



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

## **Public Protection Committee**

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

**April 2022 – March 2023**

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## **Introduction**

I am pleased to present the latest 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 2022 to 31 March 2023.

This has been an extremely challenging period for policing across Scotland as the impacts of post-COVID recovery on society become ever more apparent. As is evident throughout this report, demand on policing is increasing, not only in the crimes recorded but also in the demands placed upon our Officers to respond to vulnerabilities in our communities and assist those in need.

This increase in demand comes at a time when policing budgets are dropping to a level where the number of police Officers across Scotland has reduced from 17,234 to 16,600. The impact on North East Division has been the loss of 39 posts, which will have a significant impact on our policing activities across all local authority areas.

We are working hard to realign and redesign functions to ensure we maximise the skills and experience of our Officers, while still maintaining our ability to meet core demand placed upon us by the communities we serve.

I am therefore extremely proud of the efforts of Officers in Aberdeen City, supported by divisional and national specialist teams, to deliver upon response policing while still introducing innovation and initiatives to prevent harm and support the vulnerable.

Our preventative initiatives in conjunction with key partners, highlight the dedication of Officers to try to do the right thing in the face of competing demands: the partnership work we deliver in schools and the pilot of the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation drug education programme could deliver positive outcomes for years to come; the Driver Engagement North initiative will prevent deaths on our roads; Operation Protector will enable vulnerable people to get the help and support they need and our work with Violence Against Women Partnerships will promote equality between genders and prevent harm to women and girls.

There are however challenges ahead and the report highlights a reduction in detection rates across a number of areas. There are a number of reasons for this but the impact of policing 'cyber space' and online criminality cannot be underestimated. This has had a direct impact in Group 1 crime where Threats and Extortion crimes have increased, in Group 2 crime where the prevalence of online activity in furtherance of sexualised crimes is increasingly prevalent, and in Group 3 and 5 crime where Organised Crime Groups maximise the criminal benefits of operating online, out with the sight of the public.

Finally, I wish to make comment upon the Chief Constable's statement regarding Police Scotland being institutionally discriminatory. His comments have been reported, debated and speculated on in the media and in wider society, both in Scotland and the rest of the UK. In order to make the improvements necessary, North East Division is fully committed to the Police Scotland Policing Together Strategy which will drive improvements to how policing in Scotland reflects, represents and serves all our communities and ultimately improve the experiences of our communities, including our Officers and staff.

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Racism, homophobia, sexism and misogyny and discrimination of any kind is utterly deplorable and unacceptable. It has no place in society and no place in policing.

Regards

**Graeme Mackie**  
Chief Superintendent

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**Staffing**

	Authorised Establishment	March 2022	Difference
Police Officers <sup>1</sup>	1072 FTE	1022.47 FTE	-49.53 FTE
	March 2021	March 2022	Difference
Police Staff <sup>1</sup>	119.46 FTE	117.31 FTE	-2.15 FTE

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

In the previous report covering April to September 2022, the Authorised Establishment for Police Officers in North East Division was **1092**. This has **reduced by 20 Officers to 1072**, during this review period due to a realignment of our Divisional Intelligence Officers who are now managed by the Specialist Crime Division. These 20 Officers are still dedicated to policing the North East and now merely line managed differently, and therefore there was no impact as a result of this restructure.

However, as has been well publicised, budgetary restraints upon Police Scotland do not allow us to maintain our workforce at the levels of previous years. While the figure of 1072 above was accurate on 31 March 2023, our establishment has since been **reduced by 39 posts** and for future reports will be documented as **1033**.

These posts have been lost from different areas across the Division in order to minimise the impact but this significant reduction in resource will undoubtedly impact policing in the North East, including Aberdeen City. The effect of these reductions are felt not only in North East Division but across Police Scotland in both national teams and local divisions.

The impact of a change in pension regulations mean that many more experienced colleagues across Police Scotland are choosing to retire earlier than previously anticipated.

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

An additional **39** Probationary Officers have been recruited during the reporting period. There are currently **65** Probationary Officers at various operational stations across Aberdeen City and a further **9** Officers at the Scottish Police College who will transfer to Aberdeen City in September 2023

**24** Special Constables routinely work alongside full time regular Officers in Community and Specialist Policing teams in Aberdeen City. These Officers volunteer considerable personal time in service to our communities and the value of their support cannot be overstated.



