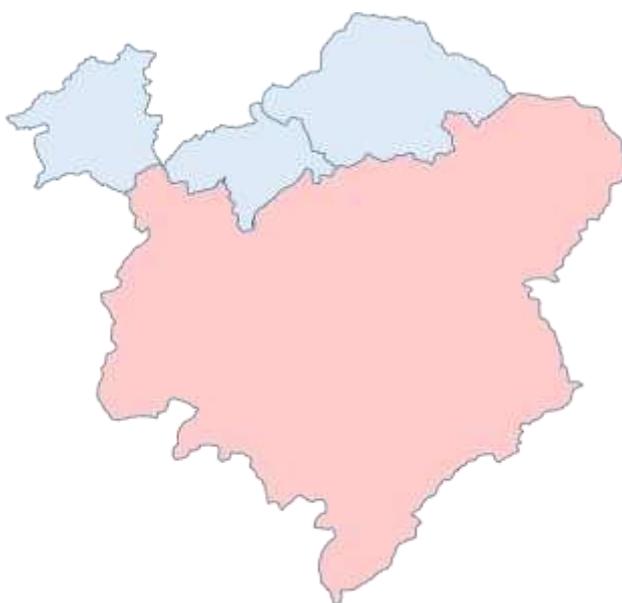


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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders



Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Quarter 1 – 2021/2022

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. This report has been generated to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. Due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents and the management of crime enquiries, there is likely to be differences between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. It would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in this report as official statistics.

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Our Vision

Sustained excellence in service and protection.

Our Purpose

To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

Our Values

Integrity, Fairness and Respect.

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Lothian and Scottish Borders Division Policing Priorities

Your local policing priorities across THE LOTHIANS AND SCOTTISH BORDERS

Our vision
Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland

Our values
Fairness, Integrity, Respect, Human Rights

Our purpose
Working in partnership for the safety and wellbeing of communities in the Lothians & Scottish Borders

Protecting the most vulnerable people

- Protect vulnerable people to prevent abuse, neglect & exploitation.
- Implement a delivery model supporting a Violence Against Women & Girls Prevention Strategy.
- Implement the National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland.
- Proactively target domestic abuse offenders.
- Develop partnership approaches to improve public confidence to report incidents of harm & abuse.

Reducing violence & anti-social behaviour

- Work collaboratively to identify and target violent offenders.
- Increase awareness of the impact of violence & antisocial behaviour.
- Work in partnerships to reduce alcohol related criminality.
- Collaborate to capture the under reporting of violence & explore preventative approaches (i.e. Navigator).
- Develop night time economy plans with licensed premises & promote participation in 'Best Bar None'.

Reducing acquisitive crime

- Focus on domestic housebreaking.
- Raise awareness of current crime trends & prevention tactics.
- Tackle emerging acquisitive crime patterns to identify & target prolific offenders.
- Work to prevent acquisitive crime.
- In partnership, maximise support for victims of acquisitive crime.
- Work with Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC).
- Use Police Scotland Youth Volunteers to deliver crime prevention information.

Improving road safety

- Collaborate on the engineering of the roads through our communities to improve road safety.
- Detect offenders who disregard road traffic laws & endanger others.
- Support partnership driver education programmes.
- Raise awareness of the consequences of speeding, not wearing a seat belt, drink or drug driving & using a mobile phone while driving.

Tackling serious & organised crime

- Work to divert people from becoming involved in serious & organised crime & using its products (drugs, counterfeit good etc).
- Use social media to raise awareness and educate about human trafficking.
- Work to prosecute those involved in serious organised crime, including online, 'cuckooing' & 'county lines'.
- Maximise the disruption of serious organised crime groups.
- Target the production, cultivation & supply of illegal drugs.

Police Scotland Strategic outcomes

- Threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service
- The needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery
- Public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing
- Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public
- Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges

Logos: East Lothian Council, Midlothian, Scottish Borders Council, West Lothian Council, POLICE SCOTLAND (Keeping people safe, POILEAS ALBA)

Introduction

Crimes and offences are grouped under recognised categories for statistical purposes. The Scottish Government defines these categories, as follows;

- Group 1 – Non Sexual Crimes of Violence
- Group 2 – Sexual Crimes
- Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty
- Group 4 – Fire-raising, Malicious Mischief etc.
- Group 5 – Other (Pro-activity) Crimes
- Group 6 – Miscellaneous Offences
- Group 7 - Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles

Police Scotland publishes management information on an annual and quarterly basis by local authority and police division, as well as at a national level. These reports are produced to demonstrate Police Scotland's commitment to transparency. Police Scotland publishes all of these reports on the 'Our Performance' section of the Police Scotland website. The reports can be accessed here:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

The Scottish Borders Policing Plan uses the following Police performance indicators, and these have been mirrored in the Scrutiny Report to maintain parity of understanding:

1. Protecting the most vulnerable people;
2. Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour;
3. Reducing acquisitive Crime;
4. Improving road safety;
5. Tackling Serious and Organised Crime.

All figures quoted in this report are for the period April 2021 to June 2021 and are compared against the five year average and/or the same reporting period from the previous year. Where figures are quoted on rate per 10,000 population, these are based on Scottish Borders's population of **115,510 in 2019** (Scottish Government figures, published April 2020).

Scottish Borders Performance Summary



Executive Summary

Q1 saw further changes, both for policing and for wider society. As the vaccination programme advances and COVID restrictions ease, the changes in behaviours, criminality and policing demands predicted in the Q4 report of last year have begun to materialise.

Most positively, there has been a dramatic fall in anti-social behaviour calls; the unprecedented demand experienced during the previous 12 months attributable in most part to breaches of COVID regulations.

Domestic offending remains a concern and this has impacted too on common assault figures. Extortion and sexual offending continue on an upward trend, a significant proportion of which is perpetrated remotely via the internet or other modes of telecommunication, and is non-contact in nature. A significant proportion of sexual offending is also non-recent in nature, more reflective of victims' willingness to come forward, rather than a current change in offending. Housebreakings have also risen in number, a symptom of more people spending more time away from their homes.

I'm content however, that nothing we're experiencing in the Scottish Borders is out of kilter with other areas of the country and that in a number of respects, our detection rates and wider performance measures compared very favourably.

