



## **Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee Report**

**Aberdeen City Division  
2015-16 Quarters 1- 4  
(April - March)**



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## **Introduction**

I present the latest Communities, Housing and Infrastructure Committee Report on behalf of Police Scotland, North East Division. This report provides a detailed account of performance in support of agreed priorities, both local and national for the last financial year (April 2015 - March 2016).

The format is as agreed by the Committee however also includes results of the recent Scottish Crime Recording Standard audit.

On 1 January 2016 North East Division was formed amid significant challenges with extensive flooding in both the City and Aberdeenshire. It was the partnership approach, excellent community resilience and public spiritedness that ensured people were kept safe. It is these key elements, along with the very positive work by my Police Officers and Police Staff, that continue to ensure the City is a safe place to live, work and visit.

Regards,

Campbell Thomson  
Chief Superintendent  
North East Division  
Police Scotland



### Staffing

	Establishment	Headcount	Full Time Equivalent	Vacancies
<b>Police Officers</b>	569	560	546.78	- 22.22
<b>Police Staff</b>	59.98	78	69	+ 9.02

The figures above provide details of staffing numbers and vacancies within Aberdeen City, North East Division on the 31 March 2016. Increases in Support Staff relate to the merging of the Divisions and a revised figure in regard to all staff will be made available at the next Committee meeting.

### Complaints About the Police

Between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016 (2015/2016), Aberdeen City received **252** complaints. This is an increase of 16 complaints, **6.8%** from the same period the previous year. In comparison, the Force experienced a comparative increase of **18.8%** (**6818** -v- **5739** complaints) over the same period.

In context, the **252** complaints received in 2015/2016, equates to **21** new complaints received each month or **32.5** complaints per **10,000** Police Incidents.

In terms of categories of complaints, the proportion of On Duty Criminal, On Duty Non-Criminal and those being resolved by Professional Standards or Division for Aberdeen City, is in keeping with other areas in the North (i.e. legacy Northern and Tayside) and indeed the Force generally. It continues to be the case that **50%** of all new complaints received are being concluded at the earliest opportunity by Front Line Resolution staff within the Professional Standards Department.

A complaint can contain more than one allegation and in this regard, the Force average for 2015/2016 is **1.5** allegations per complaint. During this same period, Aberdeen City received **1.6** allegations per complaint.

The total number of allegations recorded in Aberdeen City (April 2015 - March 2016) was **407**, with **281** relating to On Duty Allegations, compared to **2** Off Duty Allegations. In terms of Quality of Service, these totalled **124** of all Allegations recorded during the review period. Quality of Service allegations are not made against a named Officer but relate to the service delivered and can be divided into following three categories: Service Delivery, Service Outcome and Policy/Procedure.

Prior to September 2014 and the new consistent recording and assessment process, allegations received would be assessed and allocated for enquiry, without making contact with the complainer other than sending a standard acknowledgement letter. As such, complaints were inevitably recorded against a named Officer.



Post the implementation of this process, it is now the case that Front Line Resolution (FLR) staff now interact with complainers, often determining there is no blame attributable to an Officer, but rather an element of Service Delivery. As such there has been an increase in the Force nationally regarding FLR of complaints (**58.0%** in 2015/2016 when compared to the previous year).

Police Scotland value Quality of Service allegations as this process provides valuable learning opportunities and continuous improvement of policing services. Although the increase experienced in Aberdeen City in 2015/2016 appears significant, it should be placed in context in that it equates to **10.3** Quality of Service allegations each month over the course of the entire year. In Aberdeen City during 2015/2016, **30.5%** of all new allegations were categorised as Quality of Service. This compares to a Force wide figure of **23.2%**. In terms of how 2015/2016 Quality of Service allegations (**124** in total) were categorised, **33%** related to Policy and Procedure, **28%** related to Service Delivery and **38%** related to Service Outcome.

