



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Public Protection Committee

North East Division
Aberdeen City

April 2020 – March 2021

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Introduction

I am pleased to present you with the latest Public Protection Committee report on behalf of Police Scotland, North East Division. The report documents a detailed journey of Police performance in Aberdeen City aligned to the agreed priorities at both local and national levels, between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.

There has been significant change to law and legislation centred on the COVID-19 Pandemic during this period. The Public health approach to Policing and Community wellbeing have been our principle priorities as communities were asked to stay at home to protect life and services.

This report presents data set against 5 Year Averages but it is clear there have been significant reductions when compared to 2019/20 figures in public space Violence, Acquisitive Crime and many aspects of Antisocial Behaviour and Road Safety. These reductions have allowed us to focus on effects of Hidden Harm, as people were confined to their homes and movements were restricted.

The resilience shown by the communities and people of Aberdeen has been exceptional as they have adhered to instructions on new regulations, acted with the greatest of care to prevent the spread of the virus and looked for new ways to reach out to people and offer help. It is impossible to capture the magnitude of the kindness shown but it has been humbling to help support communities and our partners.

Resilience and collaboration are two key words that were valuable in the partnership as we all sought to protect the vulnerable and ensure that the risks to young and old were minimised.

A key factor for Aberdeen City has also included the North East Integration Project which has commenced in earnest with plans now in action for staff moving to the new integrated hub at Marischal College.

The opening of the new public service counter at Marischal College will coincide with the closure of the public counter at Queen Street and will offer customers multiple public services under one roof, with Aberdeen City Council and Police Scotland working alongside each other. We hope to see the real benefits of integrated working as the working arrangements mature and align with the return to the workplace by those who have been working from home.

The state-of-the-art custom built multi-agency CCTV operations centre is now established at Marischal College. The digital upgrades in the Police CCTV network and easier access to shared footage not only hugely benefits wider community safety but offers enhanced intelligence gathering and investigative opportunities.

Criminality also adapted and increased on line and within the virtual space, the effect of which was no less hard hitting. In contrast, the virtual world offered valuable prevention opportunities to be delivered efficiently and to a wide audience. This was also the platform for a new approach to Cyber Enabled Crime and we have responded to that with the inception of a specialist team dedicated to tackle online crime in the North East.

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I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks for the exemplary work done by Health and Social Care colleagues, along with the wider public sector to secure a stronger partnership and work in different more agile ways with Police Officers, Police Staff and our volunteers in the Special Constabulary and Youth Volunteers. We continue to strive collectively to achieve positive outcomes in order that Aberdeen City emerges through these challenging times in an even stronger position than before.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'George Macdonald'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

George Macdonald
Chief Superintendent
North East Division
Police Scotland

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Staffing

	Authorised Establishment	March 2021	Difference
Police Officers ¹	1103 FTE	1060.12 FTE	- 42.88 FTE
	March 2020	March 2021	Difference
Police Staff ¹	117.41 FTE	121.28 FTE	+ 3.87 FTE

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

The authorised establishment of North East Division has remained consistent, with a steady although relatively small dip in numbers throughout the past year. These figures fluctuate with retirements and quarterly recruitment but have been impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic due to the capacity for training at the Scottish Police College.

The next intake of Probationary Constables are due to commence work within the Division shortly following the Pandemic related delays as part of the recruitment model. Numbers for this intake are projected to be **15** and a further intake totalling **35** is planned for later in the year.

We also have **26** Special Constables working alongside full time colleagues in the City. Their dedication and contribution in the provision of an excellent service to our communities cannot be overstated.

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Complaints About the Police

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	%Change 2021 v 2020
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident ²	N/A	71.0%	83.7%		-12.7%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	345	266	+79	+29.7%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	51.8	35.0	+16.8	+48.0%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	443	294	+149	+50.7%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	1	1	0	0.0%
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	115	47	+68	+144.7%
Total Allegations	N/A	559	342	+217	+63.5%

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

Levels of overall satisfaction remain high at **71%** and while down on the previous year, is in line with the national average. While this is a reduction on the previous year it is of relevance that the survey methodology changed in April 2020 from a telephone survey to a text survey, due to Coronavirus restrictions. This change correlated with a predicted and notable drop across all measures. As such, comparison with previous years may not be reflective of performance or experience.

There has been a **29.7%** 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 comprising of several allegations.