As discussed in previous scrutiny reports, comparing this year's performance to last year's, or indeed using 2020 as any kind of benchmark, is of limited value. In an effort to provide better context, 5 year average figures have also been included in this Q1 report.

While we have faced, and continue to face, some of the most significant challenges in living memory, the most challenging may still lie ahead. While absence through either illness or self-isolation has impacted on our resources, we have benefited from a vast reduction in court business, planned events and the night-time economy had ceased, and all but essential training has been suspended.

In September we will see a doubling in court hearings, with simultaneous sittings at both Jedburgh and Selkirk. This will mean a doubling of witness citations, and I work closely with Alison Atkins, the newly appointed Principal Procurator Fiscal Depute, to manage those officer abstractions.

A number of events are due to recommence in the coming weeks and months; Kelso ram sales, Tour of the Borders, Tour of Britain etc. Some are more resource intensive than others, but it is a demand we have not faced at all during the pandemic.

Training will also recommence, and I have pressed to secure a dedicated resource in the Scottish Borders to deliver standard and emergency response driving courses. This qualification is essential given the vast areas we police and the distances we cover and will greatly improve our operational effectiveness.

The re-emergence of the night-time economy will cause our demand profiles to change, and we have recently altered the SB-CAT shift patterns to better service peak demands for anti-social behaviour and violence.

Awaiting us in Q3 is the United Nations Climate Conference in Glasgow, arguably the largest and most significant policing event in Police Scotland's history. The demands and expectations will be immense and officers from across the entire United Kingdom and beyond will be drafted in to assist. The Scottish Borders will provide officers and specialist resource, and plans are well advanced in terms of maintaining service provision here.

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To provide longer term resilience and improve staff retention, a number of targeted recruitment events have taken place within the Scottish Borders, encouraging people who already live here to pursue a career in policing. These exercises are now beginning to yield dividends and we have welcomed a higher number of probationers than we would normally expect to see. The Scottish Borders has also been recognised alongside the likes of the Highlands and Islands, Argyle and Bute as an area where recruitment is a challenge. I am working to market a policing career in the Scottish Borders as a lifestyle choice in an effort to attract experienced officers from other parts of the country to settle in the Borders.

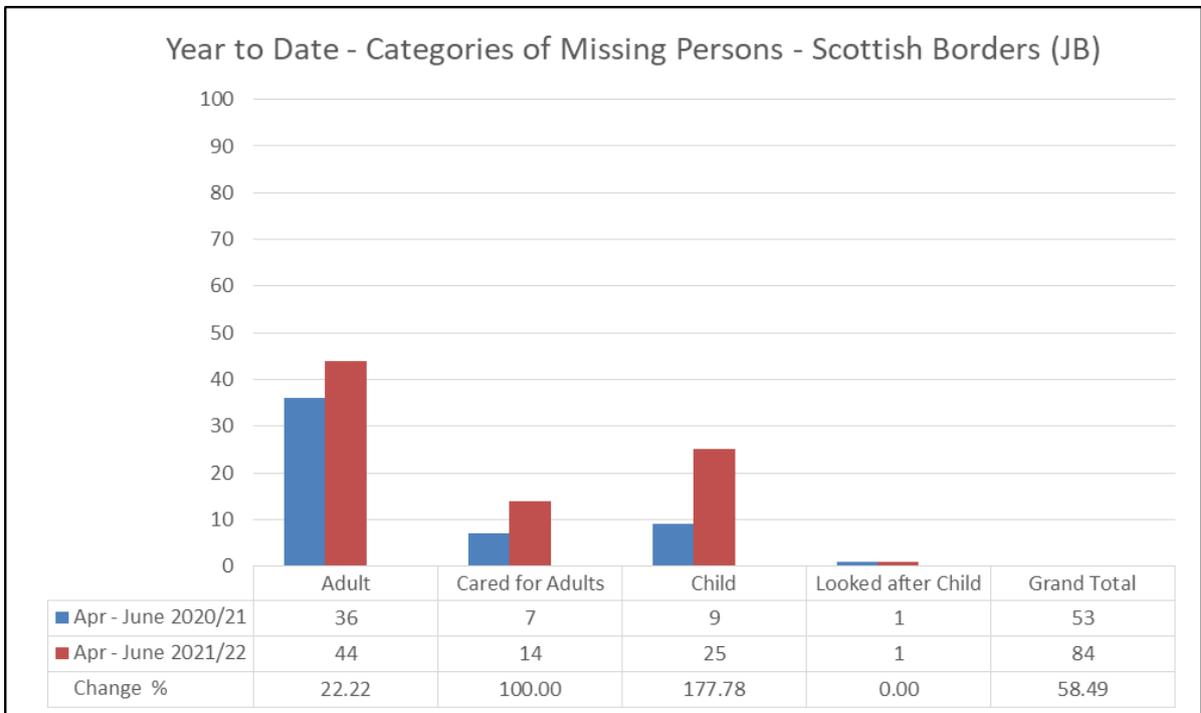
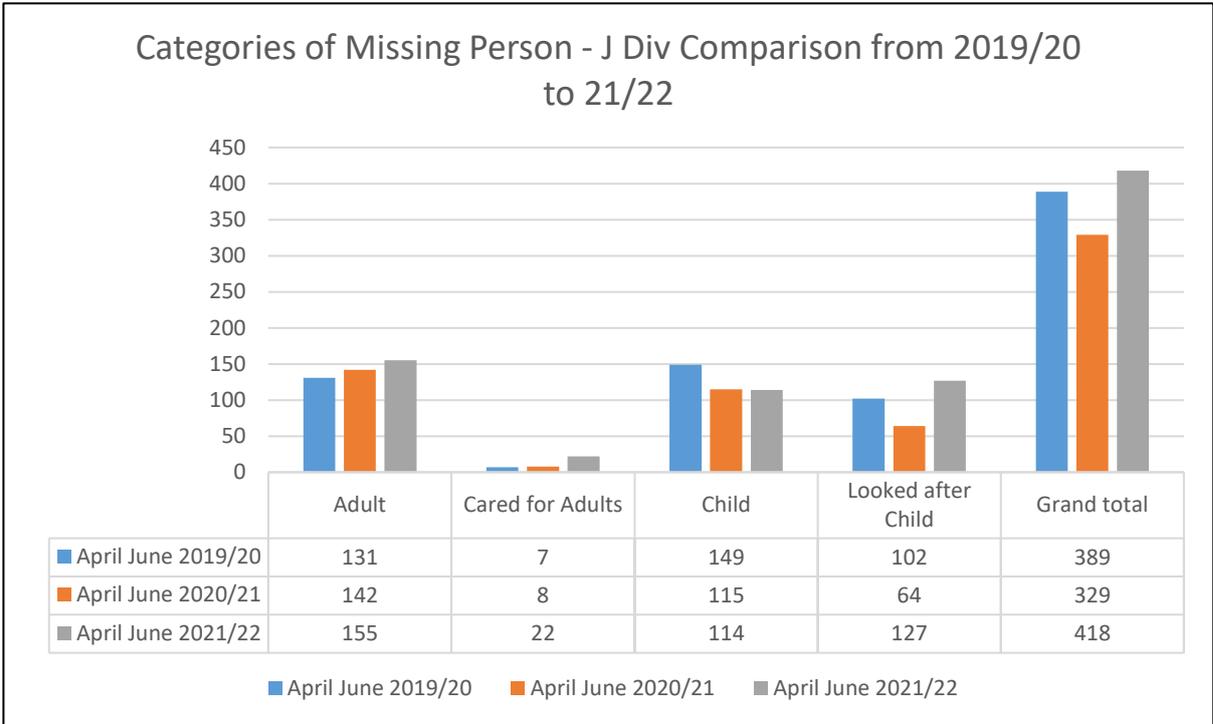
Please be assured, that we will, as we have always done, meet the challenges ahead with professionalism and with dedication to the communities we serve. We look forward to working with our partners and stakeholders throughout, what will no doubt prove to be, a very busy year.