### **Theft by Shoplifting**

Aberdeen City as a whole experienced an increase in retail crime in the review period, i.e. **18.9%** when compared to the previous year and **25.5%** when compared to the 5 Year Average. Detection rates remain high at **75.5%**, which is a **1.6%** increase from those of 2014-15 and similar to the 5 Year Average of **76.8%**. Within the City Centre "hot spot" cosmetics, alcohol and clothing continue to be the most popular items stolen.

Alongside ongoing enforcement regarding offenders and targeted patrols of vulnerable premises and "hot spots", there is recognition that longer term solutions are required to combat Theft by Shoplifting in the City. Emphasis is therefore being placed on dealing with repeat offenders with restrictions such as Antisocial Behaviour Orders, Curfews and Bail Conditions.

Integrated partnership working remains strong between Police Scotland and external partners in the retail trade i.e. Aberdeen Inspired, Aberdeen City Council (Safer Aberdeen), Scottish Retailers Against Crime and Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). Working with partners we aim to re-establish the Retailers Forum in October prior to the busy festive season and a questionnaire will be developed and sent out with the monthly retail bulletin to gather information about how to make the forum worthwhile for retailers.

Further to this, two Officers on each of the five teams within the Aberdeen City Centre Community Policing Team have responsibility for specific areas and shops within the centre. This is supported by monthly meetings with the various retailers and associated security staff, with a view to sharing information to the wider Policing team and within the retail network.

### **Antisocial Behaviour**

Quality of life issues continue to be addressed across the City, though previous successes have created challenges in achieving further reductions in all areas. Complaints of disorder have remained virtually static at **10649**, a drop of just **11** incidents (**-0.1%**). This is in line with reports of youth annoyance which at **2360** reports, has seen a **2.9%** increase, though this is on the back of a **31.3%** drop the previous year (2014-15).



Levels of Vandalism and the more serious Malicious Mischief have remained almost unchanged with a drop of **0.4%** over 2015-16. A similar picture has been experienced in terms of the detection rate which has dropped **0.7%** to **25%**.

The detection and prevention of Hate Crime remains a priority. As such these crimes are closely monitored however the detection rate has fallen below the target set of 80%, namely by **3.1%** from **81.1%** in 2014-15 to **78.0%** in 2015-16.

Street drinking continues to be a high profile issue within the City "hotspots" such as the Castlegate and Merchant Quarter. Due to concerted efforts in terms of education and enforcement, such offending has dropped by **68%** in the past year to **92** incidents, from the figure reported in 2014-15 (**288**), which itself returned a **40.1%** drop.

Another positive result has been the City's response to New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), so called "legal highs". A partnership approach over the year saw awareness raising events, educational inputs, targeted action through Operation Alexander and positive enforcement of the legislation brought in at the end of the year, effectively closing down the shops selling NPS thus reducing public availability. Recent Alcohol & Drugs Action statistics show only **1.5%** of their clients in the first quarter of 2016-17 (April - June 2016) have reported NPS as their primary drug, compared to **15%** last year.

In addressing the range of Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) the Division has continued to adopt a partner agency approach. This is positively reflected in the Weekend Policing partnership where Aberdeen City has retained its "Purple Flag" status, which recognised the continued commitment of the over **70** partner agencies collaborating to ensure a safe and secure environment for all who, live, work and socialise in the City.

Local communities have benefited in the targeted efforts of Community Policing Teams, using a focussed early intervention approach and sharing learning as partnership efforts develop. This has resulted in the creation of an ASB package and response structure which is now being shared across the country. This effort has seen Third Sector partners becoming involved, diversionary opportunities being created and young people engaging, participating and not becoming involved in ASB.

Concerted efforts have been made detecting Hate Crimes, which often result from single witness incidents. Relationships are being built with minority groups, those staffing third party reporting centres have undergone refresher training and preventative work is being carried out with partners such as Grampian Racial Equality Council. This aims to ensure we are aware of all incidents, communities feel safe and able to report incidents and we can secure the evidence to report offenders.

We fully appreciate the links between alcohol consumption, drug use and ASB. We will continue to work with partners and the public to encourage responsible drinking, remove drug dealers and deal with offenders, while supporting users to address their addictions. Education, encouragement and where appropriate enforcement will be tailored and linked with partner activity for maximum effect.



