



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Public Protection Committee

North East Division
Aberdeen City

April 2021 – March 2022

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Introduction

I am pleased to present the latest Public Protection Committee report on behalf of Police Scotland, North East Division providing a detailed account of Police Performance in Aberdeen City in support of agreed local and national priorities, between April 2021 and March 2022.

The reporting period detailed within reflects on an exceptional time for Policing, the communities of Aberdeen and society as a whole. As we continued to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and move toward recovery, Police, like many of our partners, required to evolve to new and innovative ways of working.

In line with previous reports, comparison against 5 Year Averages provides a more realistic picture as opposed to measuring against the figures recorded during periods of lockdown.

An increase in Serious and Common Assaults is considered to reflect the lifting of restrictions with the reopening of licensed premises and greater activity associated with the night time economy contributing to this increase. We continue to work with partners to prevent incidents of violence and understand the issues that lead to them, thereby allowing us to direct resources accordingly.

Cyber related criminality, notably Fraud and Extortion, continued to increase during this period. The complexities of such crime types cannot be overstated and locally we work toward delivery of the national Cyber Strategy and awareness raising to reduce such occurrences. Our Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT) continues to prove effective in investigative and preventative work to tackle this issue.

Tragically during the reporting period 2 people were killed in road traffic collisions, the slight rise from 1 the previous year reflecting increased overall road usage. We recognise the regular concerns expressed by the community around road safety matters and continue to proactively patrol and enforce legislation on our roads.

We remain focused on providing an effective, visible service and working closely with partners. I am grateful for the continued support of those statutory, third sector and voluntary partners who my Officers in Aberdeen City work ever closer with, to improve the lives of those resident within our communities.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Staff, Officers and Special Constables operating in Aberdeen City and to further offer my sincere thanks to all members of our community, businesses and partner organisations who have supported Officers in the collective effort to keep our communities safe. Officers have had to cope with unprecedented demands and have provided copious amounts of goodwill, flexibility and innovation, all while showing a determination above any expectations to continue to provide a high quality level of service, despite the exceptional circumstances in which they have found themselves. The wellbeing of personnel within North East Division and the national teams who support us is something I am passionate about and will continue to focus upon in the months and years ahead.

Regards



Kate Stephen
Chief Superintendent

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Staffing

	Authorised Establishment	March 2022	Difference
Police Officers ¹	1092 FTE	1042.92 FTE	-49.08 FTE
	March 2021	March 2022	Difference
Police Staff ¹	121.28 FTE	119.46 FTE	-1.82 FTE

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

Officer numbers are lower during this period as a result of restricted recruitment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a pause on both recruitment and training ahead of and during the COP26 climate change summit and increased retirements at short notice resulting from changes to pension arrangements.

Police Scotland has been recruiting nationally with some 300 new probationary Constables welcomed recently to commence training at the Police Scotland College, Tulliallan. 17 of these Officers are due to be posted to North East Division. This is in addition to the 82 probationers who have completed training and commenced operational policing this year within the Division.

Through our 'Strategic Workforce Plan', we are working to identify the Officer, Staff and skills profile needed to best serve our communities and to ensure policing provides value for money to the public purse. The plan provides an evidence-based approach to identifying policing requirements across the country with considerations such as changing population profiles and the needs of communities.

We recognise that funding arrangements set out in the Scottish Government's spending review, if progressed, will mean difficult decisions for policing in Scotland which may result in a smaller workforce. This is something we are monitoring closely.



Complaints about the Police

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference	%Change 2022 v 2021
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident ²	N/A	67.1%	71.0%		-3.9%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	283	359	-76	-21.2%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	44.2	55.7	-11.5	-20.6%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	365	483	-118	-24.4%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	1	1	0	0.0%
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	117	139	-22	-15.8%
Total Allegations	N/A	483	623	-140	-22.5%

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

Despite the many significant challenges imposed upon policing in recent times, the number of Complaints About the Police have reduced during the reporting period, akin to pre-pandemic levels.