Chief Inspector Vincent Fisher

Local Area Commander, Scottish Borders

August 2021

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Missing Persons
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The Lothians & Scottish Borders (J) Division and the communities of Scottish Borders recognise that protecting people, particularly those considered vulnerable, is a policing priority. Within the remit of protecting people is the work and investigations carried out to trace people who are reported missing. To put the scale of this work into context:

- Police Scotland, on an annual basis undertake over 22,000 investigations into missing people;
- In the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division this equates to the following;
 - Year 2017 / 2018 – 2390 missing person investigations;
 - Year 2018 / 2019 – 2581 missing person investigations;
 - Year 2019 / 2020 – 1786 missing person investigations.
 - Year 2020 / 2021 – 1468 missing person investigations.

Recognising the vulnerability associated with missing people, particularly those that are young or suffering from mental health challenges, Police Scotland has adopted a rigorous investigation structure and management approach to incidents involving missing people.

The overall recorded number of missing people in the Scottish Borders has increased from 53 last year to date to 84 this year to date, a 58.5% increase.

The National Missing Persons Framework seeks to provide a coherent and effective multi-agency response when a person is reported missing. This framework highlights three areas of vulnerability, below is a summary of the ongoing work in each of the 3 areas.

Adults living with dementia who go missing - Herbert Protocol – was implemented fully into J Division on the 31/05/2021. The Scottish Borders have managed a number of these incidents since the introduction of the protocol and it is proving to be of benefit to the families and support network of the missing person as well as the police officers and staff involved in the enquiry.

Patients who go missing from NHS premises - this has been implemented within Huntlyburn and East Brig from 01/06/2021. 6 weekly reviews are taking place. The Borders General Hospital protocol is being progressed.

Looked after and accommodated Children who go missing from residential Care - this protocol is progressing. The protocol is to be implemented at Wheatlands House initially and thereafter to foster carers in the borders. No date has been set for implementation as yet.

In March 2021 Police Scotland introduced the location sharing app “what3words” for operational use. We use a bespoke, emergency services only “Lite” version, which assists officers in a number of ways, but would like to take opportunities to promote this app to the general public; it allows individuals to provide an exact location within 3 metres, which could prove helpful in a number of situations should the individual have cause to contact the emergency services. This is particularly relevant in the Scottish Borders given the remote and rural nature of some areas and has already proven very useful in pinpointing casualties or missing persons who would otherwise have been more difficult to find.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Domestic Abuse
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	5yr Average	Q1 2021/22	% Change
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents	277.2	336	21.21%
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	150.2	208	38.48%
Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime	42.06%	44.64%	2.58%
Total crimes and offences detection rate	71.69%	78.37%	6.68%
Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	10.8	21	94.44%

Domestic abuse continues to be a priority for the Scottish Borders and every incident reported is subject to intense, intrusive scrutiny by a range of trained officers and staff in different ranks and roles. We continue to work very closely with support and advocacy services and ensure we refer victims in a timely manner through our Concern Hub.

At the end of quarter 1 of 2021/2022 there were 336 domestic abuse incidents reported to police, which equates to an increase of 58.8 incidents compared to the 5 year average. The detection rate for domestic crimes this year is 78.37% which is up 9.32% when compared to the five year average.

Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) meetings were introduced nationally in 2013 to ensure perpetrators of domestic abuse ‘receive a robust and effective response’. The aim of MATAC is to effectively tackle offending by perpetrators who present the greatest risk of harm, in order to achieve positive outcomes for victims and their families. In Quarter 1 there was 1 MATAC referral in the Scottish Borders which led to a proactive investigation by the specialist Domestic Abuse Task Force (DATF).

Providing an effective policing response to incidents remains a priority and we will continue to support victims through rigorous investigation of reports and robust enforcement. We will seek remands or bail conditions where appropriate and proactively check bail conditions are being adhered to. We have detected 21 bail offences YTD, a rise of 94.4% when compared to the five year average.