**Complaints about the Police**

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident <sup>2</sup>	N/A	67.2%	67.1%		+0.1%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	315	298	+17	+5.7%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	46.6	45.1	+1.5	+3.3%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	342	429	-87	-20.3%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	2	1	+1	-
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	226	149	+77	+51.7%
Total Allegations	N/A	570	579	-9	-0.2%

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

Levels of overall satisfaction remain consistent at 67.2% which is in line with the national average.

An **additional 17** Complaints About the Police have been recorded during this reporting period equating to a **5.7% increase** however it is encouraging to note an overall **decrease of 20.3%** in respect of On Duty allegations.

A number of complaints stem from lack of understanding of Police powers and procedures. These allegations are categorised as ‘Quality of Service’ which have seen an overall increase of 77 allegations equating to a **51.7% rise**. Allegations stemming from ‘service delivery’ and ‘service outcome’ also feature which incorporates the type of Police response which the public receive. Call demand and the requirement for Police attendance is ultimately dictated by a national call handling assessment process based on the level of threat, vulnerability and risk of immediate harm. This can lead to frustration over perceived lack of action or ‘face to face’ contact however ensures that resources are directed to those most in need of assistance.

While any increase in Complaints About the Police is disappointing, our front line resolution process, which affords the complainer an opportunity to ask questions and receive an explanation regard Police action, or perceived lack thereof, 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 with opportunity, if further dissatisfied, to request a review of the handling of the complaint by the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC).

North East Division continues to promote the use of Body Worn Video (BWV) within operational policing which delivers significant benefits in terms of public trust and confidence. There is also a clear indication that BWV utilisation may lead to a reduction in complaints against Officers. This is due mainly to its ability to support an investigation by offering a credible, concise and somewhat irrefutable recording of an

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incident as it happens. This further reduces the amount of police time required to deal with such complaints therefore providing additional benefits.

Monthly overview of 'User Experience Data' is now embedded in North East Division with public feedback scrutinised at senior management level to ensure appropriate sharing of learning amongst staff and positive action, where required, to proactively reduce Complaints about the Police.

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**Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder**

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	2,837.4	2,951	3,145	+113.6	+4.0%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	70.2%	70.4%	69.9%		+0.2%
Robbery - Recorded	108.8	114	128	+5.2	+4.8%
Robbery - Detection Rate	85.5%	92.1%	87.5%		+6.6%
Serious Assault - Recorded	165.2	196	168	+30.8	+18.6%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	93.1%	92.3%	92.3%		-0.8%
Vandalism - Recorded	1,787.6	1,736	1,944	-51.6	-2.9%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	26.5%	27.2%	27.4%		+0.7%
Fire Raising - Recorded	114.8	128	119	+13.2	+11.5%
Reports of Street Drinking	73.6	83	50	+9.4	+12.8%
Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct	146.2	134	103	-12.2	-8.3%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct	93.0	78	113	-15.0	-16.1%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct - Detection Rate	89.7%	93.6%	87.6%		+3.9%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded <sup>3</sup>	N/A	622	600	+22	+3.7%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	73.0%	73.5%		-0.5%

<sup>3</sup> 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 22** recorded Group 1 crimes accompanied by a marginal **decrease** in the detection rate by **0.5%**. Recorded Robbery (which is also a Group 1 crime) has risen by **4.8%** and is comparable with the 5 Year Average. We remain in a strong position in terms of detection across the division which is evidenced in Aberdeen City where a strong detection rate of **92.1%** represents an **increase of 6.6%** on the 5 Year Average. This is a reflection of the robust and professional standard of investigation, and the focused efforts of our teams to protect communities.

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Serious Assaults (also a Group 1 crime) have risen by **28** when compared to the previous year and **30** against the 5 Year Average. Detection rates remain strong at **92.3%**. Recognising the impact these crimes have on victims we continue to ensure those intent on committing acts of violence are held accountable.

Common Assaults have decreased against the last reporting period with a slight rise in comparison to the 5 Year Average. The detection rate of **70.4%** is above both last year and the 5 Year Average. Preventative and proactive measures have been implemented across our communities, developed through the Divisional Violence Prevention Board to effectively understand, manage and direct our resources to where there is an identified need.