Overall satisfaction on how incidents have been dealt with has **decreased slightly** on the previous year to **67.1%**, which is in line with the national average. This indicator has a number of variables which may influence the feedback provided by those consulted. We continue to take opportunities to learn from complaints and focused analysis in this area 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.

The number of complaints received about the Police during the reported period has **decreased by 76** equating to a **21.2% reduction**. Similarly the number of ‘On Duty’ and ‘Quality of Service’ allegations, which primarily focus on Police powers and procedures, have decreased by **24.4%** and **15.8%** respectively.

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions were assessed as being a primary cause for an increase in Complaints About the Police during previous reporting periods. As we return to normality, the volume of complaints received continues to decrease and are now closer to pre-pandemic levels.

Whilst it is encouraging to see a significant drop in Complaints about the Police, for those that are received 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 subject of a robust investigation by the Professional Standards Department. 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.



Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	2,847.6	3,153	2,506	+305.4	+10.7%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	70.6%	70.2%	76.1%		-0.4%
Robbery - Recorded	106.2	128	104	+21.8	+20.5%
Robbery - Detection Rate	82.3%	88.3%	84.6%		+6.0%
Serious Assault - Recorded	176.4	165	121	-11.4	-6.5%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	91.5%	92.7%	94.2%		+1.2%
Vandalism - Recorded	1,815.0	1,941	1,675	+126.0	+6.9%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	26.1%	27.5%	32.2%		+1.4%
Fire Raising - Recorded	113.8	125	146	+11.2	+9.8%
Reports of Street Drinking	81.2	50	19	-31.2	-38.4%
Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct	169.8	102	32	-67.8	-39.9%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct	89.0	111	84	+22.0	+24.7%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct - Detection Rate	89.2%	89.2%	97.6%		0.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 2021	% Change 2022 v 2021
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded ³	N/A	630	480	+150	+31.3%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	70.2%	80.2%		-10.0%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	364	304	+60	+19.7%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	67.6%	78.3%		-10.7%

³ Crimes of Violence include Murder, Attempted Murder, Culpable Homicide, Cruelty, Neglect and Un-natural Treatment of Children and Adults, Abduction, Robbery, Assault with intent to Rob, Serious Assault, Threats and Extortion and Coercive or Controlling Behaviour (w hich was added in 2019).

Group 1 Crime is a term used to encapsulate all forms of serious non-sexual Violent Crime and incorporates a range of diverse offences. During the reporting period there has been an **increase of 31.3%** in Group 1 crimes accompanied by a decrease in the **overall detection rate by 10%**. This rise continues to be driven by increases in online Threats and Extortion (often with a sexual element). Such crimes, where the perpetrators can be based anywhere in the world are complex and as such, this

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contributes to the drop in detection rates for this crime type. The Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT) continue to have responsibility for all Investigative and Preventative strategies in this area of criminality.

This reporting period saw an escalation of socialising in public places, licensed premises and the return of the night time economy which has impacted on crime trends across Scotland. This was not unexpected as restrictions were lifted and we are seeing a return to levels of criminality more closely resembling business as usual.

Looking at the figures in more depth, Common Assault has **risen 10.7%** against the 5 Year Average with **detection rate of 70.2%**, which is only very slightly below the 5 Year Average.

Recorded Robbery has increased against the 5 Year Average with a **strong detection rate of 88.3%, 6% above** the 5 Year Average. These high detection rates are as a result of internal partnerships between local policing and CID, coupled with a robust investigative process.

Serious Assaults **decreased by 6.5%** and detection rates are also **1.2% above** the 5 Year Average which is an indication of the robust and professional standard of investigation, and the focused efforts of our teams.

Preventative and proactive measures have been implemented across our communities developed through the Divisional North East Violence Prevention Board to effectively understand, manage and direct our resources to where there is an identified need.

Across the City we have an established 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 is adhered to.

