



Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders



Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Quarter 2 – 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.



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 September 2021 and are compared against 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

It is now 18 months since our lives were first impacted on significantly due to the pandemic, and as we continue to move towards the new “normal”, protecting the most vulnerable remains an absolute focus for Police Scotland and my officers in the Scottish Borders.

The figures quoted in quarter 2 continue to reflect those utilised in the previous report with 5 year average figures being quoted in order to provide a more meaningful comparison of data.

Tackling perpetrators of domestic violence remains a priority and close partnership working is essential to ensure that the most vulnerable are given the support they need at the earliest possible opportunity. While there is an increase in reported incidents of domestic violence, a continued focus has resulted in an increase in the detection rate of almost 6%, when compared to the 5 year average. Those offenders who ignore the very bail conditions put in place to protect their victims are dealt with robustly, with regular checks carried out to ensure compliance, and any breaches resulting in a report to the Procurator Fiscal and a loss of liberty.

It is encouraging to see that, to date, 5 of the larger employers in the Scottish Borders have committed to taking part in online training, which gives their staff not only the skills to recognise the signs of domestic abuse, but the confidence to engage with their colleagues and wider community in order to signpost them to organisations who can provide expert help and advice. Domestic violence cannot be tackled in isolation and I believe the partnership work ongoing in the Scottish Borders is excellent.

The increase in common assaults remains a concern and while there is nothing statistically at this time to suggest that the re-opening of the night time economy has played a significant part in this increase, it would be naïve to think that there has been no impact. Officers continue to carry out anti-violence patrols in key areas in an effort to deter and detect alcohol related violence.

Anti-social behaviour remains down, showing a nearly 25% decrease compared to the 5 year average and CAT officers continue to be key in maintaining our focus in this area through monthly tasking's to target areas in need of additional attention.

Sexual crimes show an increase on the 5 year average with the largest increase by far being in the “Other Group 2” category with an increase of nearly 95%. Unfortunately the ability to utilise online systems for remote offending is one thing that has not diminished during the pandemic, and the sending of indecent communications or threats to disclose/disclosure of intimate images remains a concern. While we will always robustly investigate these offences, there is a wider need for community education and advice regarding personal security when using things like mobile phones to take images in the first place, as once you send something on you no longer control what happens to it.

The new Non-fatal Overdose process mentioned in the previous report is now an established part of partnership working, resulting in significant improvements in people being able to access effective and early support at a time of crisis. Going forward I hope to be in a position to share further detail regarding this important piece of work.

SBPARC (Scottish Borders Partnership Against Rural Crime) was launched at the Kelso Ram Sales in September, bringing together a range of organisations with a vested interest in tackling crime effecting rural communities in the Scottish Borders. This is part of a national strategy that going forward will allow a more cohesive approach to identifying areas for enhanced partnership working in relation to the prevention and detection of rural crime. CAT officers were also in attendance at the event to show members of the public the impressive new police quad bikes. These quads have already been utilised to good effect on numerous occasions. Not only to carry out

anti-social behaviour patrols in hard to reach areas, but also to assist in searching for missing persons in the Scottish Borders.

As people return to using their vehicles more, the traffic on our roads has visibly increased, and local officers in conjunction with specialist Roads Policing colleagues continue to target those whose driving puts themselves and others at risk. The increase in casualty figures is a clear indication that traffic volume has increased significantly and this is something we will continue to focus on reducing in the coming months.

At the time of writing COP26 is coming to an end, arguably the largest and most significant event since the formation of Police Scotland. The demand on policing throughout Scotland has been significant and I am proud of the professionalism and commitment shown by my officers in ensuring that the communities of the Scottish Borders have continued to receive the service they rightly expect and deserve.

Chief Inspector Vinnie Fisher

Local Area Commander, Scottish Borders

November 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 investigation 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 who 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 quarter 2 has increased from 134 last year to 166 this year, a 24% increase.

The National Missing Persons Framework seeks to provide a cohesive 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 – as mentioned in the previous report the Herbert Protocol was introduced in June. There have been 6 missing person’s reports of adults with dementia since the protocol was introduced (4 this quarter). Training and education regarding the protocol continues with partners, carers and family members, and once in place for an individual allows early access to essential information to assist officers in tracing the person missing as quickly as possible.