Through the Violence Prevention Board, the 'No Knives Better Lives' campaign, launched in 2009 by the Scottish Government with the aid of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, has been offered and widely accepted across all secondary school settings and is currently being delivered throughout the North East, including Aberdeen City. This preventative strategy will be further developed to include a reintroduction of knife amnesty bins assisted by a media campaign supported by our Partnerships, Preventions and Interventions business area.

Vandalism has decreased against both last year and 5 Year Average figures. This is much welcomed by communities and can be attributed to the efforts of our Community Policing Teams who delivered a number of local initiatives over the review period to tackle these issues.

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 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	5,282.8	5,449	5,429	+166.2	+3.1%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	43.2%	35.6%	36.1%		-7.6%
Housebreakings - Recorded	462.8	347	376	-115.8	-25.0%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded <sup>4</sup>	549.2	479	476	-70.2	-12.8%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	31.9%	36.3%	33.6%		+4.4%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	201.6	226	184	+24.4	+12.1%
Common Theft - Recorded	1,250.6	1,405	1,212	+154.4	+12.3%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	29.7%	26.0%	25.1%		-3.7%
Theft by Shoplifting - Recorded	1,788.6	1,786	1,671	-2.6	-0.1%
Theft by Shoplifting - Detection Rate	68.1%	52.7%	59.1%		-15.4%

<sup>4</sup> Theft from secure motor vehicle; Theft from insecure motor vehicle; Theft of a motor vehicle; Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) - Detection Rates	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av.
Overall	32.2%	40.6%	39.9%	+8.4%
Dwelling House	42.0%	42.3%	40.5%	+0.3%
Non-Dwelling (e.g. Sheds)	22.3%	32.0%	39.1%	+9.7%
Other Premises (e.g. Commercial)	34.5%	46.8%	40.0%	+12.3%

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

Overall Crimes of Dishonesty have increased slightly over the reporting period in comparison with the 5 Year Average **(+3.1%)**, indicative of a cost of living crisis where we have seen rises in Common Thefts. Despite a reduction in Motor Vehicle crime, there has been a slight increase in Motor Vehicle thefts **(+12.1%)**.

With our Proactive CID teams supporting local policing in the investigations into Housebreakings, vehicle crime and other linked Acquisitive Crime, we are able to ensure a thorough and consistent approach to investigations. Similarly we monitor national crime trends and work closely with other divisions and forces across the UK to ensure we are fully aware and involved in the investigation of any Thefts committed by individuals from out with the area. Examples of this being a local process led by our teams in response to high value Housebreakings and reports of Thefts of cooking oil from business premises across the area.

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These were identified early as generally tying into larger Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), who are operating nationally. The work of these teams in conjunction with national partners ensures all investigative opportunities, crossovers between incidents and links to OCGs are explored.

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

Prevention work undertaken by DCECT over the reporting period has included representation at the Grampian Adult Protection Group's Adults at 'Risk of Financial Harm' sub group. As part of this group, DCECT entered into an agreement with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Trading Standards to identify victims of crime who would benefit from government funded call screening technology. Vulnerable individuals who have been victims of telephone scams have been approached and a number of devices will be delivered near future.

DCECT have delivered 'Cyber Security' advice to secondary school pupils across the Division in line with the roll out of a new 'Student Online Safety Guide'. These have been well received by pupils and parents and are tailored to different age groups. With the success of the sessions, separate engagements took place for parents.

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**Road Safety and Road Crime**

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
People Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	30	25	+5	+20.0%
Children Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	4	2	+2	-
People Killed	N/A	2	2	-	-
Children Killed <sup>5</sup>	N/A	0	0	-	-
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	147.8	103	62	-44.8	-30.3%
Speeding Offences	1,418.2	376	947	-1,042.2	-73.5%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	320.8	343	461	+22.2	+6.9%
Dangerous Driving	96.4	80	122	-16.4	-17.0%
Disqualified Driving	84.8	52	71	-32.8	-38.7%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	5,918.4	3,645	4,885	-2,273.4	-38.4%

<sup>5</sup> Child is under 16 years of age.

Tragically, **2** individuals lost their lives on the roads in Aberdeen City during the review period. While this is equal to the previous year, the loss of any life 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. Analysis of the collision data in respect of persons who have been killed or seriously injured provides that older drivers are disproportionately affected.