Collective efforts continue to better understand these issues to promote and support a responsible drinking culture with indications that alcohol consumption has increased during the pandemic. We actively support early interventions highlighting the challenges and consequences of excessive alcohol consumption across all age ranges to prevent individuals becoming involved in criminality.

Incidents of Vandalism have **increased by 6.9%** but the **detection rate is 1.4% higher** than the 5 Year Average. Conversely, Antisocial Behaviour incidents relating to Street Drinking and Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct have seen a **significant decrease of 38.4% and 39.9%** respectively during this reporting period.

Racially aggravated incidents have **increased by 24.7%** while Hate Crimes have **increased by 19.7%**. This is an area where it is widely acknowledged there is a history of under reporting and a considerable amount of community engagement has been undertaken to encourage victims to come forward when they have been subjected to hate incidents and crimes. Work will continue in this vein in the forthcoming period, as will efforts to investigate and detect such crimes and bring offenders to justice.

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We are very aware that communities in Aberdeen City experience quality of life issues and we work hard with partners across the area in an effort to design bespoke initiatives with an appropriate balance of enforcement, education and diversion.

This approach is seen in action through our continued commitment to Locality Plans throughout the city where this partnership approach aims to provide positive outcomes in communities experiencing acute challenges.

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Acquisitive Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	5,674.8	5,520	4,576	+154.8	-2.7%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	44.3%	36.0%	41.5%		-8.3%
Housebreakings - Recorded	599.6	385	416	-214.6	-35.8%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded ⁴	649.4	484	400	-165.4	-25.5%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	29.5%	33.9%	39.0%		+4.4%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	231.4	189	145	-42.4	-18.3%
Common Theft - Recorded	1,355.4	1,230	1,033	-125.4	-9.3%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	29.9%	24.7%	31.3%		-5.1%
Theft by Shoplifting - Recorded	1,896.2	1,680	1,420	-216.2	-11.4%
Theft by Shoplifting - Detection Rate	70.8%	59.2%	65.6%		-11.6%

⁴ Theft from secure motor vehicle; Theft from insecure motor vehicle; Theft of a motor vehicle; Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) - Detection Rates	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av.
Overall	28.6%	40.8%	36.5%	+12.2%
Dwelling House	36.2%	43.0%	44.1%	+6.8%
Non-Dwelling (e.g. Sheds)	21.9%	38.8%	27.3%	+16.9%
Other Premises (e.g. Commercial)	30.8%	39.6%	38.1%	+8.8%

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

Overall, Crimes of Dishonesty have **reduced by 2.7%** compared to the 5 Year Average and although the detection rate has **fallen by 8.3%**, the reduction in recorded crime is considered positive due to the overall impact on victims being lessened.

Housebreaking in Aberdeen City continues to fall with a **massive decrease of 35.8%** in recorded crime, with a **similarly large decrease of 25.5%** in Motor Vehicle Crime, where **detection rates have risen by 4.4%**. Similarly, Theft of Motor Vehicles has **reduced by 18.3%** and although detection rates have fallen by **5.1%** when compared to the 5 Year Average, the reduction in these crime types is very welcome. 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.

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We have also seen an encouraging **reduction of 9.3%** in Common Thefts across Aberdeen City compared to the 5 Year Average and a similar **reduction of 11.4%** in Theft by Shoplifting. The detection rate in these types of crimes has reduced, in particular for Theft by Shoplifting, with compulsory mask wearing having made the identification of perpetrators more difficult.

Despite such challenges, robust, proactive policing plans are in place to ensure Aberdeen City remains a hostile environment for those intent on committing crimes of dishonesty.

As an example, Operation Armour was instigated in April 2022, centring on the reduction in reported thefts and increase in detection rates of pedal cycles in Aberdeen City. Although the main focus is on pedal cycles, the pro-active nature of the operation sees Operation Armour Officers involved in enforcement activity around auto-crime, drug dealing activity and any other pro-active criminality.