A number of complaints stem from a lack of understanding of Police powers and procedures. These allegations are categorised as 'Quality of Service' complaints, which have risen by **68** in total. The unprecedented challenges associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic resulted in dynamic and, at times, difficult decisions around Officer deployment. Some of these complaints are directly attributed to our response to the Pandemic although it is considered that many others have been influenced by people's behaviour, general tolerance levels and frequently changing guidance, direction and to a lesser extent, legislation over the last year.

Our Policing tone of "Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce", has remained consistent throughout ensuring our response has remained proportionate, reasonable and fair.

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 About the Police are resolved in the North East. During this reporting period, if complaints

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were not resolved in this way our dedicated Service Delivery team would investigate, supported by the national Professional Standards Department where appropriate.

Of the **345** complaints about the Police received, **25%** required action by our Service Delivery team, with only **11%** of allegations contained within these complaints upheld.

Following recommendations arising from the review of Complaint handling conducted by the Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini, since May 2021, all Complaints About the Police have been retained and investigated by the national Professional Standards Department. While this has had no bearing on the reporting period it marks a change going forward and will of course influence future reports.

Through User Experience Surveys and robust governance processes, in partnership with our Professional Standards colleagues, we will ensure that learning points and areas for improvement continue to be identified, shared and acted upon to improve our overall service to the public.

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Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	3,007.6	2,505	2,868	-502.6	-16.7%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	71.0%	76.7%	70.8%		+5.7%
Robbery - Recorded	104.8	100	90	-4.8	-4.6%
Robbery - Detection Rate	80.7%	89.0%	86.7%		+8.3%
Vandalism - Recorded	1,964.0	1,691	1,643	-273.0	-13.9%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	24.8%	32.5%	26.0%		+7.7%
Fire Raising - Recorded	117.8	147	110	+29.2	+24.8%
Reports of Street Drinking	95.8	20	61	-75.8	-79.1%
Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct	211.4	33	151	-178.4	-84.4%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct	90.6	83	105	-7.6	-8.4%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct - Detection Rate	88.3%	98.8%	87.6%		+10.5%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded ³	N/A	487	514	-27	-5.3%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	80.5%	75.5%		+5.0%
Serious Assault - Recorded ⁴	187.0	122	161	-65.0	-34.8%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	89.4%	95.1%	91.9%		+5.7%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	304	271	+33	+12.2%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	77.3%	76.4%		+0.9%

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, Threats and Extortion and Coercive or Controlling Behaviour (w hich was added in 2019).

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

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The overall figures for Violence and Antisocial Behaviour are unsurprisingly framed by the Coronavirus Pandemic where call demand and crime reporting reduced as restrictions on movement saw people in the City 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 within Aberdeen and saw a demand shift from public to private space violence. Naturally this also affected reported street drinking and disorderly conduct.

Following the various levels of restriction and 'lockdown' we saw a return to more familiar levels of criminality closely resembling business as usual however we know that the comparison with last year's figures may not provide an accurate reference and this may impact reporting for some time.

Looking at the figures in more depth there are welcome reductions in Common Assault, down **16.7%** against the 5 Year Average and significantly lower than the previous year with an exceptionally strong detection rate of **76.7%**.

Continuing the trend, Serious Assaults are also down by **34.8%** against the 5 Year Average. Similarly, there is a notable increase in detection rates too from the previous year, remaining consistently high at **95.1%**.

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 and that the victims of these crimes are provided with the appropriate support.

Recorded Robbery has seen a marginal increase since the previous year but overall has seen a reduction of **4.6%** against the 5 Year Average. Detection rates also saw a marginal increase of **8.3%** and currently sitting at **89.0%**. Work continues to tackle this crime type through effective investigations and partnership support.

Throughout the implementation of Scottish Government restrictions we have remained fully engaged with partners citywide to better understand the implications for the hospitality sector and to provide advice, guidance and support.

Activity at licensed premises has been curtailed as a result of restrictions however we remain aware of the wider impacts harmful levels of alcohol consumption can have in terms of Antisocial 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 the City 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 approach has contributed to a notable reduction in Vandalism, an over **13.9%** reduction in comparison with the 5 Year Average. Detection rates have also increased by almost **8%** this reporting

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period by the same comparison, which demonstrates the effectiveness and commitment of the Community Policing teams throughout Aberdeen City.