Patients who go missing from NHS premises – NHS Borders internal Missing Person Protocol has now been agreed and work is ongoing on a joint protocol, which will include training for staff.

Looked after and accommodated Children who go missing from residential Care - a new member of staff has now been successfully recruited by Scottish Borders Council allowing enhanced partnership engagement going forward.

On the 20th of October, J Division launched their Autism Missing Person Protocol, which was endorsed by healthcare and local authority partners. This protocol has been created to address the specific needs of people and families living or working with autism and to improve the support offered to them. The Autistic Missing Person Protocol works in a similar way to the Herbert Protocol and encourages carers and families to record vital information on a form that can be handed over to the police in the event of someone going missing.

This information assists officers with early access to important information, avoiding unnecessary delays in gathering this at a time of crisis. The form records vital information such as sensory needs, communication abilities, responses and reactions, favourites places, and a photograph (provided with consent) to share on social media should it be required.

Once complete, the form can be retained by family, friends or carers, or placed within the home or educational setting, in a safe but prominent position so the information is easily available to police when required.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Domestic Abuse
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	5yr Average	Q2 2021/22	% Change
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents	565.2	658	16.42
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	308.4	415	34.57
Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime	42.22	43.01	0.79
Total crimes and offences detection rate	71.67	77.59	5.92
Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	21.2	31	46.23

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. This ensures a robust and consistent approach to tackling domestic abuse on every occasion. We continue to work closely with support and advocacy services and prompt referral through our concern hub allows support and engagement to take place at the earliest opportunity.

At the end of quarter 2 of 2021/2022 there were 658 domestic abuse incidents reported to police, which equates to an increase of 16.42% compared to the 5 year average. The detection rate for domestic crimes during quarter 2 is 77.59% which is up 5.92% when compared to the 5 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 2 there were 2 MATAC referrals in the Scottish Borders.

We will seek remands or bail conditions where appropriate and proactively check bail conditions are being adhered to. We have detected 31 bail offences YTD, a rise of 46.23% when compared to the five year average.

Throughout quarter 2 contact has continued encouraging local employers to sign up to online ASC (Ask Support Care) training, which gives their staff the skills to ask about Domestic Abuse and signpost to expert help. So far 5 employers within the Scottish Borders have signed up to the training.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Hate Crime
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Scottish Borders			
	5 year average	Q2 2021/22	Q2 Per 10,000
Hate Incidents	38	74	6.4
Hate Crimes *	30.4	74	6.4
Hate Crime Detection Rate	80.92	60.81	

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 36 Hate Crimes in quarter 2 when compared to the 5 year average.
- The detection rate for Hate Crime at the end of quarter 2 is 60.81% which is a decrease of 20.11% when comparing to the 5 year average.
- Police Officers were the victims in 15% of reported Hate Crimes in the Scottish Borders during quarter 2.
- The breakdown of these Hate Crimes to protected characteristic shows that 42% relate to Race, 7% relate to Religion, 16% relate to Disability, 25% relate to Sexual Orientation and 10% relate to Transgender
- When comparing the protected characteristic breakdown to last year the largest percentage increase is disability which has seen a 500% increase (from 2 to 12).

The targeting of an individual due to their protected characteristic is not acceptable in any circumstances and any reports of hate crime are robustly investigated by officers, with additional support mechanisms put in place for those who believe this would be beneficial.

