



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee

**North East Division
Aberdeen City**

April - September 2022

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Introduction

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

This report, my first as Divisional Commander, details performance in Aberdeen City aligned to the agreed priorities at local and national level for the period of 1 April to 30 September 2022.

In line with previous reports submitted, comparisons are provided against 5 Year Averages to ensure an accurate picture can be drawn, distinct from periods during which the impact of pandemic lockdown measures obscured clear comparison. The report also contains additional information and context to provide a more informed perspective of matters across Aberdeen City.

Since our last performance report it has been a busy period and the demands on policing in Aberdeen continue to be relentless, with the socio-economic landscape bringing inevitable challenges. Not only have we continued to provide high levels of performance in line with our policing priorities, we have also had other significant events and demands to manage, some of which I will provide brief detail on.

This reporting period has seen the delivery of a new national crime recording system to North East Division. 'COS UNIFI' replaced the 'CrimeFile' application which had been in use locally for approximately 25 years. This was a significant piece of organisational change and North East Division is one of the first in Scotland to make operational use of this application. The magnitude of this change has understandably presented challenges but I am pleased to report the implementation has been successful and we are already recognising efficiencies of the system.

Furthermore, during September 2022, specialist and local Officers from Aberdeen formed part of the wider deployment to local and national events connected with the death of Her Majesty The Queen, delivering these with dignity. This was the largest 'no-notice' mass mobilisation of Officers and Staff since the creation of Police Scotland and significant local preparatory work ensured no loss of service provision to our communities in Aberdeen.

The impacts of COVID recovery means a significant backlog of cases are working through the criminal justice process. The impact on our people is notable, with huge increases in court citations and resultant short-notice variations in shifts, which affects our staffing profile on a daily basis. The impact is unprecedented and far reaching and will continue to be a challenge for us in the months ahead.

Aligned with the evolving impact of the cost of living crisis, Officers in Aberdeen are increasingly called upon by partners or are first in response to incidents associated with some of the most vulnerable within our society at a point of personal crisis. These incidents often require immediate intervention for mental health issues and subsequent signposting to appropriate support services and agencies.

Focusing upon matters within the report, staffing levels have remained consistent during the six months to which this report pertains, but like other public sector partners, there are significant budgetary challenges ahead. The impact of a change in pension regulations mean that many more experienced colleagues are choosing to retire earlier than previously anticipated. This has

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had an unprecedented impact across Police Scotland in both local policing divisions and national teams. Recruitment was initially boosted to replace retiring Officers but shortfalls are still evident across the country. Whilst recruitment continues, our budget allocation for 2023-2024 does not match current double-digit inflation and hard choices lie ahead. The Chief Constable will consider the full implications of the budget allocation in the coming weeks and thereafter, I will take the action needed to make best use of the funding available for North East Division.

From a performance perspective, the picture is broadly positive across the city, with violence in particular showing a decrease in volume coupled with improving detection rates. Other notable returns feature under acquisitive crime, with housebreaking and vehicle crime both significantly reduced over the reporting period.

Other areas continue to be a challenge including an increase in recorded sexually motivated crimes and the well-publicised issues around youth anti-social behaviour in the city centre. The report elaborates upon the multi-agency partnerships efforts to remedy the impact of such quality of life issues.

Our Officers and Staff have worked tirelessly throughout this period and despite the relentless volume of incidents, emotionally and physically demanding calls, we continue to deliver an excellent service. I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to the Officers, Staff and Special Constables who have worked tirelessly during a period of continued exceptional demand to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities across Aberdeen City.

Regards

Graeme Mackie
Chief Superintendent

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Staffing

	Authorised Establishment	September 2022	Difference
Police Officers ¹	1092 FTE	1057.47 FTE	-34.53 FTE
	September 2021	September 2022	Difference
Police Staff ¹	119.57 FTE	115.59 FTE	-3.98 FTE

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

Staffing levels have remained relatively consistent during the six months to which this report pertains, but the impact of the change in pension regulations mean that many more experienced colleagues across Police Scotland are choosing to retire earlier than previously anticipated.

This has had a significant impact across Police Scotland in both national teams and local policing divisions, including North East Division. Recruitment was initially boosted to replace retiring Officers but shortfalls are still evident across the country.

In Aberdeen we have **75** Probationary Officers based at various operational stations throughout the City.