The **decrease of 5.3%** for overall Group 1 crime with an increased detection rate of over **80%** indicates that despite a slight increase in ASB incidents our preventative work has been effective to date. However, it should be acknowledged that these figures do not separately detail the emergence of incidents of on-line threats and extortion (Sextortion) which like all types of Cyber Enabled crime have consistently increased during the pandemic.

The increase in incidents of Wilful Fire-raising have increased by **24.8%** during this period and early analysis shows this to be connected largely to incident involving youths engaging in Antisocial behaviour. Partnership work with SFRS and other diversion groups aim to tackle this issue as restrictions continue to lift.

While Hate Crime has increased slightly over the reporting period and our detection rates remain high, we understand that many factors affect these figures, including how able people are to identify same, and how willing people are to report it.

With this in mind we continue to campaign to raise awareness of Hate Crime, the impact on those affected, and the alternative ways to report same. We will continue to work with partner organisations and critical friends to look for ways to make our service more understanding and accessible to those experiencing hate.

Operation 'Restart' is a plan designed to provide an overview of tactical options and contingencies across North East Division in response to the Scottish Government COVID-19 timeline for the hospitality sector. This plan was closely linked to the 'Staycation' work undertaken by the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership. The purpose again is to focus on maintaining public trust and confidence in North East Division as a service provider and as an effective professional partner in supporting the combined partnership response.

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Acquisitive Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	6,266.4	4,635	5,134	-1,631.4	-26.0%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	44.6%	41.5%	45.6%		-3.1%
Housebreakings - Recorded	689.6	428	344	-261.6	-37.9%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded ⁵	781.0	402	518	-379.0	-48.5%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	27.0%	38.8%	31.7%		+11.8%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	280.2	148	178	-132.2	-47.2%
Common Theft - Recorded	1,512.6	1,043	1,269	-469.6	-31.0%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	30.0%	31.0%	31.0%		+1.0%
Theft by Shoplifting - Recorded	2,081.0	1,409	1,966	-672.0	-32.3%
Theft by Shoplifting - Detection Rate	72.6%	66.3%	68.6%		-6.3%

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 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av.
Overall	24.7%	37.1%	28.2%	+12.4%
Dwelling House	30.1%	43.3%	39.7%	+13.2%
Non-Dwelling (e.g. Sheds)	18.2%	30.4%	18.0%	+12.2%
Other Premises (e.g. Commercial)	31.8%	37.7%	24.4%	+5.9%

Housebreaking refers to a variety of buildings including sheds, garages, shops as well as dwelling houses.

This year has shown widespread significant decreases in reported Crimes of Dishonesty within Aberdeen City in comparison with previous year 2019/20. This illustrates a positive and effective preventative strategy, particularly when compared with the 5 Year Average performance in this area, showing a **26.4% decrease**, which indicates steps in the right direction.

These decreases are in part as a result of this strategy being focused and structured to ensure we are proactive in the right places at the right times. Also by enhanced efforts through Crime Reduction and partners to inform the local communities of what they can do to prevent and/or lessen the likelihood of them falling victim to a Theft or associated crime.

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This approach is led by Aberdeen City's Community Policing Teams with assistance from specialist CID, Operational Support and along with relevant partners.

It is noted the detection rates across most areas of Acquisitive Crime have seen increases in comparison with previous year and against the 5 Year Average figure. This is pleasing and again is a positive contribution to all-round performance and testament to the investigative work carried out by Community Policing Teams, Criminal Investigation Departments, the Crime Reduction team and partners.

Despite the strong performances in prevention and detection this year, the future focus remains primarily on prevention. Police Scotland's Crime Reduction Team have a crucial role to ensure our communities are aware of the measures they can take to reduce the likelihoods of them becoming victims of acquisitive crime.

Acquisitive Crime Governance structures are in place within A Division to address intelligence led emerging trends proactively, while directing and co-ordinating Community Policing resources across Aberdeen City to all areas affected by acquisitive activity.

Equally North East Division recognises the significant rise in reported 'Non-Contact' Frauds and in particular Cyber Enabled Fraud with interconnected and associated crimes and offences.

'Non-Contact' Frauds have increased, which is reflective of society in terms of increased internet usage in general and during the Pandemic.

Numerous on line applications have presented opportunities for Organised Crime Groups to carry out 'Non-Contact' online Frauds, often targeting those most vulnerable to online financial exploitation.