## **Housebreaking**

Last year (2015-16) saw a decrease in Theft by Housebreaking (including attempts) from **918 to 855 (6.9%)** and also compares favourably with the 5 Year Average (**1159.6**), namely a reduction of **304.9** which equates to **26.3%**. However the detection rate also fell by **4.8%** to **16.8%** in 2015-16 from **21.6%** the previous year and is lower than the 5 Year Average of **22.5%**. **33% (282)** of the total number of crimes (**855**) in 2015-16 were to dwelling houses.

We continue to have a group of young recidivist offenders who are robustly targeted in regard to their criminality through Operation Magpie. This includes applications made through the Courts to have individuals, where appropriate, remanded in custody when it is demonstrated that they are persistent offenders. Otherwise effective use of bail conditions to set curfews on these individuals has been made and these conditions are monitored on a daily basis by the local Community Policing Teams.

The following strategic measures to tackle Acquisitive Crime (particularly Theft By Housebreaking) have been put in place for the next review period (2016-17):

- Carry out regular analytical work to identify 'hot spots' and support preventative work and "target hardening" of locations, enforcement opportunities and identification of offenders.
- Develop a Divisional Governance Group to ensure there is an appropriate response to any crime series that may occur and to monitor emerging trends.
- Maximise all media opportunities internally, to raise awareness of current active criminals and externally, to highlight successful arrests, recovery of stolen property and provide crime prevention advice.
- Develop an early intervention partnership framework to identify children most at risk of becoming involved in Theft By Housebreaking and promote educational and preventative tactics to divert them from crime.
- With the assistance of partners, target prolific offenders by means of ASB legislation and apply for orders as a means of preventing criminal associations and criminals travelling to identified areas of the Division to commit crimes.
- Utilise intelligence to target those selling stolen property and carry out overt work at identified places of disposal in order to disrupt such activity and recover stolen items.

Already these measures have resulted in an increase in detection rates for Theft by Housebreaking to **21.3%** for Quarter 1 2016-17 (April - June), a return to previous levels (**22.4%** - 5 Year Average). We will however strive to further improve upon this.

The above initiatives, in isolation, will not fully tackle recidivist criminality but must be carried out in conjunction with partners through Community Planning Aberdeen with a view to ultimately breaking the cycle of offending.

## **National Security**

Over the review period and in response to the UK Government CONTEST Strategy, North East Division has delivered **59** CONTEST based inputs and briefings across our Communities, to over **750** individuals. In response to the **4** strands of activity which is contained therein - Prepare, Protect, Prevent and Pursue - the Division have directly delivered **54** specific inputs and briefings to over **250** individuals.





Staff from the Counter Terrorism Security Advisers and members of the Prevent Delivery Unit have delivered additional specialist inputs to organisations, companies and groups who have specific requirements or face identified risks, in addition to these community based inputs. This has included the delivery of the 'Protect and Prepare' - Securing Your Business course which is held in conjunction with Robert Gordon University.

Aberdeen City has been the focus of a Divisional Governance Group and Multi-Agency Group, driving the local support of the CONTEST Action plans, including partnerships links with the including all **3** Local Authority Areas (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray) as well as existing Pan-Grampian partnership structures including Education, Emergency Services, Resilience and Third Sector Partners. These groups now cover the North East area, allowing maximum benefit to be gained by all partners, ensuring an excellent integrated approach to the potential of a terrorist attack.

**14** Local CONTEST Liaison Officers (LCLO's) have been allocated to the City Local Policing Teams to support the Community Awareness raising and delivery of inputs, and provision of information. These staff link directly with schools, faith groups and iconic locations as awareness raising is focussed on vulnerable groups.

The forthcoming year will see more interaction with our Communities, including the delivery of the awareness raising 'Act NOW' and 'WRAP3' inputs to schools and communities.

### **Protecting People**

A significant increase (**21.5%**) in crimes of a sexual nature was noted in the past year (2015-16). It is assessed that this may relate to an increase in public confidence to report such matters together with the growing use of technology to facilitate offending.