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

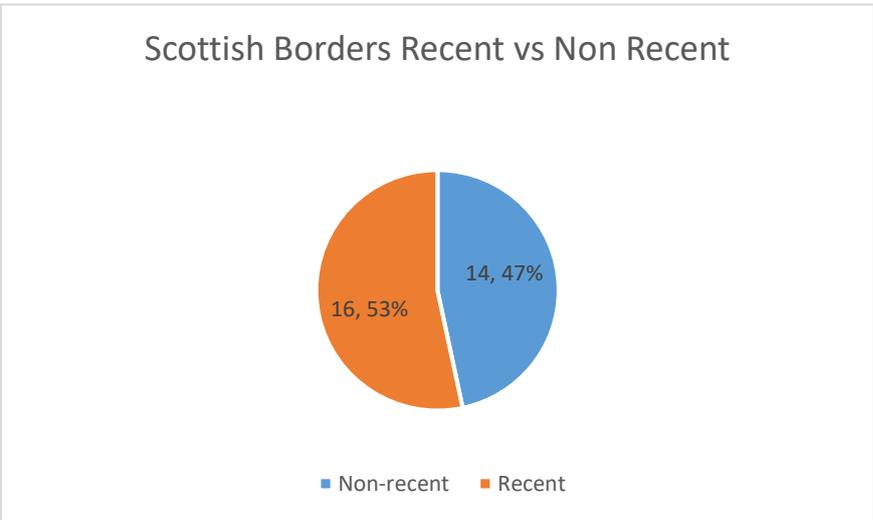
[Hate crime - Police Scotland](#)

While statistics do not show any particular pattern that explains the increase in recorded hate crime in the Scottish Borders, some people do sadly find themselves the victim of hate crimes on more than one occasion. There has been a lot of work done to encourage people to report all hate crime and to raise awareness of the impact that crimes of this type can have on an individual.

Online reporting through Contact Us is on the increase and is regularly used to report crimes of this type, highlighting the benefits of remote reporting for some individuals.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Sexual Crimes (Group 2)
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Crime Type	5 Year average	Q2 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate
Group 2	104	171	64.42%	14.8	56.14%
Rape & Attempt Rape	20.8	30	44.23%	2.6	66.67%
Indecent/Sexual Assault	41.6	60	44.23%	5.19	60.00%
Other Group 2	41.6	81	94.71%	7.01	49.38%



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 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 64.4% increase in recorded Sexual Crime (Group 2). Group 2 Detection rate is 56.1% A decrease of 12% when compared to the 5 year average.
- Reports of Rape (including attempts) are up from 20.2 to 30
- Reports of Indecent and Sexual Assaults are up from 41.6 to 60
- 47% 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 94.7% increase in 'Other' Group 2 crimes (up from 41.6 to 81 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 that 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.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation
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Drugs Supply	5 year average	Q2 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate
Drugs Supply, Production and Cultivation	32	27	-15.63%	2.34	59.26%

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 down by 5 crimes (15.63%) when compared to the 5 year average.

The number of drugs supply crimes alone doesn't clearly depict the success in tackling drug supply. For example one crime alone accounted for 2 males being reported to the procurator fiscal for the recovery of 1.2kg of cocaine with a street value of £120,000.

SBCAT officers continue to undertake intelligence led stop and searches of those suspected to be involved in the supply of controlled drugs.

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.

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.

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Crimes of Violence (Group 1)
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Crime Type	5 year average	Q2 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate
Group 1	52.6	88	67.30%	7.62	63.64%
Serious Assault	25	32	28.00%	2.77	65.63%
Robbery	7.2	3	-58.33%	0.26	100.00%
Common Assault	424.6	574	35.19%	49.69	65.85%

*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 this.

There has been a 67.30% increase in violent crime in the Scottish Borders compared to the five year average, equating to an increase of 35.4 crimes. There has been an 18.9% increase when compared to LYTD. The detection rate for overall violent crime is 63.6%, a decrease of 12.8% when compared to the 5 year average, again attributable in part to the complexities and challenges of remotely perpetrated, overseas crime.

The increase in violent crime is mainly attributed to the following crimes when compared to the 5 year average:

- The 28% increase in Serious Assaults across the Scottish Borders which is an increase of 7 crimes
- The 342% increase in reports of threats and extortion which equates to an actual increase of 17.8 crimes.
- DASA (Domestic Abuse Scotland Act) offences were not introduced until April 2019, as such there is insufficient data for a 5 year average. However there is an increase of 20% when compared to LYTD (from 10 to 12).

As referenced in the quarter 1 report threats and extortion are quite 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.

Our messaging remains the same, 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, handled in a sensitive manner, and victims will be treated with respect.