A further intake of Probationary Officers is planned before the end of the current financial year but the impacts of the staffing challenges across Scotland will continue to affect North East Division in the months ahead. All such new recruits are subject to strengthened vetting measures, with an additional check for new recruits just before they are sworn into office

We also have **22** Special Constables working alongside full time colleagues in the City. As ever, these Officers continue to demonstrate outstanding commitment to their role and the value of their service to communities cannot be overstated.



Complaints About the Police

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Difference	%Change 2022 v 2021
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident ²	N/A	67.0%	68.0%		-1.0%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	135	155	-20	-12.9%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	40.0	45.4	-5.4	-11.9%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	174	240	-66	-27.5%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	2	1	+1	x
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	74	52	+22	+42.3%
Total Allegations	N/A	250	293	-43	-14.7%

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

Respecting we do not always get everything right, the level of satisfaction and complaints about our policing service, particularly when considering heightened and complex demands, remains positive and relatively consistent with last year.

Levels of overall satisfaction remain **consistent at 67.0%**, which is above the national average.

It is encouraging to note a **12.9% decrease** in Complaints About the Police with the overall number of allegations also significantly decreasing with a **reduction of 14.7%**.

Quality of Service allegations, which focus on Police powers and procedure, have **increased by 42.3%** equating to **22 additional** allegations on the previous reporting period, primarily in respect of the 'type of Police response'.

Difficult decisions in respect of call attendance and 'face to face' contact remains a challenge with the initial call handling assessment incorporating a number of factors based on levels of threat, vulnerability and the risk of immediate harm. It is this assessment that ultimately dictates our level of response and can lead to frustration in terms of response time(s) and level of interaction between Officers and the public.

While any increase in allegations is disappointing, closer local scrutiny via our Insight and Engagement Team highlighted a positive position in respect of initial contact and attitude of attending Officers with members of the public feeling reassured that their needs were understood.

Our Front Line Resolution process, which affords the complainer the opportunity to ask questions and receive an explanation regarding actions taken by the Police, remains the primary means by which complaints are resolved. Where complaints are not resolved in this manner, they are

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subject of a robust investigation by the Professional Standards Department. On occasions where allegations are upheld, any learning points received at the conclusion of a Complaint About the Police are appropriately shared and briefed to Officers and staff to prevent recurrence.

Recent developments have improved the manner in which User Experience Data is shared and scrutinised within the division. This format allows for monthly overview of public feedback at the appropriate level with the associated sharing of learning amongst staff and positive action, where required, to proactively reduce Complaints About the Police.

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Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Difference	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	1,439.2	1,501	1,569	+61.8	+4.3%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	69.9%	72.0%	67.6%		+2.1%
Robbery - Recorded	56.2	43	65	-13.2	-23.5%
Robbery - Detection Rate	88.3%	100.0%	90.8%		+11.7%
Vandalism - Recorded	925.8	902	1,055	-23.8	-2.6%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	25.9%	29.9%	24.5%		+4.0%
Fire Raising - Recorded	61.6	73	69	+11.4	+18.5%
Reports of Street Drinking	51.6	78	20	+26.4	+51.2%
Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct	84.8	107	40	+22.2	+26.2%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct	47.6	48	55	+0.4	+0.8%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct - Detection Rate	89.1%	89.6%	85.5%		+0.5%
Serious Assault - Recorded	84.0	99	88	+15.0	+17.9%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	93.3%	93.9%	89.8%		+0.6%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Difference	% Change 2022 v 2021
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded ³	N/A	282	321	-39	-12.1%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate ⁴	N/A	73.4%	71.3%		+2.1%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	163	180	-17	-9.4%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	63.2%	61.1%		+2.1%

³ 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.

⁴ 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 encapsulates all forms of serious non-sexual Violent Crime and includes a range of diverse offences. It is encouraging that during the reporting period there has been a **decrease of 12.1%** in Group 1 crimes compared to last year, accompanied by an **increase in the overall detection rate by 2.1%**.

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Breaking down the categories into more detail, recorded Common Assault (no serious injury), has **increased by 61.8** compared to the five year average but has **dropped by 68** when compared to last year. Our detection rate of **72%**, **has risen** against last year's figure and remains **2.1% above** the 5 Year Average.

Robbery has **decreased significantly by 23.5%** against the 5 Year Average with an impressive **100% detection rate**.

Serious Assaults **have increased by 15** against the 5 Year Average, however detection rates have also increased to **93.9%**, which is above both last year's figure and the 5 Year Average. This demonstrates our dedication to a robust and professional standard of investigation, and the focused efforts of our teams. The context with serious assaults, reveals a number of crimes recorded by virtue of definition, as opposed to severity of an attack. Any injury requiring a gluing or stitching technique is recorded as 'serious' and these account for a significant majority of crimes in this category.

