



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee

**North East Division
Moray**

April 2022 - March 2023

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Introduction

I am pleased to present the latest Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee report on behalf of Police Scotland, North East Division.

This report details performance in Moray 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 Moray, 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 delivered 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 and Operation Protector will enable vulnerable people to get the help and support they need. Furthermore our work with Violence Against Women Partnerships will promote equality between genders and prevent harm to women and girls while our collaboration with RAF Lossiemouth will assist in ensuring local communities maximise the benefits of having a site of national significance on our doorstep.

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 2023	Difference
Police Officers ¹	1072 FTE	1022.47 FTE	-49.53 FTE
	March 2022	March 2023	Difference
Police Staff ¹	119.46 FTE	117.31 FTE	-2.15 FTE

¹ 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 structures 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 Moray. The effect of these reductions are felt not only in North East Division but across Police Scotland in both national teams and local divisions.

There is however still recruitment ongoing to replace those leaving the organisation and we have sought to encourage local applicants. An example of this was a recruitment event in August 2022 held by Community Policing Officers and Special Constables in conjunction with ‘Developing Young Workforce’ (DYW) Moray at UHI Moray College.

This and wider focused recruitment across the region has led to an additional **12** Probationary Officers being added during the reporting period. There are currently **22** Probationary Officers at various operational stations across the Moray area and a further **4** Officers at the Scottish Police College who will transfer to Moray in September 2023

9 Special Constables routinely work alongside full time Moray Officers in Community and Specialist Policing teams including Road Policing and Public Protection. These Special Constable colleagues 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 ²	N/A	67.2%	67.1%		+0.1%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	94	91	+3	+3.3%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	44.7	45.7	-1	-2.2%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	114	109	+5	+4.6%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	0	0	-	0.0%
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	61	55	+6	+10.9%
Total Allegations	N/A	175	164	+11	+6.7%

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

An **additional 3** Complaints About the Police have been recorded during this reporting period equating to a **3.3% increase**.

‘Off Duty’ allegations against Police Officers remain at zero.

A number of complaints stem from the use of Police powers and procedures and are categorised as ‘Quality of Service Allegations’, which have seen an overall **increase of 6** compared to last year.

Allegations stemming from ‘service delivery’ and ‘service outcome’ also feature within the wider figures and this incorporates the ‘type’ of Police response which the public receive. Call demand and the requirement for Police attendance is decided 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 complainers an opportunity to ask questions and receive an explanation regarding 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	865.8	1,007	907	+141.2	+16.3%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	72.9%	68.9%	71.3%		-4.0%
Robbery - Recorded	13.6	14	19	+0.4	+2.9%
Robbery - Detection Rate	83.8%	64.3%	84.2%		-19.5%
Serious Assault - Recorded	49.2	49	59	-0.2	-0.4%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	93.5%	79.6%	84.7%		-13.9%
Vandalism - Recorded	501.6	545	565	+43.4	+8.7%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	33.8%	34.1%	36.1%		+0.3%
Public Reports of Street Drinking	1.2	7	2	+5.8	+483.3%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded ³	N/A	183	183	0	0.0%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	55.7%	69.9%		-14.2%
Number of Complaints of Disorder ⁵	N/A	2,404	2,593	-189	-7.3%

³Crimes 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 (which was added in 2019)

⁵Disorder includes Public Nuisance, Disturbance, Noise, Neighbour Dispute and Nuisance Phone Call incidents.

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 **no change** in recorded Group 1 crimes with a **decrease in detection rate by 14.4%** compared to the same reporting period last year. A significant reason for this reduction in detection rate is the increasing prevalence of online Threats and Extortion crimes, which due to their nature are extremely challenging to detect and therefore adversely affect the overall Group 1 detection rate.

Recorded Robbery (which is also a Group 1 crime) has **decreased by 5** against the figures from last year and are now **much closer** to the 5 Year Average, with a detection rate of **64.3%**. While recognising the decrease in detection rates, caused by some challenging investigations, strong investigative reviews and processes remain in place.

Serious Assaults (also Group 1 crime) were **very similar** to the 5 Year Average but **reduced by 10** compared to last year, although there has been a reduction in the detection rates from the previous year,

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currently **at 79.6%**. We remain committed to robust and professional standards of investigation with a continued focus on this crime type despite the post reduction challenges.

