



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

## **Public Protection Committee**

**North East Division**  
**Aberdeen City**

**April - September 2021**

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## **Introduction**

I am pleased to present the latest Public Protection Committee report on behalf of Police Scotland, North East Division providing a detailed account of Police Performance in Aberdeen City in support of agreed local and national priorities, between 1 April and 30 September 2021.

This report is set in the context of COVID-19 still being present in society, albeit with restrictions being relaxed across all sectors during the summer of 2021. The pandemic continues to present significant challenges across our communities in all aspects of personal and professional life. The full implications of COVID-19 on crime rates, offending patterns and general policing are yet to be fully understood but it may be that the crime rates for this period can in part be attributed to the impact of the pandemic on society.

The re-ignition of the night-time economy and retail sectors during the pandemic has contributed to an increase in City Centre crimes of Violence and Disorder in comparison to the corresponding period in 2020. As with most other crime groups, the more accurate reflection may come from the comparison with 5 Year Averages which dilute the impact of the unique set of circumstances posed during 2020 and the early months of 2021.

The context around some of the increases in Crimes of Violence such as Robbery focuses around acts of spontaneous desperation, quite often targeted against known associates. Thankfully our detection rates remain high for this type of crime, with a number of notable offenders being incarcerated or restrictive conditions being imposed and effectively policed. We continue to deliver a high quality of service to all victims of crime and ensure suitable support and safety measures are in place for them.

An increase in youth Anti-Social Behaviour has been experienced over the summer months and contributes to crimes of Common Assault and Fire Raising. It was pleasing to see creative partnership initiatives taking place across the City which assisted in the diversion strand of preventing youth offending. We are grateful to our Community Safety and Third Sector partners in their continued support with such ventures.

A significant reduction in Acquisitive Crime is notable over this reporting period. The exception to this are crimes of Fraud, specifically non-contact and online Frauds. These crime types have continued to increase in Aberdeen City, in keeping with the rising trajectory throughout the country. This trend is inevitable given the increasing reliance of technology and large sections of society living and operating in a 'cyber' dominated world.

It is encouraging that our newly established Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT) has made good early ground in setting innovative methods in both investigative and preventative fields. However it is recognised that the global nature and growth of Cyber-crime will be a challenge for the foreseeable future for policing, partners and communities.

The emphasis on awareness raising with respect to Hidden Harms, predominant during the lockdown periods, was continued across Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking, Adult Protection, Serious Sexual Offences and Child Protection. The widely recognised potential for delayed demand resulted in more frequent strategic partnership meetings across the areas of public

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protection which ensured that not only the Police, but all partners involved in supporting victims, were aware of the current trends as restrictions were relaxed, and better placed to respond.

During the reporting period the North East Integration Project delivery phase was accelerated and our Officers and Police Staff variously moved to refurbished premises at Marischal College, Woodhill House, Kittybrewster, Nelson Street and Nigg Police Offices. While there will be lots of memories left at Queen Street, there has been unanimous support for the project and exciting opportunities lie ahead of us to work in an integrated fashion both internally and externally in modern well-equipped environments.

The new public service counter at Marischal College is now well established and members of the public can now access multiple public services under one roof. We will undertake some work to capture the real benefits of the integrated working arrangements, both for staff and the customer.

In light of the operational challenges we face, our overall performance remains strong and compares favourably in most areas against national averages. Our continued visibility, accessibility and community policing approach continues to build public confidence in our service. This is reflected in part through the drop in the number of complaints received.

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 during the pandemic and in the execution of our more traditional role. I would also like to pay tribute to our Community 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

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**Staffing**

	Authorised Establishment	September 2021	Difference
Police Officers <sup>1</sup>	1096.0 FTE	1064.65 FTE	-31.35 FTE
	September 2020	September 2021	Difference
Police Staff <sup>1</sup>	119.18 FTE	119.57 FTE	+0.39 FTE

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

Enhanced recruitment to the North East has been undertaken over recent months and has gone a long way in addressing the shortfall of Police Officers. This focused recruitment has led to an additional **53** probationary Officers, currently at the Scottish Police College, who will be deployed locally. With a further intake of staff planned before the end of the current financial year the deficit should be further reduced.