Under Operation PINE, preventative and proactive measures continue to be implemented across our communities, developed and delivered through the Divisional Violence Prevention Board to effectively understand, manage and direct our resources to where there is an identified need. The detection rate success can be attributed to many factors but includes targeted intervention and preventative work to disrupt or deter repeat violent offenders. The detection rates are bolstered through well-established internal partnerships between local policing, CID and Partnerships colleagues, linked to a robust investigative process.

At the start of the reporting period, the Weekend Policing Plan, which focusses on the night-time economy, was reviewed and refined to reflect demand and changing dynamics in the hospitality trade post pandemic. This saw an emphasis on an earlier phase of patrols primarily focussing on licensed premises but also visibility to address the period where youths muster in the centre and night-time venues are operating.

We have a well-embedded approach to policing the night time economy, ensuring visibility and proactive deployment at recognised 'hot spots'. Patrols are regularly supported by members of the Divisional Licensing Team to ensure relevant license conditions and legislation are being adhered to and to this end we have also been supported on the ground by local authority Licensing Standards and Trading Standards Officers.

Incidents of Vandalism have **decreased** both against last year's figure and the 5 Year Average with a stable detection rate.

Antisocial Behaviour incidents relating to street drinking and drunk and disorderly Conduct have seen an **increase of 26.4 incidents** and **22.2 incidents** respectively, over the six month period to which this report refers, which equates to roughly **one additional** incident per week across the entire city for each category of incident.

We continue to adopt a robust enforcement approach to street drinking and depending on the type of incident, we may issue fixed penalty tickets or alternatively consider charging and arresting offenders where it is proportionate to do so. Thereafter, we will consider whether an Anti-Social

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Behaviour Order (ASBO) may be required for repeat offenders, while also referring individuals to partners and support agencies to assist them with any alcohol or drug issues.

Post pandemic issues relating to youth anti-social behaviour has been a challenge in Aberdeen city centre. Reported incidents range from low level annoyance to acts of violence and disorder. These issues have been replicated to varying extents in the major cities across Scotland. Thankfully the majority of youths cause no issues and are attracted to the city centre due to the retail, hospitality and leisure facilities on offer but unfortunately a minority of youths, some of whom are travelling from across the City, Aberdeenshire, Moray and even Angus, appear intent on causing disorder.

Under the banner of 'Operation Galaxite', we have increased police visibility to deter and detect any offending behaviour, while we simultaneously work with partners through existing Community Safety partnership structures and the Business Improvement District (BID) groups, to identify diversionary activity and provide lasting solutions.

We will continue to update the Committee on how we, in conjunction with our partners, are progressing in our attempts to tackle this issue.

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Acquisitive Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Difference	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	2,713.6	2,850	2,626	+136.4	+5.0%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	42.3%	40.0%	34.9%		-2.3%
Housebreakings - Recorded	244.0	191	195	-53.0	-21.7%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded ⁵	292.4	242	265	-50.4	-17.2%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	27.2%	47.9%	29.8%		+20.7%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	108.2	114	109	+5.8	+5.4%
Common Theft - Recorded	630.8	752	562	+121.2	+19.2%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	28.9%	24.9%	25.8%		-4.0%
Theft by Shoplifting - Recorded	925.2	915	773	-10.2	-1.1%
Theft by Shoplifting - Detection Rate	67.4%	59.0%	58.6%		-8.4%

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 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av.
Overall	31.6%	51.8%	37.4%	+20.2%
Dwelling House	39.5%	53.7%	32.8%	+14.2%
Non-Dwelling (e.g. Sheds)	23.4%	47.1%	37.3%	+23.7%
Other Premises (e.g. Commercial)	33.5%	53.4%	44.4%	+19.9%

There is a continued positive reduction in Housebreaking to commercial and private properties in Aberdeen City with **53 less victims** compared to the 5 Year Average. Detection rates have **increased significantly to 51.8%** which is an extremely high detection rate for what can be a notoriously difficult crime to detect. Close monitoring of the intelligence picture ensures we target the right people and patrol the right places to minimise the traumatic effect this most invasive of crimes has on victims.

This reporting period has also seen a notable reduction in motor vehicle crime, **down 17.2%** against the 5 Year Average. Detection rates are strong at **47.9%**, which is **20.7% above** the 5 Year Average. Similar to housebreaking, this is a notably high detection rate.

