

Performance against Local Policing Plan 2023-26



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe



North East Division Aberdeen City

April 2023 - March 2024

Introduction by the Divisional Commander



I am delighted to be able to share the latest Communities, Housing & Public Protection Committee report on behalf of Police Scotland, North East Division. This report details performance in Aberdeen City aligned to the agreed priorities at local and national level from the period of 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Serving our communities throughout North East Division with our dedicated Community Policing Teams at the heart of everything we do, we continue to actively engage with residents of Aberdeen aiming to understand and respond to concerns.

Crimes of violence and antisocial behaviour continue to be of particular concern to people living in Aberdeen. We remain committed to working positively with our partners to reduce incidents of violent crime and antisocial behaviour adopting a holistic approach focused on early intervention and diversion. Our work along with partners through the Community Safety Partnership allows effective partnership working to identify and tackle causation factors before impacts are felt in our communities.

As the needs of our communities grow more complex, we have adapted and allocated resources to meet these demands effectively. In areas like Fraud, where victims are often highly vulnerable, we have enhanced the Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team with Officers skilled in financial investigation. This team collaborates closely with Crime Prevention Officers to support and protect our communities in Aberdeen.

We are dedicated to our role in the Community Planning Partnership, working closely with our partners. This report highlights our commitment to collaboration and illustrates how this approach has led to success. Through joint efforts, we have achieved significant progress, demonstrating the power of teamwork and shared goals. Our collaborative approach ensures we address community needs effectively, leveraging the strengths and resources of all partners involved. We are proud of our achievements and remain focused on strong, cooperative relationships for continued success.

Reducing road fatalities and serious injuries remains a priority, balancing enforcement, and education activities. Our partnership approach reinforces our strong road safety message across Aberdeen's communities to make our roads safer during this reporting period.

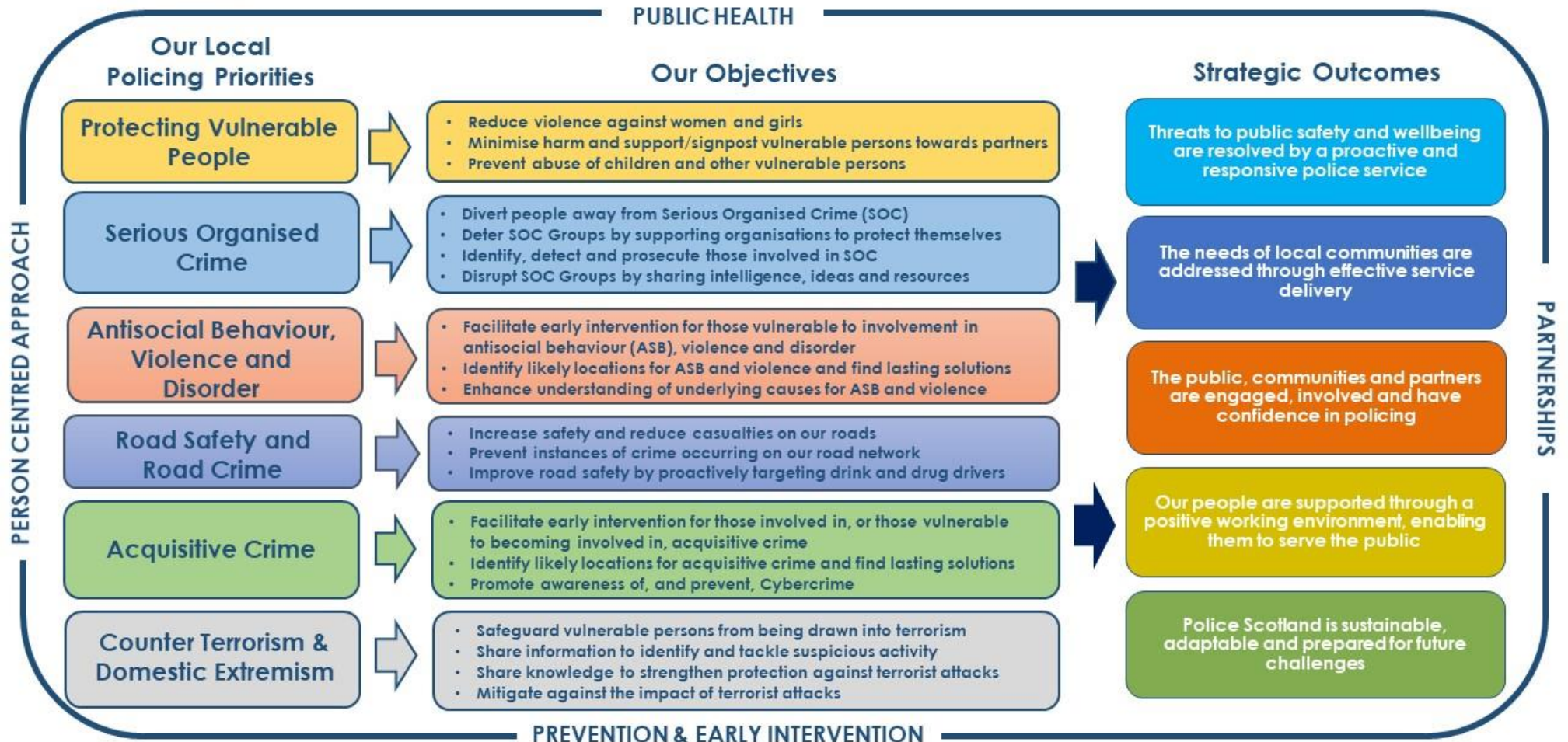
The city has tremendous support from our Local Policing Teams, Police Staff, Special Constables, and Police Scotland Youth Volunteers all of whom have contributed significantly to Aberdeen's continued success. I also recognise the support provided by our colleagues in specialist roles and national teams who remain committed to delivering effective Policing across the city and beyond.

