirus pandemic where call demand and crime reporting reduced as restrictions on movement saw people locked down in the early stages of the reporting period.

The lack of a meaningful night time economy and associated licensing restrictions also influenced crime trends in the City Centre in particular and saw a demand shift from public to private space violence. Naturally this also affected reported Street Drinking and Disorderly Conduct.

Following 'lockdown' we saw a return to more familiar levels of criminality closely resembling business as usual however we are aware that this period will undoubtedly impact on 'binary' comparison with last year's figures and will influence future reporting for some time to come.

Looking at the figures in more depth there are welcome reductions in Common Assault, down over **17%** against the 5 Year Average, with a strong detection rate of **83.1%**.

Respecting the challenges in comparison with last year's figure, Serious Assaults are nevertheless down by over **32%** with detection rates remaining exceptionally high at **103.7%** (taking into account detections from the previous reporting period).

Recognising the impact that these crimes have on victims we continue to ensure that those intent on committing acts of violence are held accountable for their actions.

Recorded Robbery has shown a limited increase against the 5 Year Average where we saw a brief spike in offending in private space settings in the early part of the reporting period. Detection rates remain high, approaching **90%**.

Throughout the implementation of Scottish Government COVID restrictions we have remained fully engaged across the City and with the City Centre partnership in particular to better understand the implications for the hospitality sector and to provide advice, guidance and support.

Activity at licensed premises has of course been curtailed as a result of COVID restrictions however we remain aware of the wider impacts harmful levels of alcohol consumption can have in terms of Anti-Social Behaviour and Violence with indications that alcohol consumption has increased during the pandemic. We continue to work with various agencies to tackle alcohol fuelled violence, provide support to the most vulnerable and promote a responsible drinking culture.

We are very aware that local communities continue to experience quality of life issues and working together with partners our teams across Aberdeen have designed bespoke initiatives ensuring there is an appropriate balance of enforcement, education and diversion. Community Policing Inspectors are empowered to take ownership of problems within their own areas and have modified the response to the current climate.

This is a central theme of the approach employed in Locality projects in Northfield, Mastrick and Torry where we have adapted our partnership working to make real differences in communities experiencing the most acute challenges to deliver positive outcomes.



This approach has contributed to a notable reduction in Vandalism, nearing **16%**, in comparison with the 5 Year Average. Detection rates have also increased by almost **8%** this reporting period using the same comparison.

While statistically there has been a significant rise in Wilful Fire-raising during the reporting period, a significant number of these crimes (33 in total) can be attributed to one male who was arrested in July following a series of fires in communal bins in the Torry area. Judicial proceedings are ongoing in relation to this matter. Police within the City of Aberdeen have longstanding and well-developed links with Scottish Fire and Rescue and these agencies act together pursuing every opportunity to prevent, and where necessary investigate, incidents of Wilful Fire-raising.

With respect to the increase in recorded Hate Crime there are no particular geographic or other trends other than Police Officers and Staff representing over a fifth of victims (22.0%). These incidents, which have tended to be isolated and low-level, reached their peak during July 2020 but are steadily returning to levels comparable with previous years.

There has been a focus on delivering regular reassurance messages to our minority and faith groups and the Division has also participated in national campaigns. Furthermore, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken to support individuals and groups suffering from actual or perceived intolerance and criminality. This heightened awareness and confidence may be a factor in the increase as this has been seen elsewhere in the country.

Hate Crime against Police Officers and Staff generally forms part of a broader set of circumstances where persons have encountered the Police. The figure of 22%, while unacceptable, may well indicate a decreasing tolerance amongst Officers and Staff to being subjected to this kind of behaviour and also increased confidence to report it. This may be due in part to the support being offered to them by North East Division.