Theft of motor vehicles across the City have remained relatively steady with a **5.4% increase** compared to the 5 Year Average, although this equates to **only 6 additional crimes**.

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While these crime types show a positive trajectory, there has been a marked increase in Common Theft. Detailed analysis will be required to identify the reasons for such an increase, but it is likely that the cost of living crisis has had some impact.

It is worth noting that crimes of shoplifting, although up from last year, are still **1.1% lower** than the 5 Year Average. This crime type is being closely monitored and we focus crime reduction efforts on premises which are repeat victims in an effort to 'target-harden'.

To coincide with the seasonal spike in thefts of pedal cycles, Operation Armour was re-launched in April 2022 and ran successfully over a six month period. The operational strategy was multi-faceted with a balance of crime prevention, education, enforcement, intelligence gathering which targeted those involved in the reset of stolen push bikes. As a result, a total of **78 pedal cycles and 22 motorbikes** were recovered, 178 crime reports were dealt with, of which **83%** were detected.

As anticipated, increased use of technology has resulted in rises in reported 'Non-Contact' Frauds and in particular, Cyber Enabled Frauds. A separate updated report was presented to the committee in January 2023, regarding the work of the Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT), so details in relation to this crime type will not be repeated in this report.

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Road Safety and Road Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Difference	% Change 2022 v 2021
People Seriously Injured	N/A	13	13	0	x
Children Seriously Injured ⁶	N/A	2	0	+2	x
People Killed	N/A	0	1	-1	x
Children Killed ⁶	N/A	0	0	0	x
Advice/Education Given to Motorists ⁷	N/A	6,012	8,335	-2,323	-27.8%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Difference	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	91.0	55	39	-36.0	-39.6%
Speeding Offences	822.6	204	646	-618.6	-75.2%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	163.8	170	245	+6.2	+3.8%
Dangerous Driving	53.8	43	75	-10.8	-20.1%
Disqualified Driving	42.6	26	36	-16.6	-39.0%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	3,169.2	1,880	2,731	-1,289.2	-40.7%

⁶ Child is under 16 years of age.

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

There have been no fatalities on Aberdeen roads over the reporting period, a **reduction of 1** compared to the previous year while the level of significant injury as a result of Road Traffic Collisions **remains consistent at 13**. The loss of any life or serious injury on our roads is tragic and that is why we remain committed to influencing driver behaviours to improve Road Safety as a policing priority.

Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce), the North East's overarching Policing strategy to increase Road Safety and reduce Road Crime, has remained a key area of proactive work across the Aberdeen City road networks.

Using an intelligence led approach in conjunction with community concerns, local Officers have responded to Road Safety issues with targeted activity, positively influencing driver behaviour through education and enforcement working collaboratively with specialist colleagues from the North East Road Policing Unit (NERPU) aligned to national Road Safety campaigns.

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While the number of motorists given advice/education has reduced, the indicators showing the offences reported and detected has also reduced which is largely correlated to the re-introduction of proactive partnership working, post-pandemic.

We remain committed to the North East Road Safety Strategy Partnership, 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.

Excess speed remains a factor attributed to collisions where death or serious injury occurs. We have deployed Officers and the North East Camera Safety Unit to priority routes to carry out 'speed checks' and have seen a positive impact with a significant reduction in detected speeding offences compared to last year. In addition, Drug driving legislation implemented under section 5A of the Road Traffic Act 1988, continues to prove an excellent road safety tool, with an **increase of 3.8%** in detected offences.

Motorcyclists continue to feature disproportionately in relation to road death collisions. Recognising the need to engage directly with motorcyclists, this year saw the return of the 'Rider Refinement North' training scheme to encourage and enhance responsible motorcycling on our roads.

With an ageing population, people are remaining mobile for longer and continue to drive and we are seeing an increase in older casualties. Driver Engagement North aims to reduce casualties and collisions in the north of Scotland by engaging older drivers and their friends / families in an interactive workshop. This is a pilot project supported by funding from Transport Scotland's Road Safety Framework Fund. The project makes use of interactive driving simulators to assess and highlight a participant's reactions, hazard awareness and any potential vulnerabilities.

Our activity has been aligned to the Priority Focus Areas contained in the Scottish Government's Road Safety Framework which sets out a vision for Scotland to have the best road safety performance in the world by 2030.