In Aberdeen we have **62** Probationary Officers based at various operational stations throughout the City.

We also have **24** Special Constables working alongside full time colleagues in the City. As ever, these Officers continue to demonstrate outstanding loyalty and commitment to their role and their excellent service to our communities cannot be overstated, especially given the additional pressures and risks COVID-19 has posed.



**Complaints About the Police**

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	%Change 2021 v 2020
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident <sup>2</sup>	N/A	68.0%	75.0%		-7.0%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	142	175	-33	-18.9%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	43.0	52.3	-9.3	-17.8%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	173	227	-54	-23.8%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	1	1	0	0.0%
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	44	67	-23	-34.3%
Total Allegations	N/A	218	295	-77	-26.1%

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

Levels of overall satisfaction have decreased on the previous year to **68%** however this figure remains **2% above** the national average.

Police Scotland, alongside other agencies, continue to adapt to the unprecedented and sustained challenges associated with the COVID pandemic. Difficult decisions, in respect of call attendance and ‘face to face’ contact with the public remains a challenge as we balance the need to keep our officers and public safe. We acknowledge this can lead to frustration however through self-assessment and User Experience feedback we continue to explore new opportunities to improve our levels of contact and sharing of good practice to enhance our service delivery.

More specifically in respect of Complaints about the Police, the overall picture is positive. It is encouraging to see a decrease in the number of complaints received during this reporting period (**-18.9%**). A significant reduction in On Duty allegations is also noted (**-23.8%**).

Quality of Service allegations, which primarily focus on Police powers and procedures, have also seen a reduction (**-34.3%**).

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. Where complaints are not resolved in this manner, they are subject of a robust investigation by the Professional Standards Department.

Recent developments in ICT have improved the manner in which our analysts present the data collated from User Experience Surveys. This new format provides up to date information in a manner that can quickly identify improvements and areas of learning. This investment in

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Business Intelligence reaffirms Police Scotland's commitment to service delivery. These surveys, combined with a robust governance process, ensure that learning points are identified, shared and acted upon to improve our overall service to the public.

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**Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence and Disorder**

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	1,456.4	1,570	1,277	+113.6	+7.8%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	70.5%	67.8%	81.4%		-2.7%
Robbery - Recorded	54	66	58	+12.0	+22.2%
Robbery - Detection Rate	84.8%	90.9%	91.4%		+6.1%
Vandalism - Recorded	933.2	1,059	840	+125.8	+13.5%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	26.6%	24.5%	33.0%		-2.2%
Fire Raising - Recorded	58.6	73	83	+14.4	+24.6%
Reports of Street Drinking	59.8	20	15	-39.8	-66.6%
Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct	101.0	39	25	-62.0	-61.4%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct	45.4	55	52	+9.6	+21.1%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct - Detection Rate	88.5%	83.6%	90.4%		-4.9%
Serious Assault - Recorded	91.0	83	55	-8.0	-8.8%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	91.0%	92.8%	96.4%		+1.8%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded <sup>3</sup>	N/A	316	231	+85	+36.8%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate <sup>4</sup>	N/A	71.8%	86.1%		-14.3%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	175	170	+5	+2.9%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	60.6%	67.6%		-7.0%

<sup>3</sup> Group 1 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.

<sup>4</sup> Coercive or Controlling Behaviour was added to Group 1 Crime in April 2019 and as such a 5 Year comparison is not possible.

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



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The overall figures for Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour have unsurprisingly been impacted by the easing of pandemic restrictions where call demand and crime reporting has slowly seen an increase following the initial periods of lockdown.