Operation Armour Officers work closely with Crime Reduction Officers and partners, including Aberdeen City Council, educational establishments and social landlords in providing security advice, diversionary measures and will utilise Anti-Social Behaviour legislation to deter offenders when appropriate.

We welcome the mainly positive returns in relation to Acquisitive Crime cautiously in view of the context and we will continue with the simple philosophy to prevent crime wherever possible and where this cannot be achieved, detect it. Our Crime Reduction teams have a crucial role to ensure our communities are aware of the measures they can take to reduce the likelihoods of them becoming victims of Acquisitive Crime.

There are few aspects of everyday life that have not been affected by the development of digital technology, which has resulted in rises in reported 'Non-Contact' Frauds and in particular, Cyber Enabled Frauds. The Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT), within the Criminal Investigation Department, have responsibility for all Investigative and Preventative strategies in this area of criminality.

The Crime Reduction Unit will continue to work with DCECT to identify vulnerable groups to develop on-going, targeted campaigns to raise awareness of Cyber-crime, target harden and expand knowledge. Acquisitive Crime governance structures are in place within North East Division to address 'intelligence led' emerging trends proactively, while directing and co-ordinating Community Policing resources across Aberdeen City reactively to all areas affected by this crime type.

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Road Safety and Road Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 2021	% Change 2022 v 2021
People Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	23	39	-16	-41.0%
Children Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	1	2	-1	-
People Killed	N/A	2	1	+1	-
Children Killed ⁵	N/A	0	0	0	
Advice/Education Given to Motorists ⁶	N/A	16,120	15,064	+1,056	+7.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	233.4	62	87	-171.4	-73.4%
Speeding Offences	1,648.8	949	1,199	-699.8	-42.4%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	284.6	463	351	+178.4	+62.7%
Dangerous Driving	87.6	127	109	+39.4	+45.0%
Disqualified Driving	91.4	71	79	-20.4	-22.3%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	6,570.4	4,928	5,443	-1642.4	-25.0%
Parking Fixed Penalties Issued ⁷	-	Data not available	285	-	-

⁵ Child is under 16 years of age.

⁶ North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray) figures by Road Policing Officers.

⁷ North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray).

Tragically, 2 individuals lost their lives in Aberdeen during the review period. Whilst this is an **increase of 1** compared to the previous year, cognisance must be given towards the significant increase in vehicular traffic across our road networks following the lifting of restrictions linked to the pandemic. The loss of any life or serious injury on our roads is tragic and that is why we are committed to influencing driver behaviours to improve Road Safety as a priority for Policing.

Local Road Safety initiatives remained a constant focus of the Community Policing Teams across Aberdeen City under Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce), the North East's overarching Policing strategy to increase Road Safety and reduce Road Crime. Through the review of statistical data, community consultation and interaction with partners, Officers responded to Road Safety concerns with targeted activity, positively influencing driver behaviour through education and enforcement. Building on local efforts, Officers from the North East Road Policing Unit (NERPU)

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continued to support communities across the region by conducting targeted activity aligned to national Road Safety campaigns and patrolling key routes.

We remained committed to the North East Scotland Strategic Road Casualty Group, continuing to identify and target routes with significant collision histories, appropriately balancing high visibility and unmarked patrols, utilising enforcement and education in order to improve Road Safety and driver behaviour. Excess speed remains a significant factor attributed to collisions where death or serious injury occurs. We have deployed Officers on an intelligence led basis to collision hotspots as part of directed patrols. A correlation can be seen by the between the 'return to normal' of traffic flow and our targeted proactivity around Drink/Drug Driving with the **62.7% increase** in detection rates in this area compared to last year.

During the reporting period the partner initiative Operation Close Pass was launched across the Division in order to focus on the safety of cyclists. Cyclists are regarded as Vulnerable Road Users and with the sport of cycling increasing in popularity across Scotland this area has become a key area for focus.

Motorcyclists continue to represent a disproportionate statistic in relation to road death collisions across the North East. Recognising the need to engage directly with motorcyclists, this year saw the return of the 'Rider Refinement' training scheme, a 1 day course designed to help them ride responsibly.