Common Assaults in the Scottish Borders have increased by 35.2% against the five year average, the detection rate was 66% at the end of quarter 2. These figures include domestic assaults, which remain high, and are detailed further later in this report. There were 73 Assaults on Emergency Service Workers, which increased this year by over 62%, (from 45 to 73).

Looking forward, Scottish Borders officers will continue to work proactively to reduce violence through a variety of enforcement methods, including but not limited to – engagement with Licensed Premises and patrols targeting night-time economy as the pubs re-open; continuation of pro-active bail checks; targeted activity against those wanted on warrant.

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Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Reducing Antisocial Behaviour				
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Indicator	5 Year Average	2021-22 Q2	Change	TYTD Per 10,000 population	Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate
Antisocial Behaviour Incidents	3,273	3,169	-24.9%		
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)	405.8	450	10.89%	38.96	31.78%
Fire-raising	18.6	20	7.53%	1.73	60.00%
Breach of the Peace and S38 CJ&L(S) A 2010	470	509	8.30%	44.07	77.01%

The number of Anti-Social behaviour incidents has decreased by 24.9% this year-to-date when compared to the 5 year average. This is a total reduction of 104 incidents throughout quarter 1 and quarter 2.

All Group 4 Crimes, which include Vandalism and Fire-raising have increased 11.7% when compared to the five year average.

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.

SBCAT have targeted youth ASB in Peebles, Kelso and Hawick throughout August resulting in a number of alcohol seizures and 1 adult being reported to the Procurator Fiscal following being identified as being as supplying alcohol to youths. SBCAT have further made use of the new Scottish Borders Quad bikes to undertake patrols around rural locations where youth ASB has been reported. A number of youths were further identified through the youth warning system with letters being sent to their parents in an effort to inform parents of their child's potential involvement in ASB. This year-to-date 25 such letters have been sent during quarter 2, a total of 110 so far this year. Officers have also carried out patrols in the Jedburgh area where a spate of vandals occurred to the public toilets. Deployable CCTV Cameras were utilised in Jedburgh and Eyemouth in response to youth-related ASB

Reducing Acquisitive Crime	Dishonesty (group 3)
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5 Year Average	Q2 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate
703.8	707	0.45%	61.21	28.85%

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 3.2 crimes (0.5%) 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 Q2 the Group 3 detection rate was 28.9% which is down 7.1% compared to the five year average;
- There has been a 35.5% decrease in Motor Vehicle crime;
- There has been a 19% decrease in Theft Shoplifting;
- There has been a 158.7% increase in Frauds (100.6 crimes). 58% of those crimes being cybercrimes.

Of the 707 Group 3 crimes recorded this year to date, Common Theft accounts for the greatest proportion at 212 crimes, followed by Fraud at 164 and Shoplifting at 118.

Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year. A launch event was held at Kelso Ram Sales on 10th September showcasing new Police Quad bikes and offering rural CP advice.

We continued to distribute free SelectaDNA forensic marking kits & signs and crime prevention advice to farmers and rural business. These can be requested by Farmers / Rural businesses using the [Contact Us Form](#) on the Police Scotland Website.

Refreshes of No Cold Calling Zones at Bennecourt Drive in Coldstream and Swinton Village were completed (new road signs and house packs). Information was provided to Innerleithen Community Council re setting up a new zone. Any community organisation wishing to refresh their zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or interested in setting up a new zone should contact their local community policing team <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>

Reducing Acquisitive Crime	Housebreaking
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Crime Type	5 Year Average	Q2 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q2 2021/22 Detection Rate
Dwelling HB	42	46	9.52%	3.98	32.61%
Non Dwelling (Sheds, garages) HB	26.8	7	-73.88%	0.61	57.14%
Other (Business) HB	37.8	42	11.11%	3.64	47.62%
All HB	106.6	95	-10.88%	8.22	41.05%

All housebreaking (including attempts) crimes increased by 9.52% when compared to the 5 year average.