We have invested resource towards a number of wider partnership initiatives which aim to have a long term impact in reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on our road networks. For example, Police Scotland chair the Older Road User Group which is a partner led group which has the intention of working in collaboration to reduce the number of older road users killed or seriously injured in line with the targets set out in Scotland’s Road Safety Framework to 2030. The group monitors trends to identify current and emerging opportunities to improve Road Safety for older road users with the current key focus being on ensuring fitness to drive. Part of the work delivered by this group is ‘Driver Engagement North’, a simulator based approach to assist older road users and their families make informed choices about their fitness to drive safely. This simulator allows the driver to assess their hazard awareness in a safe virtual setting.

Police Scotland have secured funding from the Transport Scotland to support and promote the roll out of Fitness to Drive Assessments in conjunction with Driving Mobility and DriveAbility Scotland who offer these

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assessments on a self-referral or agency basis. This work is in the initial stages and further engagement will take place in due course.

Local Road Safety initiatives remained a constant focus of the Community Policing Teams across Aberdeen City under Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce). Part of the focus this year has been on targeting drivers under the influence of drink/drugs as can be seen by the **6.9% increase** in detections in this area.

Officers have responded to road safety concerns with targeted activity, positively influencing driver behaviour through education and enforcement. This has been supported by Officers from the North East Road Policing Unit (NERPU) with targeted activity aligned to national road safety campaigns and patrolling key routes. While the number of detected speeding offences has **decreased by 73.5%**, we recognise that speeding is an issue in our communities and we remain committed to deploying Officers and the Safety Camera Unit on an intelligence led basis.

During the reporting period the joint working initiative 'Operation Close Pass' was launched again in the City in order to focus on the safety of cyclists. Cyclists are regarded as vulnerable road users and with cycling increasing in popularity across Scotland this area has become a key area for focus.

The Police Scotland 'New Drivers Scheme' continues to be delivered, targeting people learning to drive, people who have recently acquired a full licence and employers of new drivers by providing key safety messaging, reinforced through a hard-hitting case study featuring real life footage.

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**Protecting People at Risk of Harm**

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes – Recorded <sup>6</sup>	697.4	731	818	+33.6	+4.8%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	58.0%	54.0%	47.9%		-4.0%
Rape - Recorded	92.2	95	93	+2.8	+3.0%
Rape - Detection Rate	53.1%	61.1%	46.2%		+8.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	2,489	2,451	+38	+1.6%
Domestic Abuse Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	67.3%	70.3%		-3.0%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	287	363	-76	-20.9%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	67.9%	70.8%		-2.9%

<sup>6</sup> 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 remains a priority for Policing in the North East where we continue to work effectively with partners to protect individuals identified as being at risk of harm.

During the reporting year, North East Division saw a further increase in the number of Group 2 crimes reported. Despite this, the number of crimes reported in Aberdeen City **decreased by 87** in comparison with 2021-22, while **increasing by 4.8%** against the 5 Year Average.

At the conclusion of the reporting period, the detection rate for Group 2 stood at **54%**, an **increase of 6%** against the previous year, and only slightly below the 5 Year Average. This is representative of the challenges encountered when dealing with complex and challenging enquiries, often historic in nature or involving offending on-line or via electronic communications. Our local divisional Officers and public protection specialists continue to review all crimes for investigative opportunities through governance processes while ensuring a victim based approach is adopted in all cases.

In relation to recorded Rape, **2 more** crimes were reported compared with the previous year representing a **3% increase** against the 5 Year Average. Positively, the detection rate rose by **15%** to **61.1%**, which is **8% above** the 5 Year Average. It should be noted that of the 95 crimes reported, approximately 58% had occurred over a year prior to reporting and 17% over 5 years prior. There are significant challenges faced when investigating crimes of a non-recent nature, where forensic opportunities, as well as investigative lines of enquiry, are either significantly diminished or often non-existent. Of the 95 Rapes recorded only

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24 of the crimes were reported within timescales allowing forensic evidence to be obtained in relation to the victim or perpetrator.

With respect to Domestic Abuse incidents reported to Police, this year remained consistent with the previous and while there was a slight reduction in the detection rate to **67.3%** this remains above the Force average.