Detection rates have remained strong in terms of sexual crime, namely **70.7%**, which is a slight reduction from **73.6%** in 2014-15, but compares favourably with the 5 Year Average of **64.0%**.

Significant improvements have been made in terms of the detection rate concerning Rape, which increased to **82.7%** in 2015-16 from **64.3%** in 2014-15, and is significantly above the 5 Year Average of **50.3%**.

In the review period there was a **17.2%** drop in the number of domestic incidents reported to the Police coupled with a **6.9%** fall in the total number of crimes and offences connected with incidents of domestic abuse. The benchmark of ensuring that **95%** of Domestic Abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe was met (**95.1%**).

There is a streamlined referral process in place for victims of Domestic Abuse, resulting in quicker intervention and support, leading to a reduction in repeat incidents.

If substance misuse, mental illness or other contributing factor is identified, the Adult Protection Co-ordinator facilitates a multi-agency approach with a view to increasing the likelihood of victims or perpetrators to engage and be provided with the assistance they need.

In Quarter 3 (July - September 2015), Officers in Aberdeen initiated a multi-agency response to Domestic Abuse, which predominantly featured violence against women and girls. Operation Gains, funded by the Aberdeen Alcohol Drug Partnership, saw Officers working alongside



partners to attend the scene of domestic violence at an early stage where they provided immediate support, advice and assistance to the victim. These efforts sought to minimise the impact of such violence while encouraging engagement with a view to preventing any reoccurrence. This work extended to the other partners, again with a view to preventing any repetition and supporting them or directing them to secure help to address identified issues or dependencies which regularly featured.

Issues regarding Protecting People are afforded the utmost scrutiny. As such they are the subject of daily review by senior management to ensure all possible measures are considered with a view to supporting vulnerable people and bringing offenders to justice. Additionally, working practices are continually reviewed to ensure a high level of service delivery is maintained.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a priority for Police Scotland. It involves a young person under the age of **18** being manipulated, forced, pressurised or coerced into taking part in a sexual act in exchange for something.

New research shows that while **93%** of parents have heard of CSE, almost a third know little about it and more than a third believed it won't affect their family. As a consequence, Police Scotland recently supported the first Scottish Government led television and internet campaign focused on raising awareness of CSE, the key messages being as follows:

- Outlining forms of CSE.
- How to spot the warning signs and symptoms.
- Common myths surrounding CSE.
- Options for who you can contact if you're concerned or would like further advice
- Practical advice for staying safe online and offline.
- Tips for parents on how to initiate a conversation with their child about CSE.
- How to tell a healthy relationship from an unhealthy relationship if you are a young person.

This campaign was also supported and promoted locally through the Aberdeen City Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group which is attended by partners from across a variety of local services.

### **Safer Roads**

2015-16 saw a **20%** increase (**5** to **6**) in road related deaths within Aberdeen City when compared to 2014-15, none of which involved children (individuals under **16**). In the same period the number of individuals seriously injured increased by **10.1%** (**79** to **87**), significantly the number of children seriously injured also rose from **6** to **13** an increase of **116.7%**. The number of adults that were slightly injured on the roads fell by **34.4%** (**227** to **149**).

The review period also saw a reduction in the majority of traffic related offences when compared to the previous year and should be considered positive for the Roads Policing Unit and Divisional Officers. These offences include Dangerous Driving: **-19%**, Speeding: **-34.4%**, Driving Without a Valid Licence: **- 21.9%**, Driving Without Insurance: **-9%**, Seat Belt related offences: **-30.5%** and Mobile phone related offences: **- 22.9%**. Additionally the number of offences involving Disqualified Drivers increased by **5%** during the review period whilst those relating to Drink /Drug Driving fell by **8.8%**.





In order to support the stated objectives in regard to safer roads, i.e. to decrease the number of persons killed or seriously injured on our road and increase the enforcement activities and visibility on our streets and roads, the Divisional Road Policing Unit stopped and checked **9,723** vehicles during the review period.