This year also saw the launch of the Police Scotland 'New Drivers Scheme'. This scheme comprises of a presentation providing key safety messaging, reinforced through a hard-hitting case study involving real life footage. It is targeted at people learning to drive, people who have recently acquired a full licence and employers of new drivers. The scheme has been well attended and will continue to develop going forward.

Our activity has been aligned to the Priority Focus Areas contained in the Scottish Government's new National Road Safety Framework, issued in February 2021, which sets out a vision for Scotland to have the best road safety performance in the world by 2030 and an ambitious long term goal where no one is seriously injured or killed on our roads by 2050.

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Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes – Recorded ⁸	675.4	819	672	+143.6	+21.3%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	61.9%	47.7%	60.7%		-14.2%
Rape - Recorded	90.0	92	103	+2.0	+2.2%
Rape - Detection Rate	56.9%	46.7%	62.1%		-10.2%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 2021	% Change 2022 v 2021
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	2,450	2,548	-98	-3.8%
Domestic Abuse Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	70.3%	76.3%		-6.0%

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

Public Protection rightly remains as an area of focus for our Division and wider Public Protection Partners. This reporting year has seen an increase in the reporting of Group 2 crimes, which was not unexpected and in many ways must be acknowledged positively if it shows an increase in victims being willing to contact Police regarding crimes that may historically have gone unreported.

As lockdown restrictions were eased, hospitality venues were operating again and the night-time economy re-started. This factor, along with others, contributed to an increase in reporting which continued throughout the year, with reported Group 2 crime being **21.3% above** the 5 Year Average in Aberdeen City.

A potential contributing factor to the increase was that during the reporting period there was continued emphasis on awareness raising about Hidden Harms which were predominant during the lockdown period. Divisional leads for Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking, Adult Protection, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences and Child Protection further enhanced this through a series of media interviews.

Another contributing factor to the increase is the prevalence of communications related offences or those linked to social media and also the continued reporting of non-recent crimes. Cyber-related investigations can be complex and take time to detect and non-recent crimes can be challenging to detect given the limited forensic opportunities. Consequently, the detection rate for Group 2 crimes is **14.2% below** the 5 Year Average. Our local Divisional Officers and Public Protection specialists continue to review all crimes for investigative opportunities through governance processes whilst ensuring a victim based approach is adopted in all cases.

As seen in previous reporting, North East Division continues to actively promote national campaigns locally, with both internal and external awareness raising regarding sexual offences and thus reducing

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crime. Examples include the award-winning national Police Scotland 'That Guy' campaign and the '#GetConsent' campaign which have both been designed to influence potential offender behaviour complimenting previous campaigns on this subject.

The introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, is a further factor that impacts on comparison with the 5 Year Average, as it has not been enacted for the full 5 year period. By the end of this reporting year there were **98 fewer** Domestic Abuse incidents recorded than in the previous year. Positively, the Division continues to be active within the Aberdeen City Violence Against Women Partnership (VAWP) and has continued to provide the co-ordination and support to the wider partnership in relation to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process. The number of MARAC referrals has continued to increase this year, with cases discussed throughout the year by partners to ensure appropriate support is in place for those most at risk.

Our collaboration to target domestic perpetrators, both in terms of enforcement and work to address behaviour also remains a key part of our work with the detection rate of **70.3%** demonstrating this. Pro-active partnerships, with Criminal Justice Social Work and others, gives us a platform for enforcement and a collective approach to address perpetrator attitudes.

The numbers of requests for disclosures of information under the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) continue to rise steadily as people become more familiar with it and understand the information that can be provided. Across the Division, applications made under the scheme have risen annually and this is reflected in Aberdeen City with a further increase during this reporting year.