All domestic incidents reported to Police Scotland are subject of intense scrutiny and robust investigation. A new toolkit has been developed in the North East for all frontline supervisors, to assist them in ensuring enquiries are progressed fully and timeously and all available evidence gathered. With the support of the Partnership and Coordination and Public Protection Units, a divisional oversight process continues to ensure those most at risk are supported and action is taken against those posing the most risk. Locally we are linked into the National Domestic Abuse Working Group, ensuring that good practice and revised guidance is quickly adopted in our working practices.

Our efforts are further supported by the Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Tasking & Co-ordination (MATAC) process which targets domestic abuse perpetrators who present the greatest risk of offending. While 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.

Perpetrator Management Plans (PMPs) are another tool utilised by Police to proactively target perpetrators of domestic abuse. The ethos of this process being to disrupt, deter or detect the subject by focusing on other areas of offending.

With the majority of Domestic and Group 2 offences recorded having female victims, we are committed to supporting the Aberdeen Violence Against Women Partnership with Officers participating in and delivering a number of events, training sessions and briefings. We strongly support the 'Equally Safe' strategy and are proud of our role in actively delivering upon its aim to eradicate violence against women and girls to, "achieve a Scotland in which women and girls are safe to thrive, fulfilling their potential free from violence and abuse". This is further strengthened by the newly publicised Police Scotland Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy, the content of which represents significant and unprecedented levels of engagement with women and girls as well as a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

Lead by Police Scotland, the Violence Against Women & Girls Partnerships across the North East collaborate to produce a quantitative based report across a number of key areas, including Domestic Abuse, Sexual Harm and Honour Based Abuse. The information contained in the report is used to inform local partner agencies and to facilitate review of multi-agency practices and procedures, broadening local knowledge and understanding for organisations and decision makers. Thus helping them make effective and efficient collaborative decisions leading to improved outcomes for those using these services.

The national '16 Days of Activism' campaign was also fully supported during the reporting period and specifically, enforcement days were carried out by Divisional Officers from local policing and specialist units. Media messaging also continued to be driven forward in support of local and national campaigns, most notably the award winning 'That Guy' campaign, challenging men's attitudes and behaviour towards women.

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We continue to support victims of Domestic Abuse using tools such as MARAC. This is our Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference, through which, we can effectively plan and support victims who are most at risk. Additionally, we have seen a significant positive increase in the use of the DSDAS process, which allows Police Scotland to disclose, in certain circumstances, details of an offenders past that may help protect a new partner from becoming a victim. The increase is attributed to better understanding by other professionals through awareness raising inputs provided by Police Scotland and by members of the public through increased promotion during campaigns like the 16 Days of Activism.

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

With specific regards to Child Protection, the review period saw the successful implementation of the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) within the Division. Supported by a single 'Interagency Referral Discussion' process, the model is resilient and fit for purpose in terms of supporting the Scottish Government's 'Bairns Hoose' model implementation programme.

With respect to Hate crime **76 fewer** crimes were reported compared with the same period last year. While we welcome any reduction in victims, we must guard against any threats to community confidence to report crime. We have made it our priority to set up Third Party Reporting Centres (TPRC). TPRC are already operational in Aberdeen City and are a means through which victims can be supported to approach the Police to report crime. In conjunction with the Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC), we continue to roll out training to organisations across the North East, including Aberdeen City Council, community groups and third sector organisations. Additionally, we are working with NHS Grampian to co-produce an online training package for NHS staff.

Our detection rate relating to Hate Crime in Aberdeen is **67.9%**. We continue to apply robust investigative strategies in support of victims and while the detection rate is slightly below that of the previous year we perform well in comparison to the national average. Our consistently high detection rate also gives confidence to our communities which is vital as we continue to grow existing and form new, relationships.

Our Teams have been visible across Aberdeen City, engaging with our diverse communities and taking time to understand the issues faced by our minority groups. We have supported events such as the Pride festivals, as well as smaller community focused gatherings, all to provide confidence to the public.

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## Serious Organised Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2023 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures <sup>7</sup>	£265,655	£89,633	£154,559	-£176,022	-66.3%
Drug Possession Offences	1,566.6	1,380	1,417	-186.6	-11.9%
Drug Supply Offences	253.6	267	269	+13.4	+5.3%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
Drug Deaths <sup>10</sup>	N/A	43	54	-11	-20.4%

<sup>7</sup> A Division (Aberdeenshire, Moray & City) reported seizures (reported figures only, this may mean that the money might finally be returned to the defender, forfeit at court or seized and remitted to Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service).