**4,857** offences were disposed of by an informal warning rather than by the issuing of a Conditional Offer or Report to the Procurator Fiscal. This policy will continue and thus where appropriate minor matters will be dealt with in this manner.

### **Serious and Organised Crime**

Decreasing the impact of Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs) on our communities through targeted enforcement and disruption of their criminal activities in Aberdeen City continues to be a major focus.

Officers in Aberdeen City continue to concentrate on dealing with illicit drugs. In 2015-16 detection rates for drug possession were **11.1%** higher when compared to 2014-15 and **9.5%** higher than the 5 Year Average. Particular emphasis has been placed on enforcement in terms of drug supply with the number of detected cases increasing by **10.8%** (**246** compared to **222**) compared to last year although this is less than the 5 Year Average (**297**)

The number of drug deaths in Aberdeen City for 2015-16 was **35** which is unchanged from the figure for the previous year.

Proceeds of Crime Act related legislation is consistently used to target the activities of identified groups in accordance with the profile of organised crime in the North East. As a result there has been a significant number of cash seizures reported to Crown Office during the review period (2015-16), i.e. **£122,320.69** which was an increase of **10.8 %** when compared to the 5 Year Average. In addition, numerous money laundering operations have been designated thereby specifically targeting drug dealing.

As a result of robust enforcement activity in Aberdeen City during 2015-16 **127** arrests were made in connection with SOCGs with **5** separate groups dismantled.

In order to improve the effectiveness of our approach to tackling Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) by means of adopting a partnership approach, A Division has established a multi-agency tasking and coordination group within Aberdeen City Community Safety Hub. This group considers current mapped SOCGs and is principally concerned with Divert, Deter and Disrupt opportunities consistent with SOC Taskforce strategy. This has allowed diversionary activity to be directly focused on mapped SOCG's. Members of this group include Police, Housing, Local Authority ASB team, and Social Work.

The structure of identified SOCGs in Aberdeen City and the wider North East Division consistently remains that of English based drug dealing syndicates using locally based facilitators, often Local Authority tenants, and the Divisional strategy is based on this profile.

Broader diversionary activities include the installation of television screens within the main Divisional custody suite with a rolling PowerPoint presentation highlighting the risks of drug abuse and describing the support available.



Vulnerabilities to SOC identified in relation to the Self-Directed Support Scheme (Care Sector) have resulted in Officers from North East Division providing a presentation to local authority, voluntary and third sector organisations on the risks of SOC and the measures available to organisations to protect themselves from these risks.

For example, during the review period, through the Community Partnership HUB, application was made in relation to an Antisocial Behaviour Order (ASBO) designed to restrict the ability of an individual to carry out criminal activity. This individual was demonstrated to be involved in the supply of drugs within a very specific geographical area of Aberdeen City and was part of several SOCG's that have been active in the North East. One of the conditions of this ASBO is that this individual is not permitted to enter Aberdeen City and if breached he will be arrested.

Given Local Authority and Housing Association tenants can become involved in the supply of drugs; systems have been put in place between Police and partners to raise awareness of the risks to tenants but also to take enforcement action where necessary. Tactics have included joint visits between Police and Housing Officers, articles in tenant's newsletters and ultimately evictions where it has been proportionate to do so.

We will continue to work with partners to make Aberdeen a hostile environment for those who wish to exploit the vulnerable through SOC.

### **Violent Crime**

Violent crime affects all our communities and tends to be prevalent in, but not exclusive to, city centres and areas of urban and social deprivation. Levels of violent crime have continuously reduced in recent years, however, during the reporting period, it has increased by **31 crimes (10.2%)**.

While this remains **6.6%** below the 5 Year Average, when comparing the impact such crime has on victims, families and communities, it demands that we continue, along with partners, to recognise it as a top priority.

The number of Robberies investigated remained almost static at **96** while the detection rate increased almost two percent to **77.1%** during the same period last year.