This reporting period saw a return to more familiar levels of criminality closely resembling 'business as usual' figures. Looking at the figures in more depth there is a slight increase in reported Common Assault, at just over **7%** against the 5 Year Average, with a consistently strong detection rate of **67.8%**.

Respecting the challenges in comparison with last year's figure, Serious Assaults are nevertheless down by over **8%** with detection rates remaining exceptionally high at **92.8%**, an **increase of 1.8%** when compared against the 5 Year Average.

Our victim focused approach recognises the impact that these crimes have on individuals and families and ensures we put robust support measures in place, couple with a consistent commitment that those intent on committing acts of Violence are dealt with through enforcement.

Recorded Robbery has shown an 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. This tends to centre on communities in the north of the City. As alluded to in the introduction, many instances of this crime involve individuals known to one another. Detection rates remain high, approaching **91%** and co-ordinated work between local policing and CID is ongoing to tackle this trend.

The gradual return of the night time economy also influenced crime trends, with the City Centre impacted in particular. Throughout the journey of the Scottish Government restrictions we have remained fully engaged across the City to better understand the implications for the hospitality sector and provide advice, guidance and support.

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.

Over the reporting period it is reassuring to see that cases of street drinking have significantly reduced by **66.6%** against the 5 Year Average and drunken/disorderly conduct has similarly reduced by more than **61%**. This will be partly attributable to the overall lower footfall in the City Centre. We resumed and enhanced our Weekend Policing model to adapt to the changing trends in the night-time economy and continue to be alive to socialising habits in society as we look to emerge from the pandemic. Targeted visibility in and around Licensed Premises at key times remains a key tactic to reducing and deterring violent or disorderly behaviour. Likewise robust enforcement and preventative measures are encouraged with a view to identifying problematic offenders and seeking restrictive conditions on their activities.

The summer months saw large groups of youths congregate in the City Centre which led to increased reports of Anti-Social Behaviour. These young people would migrate from various communities to the City Centre due to the retail trade and hospitality/leisure sectors returning to

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a form of normality. It is acknowledged that there was an inevitability to this to an extent given the impact of restrictions on this age group in particular.

While a significant degree of the calls fell short of criminality, Community Policing Teams have been responsive to understandable concerns from the business community to increase visibility to disrupt, deter, detect and divert youth offenders. Where criminal acts have been reported, positive action has been taken to refer these youths into support services or where appropriate the criminal justice system

Community Safety partners are alive to this challenge and work is ongoing to remedy short term issues and provide more sustainable solutions to this issue.

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 established locality projects in Northfield Mastrick, Tillydrone, Seaton and Torry where we have adapted our partnership working to deliver positive outcomes in communities experiencing the most acute challenges. This approach is currently being rolled out into other priority neighbourhoods such as Kincorth.

While statistically there has been a rise **(+24%)** in Wilful Fire Raising compared to the 5 Year Average, there are actually 10 less incidents of Fire Raising than the same period last year. A number of these crimes are detected and can be attributed to youths engaged in Anti-Social Behaviour and relate to rubbish bins and small fires in public spaces. While not minimising the risks involved this allows for intervention from partners in Scottish Fire and Rescue (SFRS) and Education to work together to address this type of conduct. We have well developed links with our City partners and act cohesively, pursuing every opportunity to prevent this type of conduct.

Aberdeen City saw a slight increase **(+2.9%)** in recorded Hate Crime over the comparative reporting period in 2020, which equates to 5 additional incidents. It is assessed that this small rise indicates enhanced confidence around reporting and ease of reporting. To further contextualise, there are a significant number of Hate Crimes with Police Officers as victims. These invariably relate to incidents where officers are dealing with an incident or custody and racist or homophobic comments are made towards them.

We continue to work closely with groups, partners and communities to increase awareness of Hate Crime, reduce tolerance of it, and encourage the reporting of it whether directly to Police or via third parties, accepting this may mean an increase in the number of reports.