Common Assault has **risen by 16.3%** against the 5 Year Average and **is up by 100 crimes** compared to last year, with **detection rate of 68.9%**. This is slightly below the 5 Year Average and last year's detection rate.

Although there is an **8.7% increase** in Vandalism against the Police Scotland 5 Year Average in Moray, there are **20 less recorded crimes** compared to last year, with a **detection rate of 34.1%**, which is above the 5 Year Average.

As highlighted in the previous report, both Divisional and national teams were allocated to the Moray area to proactively patrol and address occurrences of violence and disorder in Elgin, Forres, Buckie and Keith. This work has had a direct bearing on the recorded reports of disorder across Moray which has **decreased by 7.3%** which in real terms accounts for 189 less calls.

By proactively reacting to these concerns and reports it has allowed us to understand evolving crime patterns, enabling the management and direction of our resources to where there is an identified need, delivered through the Divisional Violence Prevention Board.

Partnership working to deliver 'upstream' and preventative activities remain essential in the effort to reduce Antisocial Behaviour (ASB), Violence and Disorder. Local Community Officers have led work with schools across Moray providing bespoke inputs on ASB, Vandalism, Violence, Substance Misuse, 'Sex and the law' and Hate Crime. Such work will continue with plans for further school based and evening diversionary activity being organised by local Officers into and through the next reporting period, including inputs on knife crime linked to the, 'No Knives Better Lives' campaign.

The Moray 'Community Safety Strategy' provides the forum and basis for the coordination and delivery of all partnership work which we actively participate in.

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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	872.4	954	921	+81.6	+9.4%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	45.4%	31.1%	38.3%		-14.3%
Housebreakings - Recorded	107.2	122	108	+14.8	+13.8%
Housebreakings - Detection Rate	35.8%	34.4%	36.1%		-1.4%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded ⁶	80.4	104	72	+23.6	+29.4%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	44.5%	52.9%	55.6%		+8.4%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	32.8	65	42	+32.2	+98.2%
Common Theft - Recorded	253.6	248	227	-5.6	-2.2%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	30.1%	25.4%	29.1%		-4.7%

⁶ Theft from secure motor vehicle; Theft from insecure motor vehicle; Theft of a motor vehicle; Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

Overall Crimes of Dishonesty have **increased by 9.4%** over the reporting period in comparison with the 5 Year Average and by **33** crimes compared to last year. This could be indicative of the cost of living crisis as we have also seen rises in Housebreaking, and Theft of and from motor vehicles.

Divisional Proactive teams have supported Community Policing Teams in the investigation of Housebreakings, vehicle crime and other linked Acquisitive Crime across Moray. This ensures a thorough and consistent approach to investigations, with the detection rates for these crime types remaining comparable to previous years.

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 the response to reports of thefts of cooking oil from business premises across the area. These were identified early as generally tying into larger Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), who are operating nationally, processing the cooking oil and financially gaining from its onward supply. This approach ensures all investigative opportunities, crossovers between incidents and links to OCGs are explored.

Although there are increases in Acquisitive Crime across Moray, the level remains relatively low when compared with other localities, however the area has suffered from a small number of mobile criminals travelling into the area, often committing crimes in more rural and remote areas. We encourage communities to report incidents of suspicious activity to Police, CrimeStoppers and to sign up to 'Neighbourhood Watch' and 'Rural Watch' schemes.

The 'North East Partnership Against Rural Crime' (NEPARC) is chaired by Moray Local Area Commander, Chief Inspector Simon Reid and targets a variety of issues including acquisitive and other criminality

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affecting our rural communities in Moray and across the North East. The 2023 – 2025 'NEPARC' strategy was formally launched in March 2023. This comprises key areas which the partnership of some 34 representatives and organisations will work collaboratively to target.

Officers have commenced an initiative termed 'Arcadian Patrols' as part of NEPARC activity in Moray. These are dedicated rural patrols overnight to deter and detect those involved in rural criminality. Alongside these patrols Officers have recently erected 'Rural Watch' signs were along primary road routes in Moray. It is known from research elsewhere in the UK that this tactic has a positive effective in deterring travelling criminals.

Locally based Crime Reduction staff continue to support victims and issue preventative messaging across Moray. Their crucial role helps ensure our communities are aware of the measures they can take to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of Acquisitive Crime.