Incidents of Serious Assault have increased by **9** more victims (**6.0%**) year on year (2014-15 / 2015-16). This follows the experience of elsewhere in the country and while an explanation may be sought from a change in criteria which took a wider range of injuries into the definition, there remains a heavy influence on victim durability between a Serious Assault and that regarded as Common Assault.

The detection rate for Serious Assault has again increased to **84.4%** at the time of writing which is significant for any city environment.

The number of Common Assaults decreased by **5.6%**, which resulted in **191** fewer victims in 2015-2016 when compared to the previous year. A detection rate of **77%** represents a small rise from the previous year; however, there remains a drive to deliver further improvements in detection rates.



The majority of serious violent offences happen late on a Saturday or early on a Sunday. The excessive consumption of alcohol, in particular, and drugs can often increase the likelihood of being either a perpetrator or a victim of violent crime. Misuse of alcohol continues to feature as a necessary priority within both the Community Planning Aberdeen and Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessments. It is this causal factor which we must continue to focus on with partners.

Recognising this strong and recurring link between alcohol misuse and violence, we will continue to work closely with the Licensing Board and representatives of the licensing and security trade to encourage social responsibility and provide a safe environment for all.

Our continuing commitment to delivering tangible outcomes via multi-agency strategies is key to success in this area. However, the Division has recently launched an overarching Violence Prevention Strategy to cement our commitment. Operation PINE brings together the many and diverse elements which results in individuals becoming either a victim or perpetrator of violent crime and focuses on outdoor, indoor, domestic and organised violence.

Local governance arrangements have increased from weekly planning meetings feeding a monthly strategic meeting, to the introduction of a dedicated strategic Violence Prevention Board which specifically takes in all forms of violence. The monthly meeting will support the new Violence Prevention Strategy and will be the forum for ensuring and maintaining the right resources are in the right place at the right time.

Our response is based on the three principle strands, victim, location and offender and a recent computerised addition to our back office investigation capacity, with no staffing implications, has included a new innovative way to increase our monitoring and management of offenders with a view to identifying those with potential to cause further harm, earlier in the process. This allows us to put in place multi-agency support mechanisms aimed at preventing and positively influencing further reductions in criminality.

The dedicated Alcohol & Violence Reduction Unit, Public Protection Unit and other Specialist Officers continue to support our front line Community Policing Teams working in the heart of our communities across the city to ensure recidivist violent offenders are targeted robustly from initial appearance in court and are monitored to ensure any Bail conditions and Curfews are being adhered to. The use of relevant Antisocial Behaviour legislation in the city has been recognised as good practice and is now being used elsewhere.

The multi-agency partnership approach is key to addressing Violent Crime across Aberdeen and we will continue to work with public, private and third sector organisations to achieve safer communities. Volunteers, such as Street Pastors, are fully integrated into the city plans to address violence and are vital to the effort.

Violence remains an absolute priority for the Division and we will continue to focus not only on detection but also prevention in regard to such offending.



## **APPENDIX "A"**

Scottish Crime Recording Standard							
Quarter 1/2 Audit 2015/16							
Audit 1 - Crime Related Incidents and Associated Recorded Crime Audit 2015/16 - Quarters 1/2 (April to September)	Test 1 - Incidents			Test 2 - Recorded Crime			
	Incidents Audited	No. of errors	SCRS Compliance	Crimes Audited	No. of Recording Errors	SCRS Compliance	
	A Division	150	6	96.00%	114	8	92.98%
	Force	2,372	146	93.84%	1,543	80	94.82%
Details of the methodology for Audit 1 can be found in Appendix A							
Audit 2 - Divisional Crime Audit 2015/16 - Quarter 2 (July to September)				Crimes Audited	No. of Recording Errors	SCRS Compliance	
A Division				248	17	93.15%	
Force				3,171	201	93.66%	
Details of the methodology for Audit 2 can be found in Appendix A							
Audit 3 - "No Crime" Audit 2015/16 - Quarters 1/2 (April to September)				No. of "No Crimes Audited"	No. of Errors	SCRS Compliance	
A Division				109	11	89.91%	
Force				999	39	96.10%	
Details of the methodology for Audit 3 can be found in Appendix A							