Graeme Mackie
Divisional Commander
North East Division



Plan on a Page
Aberdeen City

Our vision | Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Aberdeen
Our purpose | Improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Aberdeen
Our values | Fairness, Integrity, Respect, Human Rights



Executive Summary



Protecting Vulnerable People

Reinforcing our commitment to protect the most vulnerable in society, the Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Governance Group was established. This group provides a forum for enhanced scrutiny and oversight of Sexual and Domestic related crime, along with issues pertaining to Adult Support & Protection, across the Division. This is supported by a bespoke data dashboard to better inform trends and reporting.

As part of our work to reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG), local governance and scrutiny of domestic crime remains robust. Detection rates for this crime type within North East Division over the reporting period, when compared with previous year, have increased, and exceed the Force average. Our enforcement activities are equally balanced with preventative tactics including the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS), Multi-Agency Tasking & Coordinating (MATAC) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). These forums facilitate multi-agency discussion through which we target the behaviour of perpetrators and support/safeguard victims and their families. Supporting the wider agenda, we continue to support the Aberdeen City Violence Against Women Partnership, delivering positive outcomes through activity aligned to the partnership's Improvement Plan.

Notably, crimes specifically recorded under the Domestic Abuse Scotland Act 2018 rose by 24% during the review period demonstrating a growing confidence in reporting Domestic Abuse by our communities, along with a more comprehensive understanding of the legislation by our Officers. Conversely the number of reported Rapes continued to trend below the levels seen in 2022/2023 however, analysis of last year's figures identified a spike in reporting.

We continue to develop and grow our knowledge of and response to Adult Support & Protection matters within our communities, actively participating in and driving work streams via the Aberdeen Adult Protection Committee and Learning Review groups. This is replicated within Child Protection forums.

As a result of significant focus and commitment the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) is now firmly embedded across the North East with local delivery being seen as an exemplar across national forums. This achievement has undoubtedly been pivotal in Aberdeen City's successful bid to be a pathfinder for delivery of the Scottish Government's new Bairn's Hoose model. An exciting opportunity to further develop and enhance our service delivery in response to child protection matters across Aberdeen.

Serious Organised Crime

North East Division continues our innovative approach to tackling Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) utilising the 4D strategy of 'Disrupt, Detect, Deter and Divert'. The individual strands allow comprehensive and cohesive focus ensuring a multi-agency approach to pro-actively collaborate with partners and support those most vulnerable from the effects of SOC and drugs misuse in our communities.

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Operation Protector continues to provide support, diversion, and education to those most vulnerable from drugs and associated harm and enforcement against those causing harm in our communities.

As can be seen from the increase in drug supply charges and increase in production and manufacture charges there has been a continued proactive enforcement and disruption of Serious Organised Crime groups.

In this reporting period, controlled drugs with a street value of over £3 million have been recovered.

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Communities across Aberdeen want to feel safe and reducing antisocial behaviour (ASB) and violence remains a priority for North East Division. During this reporting period, we have worked alongside partners, right across the City to bring to reduce ASB felt in some of our communities and City Centre. We know that tackling the underlying causes should be the focus of multi-agency efforts and only by doing so, can we achieve lasting solutions. During this reporting period, our presence within the Community Safety partnership delivered significant reductions in ASB in the City Centre, helping ensure our highly regarded Purple Flag accreditation remained, endorsing Aberdeen as a safe place to live, work and visit.

Our performance in tackling nonsexual crimes of violence has remained strong both in terms of volume and detection rate which are comparable to that of the previous year despite the challenges faced by many services including Police Scotland. Against this backdrop, we are taking opportunities to modernise and evolve, introducing a Community Investigations Unit to tackle and deal with the most serious ASB and violence in our communities. The Team's focus on serious crimes of violence has seen the number of Serious Assaults perpetrated across the city reduce significantly compared to the previous year and, below the 5 Year Average.

Road Safety and Road Crime

We continue to collaborate with our partners across Aberdeen City and North East Division, dedicated to road safety and reducing road casualties. With our focus throughout the year aligned with the Fatal Five Campaign, targeting key offences identified as contributory factors associated with fatal and serious injury collisions, we have recorded successes in identified increased offending in many key areas.

Our Officers and colleagues from Roads Policing and Community Policing Teams have maintained a visible presence on the road network across Aberdeen supported by delivery of targeted campaigns and initiatives throughout the year.

Acquisitive Crime

Crimes of Dishonesty have increased in Aberdeen compared to the same period last year however, these are primarily related to Theft by Shoplifting, Theft from Insecure motor vehicles and other opportunistic crimes. There have been decreases in Housebreaking and vehicle crime, which significantly impact victims and their families.

North East Division continues to implement preventative strategies and remains focused to reduce acquisitive crime by working with partners and identifying locations where acquisitive crime is most likely to occur.

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A variety of pro-active engagement with communities and targeting of locations where acquisitive crime occurred has assisted with reduction of key crime types. Working with partners who can help facilitate early interventions for those involved is another key factor in reducing acquisitive crime.

The Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team continue to engage and support Crime Reduction and local Officers to identify vulnerable groups; develop ongoing targeted campaigns; promote awareness of Cyber and prevent such instances utilising the '4P' methodology of Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue.

Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism

We aim to reduce the risk of terrorism so people can go about their lives freely and with confidence by focusing on the local delivery of the CONTEST strategy using four key objectives: PROTECT, PREPARE, PURSUE and PREVENT. Partners in Aberdeen continue to contribute to the local CONTEST delivery plan and significant work continues to ensure the city is protected against the threat of terrorism.

Protecting Vulnerable People



Objective: Work with statutory and third sector partners to reduce violence against women and girls

During the review period, North East Division continued to be an integral partner within the Aberdeen City Violence Against Women Partnership, chaired and represented by specially trained Officers who supported and delivered improvement activity, as outlined in the Partnership's two-year Improvement Plan.

Internal enhanced governance and scrutiny ensured continued strong performance in relation to Domestic Abuse crime with the number of 'live' undetected enquiries across Aberdeen City being reduced by approximately 20% and a detection rate consistently exceeding the Force average.

Our commitment to supporting and safeguarding victims of Domestic Abuse remained steadfast, continuing to lead and administrate the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process on behalf of all partners, ensuring those victims deemed High Risk were subject of robust safety planning along with professional and specialist support. During 2023, 476 individuals were supported through the MARAC process within Aberdeen City with approximately 90% of referrals originating from Police.

Further supporting our efforts to safeguards individuals was our continued commitment to the Police Scotland Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS), a highly effective tool which provides a formal way of sharing information about a partner's abusive past with a potential victim. During 2023/2024, because of proactive awareness raising, referrals increased by approximately 37% with all subsequent disclosures discussed and agreed through a multi-agency forum, allowing for wider safeguarding and support measures to be considered.

The MARAC and DSDAS processes are supported by Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Tasking & Co-ordination (MATAC) process which targets domestic abuse perpetrators who present the greatest risk of offending. Whilst governed by a National Framework, activity is managed at a local level providing an environment where partners are encouraged to utilise their collective available resources; including individual's skills, knowledge, and experience; to target perpetrators and keep victims and their families safe.

The key aims of MATAC include the identification of individuals who present the greatest risk, proactive enforcement/active targeting of offenders, and the sharing of information for intelligence development, prevention, or enforcement as appropriate. During 2023/2024, over 20 perpetrators were proactively targeted by means of enhanced investigation within Aberdeen City.

The annual '16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence', ran from the 25th of November until the 10th of December. This saw a focus on enforcement against domestic abuse offenders. Multi-agency messaging was shared on social media in support of the event and several 'Engagement Pop Up Sessions' were held at locations across the North East, aimed at raising awareness and taking measures to prevent all forms of Gender Based Violence. These were attended by North East Division's Crime Reduction teams along with Domestic Abuse Coordinators and partners such as Rape Crisis.

Objective: Drive the development of multi-agency agendas to minimise harm and support / signpost those we identify as vulnerable towards partners

Specialist Officers continued to support the Aberdeen City Adult Protection Committee and its varying sub-groups, effectively delivering positive outcomes through multi-agency improvement activity.

We continued to drive and support positive change through our chairing and representation at the Grampian Wide Adult Protection Group with specialist officers, through effective collaboration, devising multi-agency information sharing guidance and a financial harm strategy.

In February 2023, we supported the delivery of a multi-agency media strategy to spotlight National Adult Support & Protection Awareness Day, aligning both local and national communications with partner agencies and engaging directly with the media to provide an insight into the work of our Specialist Officers and their commitment to supporting those who are vulnerable in our communities. Through Police facilitation, an impactful 'lived experience' interview was provided by an individual in receipt of service support which was subsequently reported in the local press, on social media and radio, crucially raising awareness of Adult Support & Protection matters in our communities.

Objective: Raise awareness of and prevent abuse of children and other vulnerable persons, ensuring a victim centred approach

The Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) is now well-established across the North East, with Inter Agency Referral Discussions and Joint Investigative Interviews being conducted to a high standard with the wellbeing of the child prioritised at every stage. Our local implementation of the model has been held in high regard nationally and was acknowledged in this year's Chief Constable's Excellence Awards, with the Team coming out top in the Service Improvement category.



The first annual review of the model's implementation across the North East has now been completed with evidence clearly showing that the implementation of the SCIM across the North East has meant children are better protected and high quality, child centred evidence is routinely secured. A number of recommendations have also been made to effectively build upon our success.

During the reporting period, Aberdeen City Child Protection Partnerships was successful in their application to become Bairns' Hoose pathfinder. It is believed that the positive work of the North East SCIM Team to date, has been highly influential in this regard. Specialist Public Protection Officers are integral to the local multi-agency team progressing this significant piece of work with coordination on a national basis supporting our local delivery.

We continue to work with partners to prevent abuse of children with our Specialist Officers key to developing new Child Sexual Abuse Guidance through the Child Protection Committee. The guidance has been recognised nationally and shared Force wide, to aid our colleagues in other areas. We have also delivered training and education inputs to practitioners in partner agencies to ensure understanding and build service provision in relation to Child Protection processes and investigations.

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We also continue to collaborate positively with Grampian Rape Crisis supporting training and developing a sound understanding of respective roles to maximise the level of service provided to survivors.