We have supported our work with awareness campaigns such as the Hidden Harms initiative referred to above, and our links with organisations such as Grampian Racial Equality Council (GREC) remain strong, as critical friends. Throughout August, we were key partners in the '#AntiStigmaAberdeen' awareness raising month, which included stigma around Hate as a central theme.

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Our involvement in awareness raising events such as these are key to public confidence in reporting crimes to us.

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**Acquisitive Crime**

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	2,947.6	2,660	2,308	-287.6	-9.8%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	42.9%	34.7%	46.7%		-8.2%
Housebreakings - Recorded	321.0	196	237	-125.0	-38.9%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded <sup>5</sup>	335.6	266	195	-69.6	-20.7%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	25.9%	30.1%	37.9%		+4.2%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	123.8	108	71	-15.8	-12.8%
Common Theft - Recorded	702.0	573	501	-129.0	-18.4%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	28.3%	25.3%	33.9%		-3.0%
Theft by Shoplifting - Recorded	993.4	776	774	-217.4	-21.9%
Theft by Shoplifting - Detection Rate	69.3%	59.0%	72.5%		-10.3%

<sup>5</sup> 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 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020- Sept 2020	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av.
Overall	26.7%	37.2%	38.8%	+10.5%
Dwelling House	34.8%	32.8%	50.0%	-2.0%
Non-Dwelling (e.g. Sheds)	18.9%	36.9%	19.5%	+18.0%
Other Premises (e.g. Commercial)	29.2%	44.4%	47.6%	+15.2%

Looking at specific crime types, Housebreaking in Aberdeen City continues to fall significantly with a decrease **(-38.9%)** in recorded crime, whilst the detection rate overall has risen by over **10%** against the 5 Year Average.

This period has also seen a notable reduction in Motor Vehicle Crime **(-20.7%)** against the 5 Year Average. Detection rates are steady and are **4.2%** above the 5 Year Average. We have also seen a continued reduction of **12.8%** in Theft of Motor Vehicles across Aberdeen City compared to the 5 Year Average.

We partly attribute these encouraging returns to effective investigation and enforcement resulting in a number of prolific housebreakers in the City being incarcerated for extended periods. In addition a drive to feed the intelligence picture and close scrutiny of the intelligence

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product ensures we target the right people and patrol the right places to minimise the traumatic effect this most invasive of crimes has on victims.

Crimes of Dishonesty and Common Theft have seen a continued reductions, with overall decreases of **9.8% and 18.4%** respectively, against the 5 Year Averages.

Robust, proactive policing plans are in place to ensure Aberdeen City remains a hostile environment for those intent on committing Crimes of Dishonesty.

We welcome these returns cautiously in view of the context and that communities are staying in their properties more. However, we will continue with the simple philosophy to prevent crime wherever possible and where this cannot be achieved to detect it. Local Policing will continue high-visibility foot patrols during the hours of darkness as part of the 'After Dark' initiative. A crucial element of this approach is the promotion of the message to communities that by taking personal responsibility for the security of their homes and vehicles they can help ensure they do not become victims of crime.

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

The Crime Reduction Unit will continue to work with DCECT to identify vulnerable groups to develop ongoing, targeted campaigns to raise awareness of Cyber-crime, target harden and expand knowledge.

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**Road Safety and Road Crime**

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
People Seriously Injured	N/A	10	18	-8	-44.4%
Children Seriously Injured <sup>6</sup>	N/A	0	1	-1	-100.0%
People Killed	N/A	1	0	+1	0.0%
Children Killed <sup>6</sup>	N/A	0	0	0	0.0%
Advice/Education Given to Motorists <sup>7</sup>	N/A	8,335	6,126	2,209	+36.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	138.2	38	45	-100.2	-72.5%
Speeding Offences	916.8	641	514	-275.8	-30.1%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	144.6	247	167	+102.4	+70.8%
Dangerous Driving	48.0	79	63	+31.0	+64.6%
Disqualified Driving	46.0	40	40	-6.0	-13.0%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	3,487.2	2,741	2,665	-746.2	-21.4%
Parking Fixed Penalties Issued <sup>8</sup>	397.6	62	105	-335.6	-84.4%

<sup>6</sup> Child is under 16 years of age.