<b>Scottish Crime Recording Standard</b>				
<b>Quarter 3 Audit 2015/16</b>				
<b>Audit 2 - Divisional Crime Audit 2015/16 - Quarter 3 (October to December)</b>		<b>Crimes Audited</b>	<b>No. of Recording Errors</b>	<b>SCRS Compliance</b>
<b>A Division</b>		<b>251</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>95.62%</b>
Force		3,446	246	92.86%
<p>Audit 1 (Crime Related Incidents and Associated Recorded Crime Audit) and Audit 3 ("No Crime" Audit) are conducted on a bi-annual basis and therefore were not audited during Q3.</p> <p>Details of the methodology for Audit 2 can be found in Appendix A</p>				



## **AUDIT METHODOLOGY**

### **Audit 1 - Crime Related Incidents and Associated Recorded Crime**

The audit sample was selected from Command and Control incidents over a specific four day period with initial call types CR-60 to CR-79 within the Crime category, and incidents with initial call types AB-57 Communications, AB-58 Hate Crime, PW-40 Domestic Incident and PW-76 Child Protection. The incident sample selected for audit ensured, working to a **95%** confidence level with a confidence interval of **±3%**, that the sample audited was statistically representative of all incidents of this type recorded during the four day audit period. A formula was applied to the total number of incidents per Command Area and apportioned out between Divisions in that Command Area in order to obtain sample sizes. These were subject to a minimum of 150 and a maximum of **300** per Division.

Compliance in each of the two Tests is achieved with a result of **95%** or above.

The audit tested:

#### **Test 1 – Crime Related Incidents**

- That incidents initially inferring a crime or apparent criminal activity and closed as a non-crime contained a satisfactory narrative to eliminate any inference of criminality and fully justify a non-crime disposal.
- That each incident clearly indicated a crime or non-crime as a disposal on the incident text.
- Where an incident was closed as a crime, the corresponding crime record was traced.

#### **Test 2 – Recorded Crime**

- The correct application of SCRS on recorded crimes in respect of the Scottish Government Counting Rules and the correct classification of crimes. In terms of compliance with SCRS each individual crime over or under-recorded, or incorrectly classified was counted as having failed the audit.

### **Audit 2 - Recording of Specific Crime Types (Divisional Crime Audit)**

To ensure that a number of different areas of crime recording are represented by Audit 2, samples were obtained from the following categories:

- Assault (Common Assault only)
- Group 1 Crime (Crimes of violence)
- Group 2 Crime (Sexual offences)
- Group 3 Crime (Crimes of dishonesty)
- Group 4 Crime (Damage to property)
- Other Crimes from Groups 5, 6 and 7

While not as statistically representative of all records within the audit period as Audit 1, the sample sizes in Audit 2 were weighted to take into account higher volumes of crime being recorded in some Divisions subject to a minimum of **100** records and a maximum of **300** records.



The audit tested the correct application of SCRS on recorded crimes in respect of the Scottish Government Counting Rules and the correct classification of crimes. In terms of compliance with SCRS each individual crime over or under-recorded, or incorrectly classified was counted as having failed the audit.

Compliance in this audit is achieved with a result of **95%** or above.

### **Audit 3 - Crime Records Reclassified to "No Crime"**

The third principle of SCRS states "once recorded, a crime will remain recorded unless there is credible evidence to disprove that a crime had occurred".

The audit tested the correct application of this principle in respect of recorded crime which was reclassified to "No Crime" following Police enquiry into the reported circumstances. In terms of compliance with SCRS each individual crime reclassified incorrectly was counted as having failed the audit.

The sample sizes in Audit 3 were weighted to take into account the higher number of records reclassified to "No Crime" in some Divisions subject to a minimum of **50** and a maximum of **100**.

Compliance in this audit is achieved with a result of **95%** or above.

In order to allow Divisions a reasonable period of time to ensure that records are complete and compliant with SCRS, audits are generally undertaken once a period of three months from the date of the incident/crime has elapsed. Any record incomplete at the time of audit will be audited based on the information available at the time.