To address this emerging trend, North East Division is the first division in Scotland to implement a dedicated unit, the Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team, within the Criminal Investigation Department who will have responsibility for all Investigative and Preventative strategies in this area of criminality across the entire Division.

The unit aims to improve and forge strong links within the financial sector and establish effective working partnerships with Economic and National Cyber Investigations.

Aberdeen City's Community Policing Teams will work in conjunction with this specialist unit, alongside third sector agencies such as Crimestoppers, Citizens Advice, Victim Support and Adult Protection who will be pivotal to the success of the our approach.

This is in keeping with the national strategies in this area, offering actionable advice across local communities and commercial institutions along with business resilience expertise.

While significant efforts are ongoing locally to improve our investigative capabilities in this area, the primary focus remains on prevention, education and support for those most vulnerable to these crime types.

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To address the anticipated annual increase in Thefts of motorcycles and bicycles across the City and the associated crime and resultant risks, Operation Armour was instigated with dedicated resources secured and target-hardening prevention work progressed alongside internal and external partners to raise awareness of this crime type. The Operation yielded some notable results which will be provided in full during the next reporting period.

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Road Safety and Road Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019- Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
People Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	36	48	-12	-25.0%
Children Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	2	4	-2	-
People Killed	N/A	0	3	-3	-
Children Killed ⁶	N/A	0	0	0	-
Advice/Education Given to Motorists ⁷	N/A	15,064	17,508	-2,444	-14.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019- Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	393.0	90	133	-303.0	-77.1%
Speeding Offences	1,924.8	1,263	1,356	-661.8	-34.4%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	287.4	363	257	+75.6	+26.3%
Dangerous Driving	95.8	130	86	-34.2	+35.7%
Disqualified Driving	95.8	86	75	-9.8	-10.2%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	7,591.4	5,768	5,824	-1823.4	-24.0%
Parking Fixed Penalties Issued ⁸	878.6	285	854	-593.6	-67.6%

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 of people killed and seriously injured on our roads has decreased by 25%, cognisance must be taken of the various restrictions on movement applied throughout the year, significantly reducing levels of vehicular traffic.

Despite this, our commitment to improve road safety during this difficult time has remained steadfast. The loss of any life on our roads is tragic and has significant widespread impact. This remains the driving motivation behind our commitment to improving road safety.

The implementation of COVID-19 restrictions also significantly impacted upon our ability to work directly with partners, with the cancellation of several well established campaigns such as ‘Safe Drive Stay Alive’ and ‘Rider Refinement North’. However, through flexibility and innovation, road safety initiatives continued locally under Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce). Through the review of statistical data, community consultation and engagement with partners, Officers responded to

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road safety concerns with targeted activity, positively influencing driver behaviour through education and enforcement. Community Policing Teams throughout the city also undertook directed activity in support of national Road safety campaigns.

During the reporting period Operation 'Close Pass' was re-launched in Aberdeen providing focus on cyclist safety. This operation saw Officers deployed on pedal cycles educating drivers on the dangers of passing too closely to cyclists. The inclusion of digital cameras fixed to the bikes enables drivers to see the potential dangers and impact their driving may have, from a cyclist's point of view. This operation has and continues to be received positively both in local and national media.

In a bid to reduce road crime, several days of action in relation to Operation Contemn were conducted. This is a joint intelligence led operation involving Officers from Roads Policing and Proactive CID, targeting individuals utilising the road network in furtherance of their criminal activities. The operation to date has seen significant success.

Social media has been widely used to highlight our activity, consistently receiving support and positive comment by the public.

We remained committed to the North East Scotland Strategic Road Casualty Group, continuing to identify and target routes with significant collision histories, appropriately balancing high visibility and unmarked patrols, utilising enforcement and education in order to improve road safety and driver behaviour.

Our activity has been aligned to the Priority Focus Areas contained in the Scottish Government's National Road Safety Framework. A new framework was issued in February 2021 and sets out a vision for Scotland to have the best road safety performance in the world by 2030 and an ambitious long term goal where no one is seriously injured or killed on our roads by 2050. The Framework builds on what has already been achieved here in the North East over the last decade. It sets out new strategic outcomes for road safety, built around the safe system approach. We will work diligently with partners to ensure our activity is appropriately aligned as we advance through the coming year.