<sup>10</sup> The data provided cannot be considered official Police Scotland Statistics; The data provided includes 'suspected' drug related deaths, which will not be confirmed, or otherwise, until the post mortem and toxicology procedures are completed - the data may therefore be subject to significant change, following a professional medical assessment as to the cause of death of an individual; comparison with 'confirmed' drug related deaths statistics (e.g. from previous YTD period or similar) will provide an unreliable assessment and should be avoided or heavily caveated; The official figures for Drug Related Deaths for Scotland are compiled and held by National Records of Scotland (NRS), who publish the data annually.

Although the monetary value of assets seized across the North East during the quarter has reduced compared to this period last year, it is noticeable that almost £90,000 in cash has been seized by Community Policing and CID teams during the course of enquiries into Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). This will be processed through the courts and may be seized permanently under Civil Recovery laws for long term benefits to local communities. With our CID teams progressing a number of SOC 'County Line' operations focussing on OCG's based in England and supplying Class A controlled drugs to the North East, a significant number of drug detections and monetary seizures can be attributed to this.

Our proactivity in this area is reflected in the number of Drug Supply Offences (**267**) which has increased against the 5 Year Average and is just below the 2021-22 figure.

Drug Deaths have decreased compared to the previous year. We continue to work closely with partners and support services to better understand the causes of drug deaths and to signpost vulnerable individuals to referral pathways thus supporting 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.

North East Division continues to lead strongly in our approach to SOC. Through our focused monitoring of emerging trends we are able 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 SOC assessed as being in need of intervention.

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Following the initial success of 'Operation Protector', it has continued during this reporting period. This multi-agency approach proactively addresses the effects of SOC and substance dependency on our communities. 'Days of Action' under Operation Protector involve joint teams of Police, third sector, Community Safety and Local Authority staff conducting drug harm outreach visits to identify and support vulnerable people. Simultaneously, drug search warrants were executed to target and remove those causing the greatest harm in our communities.

The Division have been proactive in teaming up with Substance Dependence specialists and Housing workers to carry out further Cuckooing or drug related harm visits.

Recognising the importance of further 'upstream' prevention and intervention, Police Scotland and representatives from all three Local Authorities have been working with the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs (DSM) Foundation (drug and alcohol education charity) to improve the way that drugs education is delivered in schools across the North East. There was overwhelming support for a 12 month pilot of drug/peer pressure based resources into 9 schools across North East Division and work is ongoing to secure funding for the pilot which will focus on providing drug and peer pressure based education (which will include resources relating to exploitation) to all secondary pupils. The pilot will also focus on upskilling professionals (social work, teachers, support workers, school nurses and police) and partners/carers in how to spot early signs of drug use/exploitation and how to report same. It is hoped that this will support the aim of identifying those at risk of County Lines based exploitation at an earlier stage which will allow for effective intervention. The pilot is due to start in August 2023.

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## **Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism**

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

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

The role of all partners within the North East Division CONTEST Multi-Agency Board is to ensure all strands of the CONTEST '4P' framework are proactively and proportionately delivered in a local context, aligned to the UK National Threat Level as determined by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC).

The 'Protect' strand within the CONTEST strategy has been an area of sustained activity and focus during this reporting period, due to the intended introduction of new UK legislation which is linked to learning and recommendations from the Manchester Arena Bombing in 2017 and subsequent enquiry.

At recent scrutiny boards it has been highlighted that CONTEST delivery groups had been updated by respective Governments on the recent 'Protect' Duty Consultation. This contains details of the foundational Government policy elements aimed at protecting Publicly Accessible Locations (PAL's) which will form the basis of the upcoming Protect Duty Bill known as 'Martyn's Law'.

In response North East Division's Multi-Agency CONTEST board will establish a 'Protect and Prepare' sub group chaired by Local Authorities. This will ensure all Publicly Accessible Locations within Aberdeen City are prepared for the legislative requirement that will follow the introduction of the legislation this year.

Counter Terrorism Planning (CT Planning) continue to carry out established prepare and protect exercises which sees regular testing by Police Scotland and Ministry of Defence Police to prepare and protect critical infrastructure within the North East.