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

<sup>8</sup> North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray).

Tragically one individual lost their life on an Aberdeen City road during the period under review, while there were no fatalities during the same period last year. 2020 saw significantly reduced levels of vehicular traffic as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions and therefore the reduction in people seriously injured is noteworthy. The loss of any life or serious injury to any person on our roads is catastrophic for those involved and has significant widespread impact and as such this remains the key motivation behind our commitment to improving Road Safety.

The reporting period saw notable increases in Drink/Drug driving (**+70.8%**) and Dangerous Driving (**+64.6%**) offences against the 5 Year Averages. The increase in the number of Drink/Drug driving offences can be directly attributed to the increased use of roadside drug screening tests. The availability of such devices meaning that the offences are now easily identifiable. Focused initiatives, such as the 'Summer Drink/Drug Driving' campaign, also ensured targeted activity to identify offenders.


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Whilst there is a significant increase in Dangerous Driving against the 5 Year Average, this is not a sudden jump as it has increased incrementally over that period.

As evidenced in the graph below, the larger increase in reported Dangerous Driving from last year can be seen in Seaton, City Centre and Kittybrewster. These figures can partially be attributed to Police pro-activity in these areas and in particular an operation relating to an unauthorised car meet at Queens Links where five drivers were charged. Furthermore Operation Armour, which focused on the Theft of Motor Vehicles, led to four Dangerous Driving charges in Kittybrewster and the City Centre.

The gradual increase in recorded Dangerous Driving episodes may also align to the wider public use of visually recorded evidence in the form of dash-cam and mobile phone footage.

 This image cannot currently be displayed.

The number of offences pertaining to Mobile Phones has dropped significantly **(-72.5%)** and may well be attributed to the significant successful enforcement and education activity undertaken over recent years. The availability of 'hands-free' technology has also contributed to the steady decline in offending.

The reduction in the number of detected Speeding Offences **(-30.1%)** against the 5 Year Average remains attributable to both the positive enforcement/preventative activity previously undertaken and continued lower levels of traffic due to the pandemic.

Unfortunately the continuation of various restrictions throughout the year resulted in the further cancellation of several well established partnership campaigns such as 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' and 'Rider Refinement North'. Despite this, local Road Safety initiatives remained a constant

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focus of the Community Policing Teams (CPTs) across Aberdeen under Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce), the North East's overarching Policing strategy to increase Road Safety and reduce Road Crime. Through the review of statistical data, community consultation and interaction with partners, Officers responded to Road Safety concerns with targeted activity, positively influencing driver behaviour through education and enforcement.

On separate dates throughout the review period officers from the West End and Hazelhead CPT, in partnership with Aberdeen City Council Wardens, carried out a number of local initiatives targeting speeding and inappropriate parking in the area of Airyhall and Broomhill primary schools. A number of motorists were dealt with by means of enforcement and education and the activity was supported by local media messaging.

During August, following concerns expressed by local elected representatives and business leaders, the City Centre CPT ran a pilot initiative in respect of the Anti-Social use of E-scooters. Irresponsible use of E-scooters often presents a risk to pedestrians, other road users and the rider themselves. As a result 13 scooters were seized following illegal use and a number of other riders were educated. In addition 21 other road users were dealt with for a range of offences further improving safety within the City Centre but striking the balance of enforcement and education where it was appropriate to do so.

During the summer months a dedicated resource was assigned to Operation Armour, a bespoke local initiative tackling the Theft of Motor Vehicles and pedal cycles across the City. Stolen vehicles often create increased risk to other road users through a variety of different offences. As a result of the proactive efforts, 13 individuals were variously charged in relation to vehicle Thefts and Road Traffic offences. Further to this, the team successfully recovered a number stolen vehicles, removing a significant risk from our roads.