Throughout quarter 1 contact has been made with local employers encouraging them to sign up to online ASC (Ask Support Care) training which gives employers the skills to ask about Domestic Abuse and signpost to expert help. So far 3 employers within the Scottish Borders have signed up to the training.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Hate Crime
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	5 year average	Q1 2021/22	Q1 Per 10,000
Hate Incidents	17.4	34	95.40
Hate Crimes *	14.6	39	167.12
Hate Crime Detection Rate	86.30	84.62	-1.69

Official Hate Crime statistics include all crime types with a hate crime aggravator added. The aggravators being;

- Disability, Race, Religion or belief, Sexual Orientation, Transgender Identity

A hate crime is “any crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a social group”.

- There has been an increase of 24.4 Hate Crimes in quarter 1 when comparing to the 5 year average.
- The detection rate for Hate Crime at the end of June is 84.62% which is a decrease of 1.68% when comparing to the 5 year average.
- Police Officers were the victims in 14% of reported Hate Crimes in the Scottish Borders during quarter 1.

For further information on Hate Crime you can visit the Police Scotland website via the following link:

[Hate crime - Police Scotland](#)

It is recognised some victims and witnesses of Hate Crime do not feel comfortable reporting the matter directly to police. To encourage and facilitate the reporting of perceived hate crime, Police Scotland work in partnership with a variety of agencies who perform the role of Third Party Reporting Centres. These partners have been trained to assist people in submitting reports to the police, or to make a report on their behalf. We continue to raise awareness of Hate Crime and Third Party Reporting Centres through social media and by supporting national initiatives such as Keep Safe.

Despite the significant rises in hate crime when compared against the five year average, there is little difference in detection rates. We continue to seek the strongest sanction at court.

We support national campaigns regarding those matters and review with local employers, prevention and evidence gathering opportunities, whilst continuing to press a zero tolerance approach.

As referenced in previous scrutiny reports, there are over 300 Third Party reporting sites across Scotland, 15 of which are in the Scottish Borders. Due to the global pandemic a number of these organisations have altered their operating models, leaning more towards the provision of remote/telephone/video-call reporting rather than face-to-face.

In June 2021 a meeting was held with Scottish Borders council to discuss the roll out of Keep Safe to contact centres across the Scottish Borders. The Keep Safe initiative is a partnership between I Am Me Scotland and Police Scotland. The purpose of the Keep Safe initiative is to establish a network of safe places within communities across Scotland.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Sexual Crimes (Group 2)
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Crime Type	5 Year average	Q1 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2021/22 Detection Rate
Group 2	53.2	100	87.97%	8.66	52.00%
Rape & Attempt Rape	10.8	18	66.67%	1.56	66.67%
Indecent/Sexual Assault	20.8	37	77.88%	3.2	51.35%
Other Group 2	21.6	45	108.33%	3.9	46.67%

Tackling the types of criminality that pose the greatest threat and risk is, and will always be, a priority for officers in the Scottish Borders. We endeavour to instil confidence in victims of Rape and Sexual Crime to report incidents, providing assurance we will be sensitive, thorough and professional in our investigations. We undertake to work with partners to provide victims with the best support possible, to be resolute in our pursuit of perpetrators and manage offenders closely to minimise the risk of further offending or harm.

A comparison between this year to date compared with the five year average of Sexual Crime in the Scottish shows the following;

- There has been a 87.97% increase in recorded Sexual Crime (Group 2)
- Reports of Rape (including attempts) are up from 10.8 to 18
- Reports of Indecent and Sexual Assaults are up from 20.8 to 37
- 45% of all Group 2 crimes relate to 'Other Crimes' (this category includes, communicating indecently, communications act and threatening / disclosing intimate images). Many of the crimes recorded are non-contact offences perpetrated over the internet, which reflects the increased use of online systems during the pandemic.
- There has been a 108% increase in 'Other' Group 2 crimes (up from 21.6 to 45 when compared to the 5 year average)
- Group 2 Detection rate is 52% which is a decrease of 19% compared to the same period last year and a decrease of 13.8% when compared to the 5 year average.

The dip in overall solvency for Group 2 crime in the Scottish Borders is influenced predominantly by the increase in online offending and threats to distribute intimate images - crimes which require complex and often lengthy technical enquiries.

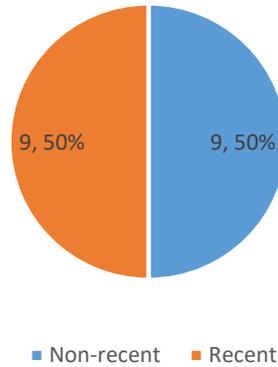
The investigation of sexual crime, alongside the management of offenders and support of victims is achieved through close partnership working. The support offered to victims of Sexual Crime by partner agencies is essential and we continue to refer victims to these agencies.

Rape and Sexual Crime is typically underreported and Police Scotland continue to work closely with partner agencies to ensure victims of crime are supported in reporting these crimes.

As has been a constant pattern; half of all such reports in Q1 relate to non-recent matters, some having occurred many years previously.

There were 18 Rape and Attempt to Rape crimes reported. Detection rates rose slightly to 66.7% compared to the 5 year average.

Scottish Borders Recent vs Non Recent



Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation
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Drugs Supply	5 year average	Q1 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2021/22 Detection Rate
Drugs Supply, Production and Cultivation	18.6	19	2.15%	1.64	42.11%

Tackling substance misuse remains a priority and local policing teams continue to respond to intelligence in relation to drug misuse. Detections in relation to Drugs Supply, Production and Cultivation are up by 2.15% when compared to the 5 year average.

To ensure Police Scotland remain focused on Tackling Substance Misuse the following activities take place;

- Daily Briefings are circulated to all Response and Community Officers to keep them up-to-date with recent intelligence.
- Uniformed officers engage with members of the Community to gain additional intelligence re illegal drug activity.
- Intelligence is tasked out for further development to make it actionable.
- We work with our partners in the Alcohol and Drug Partnership to ensure we have the most up-to-date information to circulate to our officers regarding drug trends in our area.
- Our Schools Officers maintain regular contact with our schools to ensure we are aware of any concerns regarding drug activity amongst our youths.
- Our Antisocial Behaviour Unit monitor all reported incidents and collate data on areas where it is suspected drug activity is taking place, this informs patrol matrix tasking for officers.
- We participate in the Drug Deaths Review group which considers any learning points for all agencies involved.
- We use Social Media to encourage reporting of Criminal Behaviour through 101, 999 or Crimestoppers.

