

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing & Public Protection
DATE	14 November 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Cybercrime
REPORT NUMBER	POL/23/274
DIRECTOR	
CHIEF OFFICER	
REPORT AUTHOR	Detective Inspector Norman Stevenson, Specialist Crime Division, Police Scotland
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.20

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update members regarding the impact of Cybercrime and the Police response to it.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Discuss, comment on, and endorse the report.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Background

- 3.1 Cybercrime continues to rise in scale and complexity in Scotland and globally. Internationally and domestically, criminals can attack business, public services and individuals across borders and jurisdictions.
- 3.2 The threat of large scale economic Cybercrime, Fraud, online child sexual offences and indecent images, cyberstalking, trading of weapons and trafficking of people on the dark web, and numerous other examples show how digitally enabled criminality inflicts disruption, financial harm and human suffering. We also know that Cybercrime is vastly underreported to Police.

Response

- 3.3 Police Scotland as part of our response has developed a Cyber Strategy, 'Keeping People Safe in a Digital World', with two keys strands:

OFFICIAL

- Cyber Resilient – to capture digital opportunities for keeping people safe and enable Police Scotland, the public and organisations to recognise, resist and respond to cyber incidents effectively
- Cyber Investigation - to effectively pursue those responsible for Cybercrime while protecting and safeguarding victims.

Cyber investigations and digital forensics

- 3.4 The Cyber Investigation Team specializes in investigating and responding to Cybercrime incidents within Scotland, collaborating with domestic and international partners, including government agencies, private sector organizations and academia for information sharing, joint operations, and capacity building.
- 3.5 Digital Forensic Analysts across Scotland conduct in-depth examinations of digital devices, network traffic logs, and other electronic evidence to identify perpetrators and establish a strong evidential case as expediently as possible.

Policing in a digital world programme

- 3.6 The Policing in a Digital World Programme supports our mission to develop a range of capabilities and partnerships to successfully deliver the Cyber Strategy. This means we ensure that all Officers and Staff on the frontline and in specialist roles have the appropriate skills, equipment, technology and support to prevent, respond to and investigate Cybercrime.

Preventions, partnerships and community wellbeing

- 3.7 The Cybercrime Harm Protection, Incident Support and Training Officers role is an integral part of the national Protect Network and they are focus driven by means of the Strategic Framework for a Cyber Resilient Scotland. At the individual level, the Protect Officers raise awareness and provide support to parents and carers of children and young people and other vulnerable people, sharing the resources available from trusted partners such as Cyber Aware, CEOP and Think You Know.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Police Scotland's Cyber Strategy and our dedicated Officers and Staff play a crucial role in safeguarding individuals, businesses, and critical infrastructure from the adverse impacts of Cybercrime. By focusing on prevention, investigation, prosecution, and collaboration, Police Scotland aims to keep pace with emerging cyber threats and ensure the safety and security of the Scottish public in the digital age.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

8. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks			
Compliance	No significant risks			
Operational	No significant risks			
Financial	No significant risks			
Reputational	No significant risks			
Environment / Climate	No significant risks			

9. OUTCOMES

<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that <i>'Aberdeen is a place where all</i>

OFFICIAL

	<i>people can prosper</i> and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to make people more resilient and protect them from harm; where every child, irrespective of their circumstances, is supported to grow, develop and reach their full potential; and where all people in Aberdeen are entitled to live within our community in a manner in which they feel safe and protected from harm, supported when necessary and fully included in the life of the city.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to support individuals and communities to live in healthy, sustainable ways.

10. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	None

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Not applicable

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Not applicable

13. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Norman Stevenson
Title	Detective Inspector, Specialist Crime Division, Police Scotland
Email Address	
Tel	