Acquisitive Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	3,254.0	2,401	2,663	-853.0	-26.2%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	42.7%	45.5%	43.6%		+2.8%
Housebreakings - Recorded	352.0	243	198	-109	-31.0%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded ⁵	427.8	192	271	-235.8	-55.1%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	24.0%	37.5%	26.6%		+13.5%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	155.2	70	99	-85.2	-54.9%
Common Theft - Recorded	780.8	511	628	-269.8	-34.6%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	28.1%	33.3%	27.2%		+5.2%
Theft by Shoplifting - Recorded	1,071.4	778	1,049	-293.4	-27.4%
Theft by Shoplifting - Detection Rate	70.4%	72.1%	66.5%		+1.7%

⁵ Theft from secure motor vehicle; Theft from insecure motor vehicle; Theft of a motor vehicle; Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) - Detection Rates	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019- Sept 2019	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av.
Overall	23.1%	39.9%	26.3%	+16.8%
Dwelling House	29.0%	48.4%	36.1%	+19.4%
Non-Dwelling (e.g. Sheds)	16.0%	24.1%	21.3%	+8.1%
Other Premises (e.g. Commercial)	29.4%	49.2%	15.0%	+19.8%

Although this period sees a slight **increase** in reported Housebreakings they still remain **31% less** when compared to the 5 Year Average. This increase has related mainly to garden sheds and an increased closure of commercial and/or licensed premises due to the COVID pandemic. Proactivity in tackling this type of crime continues and the detection rate has **risen** by **nearly 20%** to **almost 50%** in respect of domestic dwellings and commercial premises. We will continue to employ the same approach of utilising intelligence and information to focus on the correct locations and offenders to minimise the disruption and trauma that this crime type can cause.

Recorded Acquisitive Crime has **reduced** by **26.2%** against the 5 Year Average due to the ongoing prevention work in our communities but undoubtedly also as a direct result of the closures of shops and commercial premises due to the COVID pandemic. A number of local and Divisional initiatives based on the needs of local communities have been carried out and



the detection rate of **45.5%** improves on both 2019's figure and the 5 Year Average. This provides an indication of the effectiveness of our robust and proactive policing plans which create a hostile environment for those intent on committing Crimes of Dishonesty within Aberdeen City.

As well as the significant reduction in the number of Thefts by Housebreaking, there are notable reductions in Thefts of Motor Vehicles and Common Thefts with both being significantly **lower** than the 5 Year Average by **54.9%** and **34.6%** respectively. These figures give a clear indication that the correct approach is being utilised to prevent and respond to these crime types.

During this reporting period we have continued to see a rise in reported Fraud, particularly in relation to non-contact and online crime types and possibly correlating to increased online activity during the pandemic. Analysis shows a continued increase in the use of technology to exploit and socially engineer money from people. Various Police Scotland operations are planned and work has been ongoing locally and nationally to raise awareness and prevent crime. This is delivered through partnership engagement in supporting the ageing population whom analysis highlights are more likely to be the victim of such crimes. It is supported by a consistent Media Strategy locally and nationally to maintain awareness and support victims.

Furthermore, the 'Banking Protocol' initiative ensures that banking institutions have a close link to local policing should they identify a potential victim of Fraud in their branches and in addition to this, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has launched its cross-government campaign offering actionable advice for people to protect passwords, accounts and devices.



Road Safety and Road Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 2019
People Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	11	27	-16	-59.3%
Children Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	1	3	-2	-
People Killed	N/A	0	0	-	-
Children Killed ⁶	N/A	0	0	-	-
Advice/Education Given to Motorists ⁷	N/A	6,126	9,975	-3,849	-38.6%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	234.4	47	84	-187.4	-79.9%
Speeding Offences	1133.0	538	761	-595	-52.5%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	148.4	176	122	+27.6	+18.6%
Dangerous Driving	48.8	76	52	+27.2	+55.7%
Disqualified Driving	48.8	43	38	-5.8	-11.9%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	4,114.2	2,808	3,109	-1306.2	-31.7%
Parking Fixed Penalties Issued ⁸	530.8	105	415	-425.8	-80.2%

⁶ Child is under 16 years of age.

⁷ North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray) figures by Road Policing Officers.

⁸ North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray).

While the number people killed and seriously injured on City roads has decreased there stills remains a significant amount of work required to improve Road Safety.

Our commitment to the North East Scotland Strategic Road Casualty Group remains unwavering and is driven locally through Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce). We continue to identify and target routes with significant collision histories, appropriately balancing enforcement and education in order to improve road safety and driver behaviour.