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 Shire 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. Such an arrangement with Moray Trading Standards will further be explored.

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 and we seek to establish these in Moray.

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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	21	21	0	0.0%
Children Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	1	2	-1	-
People Killed	N/A	2	4	-2	-
Children Killed ⁷	N/A	0	0	0	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	50.2	43	22	-7.2	-14.3%
Speeding Offences	320.6	135	390	-185.6	-57.9%
Drink/Drug Driving Offences	106.4	129	101	+22.6	+21.2%
Dangerous Driving	45.2	38	42	-7.2	-15.9%
Disqualified Driving	14.4	22	12	+7.6	+52.8%
Detected Offences Related to Motor Vehicles	1,722.8	1,357	1,685	-365.8	-21.2%

⁷ Child is under 16 years of age.

Tragically, 2 individuals lost their lives on the roads in Moray during the review period. While this is a decrease of 2 compared 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 accidents where persons 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 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 assessments on a self-referral or agency basis. This work is in the initial stages and further engagement will take place in due course.

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Local road safety initiatives remained a constant focus of the Community Policing Teams across Moray under Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce). 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 57.9%**, 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 Moray in order to focus on the safety of cyclists who are regarded as vulnerable road users. 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.

We routinely engage and work collaboratively with Moray Council in respect of road safety matters brought to our attention. We also look forward to participating in the proposed 'Moray Community Road Safety Group' under the auspices of the Moray Joint Community Council, in order to support community and partnership led and delivered road safety activities, when this group is established.

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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 ⁸	246.2	322	273	+75.8	+30.8%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	56.6%	49.1%	59.3%		-7.5%
Rape - Recorded	36.4	57	41	+20.6	+56.6%
Rape - Detection Rate	60.4%	45.6%	70.7%		-14.8%
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	811	851	-40	-4.7%
Domestic Abuse Incidents Detection Rate	N/A	66.0%	72.8%		-6.8%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	49	57	-8	-14.0%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	73.5%	56.1%		+17.4%

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

During the reporting period, the Division saw a further increase in the number of Group 2 crimes reported. In Moray this equated to an **increase of 49** crimes against the previous year, which also represents a **rise of 30.8%** when compared against the 5 Year Average.

It is important to note that 5 Year Average figures still remain impacted by the COVID pandemic, during which there was a decline in the number of sexual offences reported.

The detection rate for Group 2 crimes has shown a slight decrease against the 5 Year Average, reflecting the challenges encountered when dealing with complex and challenging enquiries, often historic in nature or involving offending on-line or electronic communications.

The reporting period saw a significant increase in the number of on-line ‘sextortion’ type offences, whereby individuals are induced to perform sexual acts via an online chat facility which are covertly recorded and used in an attempt to extort money. ‘Operation Tambo’ is the national response to such crimes and is delivered locally through the support of the Divisional Cyber Enabled Crime Team. Despite significant efforts, the investigation of such offences remains extremely challenging with those perpetrating the crimes often linked to sophisticated Organised Crime Groups operating out with the UK.

In relation to recorded Rape, **16 more** crimes were reported compared to last year with a **56.6% increase** against the 5 Year Average. The detection rate fell to **45.6%** however this can largely be attributed to the challenges faced when investigating crimes of a non-recent nature, where forensic opportunities, as well as investigative lines of enquiry, are significantly diminished. To highlight the challenges this presents, of the 57 Rapes recorded during the reporting period, 43% occurred over a year prior to reporting and only

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

While it is only right to scrutinise the increase in sexual offences reported, the rise positively demonstrates an emerging willingness of victims to contact Police regarding crimes that may historically have gone unreported.

In respect of Domestic Abuse incidents reported to Police, this year saw a slight **decrease of 4.7%** when compared against the previous year. While there was a similar reduction in the detection rate to **66%**, this remains in line with the force average.

All domestic incidents reported to Police Scotland are subject of intense scrutiny and robust investigation. A new toolkit has been developed by North East Division for all frontline supervisors, to assist them in ensuring enquiries are progressed fully and timeously and all available evidence is gathered. With the support of our Partnership and Coordination Unit and Public Protection Unit, 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. The key aims of MATAC include the identification of individuals who present the greatest risk, proactive enforcement/active targeting of offenders, and the sharing of information for intelligence development, prevention or enforcement as appropriate.