Building on local efforts, Officers from the North East Road Policing Unit (NERPU) continued to support communities across Aberdeen by conducting targeted activity aligned to national Road Safety campaigns and patrolling key routes identified as 'hot spots' through review of analytical data. Some of the national campaigns supported during the review period included the Motorcycle, Seatbelt, Vulnerable Road Users and Summer Drink/Drug Drive campaigns.

During June, in conjunction with partners, an operation to improve cyclist safety over a period of six weeks commenced. This included the patrolling of key cyclist routes and hot spot locations, along with bespoke CPT initiatives allowing positive engagement with cyclists through the provision of complimentary safety equipment. This was supported by an extensive media campaign lead by NESTRANS and a live Facebook 'chat' involving Police and partners. The chat received high levels of positive public engagement with over 209 comments. Further to this, Operation Close Pass days of action were carried out, along with designated patrols across the city. This operation has and continues to be received positively both in local and national media.

In a bid to reduce Road Crime, a day 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



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activities. As a result over 100 vehicles and occupants were stopped/checked, with 16 individuals being charged with varying offences.

As a period of 'normality' occurred during the summer months an apparent emerging trend pertaining to 'car cruise meet' events developed. Car Cruise Meets' are unofficial gatherings of local car enthusiasts, often known as 'cruisers' from throughout the area. 'Car cruise meets' can attract significant attendance, often resulting in incidents of Anti-Social driving and behaviour from attendees, disrupting local communities. The journeys to and from venues by attendees can also often result in the commission of Road Traffic Offences and heightened Road Safety concerns. In response and in a bid to maximise safety a targeted operation was put in place, providing strategic direction and outlining best practice in dealing with such events. This has since influenced our response to similar gatherings which have passed without incident.

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 new National Road Safety Framework, issued in February 2021 which 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 Scotland over the last decade. It sets out new strategic outcomes for road safety, built around the safe system approach, coupled with a comprehensive performance management system to monitor progress. We will work diligently with partners to ensure a whole system approach is adopted.

As mentioned above, the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' campaign was cancelled as a result of the pandemic restrictions. Following a review of its continued suitability, plans are now in place to replace this event with the Police Scotland 'New Drivers Scheme'. This scheme comprises of a presentation aimed at new and young drivers and raises awareness of road safety issues. It is targeted at 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 involving real life footage, the scheme also provides a space for discussion to allow a change in perceptions at the most appropriate time – when young drivers are first going on public roads. The scheme has been positively evaluated.

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**Protecting People at Risk of Harm**

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes - Recorded <sup>9</sup>	340.8	360	306	+19.2	+5.6%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	59.0%	46.7%	60.1%		-12.3%
Rape - Recorded	49.6	38	52	-11.6	-23.4%
Rape - Detection Rate	57.7%	52.6%	67.3%		-5.1%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	1,228	1,347	-119	-8.8%
Domestic Abuse related Crime Detection Rate	N/A	67.6%	80.7%		-13.1%

<sup>9</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.

This reporting period continued to draw significant focus in all the areas of public protection, harm reduction and vulnerabilities.

The Division continued to actively promote local multi-agency messaging and national campaigns. The national '#GetConsent' campaign was heavily promoted across the division as part of internal and external awareness raising regarding sexual offences linked to vulnerabilities associated with alcohol and with a particular focus on how to identify the signs and react accordingly.

The emphasis on awareness raising with respect to Hidden Harms, predominant during the lockdown periods, was also continued. Divisional leads for Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking, Adult Protection, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences and Child Protection further enhanced this through a series of media interviews.

The widely recognised potential for delayed demand resulted in more frequent strategic partnership meetings across the areas of public protection and ensured that not only the Police, but all partners involved in supporting victims, were aware of the current trends as restrictions were relaxed and better placed to respond.