In the first quarter of 2021/2022 a partnership group was set up to establish a pathway to ensure people who suffer non-fatal overdoses (NFOD) receive an appropriate intervention which offers multi-agency support from services in the Scottish Borders in a timely manner to prevent further incidents.

Drug supply offences always require some form of laboratory work to confirm the substances concerned. The laboratory have faced significant challenges throughout the pandemic which coincided with a significant upgrade and refurbishment. This has led to extended lead times for analysis and it may be several months before crimes of this type can finally be marked as solved, however policing activity to disrupt and detect such crimes continues as a priority.

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Crimes of Violence (Group 1)
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Crime Type	5 year average	Q1 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2021/22 Detection Rate
Group 1	24.6	44	78.86%	3.81	61.36%
Serious Assault	10.8	18	66.67%	1.56	50.00%
Robbery	2.8	2	-28.57%	0.17	50.00%
Common Assault	206.6	280	35.53%	24.24	70.00%

*Common assaults are not recorded as group 1 crimes.

Reducing violence is another policing priority for both the Scottish Borders and the wider Lothian & Scottish Borders (J) Division. We recognise the impact violence has on our communities and work collectively to reduce it.

Within the data supplied in this report the following points are worthy of note:

There has been a 78.86% increase in violent crime in the Scottish Borders compared to the five year average. This is an actual increase of 19.4 crimes. There has been a 4.8% increase when compared to LYTD. This increase is mainly attributed to the following crimes when compared to the 5 year average:

- There has been an increase of 7.2 serious assaults in the Scottish Borders;
- There has been an increase of 6.4 crimes of threats or extortion.

This crime type is often referenced as “Sextortion” - cyber-enabled extortion which involves the threat of sharing sexual information, images or clips to extort money from people, whether images actually exist or not. Reports of so-called 'sextortion' have increased significantly across the country and Scottish Borders is in line with the national trends. Police Scotland national data provides that two thirds of the extortions demanded money from the victim to avoid disclosure of sexual images or footage they had unwittingly provided to criminals. Sextortion victims in Scotland in 2020 were aged between 10 – 85, with the majority (64%) aged 25 and under.

Nationally, most victims were male (60%). Around half of female victims were aged 10 – 17, with just over half of male victims aged between 13 – 23 years. Girls and young women aged under 18 were most vulnerable to being targeted for images. Young men in their late teens/early twenties were the most vulnerable to being targeted for money. Over all age groups (national figures):

- 85% of the complainers targeted to obtain money were male
- 94% of the complainers targeted to obtain images/video were female.

Our messaging is simple - sometimes the people you meet online are not who they say they are. We want people to be aware of the risks and stay safe online and if there has been an incident, to have the confidence to report it to police. Every report will be treated seriously, sensitively and victims will be treated with respect.

Common Assault in the Scottish Borders has increased by 35.53% against the five year average, the detection rate was 70% at the end of quarter 1. These figures include domestic assaults, which remain high, and which are described later in this report. There were 18 additional Assaults on Emergency Service Workers, which increased this year by over 94.7%, (from 19 to 37), the pressures of Covid-19, including mental health issues, apparently being the key reason.

Looking forward, Scottish Borders Officers will continue to proactively work to reduce violence through a variety of enforcement methods, including but not exclusively – engaging Licensed Premises and reinvigorating our Night-time Economy detail as the pubs re-open; continuation of pro-active bail checks; targeted activity against those wanted on warrant.

The detection rate for overall violent crime is 61.3%, a decrease of 12.6% when compared to the 5 year average, again attributable in part to the complexities and challenges of remotely perpetrated, overseas crime.

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Reducing Antisocial Behaviour
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Indicator	5 Year Average	2021-22 Q1	Change	TYTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2021/22 Detection Rate
Antisocial Behaviour Incidents	1747	1686	-3.49%		
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)	199.4	226	13.34%	19.57	29.20%
Fire-raising	9.4	6	-36.17%	0.52	50.00%
Breach of the Peace and S38 CJ&L(S) A 2010	233.6	242	3.60%	20.95	78.93%

The number of Anti-Social behaviour incidents has decreased by 3.49% this year-to-date when compared to the 5 year average. This is a decrease of 61 incidents and is significant, as these figures still include Covid related calls.

All Group 4 Crimes, which include Vandalism and Fire-raising have decreased 1.7% when compared to the five year average. This is perhaps a better illustration of the true trend in anti-social behaviour, which largely excludes the influence of Covid. Fire-raising incidents in particular are reassuringly low.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit monitors incidents of an Anti-Social nature, ensuring repeat locations and perpetrators are identified early, intervention opportunities are explored in full, and where required, enforcement activity undertaken.

The CAT and Community Policing Teams continue to work together to tackle reports of youth disorder across the Scottish Borders. High Visibility Patrols where officers engage with youths to deter anti-social and criminal behaviour form part of weekly tasking.

The CAT Team continue to send letters to parents of children who have been involved in anti-social behaviour to ensure they are aware of their child’s involvement. This year-to-date 85 such letters have been sent.

A meeting has been held with Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) which is a Community Interest Company (CiC) which brings together and supports local partnerships of councils, police, retailers, schools, health providers and community groups across the UK to reduce alcohol harm among young people, improve their health and wellbeing and enhance their communities. Consideration is being made to introducing a CAP pilot in the Scottish Borders.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime	Dishonesty (Group 3)
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5 Year Average	Q1 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2021/22 Detection Rate
348.2	358	2.81%	30.99	30.73%

Given the wide range of ‘acquisitive crimes’ this priority is covered in 2 sections within this report:

- Dishonesty (covered in this section);
- Housebreaking (covered in the next).

YTD 2021/2022 overall Group 3 crimes have increased by 9.8 crimes (2.81%) when compared to the five year average (This overall figure incorporates housebreaking crimes).

When comparing with the 5 year average data the following points are worthy of note:

- At the end of Q1 the Group 3 detection rate was 30.7% which is down 7.5% compared to the same period last year;
- There has been a 34.4% decrease in Motor Vehicle crime;
- There has been a 20.5% decrease in Theft Shoplifting;
- There has been a 158.3% increase in Frauds (82 crimes). 59% of those crimes being cybercrimes.