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Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Difference	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes – Recorded⁸	338.6	381	369	+42.4	+12.5%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	54.6%	55.6%	45.8%		+1.0%
Rape - Recorded	47.0	51	36	+4.0	+8.5%
Rape - Detection Rate	57.0%	54.9%	55.6%		-2.1%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Difference	% Change 2022 v 2021
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	1,239	1,228	+11	+0.9%
Domestic Abuse related Crime Detection Rate	N/A	64.5%	69.1%		-4.6%

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

During this reporting period, North East Division has seen an increase in reported Group 2 crimes. In Aberdeen City, the year-on year rises in this crime type now equates to **12.5% more** crimes than the 5 Year Average. In relation to recorded Rapes, the year-on-year rises are also evident resulting in the number being **8.5% higher** than the 5 Year Average.

Despite the rise, the Division has seen another increase in detections, again reflecting positively on the dedication and expertise of our Senior Investigation Officers and their teams.

Similar to previous years, we continue to see an increase in reported non-recent crimes which are often more complex and difficult to detect due to the timescales involved and lack of potential for forensic evidence, which would otherwise support such enquiries. Due to the protracted nature of these type of offences, there is often a ‘lag’ in the true performance picture being realised.

Communications related offences and use of social media to commit offences have also increased. By their very nature, such investigations can be protracted to ensure all available evidence is obtained and progressed.

An increase in reporting such ‘cyber-related’ crimes indicates the level of public confidence in the policing response. It should also be highlighted that the Division has been heavily involved in working with partners to highlight offences and harmful sexual behaviours involving children and young people through schools and also directly with practitioners. Additionally, child protection processes such as the Inter-Agency Referral Discussion (IRD) and the interviewing of children has robust quality assurance processes in place, the former having recently be strengthened as a result of work being led by the Division, with partners, regarding the implementation of the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) for children who have been victims of significant harm and abuse.

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In respect of Domestic Abuse incidents reported to the Police, this year has seen a slight increase in reported incidents (**0.9%**) compared to last year, with the detection rate below that of last year (**-4.6%**).

A new toolkit has been developed for supervisors, to assist them and ensure enquiries are progressed fully and timeously and all available evidence gathered. With the support of the Division's Partnership Co-ordination Unit and Public Protection Unit, a divisional oversight process continues to ensure those most at risk are supported and action is taken against those posing the most risk.

With the majority of Domestic and Group 2 offences being recorded with female victims, the Division has continued to lead and work with partners under the Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership. One aspect being led by Police with partners includes the development a multi-agency dataset and quality assurance framework to allow further scrutiny of local trends in all areas of violence against women. This ensures our Officers and partners' practitioners are supported to provide effective interventions and support.

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

The Division's lead in the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) processes in particular highlights this. Both forums have seen a continued increase in referrals and partnership support being sought and managed for those most vulnerable and at risk from violence and abuse. We also continue to utilise the Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC) to focus on high risk perpetrators with partners.

The national 16 Days of Activism campaign was also fully supported and specifically, enforcement days were carried out by divisional Officers, from local policing and specialist units. Media messaging also continued to be driven forward in support of local and national campaigns, most notably the award winning 'ThatGuy' campaign.

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Serious Organised Crime

	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Difference	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures⁹	£131,251.72	£36,633.57	£43,707.00	-£94,618.15	-72.1%
Drug Possession Offences	816.2	761	755	-55.2	-6.8%
Drug Supply Offences	125.2	124	140	-1.2	-1.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2021 - Sept 2021	Difference	% Change 2022 v 2021
Drug Deaths	N/A	21	27	-6	-22.2%

⁹ 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).

Although the monetary value of assets seized during the quarter has reduced compared to this period last year, it is noticeable that in excess of **£36,600** has been removed from criminals. With live cases continuing, this figure is likely to increase significantly and will be reported upon in the next reporting period.

The number of Drug Supply offences have remained consistent with the 5 Year Average. The number of Drug Possession Offences have increased slightly in comparison with last year but are down on the 5 Year Average.

A number of Organised Crime Groups (OCG's) originating from England operate in Aberdeen. By using the 4D (Detect- Disrupt-Deter-Divert) methodology, we have experienced reasonable success in terms of disruption and enforcement with a number of OCG nominals reported to Crown Office for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs and other associated crimes.

Police Scotland are leading a multi-agency sub-group of the Public Protection Chief Officers Group in developing a multi-agency protocol to assist agencies responding to, caring for and repatriating Children and Young People Under 18 years old who are at risk of 'County Lines' Exploitation by OCG's. These victims may be from the same Local Authority as located, neighbouring Local Authorities or UK wide.