Following a period of reduction during lockdown and then an initial increase as the night-time economy opened up again and restrictions were eased, there has continued to be a rise in reported Group 2 Crimes, seeing an increase against the 5 Year Average **(+5.6%)**.

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Communications related offences or those linked to the use of social media are partly attributed to this and are reflective of the increasing use and reliance of mobile phones and social media in today's society and featured heavily in national and local campaigns highlighted in previous reports. Such enquiries are often complex and protracted and can have a delayed impact on detection rates as a result. In addition, the increase in reporting of non-recent offences or offences which occurred out with the forensic window, limit the potential for forensic evidence. To ensure all evidential opportunities have been explored in relation to Group 2 crimes, all enquiries have been reviewed and, through the newly appointed Group 2 'Champions', supported by the Divisional portfolio holder. All Rape enquiries are led by Senior Investigating Officers with local and national scrutiny and monitoring in place to ensure such enquiries are investigated fully and to a high standard. Feedback from victims through our partners continues to be positive in this area.

By the end of the reporting period, there were **119** less Domestic Abuse incidents recorded than in the previous year (the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 does not allow for 5 Year Average comparison). There is a reduction (**-13.1%**) in the Aberdeen City detection rate for Domestic incidents compared to the previous year. As stated, throughout the periods of lockdown, there was particular emphasis on Hidden Harms and abuse which could take place within homes. The City saw an increase in reports of Domestic Abuse at this time when, along with partners, we communicated strong messaging regarding support for those experiencing abuse.

As highlighted previously, we continue to utilise the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) framework and processes to assist victims and their families, whilst the Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC) partners focus on higher risk perpetrators to protect those potentially at risk. The MARAC process across Aberdeen City and the wider North East is co-ordinated and managed by the Divisional Partnership Co-ordination Unit with a dedicated Sergeant at the helm. Both MARAC and MATAC processes are well embedded in our partnership work and continue to evolve through refinements to meet emerging risk and or trends.

The number of referrals made to MARAC has more than doubled since 2018, when statistical recording in relation to MARAC started. During this reporting period, 222 MARAC referrals were made in Aberdeen, in comparison with 106 in 2018. Working closely with our partners allows us to ensure those most at risk and vulnerable to any form of Domestic Abuse, are receiving support.

The MATAC process is managed through the national Domestic Abuse Task Force and we have a close and effective working relationship with the team, ensuring the appropriate perpetrators are referred. During this reporting period we have increased the number of perpetrators managed through MATAC.

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. Across the division, 71 applications were made under the scheme during the same time period (April – September) in 2019, and 109 applications in 2021.

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**Serious Organised Crime**

	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures <sup>10</sup>	£136,009.71	£43,707.00	£66,929.28	-£92,302.71	-67.9%
Drug Possession Offences	836.2	758	782	-78.2	-9.4%
Drug Supply Offences	116.4	144	123	27.6	+23.7%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Drug Deaths	N/A	32	23	+9	+39.1%

<sup>10</sup> 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).

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 ever more 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.

Organised Crime Groups from England continue to pose the greatest threat in terms of ‘County Lines’ activity and remain prevalent across most areas of Aberdeen.

By using the 4D (DETECT-DISRUPT-DETER-DIVERT) methodology, some successes have been seen in terms of enforcement and our work with key partners to support and signpost those linked to Organised Crime assessed as being in need of intervention.

SOC Interventions continue to develop links into rehabilitation and addiction peer groups. Intervention support ensures diversion from Cuckooing can be in place for those at a vulnerable stage in their recovery.

The key message to local communities within Aberdeen City is to remain engaged with their Community Policing Teams by using both new and conventional communication methods. All information provided to us is assessed and allows us to act positively, while respecting confidentiality. This is a crucial tool in tackling Serious and Organised Crime.