Of the 358 Group 3 crimes recorded in Q1, Common Theft accounts for the greatest proportion at 108 crimes, followed by Fraud at 78 and Shoplifting at 58.

Throughout Quarter 1, 2 ‘no cold calling’ zones in the Scottish Borders have been refreshed. Signage has been replaced where required and media releases have been circulated. In addition a New Cold Calling Zone has been introduced in Fisher Avenue in Hawick.

Police officers carried out a number of visits to bike retailers in support of the national Pedal Protect cycle theft campaign. Visits were also carried out to vehicle recyclers/metal dealers across the Scottish Borders to raise awareness in relation to the National Catalytic convertor theft campaign.

A Scam prevention advice article was published in “Kelso Life”, “JedEye” and “Gala Life” which are local free magazines distributed to over 20,000 households. We continue to push the prevention message regularly through the SB Alert scheme and social media.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime	Housebreaking
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Crime Type	5 Year Average	Q1 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2021/22 Detection Rate
Dwelling HB	21.8	28	28.44%	2.42	14.29%
Non Dwelling (Sheds, garages) HB	11.6	4	-65.52%	0.35	50.00%
Other (Business) HB	19.6	23	17.35%	1.99	69.57%
All HB	53	55	3.77%	4.76	40.00%

YTD 2021/2022 all housebreaking (including attempts) crimes increased by 3.77 % when compared to the 5 year average.

Further breakdown of the data provided in this report:

- There were 7.2 more reports of dwelling housebreakings in the Scottish Borders compared to the five year average;
- There has been a 17.35% (3.4 crimes) increase in business housebreakings;
- Detection rates for all Housebreakings is 40% up 13.6% on the five year average;
- Detection rate for Business Housebreaking is 69.6% up 44.1% when compared to the 5 year average.

Housebreakings differ in their nature; from the low-value, crude and locally perpetrated, often committed by individuals to fund drug habits, to higher value, sophisticated crimes, committed by organised gangs from across the country. The two can be linked, and where cash or commodity is recovered from organised gangs, this can fuel a spate of lower level criminality as they try to recoup their losses.

In relation to the former, we have had recent success in detecting a spate of criminal activity in Kelso. Investigations in relation to the latter are more complex and protracted and it can be the case that crimes will remain undetected for a period of time while sufficient evidence is gathered from a number of scenes and sources which result in a number of related crimes all being detected at once. This was the case in a spate of business housebreakings committed across the Borders and further afield by a prolific criminal last year.

Improving Road Safety	Road Casualties
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	Q1 2020/21	Q1 2021/22	Change
Fatal	0	0	-
Serious	5	14	180%
Slight	5	21	320%
Total	10	35	350%
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	-
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	0	1	-

	5 Year Average	Q1 2021/22	Change
Dangerous driving	12.2	16	31.15%
Disqualified driving	6.8	5	-26.47%
Driving Licence	27.4	30	9.49%
Insurance	83.8	68	-18.85%
Drink/Drug Driving Detections	28	28	-

As referenced in previous scrutiny reports, the pandemic and consequent lockdowns, led to a dramatic fall in traffic volume on our roads, and this was particularly noticeable in the Scottish Borders. It naturally follows that with so few vehicles on the road, the likelihood of becoming involved in a collision was dramatically reduced. It also naturally follows that as restrictions ease and traffic volumes increase, the likelihood will increase. Uncertainty around foreign travel, the popularity of the ‘Staycation’ and the popularity of the Scottish Borders as a tourist destination, has undoubtedly contributed to the casualty numbers in the table above.

The A708, St Mary’s Loch Road saw two separate collisions involving motorcyclists in a single weekend, and we secured a flexible deployment of Safety Camera Unit resource in attempt to curb that trend.

Across the east of Scotland, there were 77 motorcyclists detected for speeding, 8 of which were within the Scottish Borders. The highest speed recorded was 80mph in a 60mph limit on the A68 at Soutra.

The table below illustrates how many safety camera sites were visited during last year and this quarter, how many deployment hours there were and how many detections were made. It should be noted that the primary purpose of the Safety Camera Unit is to positively influence driver behaviour. The fewer offences detected, the greater the impact the safety camera is having on that particular stretch of road. The most effective camera sites are where no offences are detected, indicated full compliance with the speed limits. The establishment of a Safety Camera Unit base in the Scottish Borders has improved operational effectiveness here.

Safety Camera Site Visits					
	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	2020-21	2021-22
Visits	78	92	69	217	239
Enforcement hours	114.7	97.8	112.4	962	325
Activations	172	162	291	862	625
Activations per Enforcement Area	1.5	1.7	2.6	0.9	1.9

A number of motorcycle weekends of action are scheduled to take place throughout the summer months and we are well supported in our efforts by Road Policing Colleagues.

Road safety remains a key priority for us in the Scottish Borders and patrolling of the roads continues to form part of our daily tasking. This activity also contributes to our efforts to tackle acquisitive and serious and organised crime through transportation of controlled drugs and other commodity.

Tackling Serious & Organised Crime	Tackling Serious & Organised Crime
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Police in the Scottish Borders continue to target those involved in serious and organised crime. While it may be difficult to believe such groups operate in the Scottish Borders, they do, and many instances of lower lever criminality; violence, drug misuse or acquisitive crime, can be linked back to them.

We continue to tackle these groups at a local level through the gathering and development of intelligence, proactive stop and search and through the exercise of search warrants and powers under the proceeds of crime act. We also receive support from national divisions to assist in tackling the wider criminal network and to disrupt the flow of drugs and other criminal commodities into the Scottish Borders.

We are currently arranging delivery of online training to Registered Social Landlords' personnel in the Scottish Borders in relation to cuckooing and county lines criminality. Participants will be trained in the signs to spot relating to vulnerable persons who maybe victims of drug dealers attempting to take advantage of their situations and the reporting processes.

Threat Level



The National Threat Level is SUBSTANTIAL.

The UK National Threat Level has been lowered to SUBSTANTIAL meaning an attack is likely.