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Serious Organised Crime



Objective: DETER - Support private, public and third sector organisations to protect themselves and each other. Understand the drivers and emerging risks in respect of Serious Organised Crime and encourage a multi-agency approach to protect those vulnerable in our communities

North East Divisions innovative and collaborative engagement with partners under Operation Protector continues to provide significant support and assistance to those vulnerable to the scourge of drugs. Support mechanisms and diversionary tactics provide protection for those most vulnerable coupled with an enforcement and disruption arm to ensure those involved in drug dealing are subject to robust enforcement with all available means utilised to bring them to justice.

As part of Operation Protector, several 'Days of Action' took place in Aberdeen during the period from April 2023 till March 2024.

Throughout these days several departments within Police Scotland alongside various external partners and multi-agency staff were deployed to tackle drug related harm. Safeguarding visits were undertaken with several individuals being integrated into support services. Community safety work was undertaken in the areas where enforcement was done, and other areas affected by drug related harm.

Over 600 individuals were engaged with as part of the assertive outreach visits over the course of the reporting period and over 1000 via community outreach hubs.

Drug Search warrants were executed with controlled drugs, cash and goods seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Case Study

In June 2023, whilst investigating an Organised Crime Group operating in Aberdeen and surrounding area, Police Scotland received information of two 16-year-old males forced to carry out work on behalf of the group and originating from the North of England.

Enforcement action was taken against the group with quantities of controlled drugs and cash seized. Furthermore, a multi-agency response was instigated for the individuals identified as being the victims of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). Safeguarding measures were put in place, assisted by local authority and wider partners.

The males were repatriated back to their home areas with support mechanisms in place and relevant Social Work and multi-agency support provided.

Objective: DIVERT - Build an effective pan-Grampian partnership, with a view to diverting people away from involvement in Serious Organised Crime, making Aberdeen City a hostile environment for those who seek to exploit our communities

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) continues to be a significant risk associated to SOC and during the Operation Protector 'Days of Action' a number of children considered to be the victims of County Lines based child criminal exploitation were traced, safeguarded, and repatriated to their home area with Human Trafficking offences being investigated.

Objective: DETECT - Work collaboratively with others to provide a coordinated response to identify, detect and prosecute those involved in serious organised crime

As part of the 4D strategy actions under the 'Detect' and 'Disrupt' strands continue through pro-active enforcement and disruption of Organised Crime Groups by our Local Policing; Pro-Active; Organised Crime Teams and supported by national resources. There have been over 100 Drug Search Warrants executed across Aberdeen in this reporting period.

During this time over £400,000 worth of Cannabis, over £350,000 of Heroin and over £2,000,000 of Cocaine, along with several other substances, were seized as we continued to ensure the North East remains an inhospitable environment for those who blight our communities with controlled drugs.

The case study below is one of our many positive enforcement successes and highlights the many approaches utilised to dismantle SOC.

Case Study

Over the course of 2023, an enquiry was instigated by North East Divisions OCG Team against a group operating in the Torry area of Aberdeen. During the enquiry enforcement was taken against the group, with vehicles stopped and warrants executed at several addresses. One such execution resulted in the recovery of over £60,000 in cash.

Further executive action and disruption tactics resulted in a principal member of the OCG being caught with half a kilo of heroin and a quantity of cocaine worth up to £170,000. Subsequent arrests and court appearances resulted in this individual receiving a custodial sentence of four years and nine months in relation to being Concerned in the Supply of controlled drugs.

Objective: DISRUPT - Deliver a collaborative multi-agency response to disrupt Organised Crime Groups by sharing intelligence, ideas and resources

As part of our Detect and Disrupt strands to focus on and dismantle OCG's, strong working relationships have been made with Police forces across the UK allowing mutually beneficial support for enforcement action to target OCG's and cause significant disruption to their operations. The case study below is one of our many positive enforcement successes supported by Merseyside Police for individuals travelling to our area seeking to profit from the illegal supply of drugs and causing harm to our communities.

Case Study

An OCG from Liverpool, involved in the distribution of drugs within Aberdeen, were targeted by the North East Division OCG Team. Several tactics were employed by the team resulting in the execution of several Drug Search Warrants at key addresses in Aberdeen and Liverpool. Over ½ kilo of Heroin was seized along with similar value of 'Crack' Cocaine/Cocaine. Initial enforcement action culminated in two key nominals in Liverpool being arrested and held to appear at court along with a local nominal who facilitated the groups activity in Aberdeen.

Further evidence gathered allowed for petition warrants to arrest further key nominals in Liverpool and ultimately the successful remand of key individuals with others bailed out of Scotland. This dealing 'line' is no longer in operation in the North East.

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder



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Objective: Reduce antisocial behaviour, violence and disorder by working with partners to facilitate early interventions for those involved in, or those vulnerable to becoming involved in, such behaviours

Our work within Aberdeen's Community Planning Partnership ensures our input and involvement in projects delivering on the City's Local Outcome Improvement Plans. These are ambitious from the perspective that they all seek to bring about enduring change. Officers help drive forward projects including those aiming to reduce ASB across our City and to reduce offending by young people. The project focuses on the early intervention principles and is governed through the Children's Services Board. With early interventions at its heart, the project is delivering collaborative work into areas most in need of support.

Our partnership with the Denis Law Legacy Trust continues. This organisation is engaging with hundreds of young men and women across our city each week using sport as a vehicle for engagement. Running in communities such as Torry, Northfield and Bucksburn, where ASB has traditionally seen higher levels of impact, this organisation is delivering their 'Street Sport' model, which sees hundreds of young people attend sport sessions each week where trained staff are engaging and influencing them in a positive way.