Despite the monetary value of assets seized during the reporting period reducing compared to this period last year, it remains noteworthy that more than **£43,000** has been removed from criminals. With live cases continuing, this figure will inevitably increase and will be reported upon in the next reporting period.

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In support of public health our pro-activity was influenced during the review period by the various pandemic restrictions. A significant increase (+**23.7%**) in the number of Drug Supply Offences in comparison with this period last year is worthy of note, albeit the number of Drug Possession offences have dropped slightly (**4%**) over the same period. This demonstrates how Officers have successfully adapted to the challenges encountered, ensuring an agile approach to targeting drug dealers, disrupting their activities and carrying out effective enforcement.

Drug related deaths have risen compared to the same period last year which follows a national trend. 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 to support them through addiction and dependency at the earliest possible point of intervention.

To aid transparency, it was agreed that from 14 September 2021 the Scottish Government, National Records of Scotland (NRS), Public Health Scotland (PHS) and Police Scotland will work together to produce a Drug Related Death dashboard report on a quarterly basis, one quarter in arrears. Police Scotland will provide quarterly information on suspected Drugs Related Deaths by Division, gender and age (within a pre-defined range) of the deceased. These broad parameters will protect against personal identification.

Our data relationship with partner organisations through the Aberdeen Alcohol and Drug Partnership allowed us to recognise and respond to this rise at the time and increase harm reduction measures across the breadth of the Community Planning Partnership.

The Multi-Agency Assertive Outreach team continue to receive high numbers of referrals for service, with more than half engaging in service following this contact. They continue to forge new links around identifying at risk individuals and encouraging the protective factor of support around them.

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## **Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism**

North East Division continues to work strongly in partnership with members of the North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board which includes members from local authority, education, health and other organisations with responsibility for publically accessible locations (PALs).

The Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer (CTLO) and partnerships department continues to support the Afghan resettlement program provide guidance to those currently resident within Aberdeen. Advice and assistance continues to be provided to local Elected Members, MPs and MSPs around personal security, in line with the threat level in the UK.

### **Prevent**

The 'Prevent' referral process and in particular Prevent Multi-Agency Panels (PMAP) are now well established with all partners working effectively to manage people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. The recently appointed CTLO has a strong input into this process. Further PMAP training is scheduled for partners and the Police Prevent Delivery Unity and CTLO will lead utilising an appropriate delivery method. The Prevent sub-group continues to meet regularly to manage and review all partnership prevent activity.

### **Pursue**

CT Investigative leads feed into the local Contest multi-agency meetings, ensuring that any emerging themes are shared and acted on appropriately in partnership with the group. Emerging themes, resulting from lockdown include an increase in cases with a cyber enabled element and in extreme right wing ideologies. Borders Policing Command continue to identify vessels deemed at increased security risk and conduct appropriate border checks. Operations are planned for coming months which will include our Local Contest Liaison Officers, ensuring local concerns are acted upon.

### **Protect**

Engagement work continues with Scottish Government to seek to implement findings of the recent Protect Duty Consultation, which may have significant implications for any organisation with responsibility for PALs. The CTLO and tactical lead for Contest locally are proactively seeking updates on this in advance of any findings being published to ensure that Aberdeen is suitably prepared.

Local CONTEST Liaison Officers continue to undertake a vitally important role in providing security advice at these locations and the CTLO position ensures co-ordination of this work.

### **Prepare**

The Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) program remains embedded in training packages in partner organisations. Work is in early stages to plan for an exercise to test the Police and partners preparedness to respond to a CT incident. The CTLO and tactical lead are to shadow such an exercise being undertaken in Tayside to ensure any learning will be implemented locally.



**Miscellaneous**

**Stop and Search**

Indicator	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021 (positive)
Legislative	689	273
Consensual	0	N/A
Number of Consensual Stop and Searches Refused	N/A	N/A

\*Further Stop and Search data can be accessed at the following location: [Data Publication - Police Scotland](#)