This reporting period saw North East Counter Terrorism resources facilitate an ACT Corporate event at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. This saw over 100 people from a large number of companies and organisations including the Military and Emergency Services from across the North of Scotland. This event provided key Aberdeen City partners with inputs on the current threat level and the National and Regional approach to terror threats.

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**Miscellaneous**

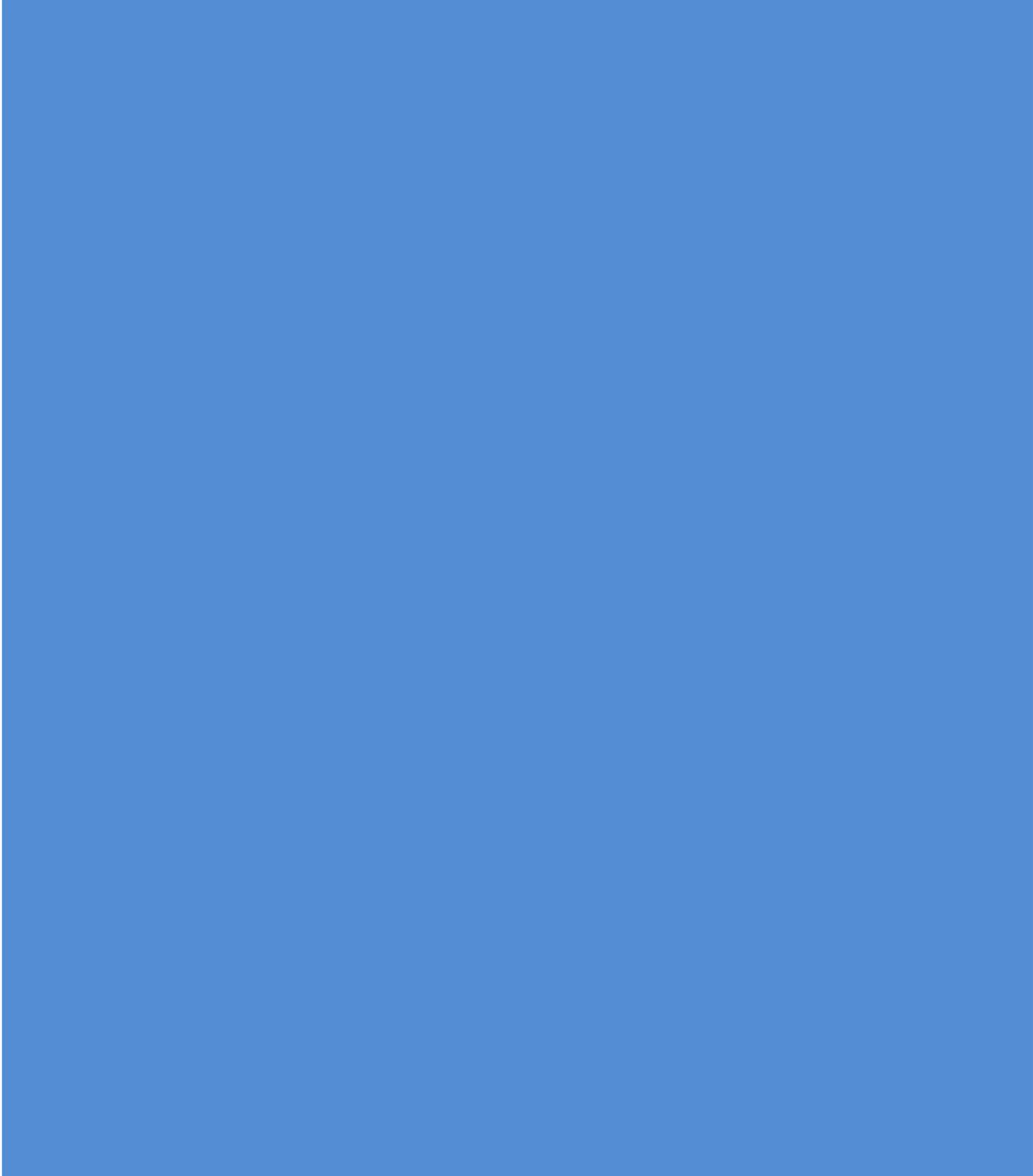
**Stop and Search**

Indicator	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023 (positive)
Consensual	0	-
Legislative	1094	348
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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