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 being recorded with female victims, we are committed to supporting the Moray Violence Against Women & Girls 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.

The national '16 Days of Activism' campaign was also fully supported in Moray during the reporting period and specifically, enforcement days were undertaken by Divisional Officers from Community Policing Teams 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.

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 most at risk. Additionally, we have seen an increase in the use of the DSDAS process which allows Police 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

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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.

There has been a **reduction** in the reporting of hate crime, from **57** to **49**, but we still consider this to be an area where there is significant under-reporting. It should therefore be an encouragement to victims that our detection rate has **increased to 73.5%**, showing the dedication we have to detecting these crimes, which have a significant impact on the victims.

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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 ⁹	£265,655	£89,633	£154,559.70	-£176,022	-66.3%
Drug Possession Offences	319.0	350	287	+31.0	+9.7%
Drug Supply Offences	42.2	57	37	+14.8	+35.1%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Difference 2023 v 2022	% Change 2023 v 2022
Drug Deaths ¹⁰	N/A	10	9	+1	-

⁹ A Division (Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City) reported seizures only.

¹⁰ 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 will be 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 focusing on OCGs 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 which have **increased by 35.1%** against the 5 Year Average. This is also reflected in the number of Drug Possession Offences which have **increased by 9.7%** above the 5 Year Average.

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, 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 achieved through enforcement 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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Operation Protector, instigated in December 2021, is the North East Divisions multi-agency partnership response to drug related harm within our communities across the Grampian region. The operation was instigated to reduce drug related harm from a more holistic based foundation, prioritising the support of those vulnerable to harm over traditional policing methods, while maintaining public expectation that those committing these harms would be dealt with robustly.

In March 2022, Operation Protector was introduced in Moray with initial focus around establishing a referral route for those dependant on substances direct from Police to Arrows (Quarriers) and thereafter to incorporate regular 'Assertive Outreach' visits to those identified as most vulnerable. In August 2022, the partnership undertook the first of its 'Days of Action' in Moray and have during these welcomed the attendance of members of the Moray Council Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee. The 'Days of Action', see dedicated teams of multi-agency staff undertaking joint working under 'Assertive Outreach', 'Community Outreach', 'Community Safety and Improvement' and 'Enforcement'.

A total of 6 'Days of Action' (August, November and February) have been undertaken in Moray involving Officers from Police Scotland and partners from Arrows (Quarriers), Moray Council, Moray Wellbeing, Circles Advocacy and NHS Grampian. As a result 313 'Assertive Outreach' visits were undertaken, 11 Drug Search Warrants were executed with personal quantities of drugs recovered and those found in possession offered tailored support by a dedicated 'enforcement support team'. Furthermore there were over 300 interactions with members of the public at dedicated 'Community Outreach' hubs across Moray.

A total of 385 additional routine outreach visits have also been undertaken by Community Policing Team Officers and Arrows (Quarriers) during the reporting period in Moray. This ensures proactive outreach continues beyond the 'Days of Action' and ensures a more consistent service for those identified as vulnerable.

Recognising the importance of 'upstream' prevention and intervention, Police Scotland and representatives from all three Local Authorities has 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).

Within Moray a cadre of Local CONTEST Liaison Officers, drawn from Community Policing Teams, receive enhanced training and are tasked with forging and maintaining strong links with relevant sites and venues.

During the reporting period activity has taken place through the delivery of joint briefing and familiarisation events to local and specialist Officers at RAF Lossiemouth.

Within the resilience planning context during the reporting period we have continued to support and jointly deliver multi-agency live play and table top exercises simulating aircraft incidents on and off station and exercised our joint Counter Terrorism response plans for the site. Such activity is not informed by any specific threat or risk to the site but reflects positively the preparedness of both the RAF and Police Scotland and insurance as to the operational competence of our Staff and readiness of our joint plans. Such work will continue into the next reporting period.

Underpinning the close operational working relationships between Police Scotland and the RAF locally there is now involvement of RAF Police personnel in joint training, testing and exercising with other responder agencies. The next of these exercises is due to take place in September 2023 reinforcing the principles of the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) in relation to an incident requiring multi-agency assistance.

The 'Protect' strand within the CONTEST strategy has been an area of sustained activity and focus during this reporting period. This is in part due to the introduction of new UK legislation as a result of learning and recommendations from the Manchester Arena Bombing in 2017.