As mentioned above, the 'Rider Refinement' training scheme, designed to improve motorcycle riding standards, was unfortunately postponed as a result of the COVID Pandemic restrictions. Undeterred, plans are in place for this initiative to return at the appropriate juncture, with safe working practices in place to ensure the wellbeing of everyone involved. Similarly, work is ongoing to ensure the previously good work of the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' campaign continues in a revised format ensuring it remains relevant and fit for purpose.

The reporting period saw notable increases in Drink/Drug Driving (**26.3%**) and Dangerous Driving (**35.7%**) offences against the 5 Year Average. The increase in the number of Drink/Drug Driving offences can be directly attributed to the increased use of roadside drug screening tests and similarly, along with offences pertaining to Dangerous Driving, to the reduction in traffic flow allowing those committing offences to be more easily identified and intercepted.

The number of offences pertaining to Motor Vehicles, Mobile Phones and Speeding were, as expected, significantly lower than previous years. This again can be directly attributed to the reduction in traffic volume and periods where our ability to deploy proactively were variously restricted.

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Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes - Recorded ⁹	675.0	668	609	-7.0	-1.0%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	63.3%	61.7%	63.2%		-1.6%
Rape - Recorded	87.0	97	82	+10.0	+11.5%
Rape - Detection Rate	59.8%	66.0%	57.3%		+6.2%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	2,548	2,530	+18	+0.7%
Domestic Abuse Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	75.9%	64.9%		+11.0%

⁹ Group 2 Crimes of Indecency include Rape, Assault with intent to Rape, Indecent Assault, Sexual Assault, and Prostitution related crime and others with an indecent element.

Over the year the Division has actively carried out local multi-agency messaging and promoted national campaigns around online safety and other types of hidden harms – the national ‘Eyes and Ears Open’ campaign being an example of this. Extensive coverage in local press has included specific focus on Hidden Harm and targeting harder-to reach groups, using local community and faith groups and translating messaging into a number of languages. Working closely with the public protection strategic groups, the potential for delayed demand as a result of any restrictions being loosened has been pre-empted through increased frequency of meetings and the resulting work carried out by the Division and its partners.

Recorded Group 2 crimes have exceeded the number in 2019/20 and remain below the 5 Year Average. The impact of the Pandemic and associated restrictions during the periods of lockdown as well as the closing down of the night-time economy during these times have impacted on this. Q2 and Q3 both showed a rise in reported offences as we experienced a loosening of restrictions, whereas the lockdown and associated restrictions had a material effect on the levels of Rape and serious sexual offending being reported initially.

Although slightly lower than the 5 Year Average, the detection rate shows how problematic investigating crimes of a sexual nature can be. Group 2 ‘Champions’ provide a level of expert oversight locally within policing teams and the Public Protection Unit progress enquiries of a more complex nature, both recent and non-recent, led by a Senior Investigating Officer. With the increasing use of social media and the internet, communications offences which have a sexual element are included in these figures and we continue to see a rise in this area. The recently formed Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team will provide specialist support in the investigation of such crimes, which can often be protracted.

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With regard to recorded Rape, there have been 10 more in this reporting period than in the 5 Year Average. It is important to note that this includes 'non-recent' crimes which may have occurred a number of years ago, or featured as part of longer term domestic abuse. Anecdotally, partners have fed back to Police that some victims have decided to report such non-recent incidents after the period of lockdown and this may have been further impacted by amount of awareness raising across all media in relation to sexual crimes and associated Hidden Harms.

Throughout lockdown, reporting of Domestic Abuse incidents was relatively unchanged. Strong messaging regarding the hidden harm in this area in particular has undoubtedly contributed to this and this is also reflected in the levels of support sought by victims from partners. Positively the detection rate associated with domestic abuse crimes has risen. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referrals, co-ordinated through the police, have increased month on month, ensuring that those most at risk and at need are provided with appropriate support to mitigate the risk posed to them. It should also be noted that the majority of referrals to MARAC originate from the Police.

With a change in legislation regarding Domestic Abuse in 2018 (the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act) a comparison with the 5 Year Average is unable to be made.

Our Partnership Co-ordination Unit (PCU) provides support and access to services 7 days a week for those experiencing harm from Domestic Abuse, and they assemble appropriate safety plans and security measures to prevent future harm reoccurring while also continuing to utilise the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process to assist victims and their families, and the Multi-Agency tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC) to focus on higher risk perpetrators to protect those potentially at risk.