Objective: With partners, identify locations where antisocial behaviour and violence is most likely to occur and work with communities and other agencies to find lasting solutions and enhance community safety

During the first half of this reporting period, ASB within Aberdeen City Centre gained attention, evidencing the need for a partnership approach in tackling the underlying causes, alongside our continued commitment to robust action to protect communities. As previously reported on, a Thematic Report was produced for this Committee evidencing the challenges, and the action taken through the Community Safety Partnership to stem an increase and reduce reported ASB. In the second half of the reporting period, this work continued. The continued close links with our City Centre business community led to the identification of emerging problematic areas allowing Police and Community Safety partners, to flex resource, and help deliver enforcement and support where needed.

Our membership of the Community Safety Partnership, alongside Aberdeen City Council and other partners has given us opportunities to collaborate on other emerging issues for communities across Aberdeen. Significant work has been and continues to be undertaken in the Stockethill and Wellheads areas of the City, seeing issues of antisocial behaviour tackled and helping to restore a feeling of community, by engaging, listening, and acting on what local people and businesses are telling us. The formation of our Community Investigation Unit has brought expertise to how identified issues have been tackled.

We would also like to celebrate our volunteers, including our Special Constables who selflessly give up their time, often to form part of our Weekend Policing Plans which keep our city centre safe. Also, volunteers who must be acknowledged are the Street Pastors and Police Scotland are proud to have

provided funding to them with their presence a support to many who have become vulnerable because of alcohol consumption.

For many years, Street Pastors and Police have worked alongside each other, complimenting the service that each brings to our city. Their presence cannot be underestimated and our support for their work will continue. Their innovative work includes delivering support to sex workers, helping them reach better destinations in their lives, in turn reducing their vulnerability and likelihood of becoming the victims of sometimes violent crimes. Police led activity continues to target those who prey on the vulnerable.

Objective: Working with partners, we will enhance our understanding of the underlying causes of antisocial behaviour and violence and develop public health approaches to prevent these harms

Our colleagues in Education play a prominent role in terms of having access and engagement with our young people. Our division has introduced Youth Engagement Officers, who now work closely with Education partners in and out of the school setting, ensuring we can understand what they are identifying about the underlying drivers of ASB and violence but also to better support our schools. Our Officers have direct links into schools highlighting community-based issues that can often be supported in a school setting. Collaboration between Police and Education partners is clear through the delivery of the DSM Foundation pilot which has been positively received by young people. The project, which focuses on substance use, helps young people identify what the 'right choices' are in any given situation. We know these decision-making skills are 'life skills' directing young people towards good citizenship.

Licensed premises in Aberdeen continue to draw thousands of people each year and we want people to be and feel safe. It is therefore also essential that we maintain our strong links with our Licensing colleagues and through schemes such as Pub Watch, maintain links to the licensed premises themselves. Partnership working ensures premises are run well, with a strong focus on reducing disorder. Within this reporting period, our strong links to Public Health colleagues ensured their continued support in voicing shared concerns around health impacts of alcohol consumption and the impacts upon our Health Service. Health based discussions around licensing provision and public event delivery is positively influencing those organising concerts, events, or high-profile festivals towards the greater provision of safety measures. It is also essential that we deal strongly with those perpetrating alcohol fuelled violence and we are proud that events in Aberdeen are being delivered in a safe way for all to enjoy.

Road Safety and Road Crime



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Objective: With partners on the North East Safety Strategy Partnership (NESSSP), increase safety and reduce casualties on our roads

The Priority Routes for the City are the A90, A92, and the A96. Data provides that motorcyclists are disproportionately affected in serious and fatal collisions. As part of the ongoing National Motorcycle Safety Campaign which runs from 29 March – 27 September 2024, we will continue to deploy our resources along with partners on key motorcycle routes.

Further work in response to motorcycle safety is delivered in the city through 'Rider Refinement North'. This is a bespoke one-day course delivered to voluntary attendees from the motorcycling community and aims to raise road safety awareness and encourage riders to think about the consequences of risk-taking behaviour. Led by Police



**RIDER
REFINEMENT
NORTH**

Advanced Motorcyclists and accompanied by an Institute of Advance Motorists observer, the course considers key risk factors and provides riders with the knowledge and skills to ride in a safe manner. The course involves demonstration rides and observation rides with feedback from Officers, and inputs on pre-ride motorcycle examination/safety checks.

We recognise that visitors from across the world make use of our road network when enjoying a holiday to the area, often having to drive on the opposite side of the road to their home nation. Along with our partners within the Visitor Management structures, Police Scotland aims to reduce the risk of collision through education and distribution of road safety advice such as 'drive on the left' wrist bands and other associated material.

The Road Safety Framework (RSF) with interim targets to 2030, has challenging reductions in the number of adults and children killed and seriously injured from a 2014/18 baseline, working towards the Vision Zero target of no deaths and no serious injuries on Scotland's roads by 2050.

Objective: Improve road safety by proactively targeting drink and drug drivers

Much of the focus in respect of Road Safety and Road Crime on the City's roads has been linked to the Fatal Five Campaign. This campaign was produced following in depth analytical work around the key contributory factors linked to Fatal and Serious Injury Collisions, namely, Careless Driving; Speeding; Seatbelt Offences; Use of Mobile Phone and Drink/Drug Driving. Officers from Road Policing Division and from our Community Policing Teams are visible across the local road network targeting the Fatal Five offences. This targeted approach has seen increased detection of drink and drug related driving offences.