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Serious Organised Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures ⁹	£265,655.60	£154,559.70	£157,643.67	-£111,095.90	-41.8%
Drug Possession Offences	1,583.2	1,425	1,606	-158.2	-10.0%
Drug Supply Offences	236.4	272	278	+35.6	+15.1%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 2021	% Change 2022 v 2021
Drug Deaths	N/A	54	66	-12	-18.2%

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).

Despite the challenges of the Pandemic in terms of our ability to be proactive, the number of Drug Supply offences has remained above the 5 Year Average. Significant numbers of persons across Aberdeen from Organised Crime Groups (OCG's) originating from England, were reported to COPFS for being involved in the sale and supply of drugs, along with other associated crimes and offences during this reporting period. This demonstrates how our Officers have successfully adapted to the challenges encountered, ensuring targeted disruption and enforcement continued.

The monetary value of assets seized during the last year has remained comparable to the previous year and Community Policing and CID teams have collectively **seized almost £155,000** in cash during the course of enquiries into Serious and Organised Crime. This will be processed through the courts and may be seized permanently under Civil Recovery laws for long term benefits to local communities.

Drugs Deaths **decreased by 12** compared to the previous year which bucks the trend of national increases. Each death is a tragedy and through the work of the Aberdeen Alcohol and Drug Partnership 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. SOC Interventions have been developing links into rehabilitation and addiction peer groups and intervention support will ensure intervention and diversion can be in place for those at a vulnerable stage in their recovery.

Looking forward, North East Division continues to lead strongly in our approach to Serious and Organised Crime. Our focused monitoring of emerging trends allows us to tackle the widespread and evermore sophisticated nature of this area effectively. By using the '4D' (DETECT-DISRUPT-DETER-DIVERT) methodology, some very positive successes have been seen when reflecting on enforcement results and our work with key partners to support and signpost those linked to Organised Crime assessed as being in need of intervention.

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Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

The North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board and the associated Prevent Delivery Group continue to deliver the national CONTEST strategy in the North East of Scotland. The Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare principles are the continued focus of the strategy which aims to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK.

International events continue to show the need to be vigilant and to prevent any complacency regarding any potential act in Aberdeen, given the significant infrastructure within our local area.

Prevent involves safeguarding people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and at a local level this involves close working relationships between partner agencies to identify persons at risk. Localised multi-agency training has continued during the reporting period and Prevent Multi Agency Panels are held as necessary which allows for a collaborative approach as plans are developed and implemented to divert those at risk.

Protect has the aim of strengthening our protection against a terrorist attack. Traditionally the local multi-agency work has been aimed at providing advice and guidance in relation to the protecting and safeguarding of physical locations. This work continues with tailored inputs, advice and guidance but there is an increasing requirement to improve cyber-security across all industries to minimise the potential of a cyber-attack.

A Protect 'duty' is likely to be placed upon organisers, authorities and agencies (similar to the current Prevent duty) during 2022-2023 and therefore a Protect Delivery Group is being formed to manage any transition and ensure all Aberdeen partners are aware of their responsibilities in this regard.

Prepare involves mitigating the impact of a terrorist incident if it occurs. With a number of important national infrastructure sites in the area linked to local industry there is a program of multi-agency exercises covering a number of different scenarios and locations which assist in the progression of the Prepare priority. During the reporting period a number of exercises have been conducted at key sites in Aberdeen to continue the important work in this key area.

Looking ahead, plans are in place for a large scale table top Counter Terrorism exercise, titled 'Safe Steeple 2', in November 2022. This exercise will be a further test of the multi-agency response to a Terrorist related incident.

To assist in the delivery of the multi-agency agenda and priorities, North East Division has a team of Local CONTEST Liaison Officers (LCLO's) who carry out activities within their local policing area or department, where necessary assisted by experts or specialists from national departments. This approach assists to blend national and local requirements whilst ensuring the interests and needs of local communities are at the forefront of everything we do.

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Miscellaneous

Stop and Search

Indicator	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022 (positive)
Consensual	0	-
Legislative	1416	522
Number of Consensual Stop and Searches Refused	-	-

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

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