Positively, the numbers of requests for disclosures of information under the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) continue to rise steadily as people become more familiar with it and understand the information that can be provided. We also continue to champion awareness of Domestic Abuse through campaigns such as our 'Hidden Harms' campaigns and the annual 16 Days of Action that takes place in November/December each year.

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Serious Organised Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures ¹⁰	£257,040.46	£157,643.67	£291,522.34	-£99,396.79	-38.8%
Drug Possession Offences	1,573.8	1,649	1,555	+75.2	+4.8%
Drug Supply Offences	230.0	282	261	+52.0	+22.6%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Drug Deaths	N/A	66	39	+27	+69.0%

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).

Due to the Pandemic, proactivity in relation to the sale and supply of controlled drugs across North East Division and nationally has been challenging, mainly due to the nature of the processes and investigative methods traditionally used in carrying out these types of investigations.

Despite this, it is illustrated very positively in performance analysis that our commitment to address this problematic area of policing has seen Aberdeen City's performance continue to improve with a notable **increase of 22.6%** in relation to drug supply offences in Aberdeen City.

Despite the challenges it is pleasing to report significant numbers of persons across Aberdeen from Organised Crime Groups (OCG's) originating from England, were reported to COPFS for being involved in the sale and supply of drugs, along with other associated crimes and offences during this reporting period.

In addition to the drug seizures, Community Policing and CID teams have collectively seized approximately £160,000 in cash during the course of enquiries into Serious and Organised Crime. This will be processed through courts and may be seized permanently under Civil Recovery laws for long term benefits to local communities.

Importantly the impact of drug supply and consequences of this, such as drug related deaths, drug misuse and suicide is monitored closely.

Efforts are ongoing to proactively identify those in most need of support. This is led by the Division's Partnership and Interventions (now based at Aberdeen's Marischal College) in conjunction with partners in public and Third Sectors.

This includes the well-established 'Cuckooing' initiative, which has continued to provide support and diversion for the most vulnerable and includes enhanced referral, support and preventative mechanisms for those affected by drug and alcohol misuse.

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Looking forward, North East Division continues to lead strongly in our approach to Serious and Organised Crime. Our focused monitoring of emerging trends allows us to tackle the widespread and evermore sophisticated nature of this area effectively.

'County Lines' remains a national issue and North East Division are utilising a wide range of investigative tactics available which has included 'joined up' investigations with other forces and partners nationally.

OCG's from England continue to pose the greatest threat in terms of 'County Lines' activity and remain prevalent across most areas of Aberdeen City.

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 Organised Crime assessed as being in need of intervention.

The key message to local communities within Aberdeen City is to remain engaged with their Community Policing Teams confidently, by using our new and of course our conventional communication methods.

All information provided to us is assessed and allows us to act positively, while applying sensitivity and confidence. This is a crucial tool in tackling Serious and Organised Crime.

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Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism remains a Policing Priority and North East Division continues to work strongly in partnership with members of the North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board. The key principles to the national CONTEST strategy are Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare.

Prevent.

We have been working to ensure that 'Prevent' referral processes are clearly identified in organisational policies and that all partners are aware of when a prevent referral is necessary. Prevent Multi-Agency Panels (PMAP), a government framework to effectively support individuals at risk of radicalisation, have been established and implemented with meaningful and effective input from all partners. A Prevent group meets and engages regularly with ports and industry to focus and review all partnership prevent activity. In addition Local Contest Liaison Officers (LCLO's) continue to support locally and provide advice and guidance on all aspects of the Contest strategy.

Pursue.

North East Division have been working closely to improve understanding throughout the public and private sectors on the mechanisms available to promptly share information regarding concerning or suspicious activity linked to counter terrorism or domestic extremism. LCLO's have attended at local harbour offices to raise awareness and Borders Policing Command have worked with local Policing teams in an operation where vessels, deemed at increased security risk were boarded and checked. In addition a robust governance process exists to ensure that all incidents and intelligence linked to counter terrorism are effectively managed.

Protect.

Police Scotland, through the multi-agency group has reached out to partners, seeking feedback on the 'Protect Duty' which proposes a legislative framework to provide for the provision of protective security at publically accessible locations. LCLO's continue to undertake a vitally important role in providing security advice at these locations and where the risks are more significant than highly trained counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA's) can undertake detailed surveys and make recommendations. Recent examples of this has been security surveys at COVID mass vaccination centres, specifically the P&J Arena.

Prepare.