The Covid 19 pandemic has highlighted the risk of online grooming and radicalisation of young and vulnerable people during lockdown with pupils being home-schooled and spending more time online than normal.

The focus of both Police and The Lothians and Scottish Borders Contest Group has been to raise awareness of the Prevent strand of the CONTEST Strategy. This has been achieved through hosting online sessions for School campus Officers and partner agencies providing information regarding the National Prevent Referral Form and promoting websites such as www.actearly.uk and www.ltai.info

We appreciate that explaining terrorism and extremism to young people can be difficult. Counter Terrorism Policing has provided information and guidance per the link below to educate at home or in school.

<https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/advice-for-young-people/>

Complaints	Executive Summary
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April 2021 – June 2021				
	Number of Complaints about the Police		Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	
Complaints received about the Police	35		48.16	
	On Duty Allegations	Off Duty Allegations	Quality of Service Allegations	Total Number of Allegations
Total Allegations Recorded	33	1	16	50

The breakdown above details the total number of Complaints about the Police, received in relation to the Scottish Borders area command as at 30th of June 2021.

The breakdown overleaf provides further detail on the Allegation Category and Type. As can be seen there has been a 9.09% decrease in the overall number of Complaints about the Police when comparing LYTD and YTD. During the strictest periods of lockdown, and as previously outlined under the Antisocial Behaviour heading, calls to the police increased dramatically, with many reporting breaches of Covid regulations. A number of quality of service complaints were raised by people who either felt the Police had been too intrusive, exceeding their powers, or by others who felt we had not been intrusive enough, allowing breaches to go unchallenged or punished. We continue to deal with the legacy of these complaints, but the overall decline is very encouraging.

New arrangements have recently been introduced which will see our Professional Standards Department taking ownership of far more complaint enquiries which will provide further impartiality and transparency and will reduce the burden on local officers providing them more time to spend on other policing priorities.

A number of the complaints enquiries currently ongoing are non-recent and highly complex and sensitive. These have required a significant amount of work to ensure the complainers receive the most comprehensive response possible. These enquiries are nearing completion.

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Area	Allegation Category and Type	LYTD	YTD	% change
Scottish Borders Council	Off Duty - TOTAL	0	1	x
	Incivility	0	1	x
	On Duty - TOTAL	30	33	10.0%
	Assault	0	2	x
	Discriminatory Behaviour	0	1	x
	Excessive Force	2	4	100.0%
	Incivility	7	7	0.0%
	Irregularity in Procedure	16	17	6.3%
	Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	0	2	x
	Other - Non Criminal	1	0	-100.0%
	Traffic Irregularity/Offence	2	0	-100.0%
	Unlawful/Unnecessary Arrest or Detention	2	0	-100.0%
	Quality Of Service - TOTAL	25	16	-36.0%
	Policy/Procedure	2	2	0.0%
	Service Delivery	5	6	20.0%
	Service Outcome	18	8	-55.6%

Scottish Borders CAT team – Q1 Update

Q1 Update will be provided at the meeting on the 27th of August.

Appendix

Lothian and Scottish Borders Divisional Crime Overview

Lothian and Scottish Borders Division	5 Year Average	2021/22 Q1	Per 10,000 Q1 2021/22	Detection Rates 2021/22
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	134.8	198	3.97	70.20
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0.4	1	0.02	100.00
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0	0	0	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	0.8	0	0	-
Attempted murder	2.8	2	0.04	150.00
Serious assault	65.8	79	1.59	67.09
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	22.8	25	0.5	84.00
Domestic Abuse (of female)	#VALUE!	24	0.48	91.67
Domestic Abuse (of male)	#VALUE!	2	0.04	100.00
Domestic Abuse (Total)	#VALUE!	26	0.52	92.31
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	19.2	15	0.3	93.33
Threats and extortion	7.2	27	0.54	11.11
Other group 1 crimes	9	23	0.46	86.96
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	239.4	378	7.59	56.61
Rape	40.4	82	1.65	71.95
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	2.6	2	0.04	0.00
<i>Rape and attempted rape - Total</i>	43	84	1.69	70.24
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	3.8	1	0.02	0.00
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	63	107	2.15	48.60
Lewd & libidinous practices*	27	17	0.34	47.06
<i>Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total</i>	93.8	125	2.51	48.00
<i>Prostitution related crime - Total*</i>	0.2	0	0	-
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	13.4	23	0.46	82.61
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	19.6	35	0.7	65.71
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	10.2	4	0.08	100.00
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	7.6	10	0.2	40.00
Public indecency (common law)	4.6	2	0.04	0.00
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	32.2	57	1.14	57.89
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	5	4	0.08	100.00
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	9.8	34	0.68	23.53
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	0	-
<i>Other Group 2 crimes - Total</i>	102.4	169	3.39	56.21
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	2217.6	1988	39.91	25.75
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	101.8	101	2.03	13.86
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	101.8	59	1.18	8.47
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	107.4	60	1.2	50.00
<i>Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total</i>	311	220	4.42	22.27

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Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	55.4	46	0.92	21.74
Theft of a motor vehicle	117	73	1.47	57.53
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	152.4	59	1.18	22.03
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	9	8	0.16	0.00
<i>Motor vehicle crime - Total</i>	333.8	186	3.73	34.95
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	30.8	34	0.68	2.94
Common theft	630.2	566	11.36	18.90
Theft by shoplifting	582.6	477	9.58	41.93
Fraud	164.6	383	7.69	10.97
Other Group 3 Crimes	164.6	122	2.45	39.34
GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.	1071.6	1067	21.42	28.12
Fireraising	63	62	1.24	17.74
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	959.6	936	18.79	26.07
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1.2	2	0.04	100.00
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	46.2	66	1.32	65.15
Other Group 4 Crimes	1.6	1	0.02	0.00
GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES	1089.6	1148	23.04	87.89
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	35.4	46	0.92	84.78
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	39.6	41	0.82	95.12
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	26.4	45	0.9	77.78
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	15.2	22	0.44	72.73
<i>Total offensive/bladed weapons</i>	116.6	154	3.09	83.77
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	25.2	12	0.24	100.00
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	66.6	56	1.12	57.14
Bringing drugs into prison	4.2	1	0.02	100.00
<i>Supply of drugs - Total</i>	96	69	1.39	65.22
Possession of drugs	482.6	471	9.45	87.47
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	4.2	3	0.06	33.33
<i>Total drugs crimes</i>	582.8	543	10.9	84.35
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	1.2	0	0	-
Bail offences (other than absconding)	189.6	252	5.06	93.25
Other Group 5 crimes	199.4	199	3.99	93.97
GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	2531.8	2859	57.39	67.33
Common Assault	1005	1172	23.53	57.08
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	96.6	138	2.77	97.83
<i>Common Assault - Total</i>	1101.6	1310	26.3	61.37
Breach of the Peace	71.4	26	0.52	100.00
Threatening & abusive behaviour	919.8	1024	20.56	75.68
Stalking	34.6	23	0.46	91.30
<i>BOP, S38 & S39 Crim Just & Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total</i>	1025.8	1073	21.54	76.61
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	33.4	50	1	86.00
Drunk and incapable	17	5	0.1	100.00
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	23.4	3	0.06	100.00
Other alcohol related offences*	10	4	0.08	75.00