The delivery of 'Operation Protector' targeting the sale and supply of controlled drugs and engaging with those vulnerable to exploitation by OCG's was hailed a success in the City. Working alongside a range of partners, outreach work comprised of 136 visits to persons identified as being substances users and/or at risk of exploitation by those involved in Serious Organised Crime. As a result, a number of persons were brought into service and provided with immediate support, including the provision of same day prescribing into medically assisted treatment.

Additionally, as part of wider community outreach, over 100 interactions with members of the public/service users took place at dedicated support hubs in the City Centre and Tillydrone where Operation Protector specific support materials and Naloxone was distributed. Community Safety

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Officers also carried out leaflet drops to over 2000 addresses, highlighting anti-social behaviour, drug harm, cuckooing and how to report same

During the reporting period drug related deaths **decreased by 6** compared to the previous year. We continue to work closely with partners and support services to better understand the causes of drug deaths and to signpost vulnerable individuals to referral pathways to support them through addiction and dependency at the earliest possible point of intervention.

The reduction in drugs deaths is welcome but there is still progress to be made. A new development in our fight to assist with the reduction in such deaths has resulted in delivery of 120 Naloxone kits to the North East and a number of Officers are now carrying them on a daily basis. The initial roll-out has taken place in Aberdeen City with training and a distribution programme to continue throughout 2023.

We recognise the need to educate our young people regarding the dangers of drug use. Police Scotland and representatives from all three Local Authorities within the North east are working with the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation (London based) to improve the way that drugs education is delivered in schools across the North East.

Lochside Academy recently hosted a 'showcase' event run by Police Scotland and the Foundation, highlighting the educational materials and delivery methods available through the foundation with a proposed 12 month pilot being conducted in the school. The results will be reviewed to determine its success and whether or not the programme can be rolled out across every secondary school in the North East.

The pilot will include professional and personal development for professionals including teachers, nurses, Police and for parents and young people.

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Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

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

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

Within Aberdeen City a cadre of Local CONTEST Liaison Officers, drawn from Community Policing Teams, receive enhanced training and are tasked with forging and maintaining strong links with relevant sites and venues.

Within Police Scotland a 'Prevent' referral process is in place and allows Police and partners to assess and respond to information and intelligence which may require early intervention and collectively manage people vulnerable to radicalisation. Specific sensitive work is ongoing with a small number of individuals in the City but there have been no significant deviations or trends in this area since the previous reporting period.

Police Scotland's Counter Terrorism Security Advisors, (CTSAs) recently presented enhanced security courses to Offshore Installation Managers working within the Oil and Gas Sector based within Aberdeen City. This training programme is an example of self-initiated work between Police Scotland and Oil and Gas representatives through joint working. This was aimed at improving knowledge levels within the industry and their Emergency response processes and was of particular importance due to the prolonged period of reduced training as a result of the COVID 19 Pandemic.

In addition, Police Scotland's CTSAs are engaged with Aberdeen City Council and the Aberdeen City Centre Regeneration Project with a view to engaging new architectural work at early stages by providing detailed guidance to architects. This is allowing project managers to make informed assessments while taking into account CTSAs recommendations.

Throughout this period Police Scotland's Counter Terrorism Planning Unit have been integral to the delivery of North East Divisions Counter Terrorism Table Top Exercise which was held in Aberdeen. A number of representatives from Aberdeen City Council, Robert Gordons, Aberdeen University, NHS Grampian, Emergency Services, Transport Links and Retail sector attended with others. The aim of the exercise was to heighten awareness and increase the preparedness of all participating before, during and after a terrorist attack within North East Division. This was widely received as a hugely informative event and seen as good practice for other areas of Scotland to consider replicating.

Initial communication has been provided to CONTEST Multi Agency Boards across Scotland by the UK and Scottish Governments reporting on the findings from the recent 'Protect Duty Consultation'. This contains details of policy elements and definition of 'Publicly Accessible Locations' (PALs) which will form the basis of the upcoming 'Protect Duty Bill' known as 'Martyr's Law'. This will place a legislative requirement upon organisations in respect of security considerations at any venue 'to which the public has access on payment or otherwise'. This arose as part of the wider response and review following the Manchester Arena attack in 2017. It is

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anticipated implementation of 'Martyn's Law' will have significant implications for organisations with responsibility for PALs.

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Miscellaneous

Stop and Search

Indicator	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022	Apr 2022 - Sept 2022 (positive)
Number conducted	616	187

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