Acquisitive Crime



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Objective: Reduce acquisitive crime, by working with partners to facilitate interventions for those involved in, or those vulnerable to becoming involved in, acquisitive crime

Overall Crimes of Dishonesty saw an increase on recorded crime compared against the previous year. Of note however, are reductions in key crime types inclusive of Theft by Housebreaking and motor vehicle offences both of which have significant impact on victims and their families.

Notable increase in the Crimes of Dishonesty is evident in Theft by Shoplifting, which is replicated nationally, and cognisance is taken of the impact the cost-of-living crisis continues to have across the country.

Operation Protector continues to provide support and interventions to those involved in substance misuse who are vulnerable to becoming involved in Acquisitive crime. Police trailer and information engagement occurred during days of action in Aberdeen City Centre with Police supported by staff from ADA and Turning Point Scotland to engage and provide advice and support to members of the public. Further engagement for Operation Protector is detailed in the Serious Organised Crime section of this report.

Objective: Reduce acquisitive crime, by identifying locations where acquisitive crime is most likely to occur and work with communities and partners to find lasting preventative solutions

The Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) have a key role to play in this area to engage with partners and the public to highlight crime types and locations where acquisitive crime may occur and provide appropriate guidance to put a stop to such opportunistic crimes.

CRU awareness raising events occurred throughout Aberdeen and included a variety of venues and topics covered providing guidance and safety advice. CRU staff have attended secondary schools across the city providing advice to students and staff regarding preventative measures to avoid being the victim of acquisitive crime. Regular engagement took place with attendance and events at banks and businesses discussing 'Scams and Frauds'.



Objective: Raise public awareness, and prevent instances, of cyber enabled and cyber dependent acquisitive crime

With the ever-evolving nature of Cyber enabled and dependant crime, a multi layered approach of awareness, preventative initiatives and collaboration is employed to tackle the problem.

The CRU, as part of the Fraud Roadshow, visited several banks and other businesses within Aberdeen, upskilling staff, sharing emerging trends and raising awareness with employees and customers.

The launch of the annual Fraud Roadshow involved Police Scotland, British Transport Police, Neighbourhood Trading Standards and Scotrail. The initiative, which engaged with over 1000 travellers, began at Aberdeen Train Station, and saw officers from the Crime Reduction Unit and British Transport Police travel where they offered passengers advice on how to avoid being defrauded or what to do if they have been a victim of fraud.

The Divisional Cyber Enabled Crime Team (DCECT) continued to develop its operating model aligned to organisational Fraud and Cybercrime strategies. Collaboration with cross-sector stakeholders to prevent those most vulnerable from falling victim to cyber-enabled acquisitive crime remained a focus. Working in partnership to pursue those involved in SOC who target our communities through use of technology resulted in significant enforcement action.

The below case study is an example of such action.

Case Study

During January 2024, a vulnerable elderly male from Aberdeen was the victim of a cyber-enabled OCG resulting in the loss of his life savings - £330,000 - through fraud.

DCECT facilitated a multi-agency approach to ensure the male's wellbeing, including expedited financial support. The team led an investigation which identified a group of individuals involved in the crime operating in the Greater Glasgow area.

Liaising with partners in specialist crime and investigators from the City of London Police, the group were found to have international links, responsible for significant financial harm and orchestrating a multi-million-pound criminal enterprise.

DCECT coordinated enforcement across the Greater Glasgow area and Manchester resulting in the recovery of cash, controlled drugs, and weapons. Six individuals were arrested and charged in relation to their involvement in serious organised crime resulting in the disruption of the Group's activities and the dismantling of their criminal network.

Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism



The North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board and associated subgroups continue to deliver the UK CONTEST Strategy across the North East of Scotland, aiming to reduce the risks of terrorism using the Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare principles.

- **PROTECT** – strengthening our borders, infrastructure, buildings, and public spaces against attack.
- **PREPARE** – where an attack cannot be stopped, to reduce its impact and ensuring we can respond effectively.
- **PURSUE** – to disrupt or stop terrorist attacks.
- **PREVENT** – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

In line with the Aberdeen City Local Policing Plan, we aim to reduce the risk of terrorism so people can go about their lives freely and with confidence by focusing on the local delivery of the CONTEST strategy using four key objectives:

PROTECT – with partners we will share knowledge so that our communities and businesses can strengthen protection against terrorist attacks

In the last year, Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA's) conducted thirty-eight security inspection visits to sites of a sensitive nature and twelve security presentations to key organisations and partners in Aberdeen City for various events and placed in education, transport, and the oil industry.

CTSA's continue to work closely with the organisations and the oil industry and held various onshore and offshore security courses attended by over sixty industry representatives. They also provided mail handling and document awareness courses, delivered to over 150 attendees, and hosted at Robert Gordon University. CTSA's continue to be involved in the planning of major events, including planning for the Tall Ships Event, Aberdeen Airport security and the General Election.

Borders Policing Command Officers continue to conduct operations at Harbours to proactively identify and deal with the illegitimate passage of persons and goods.

PREPARE – with partners we will mitigate against the impact of terrorist attacks

In November 2023, the Joint Operating Principles for the Emergency Services for Marauding Terrorist Attacks and Operation Plato Guidance for UK Policing were updated regarding learning derived from the Grenfell Tower and Manchester Arena Inquiries. These place a greater emphasis on emergency services responding quickly and dynamically to save life and neutralise threats, whilst also updating guidance in relation to Scene Command, Casualty Management and Fire & Hazards. Officers from our Counter Terrorism Planning Teams are working alongside partners and local Officers to embed these approaches.