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<i>Drunkness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)</i>	50.4	12	0.24	91.67
Wildlife offences*	11.6	6	0.12	50.00
Other Group 6 offences	309	408	8.19	59.31
GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES	1675	1540	30.91	80.39
Dangerous driving offences	55	84	1.69	85.71
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	133.2	143	2.87	87.41
Driving while disqualified	34.8	19	0.38	94.74
Driving without a licence	144	162	3.25	98.15
Failure to insure against third party risks	395.6	355	7.13	97.46
Driving Carelessly	124.8	176	3.53	87.50
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	19.8	6	0.12	100.00
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	169.8	194	3.89	98.45
Other Group 7 offences	360.8	364	7.31	35.99

Scottish Borders Recorded Crime Overview

Scottish Borders	5 Year Average	2021/22 Q1	Per 10,000 Q1 2021/22	Detection Rates 2021/22
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	24.6	44	3.81	61.36
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0.2	0	-	-
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0	0	-	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	0.2	0	-	-
Attempted murder	0.2	0	-	-
Serious assault	10.8	18	1.56	50
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	2.8	2	0.17	50
Domestic Abuse (of female)	-	4	0.35	100
Domestic Abuse (of male)	-	0	-	-
Domestic Abuse (Total)	-	4	0.35	100
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	3.8	4	0.35	100
Threats and extortion	2.6	9	0.78	11.11
Other group 1 crimes	1.6	7	0.61	100
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	53.2	100	8.66	52
Rape	10.2	18	1.56	66.67
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	0.6	0	-	-
Rape and attempted rape - Total	10.8	18	1.56	66.67
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	1	0	-	-
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	14.4	35	3.03	54.29
Lewd & libidinous practices*	5.4	2	0.17	0
Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total	20.8	37	3.2	51.35
Prostitution related crime - Total*	0	0	-	-
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	3.2	8	0.69	75
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	4.6	9	0.78	44.44
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	2	2	0.17	100
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	0.6	3	0.26	66.67
Public indecency (common law)	0.6	2	0.17	0
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	6.6	10	0.87	40
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	1.4	0	-	-
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	2.6	11	0.95	27.27
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	-	-
Other Group 2 crimes - Total	21.6	45	3.9	46.67
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	348.2	358	30.99	30.73
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	21.8	28	2.42	14.29
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	11.6	4	0.35	50
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	19.6	23	1.99	69.57
Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total	53	55	4.76	40
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	10.4	13	1.13	46.15
Theft of a motor vehicle	18.6	8	0.69	50

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Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	18.6	9	0.78	44.44
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	1.2	2	0.17	0
Motor vehicle crime - Total	48.8	32	2.77	43.75
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	5.2	10	0.87	10
Common theft	113.2	108	9.35	23.15
Theft by shoplifting	73	58	5.02	50
Fraud	30.2	78	6.75	11.54
Other Group 3 Crimes	24.8	17	1.47	58.82
GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.	215.4	241	20.86	31.12
Fireraising	9.4	6	0.52	50
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	199.4	226	19.57	29.2
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	0	1	0.09	100
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	6.6	8	0.69	62.5
Other Group 4 Crimes	0	0	-	-
GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES	234.4	258	22.34	85.27
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	9.8	2	0.17	100
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	8	4	0.35	100
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	5.2	5	0.43	100
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	1.8	5	0.43	100
Total offensive/bladed weapons	24.8	16	1.39	100
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	4	1	0.09	100
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	14.6	18	1.56	38.89
Bringing drugs into prison	0	0	-	-
Supply of drugs - Total	18.6	19	1.64	42.11
Possession of drugs	106.4	127	10.99	83.46
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	1.6	0	-	-
Total drugs crimes	126.6	146	12.64	78.08
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0	0	-	-
Bail offences (other than absconding)	42.2	53	4.59	90.57
Other Group 5 crimes	40.8	43	3.72	97.67
GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	535.8	636	55.06	73.58
Common Assault	188.4	243	21.04	64.61
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	18.2	37	3.2	105.41
Common Assault - Total	206.6	280	24.24	70
Breach of the Peace	23.4	8	0.69	112.5
Threatening & abusive behaviour	200.4	229	19.83	78.17
Stalking	9.8	5	0.43	60
BOP, S38 & S39 Crim Just & Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total	233.6	242	20.95	78.93
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	5	7	0.61	100
Drunk and incapable	7.8	4	0.35	100
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	0	0	-	-
Other alcohol related offences*	2.2	2	0.17	50
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)	10	6	0.52	83.33
Wildlife offences*	7.2	2	0.17	100

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Other Group 6 offences	73.4	99	8.57	67.68
GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES	408.8	323	27.96	90.09
Dangerous driving offences	12.2	16	1.39	106.25
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	28	28	2.42	82.14
Driving while disqualified	6.8	5	0.43	100
Driving without a licence	27.4	30	2.6	100
Failure to insure against third party risks	83.8	68	5.89	101.47
Driving Carelessly	39.6	47	4.07	89.36
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	8.2	5	0.43	100
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	42.4	53	4.59	100
Other Group 7 offences	63.6	58	5.02	58.62