Our activity continues to be aligned to the Priority Focus Areas contained in the Scottish Government's National Road Safety Framework.

The 'Rider Refinement' training scheme, designed to improve motorcycle riding standards, was unfortunately postponed this year as a result of the COVID pandemic restrictions. However, plans are in place for this initiative to return once the restrictions are reduced. The initiative



remains part funded by Transport Scotland's Road Safety Framework Fund and supported by the local authorities. Despite this postponement, Road Casualty Reduction operations ran during the summer months, with a number of dedicated weekends of action focusing on key problem areas or routes commonly used by motorcycle users.

The increase in the number of drink/drug drivers can be directly related to the increased use of roadside drug screening tests, the reduction in traffic volumes allowing the 'right people being stopped at the right time'.

Focusing on mobile phone use and distractions within the vehicle, local Road Policing Officers joined Community Policing Team colleagues in a week long initiative to raise awareness of the issue. The increasing use of hands free technology and reduction in traffic volume as a result of COVID restrictions may account for the decrease in recorded offences.

Improving the safety of cyclists on the roads, Operation 'Close Pass' was carried out in the North East through a number of days of action. Working with Road Safety partners, Officers equipped with cycle-cams stopped a number of drivers who had passed cyclists without affording them sufficient space. Drivers were shown the footage from the rider's perspective to show the dangers of their driving. Due to the increased number of cyclists as a result of COVID restrictions and the introduction of the 'Spaces for People' initiative, the operation gained positive local media coverage.



Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes - Recorded ⁹	350.0	296	294	-54.0	-15.4%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	61.7%	62.2%	54.8%		+0.5%
Rape - Recorded	48.4	51	44	+2.6	+5.4%
Rape - Detection Rate	63.2%	68.6%	50.0%		+5.4%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 2019
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	1,348	1,214	+134	+11.0%
Domestic Abuse Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	78.3%	63.6%		+14.7%

⁹ 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.

This period of reporting has undoubtedly been impacted by the COVID pandemic and this picture is replicated across Scotland. Overall demand reduced significantly in many aspects of the policing priority 'Protecting people at Risk of Harm' at the outset of the lockdown and has continued aligned to restrictions set in relation to the pandemic.

Notwithstanding this reduction in demand, based on evidence from previous pandemics and other countries in the more advance phases of the pandemic response, the partnerships focussed on the promotion of national and local preventative messaging from the outset due to the risk of abuse occurring behind closed doors in family situations, or online. It was recognised at an early stage that this type of abuse may not be reported until victims feel safe to report it and this may not happen for weeks or months to come. This was monitored closely along with national trends and information.

Consequently, although the lockdown and associated restrictions had a material effect on the levels of Rape and serious sexual offending being reported initially, Group 2 crimes are closer to the previous year's figures in Aberdeen City and the number of reported Domestic Abuse incidents is greater, by **11.0%**. Recorded Rape has increased slightly compared to the same period in 2019 with a smaller increase in comparison to the 5 Year Average.

Detection rates in relation to Group 2 crime (and in particular Rape) are strong. They remain above the national average and are indicative of robust governance and investigative processes and the commitment of Officers to support victims and successful investigations.

Throughout the lockdown and periods of restrictions, we continued to work with partners to ensure high risk victims are provided additional support and protection while proactively targeting the highest tariff offenders, whether that be through Local Officers, the Public



Protection Unit or the Domestic Abuse Task Force, a national resource with a base in Aberdeen.

We have continued to focus on and support the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS), the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process (aiming to reduce future harm to the most vulnerable victims and their families), and the management and scrutiny of perpetrators provided by the Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) process, where the objective is to protect people at risk of harm by targeting higher risk perpetrators.

Media campaigns and initiatives have been crucial during this period with regards preventative messaging and also ensuring victims are aware of the support and assistance available to them. In conjunction with partners, a media awareness raising campaign was launched to promote safety messaging in relation to sexual offending to coincide with the relaxing of lockdown restrictions, in respect of the hospitality sector.