Police Scotland continue to push the Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) program, ensuring that it is embedded in training packages in partner organisations. Police and partners work closely together in developing plans for a variety of emergency situations. This has included table top exercises for the Menu of Tactical Options (MOTO) which have been delivered and will continue as they develop.

CTLO's and LCLO's have attended a week of specific training covering a variety of subjects.

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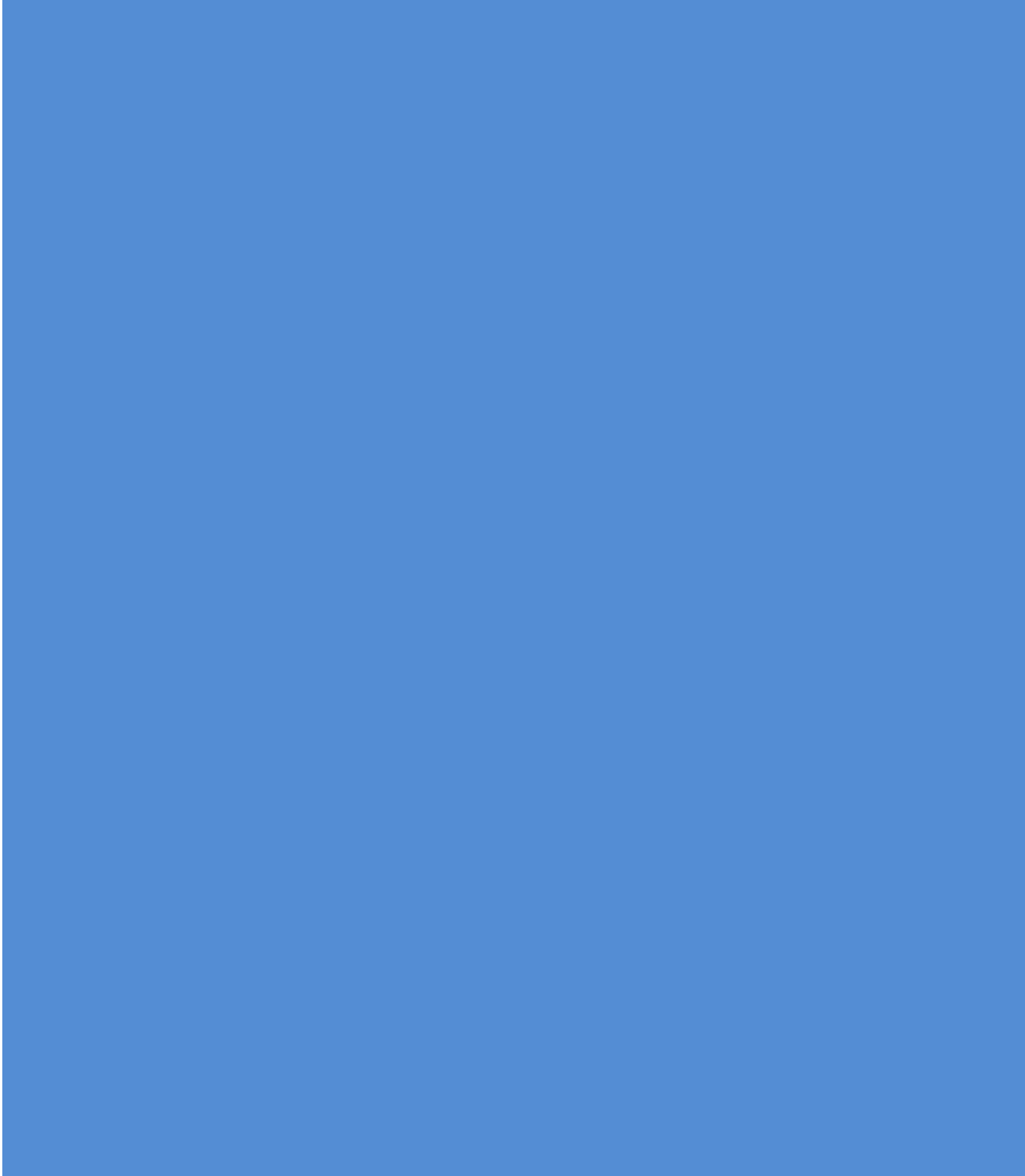
Miscellaneous

Stop and Search

Indicator	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021 (positive)
Consensual	0	-
Legislative	2,344	787
Number of Consensual Stop and Searches Refused	-	-

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