Following Storm BABET a multi-agency Severe Weather Warning Workshop was held where Counter Terrorism Planning Teams engaged with relevant responders to gather learning and upskill local partnerships linked to emergency responses during Major Incidents.

There have been eight Project Servator deployments in Aberdeen City, helping build a network of vigilance from business and community partners, alongside the public. CT security coordinators were also deployed to provide advice on key events, including Offshore Europe and the Conservative Party Conference.

PURSUE – with partners encourage and share information to identify and tackle suspicious activity

The PURSUE strategy allows National Counter Terrorism structures within Police Scotland to provide information and assessments to North East Division's CONTEST Multi-Agency Board. This process informs Aberdeen City Policing teams and local partners on emerging themes and other relevant matters.

All information and intelligence relevant to Counter Terrorism is assessed and actioned appropriately by Counter Terrorism resources based within North East Division.

There has been no significant deviation in terms of expected volume or trends during this period within Aberdeen, however the Local CONTEST Board, Local Contest Liaison Officers (LCLO's) and national Police structures are in place to monitor and respond appropriately.

PREVENT – with partners safeguard vulnerable persons from being drawn into Terrorism

Within Police Scotland a 'Prevent' referral process is in place which allows Police and partners to assess and respond to information and intelligence which may require early intervention and safeguarding from potential harm which could be caused by individuals. This process is well established across the North East with representation from relevant partners to ensure wide ranging professions are present and perspectives gained to collectively manage people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. Such work is ongoing in Aberdeen and there has been no significant deviation or trends in this area which cause additional concern.

Performance statistics



These statistics can be found in their expanded form at: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Aberdeen City Council by selected crime classifications

Recorded crime by group/classification	Year-to-date (April - March)		
	2022/23	5 yr mean	2023/24
TOTAL CRIMES AND OFFENCES (GROUPS 1 - 7)	20 892	22 822.2	22 172
TOTAL CRIMES (GROUPS 1 - 5)	11 485	11 532.6	11 805
OVERALL VIOLENT CRIME*	3 236	3 122.6	3 409
TOTAL OFFENCES (GROUPS 6 - 7)	9 407	11 289.6	10 367
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	604	523.0	621
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	3	2.2	2
Culpable homicide (at common law)	1	0.2	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	-	0.8	-
Attempted murder	22	16.6	25
Serious assault	189	163.6	158
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	110	109.0	123
Domestic Abuse (of female)	111	x	134
Domestic Abuse (of male)	4	x	9
Domestic Abuse (Total)	115	x	143
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	20	29.6	20
Threats and extortion	101	57.4	97
Other group 1 crimes	43	26.8	53
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	717	714.4	708
Rape	98	96.4	86
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	4	7.8	6
Rape and attempted rape - Total	102	104.2	92
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)	-	7.6	6
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)	245	201.4	240
Lewd & libidinous practices	10	36.2	19
Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total	255	245.2	265
Prostitution related crime - Total	21	17.6	18
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	44	43.6	35
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)	64	69.2	53

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Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	30	25.2	31
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)	21	17.8	25
Public indecency (common law)	16	13.2	14
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)	114	125.2	125
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)	9	12.8	11
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image	41	40.4	39
Other Group 2 crimes	-	-	-
Other Group 2 crimes - Total	339	347.4	333
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	5 300	5 142.2	5 488
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	151	156.8	150
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	95	134.6	111
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	94	94.2	75
Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total	340	385.6	336
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	59	77.0	44
Theft of a motor vehicle	220	195.2	185
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc)	174	217.4	175
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	15	16.6	22
Motor vehicle crime - Total	468	506.2	426
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	57	63.6	59
Common theft	1 345	1 223.8	1 306
Theft by shoplifting	1 774	1 748.0	2 119
Fraud	875	706.6	917
Other Group 3 Crimes	441	508.4	325
GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc	1 957	1 962.8	1 896
Fireraising	126	119.8	100
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	1 714	1 731.4	1 728
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1	0.6	-
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	104	103.2	60
Other Group 4 Crimes	12	7.8	8
GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES	2 907	3 190.2	3 092
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	47	48.8	72
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	81	100.6	116
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)	100	116.6	129
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)	92	89.4	123
Total offensive/bladed weapons	320	355.4	440
Production, manufacture, or cultivation of drugs	18	25.2	26
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	277	246.6	291
Bringing drugs into prison	-	1.8	-
Supply of drugs - Total	295	273.6	317
Possession of drugs	1 251	1 513.2	1 243
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	8	7.2	10
Total drugs crimes	1 554	1 794.0	1 570
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	3	1.0	3

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Bail offences (other than absconding)	501	435.0	555
Other Group 5 crimes	529	604.8	524
GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	5 411	5 565.2	5 693
Common Assault	2 476	2 406.2	2 674
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	435	424.8	427
Common Assault - Total	2 911	2 831.0	3 101
Breach of the Peace	177	198.0	107
Threatening & abusive behaviour	1 378	1 506.2	1 469
Stalking	37	37.6	45
BOP, S38 & S39 Crim Just & Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total	1 592	1 741.8	1 621
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct	77	90.4	75
Drunk and incapable	1	0.6	4
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	83	76.0	130
Other alcohol related offences	50	62.2	37
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)	134	138.8	171
Wildlife offences	2	4.6	6
Other Group 6 offences	695	758.6	719
GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES	3 996	5 724.4	4 674
Dangerous driving offences	102	127.6	128
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	322	351.0	364
Speeding offences	311	1 102.4	394
Driving while disqualified	51	71.4	69
Driving without a licence	207	275.2	246
Failure to insure against third party risks	571	674.2	657
Seat belt offences	84	108.6	84
Mobile phone offences	104	116.8	123
Driving Carelessly	489	514.0	551
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	182	270.0	211
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	360	646.6	324
Other Group 7 offences	1 213	1 466.6	1 523