The Scottish Government Domestic Abuse campaign, in conjunction with Police Scotland and Safer Scotland, was well supported in North East Division social media channels and built upon by Violence Against Women Partnerships (VAWPs) to ensure victims are aware that support is available locally and nationally despite COVID restrictions. The local messages have been translated into the 10 most requested languages in the North East and sent out through community channels to ensure the messages were as wide-reaching as possible. This included articles published in local community newsletters and distributed to locality areas, aiming to reach those who may not have internet access. With local radio supporting the campaign, this preventative multi-faceted public messaging was continued to ensure focus remained on helping the most vulnerable in our communities.

As previously highlighted, the use of technology in crimes is ever increasing. Personal images sent without consent or abusive messages over the internet or social media have become the focus of collaborative preventative messaging under the 'Eyes and Ears Open' campaign which includes messages about 'cyber safety', asking members of the public to report any related suspicions. This strategy has been well supported in the North East Division social media channels and continued collaborative work will take place throughout the coming year, aimed at every age group.



Serious Organised Crime

	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures ¹⁰	£131,154.18	£66,929.28	£185,433.87	-£64,224.90	-48.97%
Drug Possession Offences	833.8	805	860	-28.8	-3.5%
Drug Supply Offences	115.6	134	137	+18.4	+15.9%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 2019
Drug Deaths	N/A	23	14	+9	+64.3%

¹⁰ A 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).

Over this period the Cuckooing Initiative has extended across all areas of Aberdeen City and this collaborative approach continues to monitor and support those identified as vulnerable and in need of referral to additional support services. As the initiative grows across all areas of the City it continues to develop effectively to provide a holistic approach to those who require assistance to break the cycle of exploitation from Organised Crime Groups (OCG's).

As highlighted in the table, the number of individuals reported for being involved in drug possession offences has **decreased by 3.5%** which is indicative of the prevention work ongoing across the City and with partners in Health and Social Care. Drug supply cases have increased against the 5 Year Average but are slightly reduced on 2019's figure. The positive partnership working and intervention work in these areas will continue to develop and gain momentum going forward.

With respect to the reduction in Proceeds of Crime Act seizures, there was a slight correlation with the reduction in drug supply against 2019's figures. Furthermore, the lockdown restrictions had an effect on our proactivity during this period but also on the tactics employed by OCG's, including their movement of finance.

Key to the success for all operational activity, linked to the sale and supply of controlled drugs, is creating trust in the community in order that members of the public have the confidence to report suspicious activity. This information is a key asset in driving our intelligence led approach, thereby enabling us to target individuals and groups across the area.

Over this period, with due consideration and risk assessment due to the inherent challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, a significant number of Drug Search Warrants were executed throughout Aberdeen City, resulting in the seizure of a range of controlled drugs including significant quantities of Diamorphine (Heroin), Cocaine and Cannabis.

While there have been positive enforcement results in these areas we recognise that there are local people linked to these OCG's who are in need of support and partnership intervention.



OCG's from England continue to pose a significant threat in terms of 'County Lines' activity and remain prevalent in Aberdeen City.

During this reporting period there have been a number of vulnerable young people from England found within the City, apparently involved in 'County Lines' activity. On occasion these individuals have been Missing Persons exploited by OCG's and cross-border partnership work is ongoing to establish support mechanisms and preventative strategies relating to this distinct type of exploitation.

North East Division and all partners are acutely aware that the activities of OCG's do not solely relate to the supply of controlled drugs. These activities can take a number of forms such as Human Trafficking, Counterfeit Goods and elements of Cybercrime and over the reporting period we have continued to link in with partners in Immigration, Trading Standards and National Cybercrime to identify and tackle these issues and their impact locally.

Between April and June we saw an increase in the number of drug related deaths across the City, as communities adapted to the first lockdown and the restrictions imposed. We responded along with partners by increasing the sharing of information from frontline staff, and finding new and innovative ways to increase harm reduction efforts towards those most at risk. In June, after months of planning, Aberdeen City Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) funded an Officer to undertake an Assertive Outreach Co-ordinator role, to support a multi-agency team directed towards reducing fatalities, strengthening our already strong commitment to this priority.



Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism remains a Policing Priority for North East Division. Acts of Terror across the UK have demonstrated the significant impact and harm that can be caused in our communities. This as we have seen is not always carried out by organised groups, but often by vulnerable people who have been exploited, radicalised or who have aligned their views with an ideology to harm others. We will continue to work together to keep individuals and our City safe

The nationally assessed threat to the UK from Terrorism is **SUBSTANTIAL** (an attack is likely). This threat level incorporates the 'Threat of Ireland Related Terrorism' previously assessed separately.

North East Division continues to play a key role in protecting communities within Aberdeen City. Our innovative approach, developed locally with partners, have seen notable success over the past year in preventing exploitation of vulnerable people in our communities.

Our strong local partnerships have been further developed under the North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board and Prevent Delivery Group which includes the NHS, Emergency Services, Military, Scottish Government, local authorities, local businesses, transport agencies and ports. With strength coming from this diversity, the group effectively plays a part in the delivery of the key principles of the national CONTEST model.

Key Principles

The key principles are **Prevent, Pursue, Protect** and **Prepare**, which all aim to reduce the risk from Terrorism locally and throughout the UK.

Prevent. The way we identify vulnerable in our communities has developed. Understanding that our communities are 'Eyes and Ears', we have equipped front line workers, across a broad range of partners, with the tools and skills that they need, to identify when vulnerable people are being exploited or identify that who are at risk of exploitation.

Our aim thereafter, has been to give easy access to expertise through a reporting process that ensures concerns can be reported and responded to quickly.

Aware of the changing political landscape, we are working within our communities across our City to identify those who seek to use societal factors such as the COVID pandemic or Brexit as an excuse to commit or incite harm.

Nationally recognised intervention methods for individuals are enhanced further by additional local multi-agency support measures, all in place to divert those vulnerable to exploitation from harmful activity.

Pursue. Highly skilled Officers are equipped to investigate those committing crime whether online or within our communities. Understanding that those perpetrating crime do so both nationally and internationally, our Division is well supported by national Police Scotland resources. This priority strand also includes pursuing those who encourage or incite harmful activity.



Protect. The Protect principle ensures that Police, our communities, businesses and partners take measures to protect us all from any potential threat of Terrorism. Under this principle, Police provide a visible presence to protect all of our communities, our businesses, public places and events.

Our multiagency approach to deliver the national Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) program uses the expertise from multiple partners and businesses to deliver training that will help businesses or organisation to take action to protect themselves.

The joint approach ensures that we can meet needs specific to a varied target audience including major industries, the energy sector and North East ports, while delivering this training in a unified and structured way across Aberdeen City.

Community Policing is at the core of North East Division and Local Contest Liaison Officer (LCLO) training is provided to nominated Officers within our Local Policing Teams across Aberdeen City. This ensures that an enhanced knowledge base and skill level is ever present to protect all of our communities. LCLOs maintain key contacts within the community and furnish them with relevant information and intelligence as well as assessing individuals who come to Police attention for specific radicalisation behaviours or ideologies.

Within the reporting period, they have made a significant contribution through their expertise and support to businesses, partners and key infrastructure sites. Strengthening bonds with our ports, our LCLOs and Community Policing Teams have been working alongside Border Policing Command colleagues to ensure that our industries and infrastructure remain protected from any threat as a result of Brexit tensions.

Our unique model that embeds CONTEST into our Community Policing Teams has been recognised nationally as good practice.

Prepare. Preparation for an attack is crucial to protect lives. Significant work under Prevent, Protect and Pursue acts to reduce the likelihood or impact of an attack but we must also prepare our people and places.

With a number of important infrastructure sites in and around Aberdeen City, linked to local and national industry, we continue on our program of multi-agency exercises. With exercises covering a range of scenarios and locations, including ports and the energy sector, we ensure all agencies remain prepared for an attack or disruption. Our multi-agency approach to exercises in Aberdeen also ensures learning, effective relationships and readiness.



Miscellaneous

Stop and Search

Indicator	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020 (positive)
Consensual	0	N/A
Legislative	1,378	458
Number of Consensual Stop and Searches Refused	0	N/A