One aspect of this is a legislative tiered framework of measures to protect Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs) 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 help ensure all Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs) within Moray are supported to meet the requirements required by this duty later this year. Extensive engagement from Police Scotland's Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) in support of this remains ongoing to assist Moray venues.

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Miscellaneous

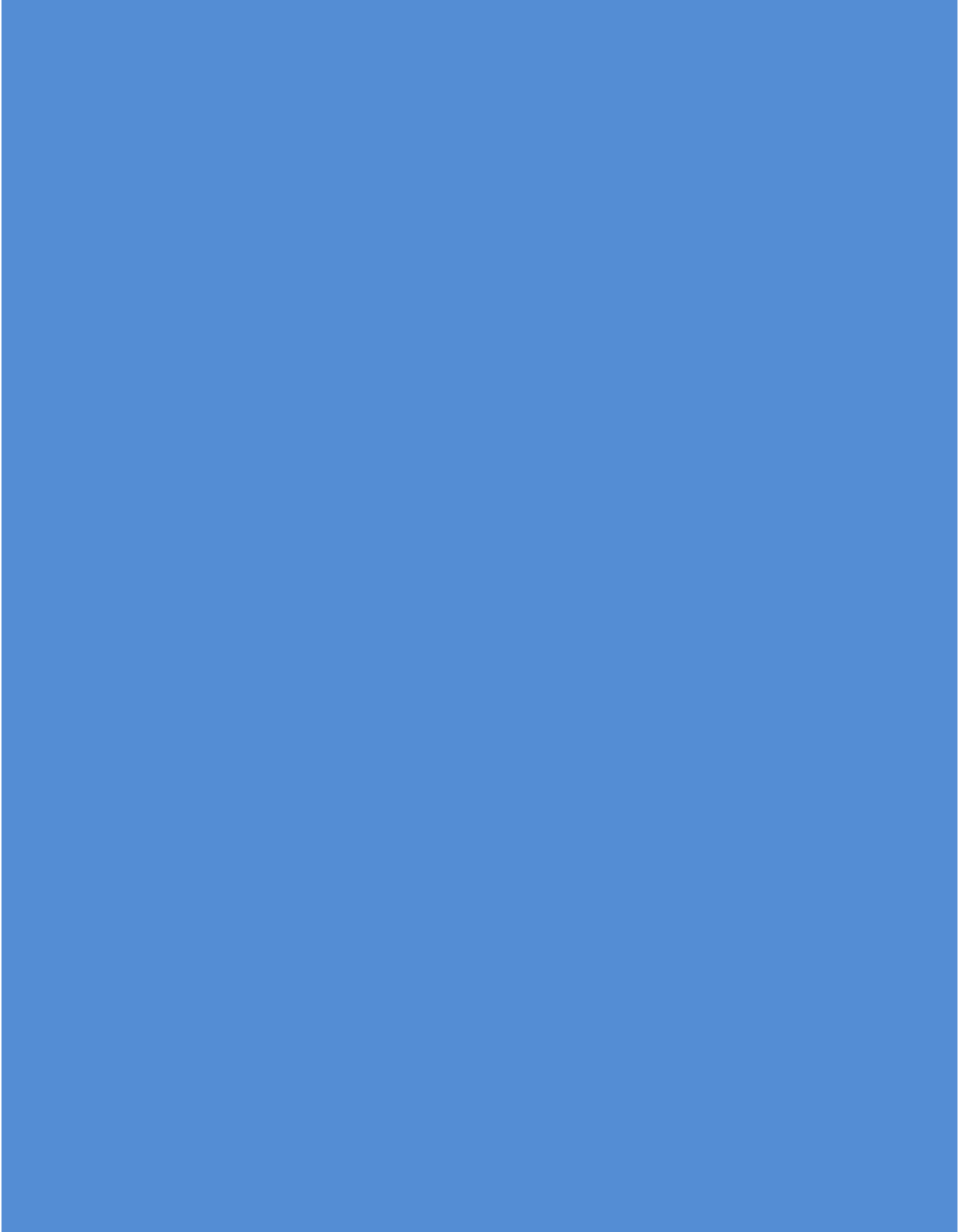
Stop and Search

Indicator	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023 (Positive)
Consensual	0	N/A
Legislative	373	143
Number of Consensual Stop and Searches Refused	N/A	N/A

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

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