Detection Rates by group/classification

	Year-to-date (April - March)		
	2022/23	5 yr rate	2023/24
TOTAL CRIMES AND OFFENCES (GROUPS 1 - 7)	66.4	70.3	65.1
TOTAL CRIMES; INCLUDING PRO-ACTIVITY (GROUPS 1 - 5)	54.9	57.3	52.7
OVERALL VIOLENT CRIME	73.6	72.9	74.9
TOTAL OFFENCES (GROUPS 6 - 7)	80.5	83.5	79.3
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	74.3	76.4	73.3
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	100.0	109.1	100.0

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Culpable homicide (at common law)	100.0	100.0	x
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	x	100.0	x
Attempted murder	100.0	100.0	100.0
Serious assault	94.2	93.8	90.5
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	95.5	88.1	87.8
Domestic Abuse (of female)	72.1	x	73.9
Domestic Abuse (of male)	50.0	x	66.7
Domestic Abuse (Total)	71.3	x	73.4
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	85.0	64.9	105.0
Threats and extortion	12.9	19.9	5.2
Other group 1 crimes	62.8	64.9	86.8
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	54.7	57.4	55.5
Rape	60.2	55.6	45.3
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	50.0	61.5	50.0
Rape and attempted rape - Total	59.8	56.0	45.7
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)	x	81.6	33.3
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)	55.1	58.0	54.6
Lewd & libidinous practices	10.0	66.3	21.1
Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total	56.5	60.0	51.7
Prostitution related crime - Total	95.2	90.9	94.4
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	86.4	89.0	91.4
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)	56.3	54.9	58.5
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	20.0	30.2	38.7
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)	81.0	67.4	80.0
Public indecency (common law)	81.3	83.3	107.1
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)	36.8	48.4	51.2
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)	66.7	68.8	72.7
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image	22.0	29.7	38.5
Other Group 2 crimes	x	x	x
Other Group 2 crimes - Total	49.3	54.3	59.2
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	36.4	41.2	35.1
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	43.7	42.6	44.7
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	30.5	27.6	22.5
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	46.8	36.9	48.0
Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total	40.9	36.0	38.1
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	15.3	32.7	9.1
Theft of a motor vehicle	54.1	49.2	45.4
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc)	23.0	20.0	10.3
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	53.3	33.7	31.8
Motor vehicle crime - Total	37.6	33.6	26.5
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	35.1	19.8	28.8
Common theft	26.8	28.5	24.1
Theft by shoplifting	52.7	63.8	52.1
Fraud	13.4	22.2	16.7

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Other Group 3 Crimes	41.0	34.2	29.8
GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc	29.7	29.4	30.0
Fireraising	26.2	32.6	25.0
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	27.8	27.8	29.5
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	100.0	100.0	x
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	68.3	55.0	48.3
Other Group 4 Crimes	0.0	7.7	62.5
GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES	101.6	97.3	93.1
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	76.6	88.9	90.3
Handling bladed/pointed instrument*	90.1	95.0	94.0
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)	94.0	76.2	68.2
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)	92.4	78.5	83.7
Total offensive/bladed weapons	90.0	83.8	83.0
Production, manufacture, or cultivation of drugs	83.3	95.2	96.2
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	89.2	95.8	81.8
Bringing drugs into prison	x	0.0	x
Supply of drugs - Total	88.8	95.1	83.0
Possession of drugs	110.1	100.3	96.5
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	50.0	72.2	10.0
Total drugs crimes	105.7	99.4	93.2
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	66.7	100.0	100.0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	95.6	98.1	96.2
Other Group 5 crimes	102.3	98.3	97.9
GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	74.1	75.5	73.6
Common Assault	66.2	65.9	69.4
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	99.3	99.4	97.9
Common Assault - Total	71.2	71.0	73.4
Breach of the Peace	102.3	98.2	93.5
Threatening & abusive behaviour	75.0	78.5	73.2
Stalking	67.6	73.9	84.4
BOP, S38 & S39 Crim Just & Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total	77.9	80.6	74.8
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct	94.8	90.0	84.0
Drunk and incapable	100.0	100.0	100.0
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other alcohol related offences	100.0	100.3	100.0
Drunkness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)	100.0	100.1	100.0
Wildlife offences	50.0	47.8	66.7
Other Group 6 offences	70.8	74.7	64.8
GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES	89.0	91.3	86.2
Dangerous driving offences	77.5	74.1	69.5
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	106.2	95.6	104.1
Speeding offences	100.3	99.6	99.5

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Driving while disqualified	100.0	99.4	98.6
Driving without a licence	104.8	100.3	97.2
Failure to insure against third party risks	102.3	99.9	98.3
Seat belt offences	101.2	99.6	100.0
Mobile phone offences	98.1	98.6	100.8
Driving Carelessly	91.0	89.8	92.0
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	103.3	99.6	97.2
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	101.4	99.3	99.1
Other Group 7 offences	65.0	73.8	63.9