Further breakdown of the data provided in this report:

- There were 4 more reports of dwelling housebreakings in the Scottish Borders compared to the five year average;
- There has been an 11.11% (4.2 crimes) increase in business housebreakings;
- Detection rates for all Housebreakings is 41.05% up 14.4% on the five year average;
- Detection rate for Business Housebreaking is 47.6% up 23.8% 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.

A male from Kelso has been charged and presented to the court in relation to 8 housebreakings in the Kelso area. Furthermore 2 males from the Edinburgh area have been charged with 3 housebreakings in the Peebles, West Linton and Galashiels areas.

Investigations in relation to the housebreakings committed by organised crime groups 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.

During Q2 crime prevention surveys were carried out on request at a wide range of public, private, commercial and domestic buildings. Secure By Design work was carried out in partnership with developers and architects for new social housing developments in Duns, Ayton and Newtown St Boswells.

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Improving road safety	Road Casualties
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	Q2 2020/21	Q2 2021/22	Change (%)
Fatal	1	4	300%
Serious	21	35	67%
Slight	18	44	144%
Total	40	83	107.5%
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	-
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	0	2	-

	5 Year Average	Q2 2021/22	Change
Dangerous driving	25	31	24.00%
Disqualified driving	11	8	-27.27%
Driving Licence	64.2	65	1.25%
Insurance	151.2	135	-10.71%
Drink/Drug Driving Detections	51.8	56	8.11%

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 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 those where no offences are detected, indicating 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					
	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sept-21	2020-21	2021-22
Visits	51	58	26	517	374
Enforcement hours	97.0	141.7	62.1	962	817
Activations	134	344	75	862	1178
Activations per Enforcement Area	1.4	2.4	1.2	0.9	1.4

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 level 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 searches, and through the execution 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.

During Q2 County Lines and Cuckooing Drug Dealing Inputs were given to a wide range of staff from SBHA, Eildon Housing, Berwickshire Housing, Waverly Housing and NHS staff to increase awareness of and encourage reporting of County Lines and Cuckooing activities in their properties. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/about-the-charity/who-we-work-with/trusts-and-foundations/county-lines>

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/>

OFFICIAL

Complaints	Executive Summary
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April 2020 – September 2021				
	Number of Complaints about the Police		Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	
Complaints received about the Police	63		43.86	
	On Duty Allegations	Off Duty Allegations	Quality of Service Allegations	Total Number of Allegations
Total Allegations Recorded	62	1	29	92

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

The breakdown below provides further detail on the Allegation Category and Type. As can be seen there has been an 11.5% decrease in the overall number of Complaints about the Police when comparing LYTD and YTD.

Area	Allegation Category and Type	LYTD	YTD	% change
Scottish Borders Council	Off Duty - TOTAL	0	1	x
	Incivility	0	1	x
	On Duty - TOTAL	64	62	-3.1%
	Assault	0	3	x
	Corrupt Practice	2	0	-100.0%
	Discriminatory Behaviour	0	1	x
	Excessive Force	4	7	75.0%
	Incivility	15	16	6.7%
	Irregularity in Procedure	35	27	-22.9%
	Neglect of Duty	1	0	-100.0%
	Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	1	3	200.0%
	Other - Criminal	0	1	x
	Other - Non Criminal	2	4	100.0%
	Traffic Irregularity/Offence	2	0	-100.0%

Scottish Borders CAT team – Q2 Update

Amongst other areas, SBCAT have targeted youth ASB in Peebles, Kelso, and Hawick in quarter 2, resulting in a number of alcohol seizures and one adult being reported to the Procurator Fiscal on being identified as responsible for supplying alcohol to youths. SBCAT have also utilised the new Scottish Borders quad bikes to undertake patrols around rural locations where youth ASB has been reported. A number of youths had letters sent to their parents to inform them of their child's potential involvement in ASB.

Patrols in Jedburgh were undertaken, assisting colleagues in identifying the person responsible for a spate of vandalisms to the public toilets, allowing them to be charged accordingly.

SBCAT officers continued to undertake road checks across the region focussing on speed enforcement outside local schools and areas identified as having an accident casualty profile. Regular patrols were also carried out regarding parking restriction enforcement with highlighted issues in the areas of Innerleithen and Galashiels given attention.

Officers also continued to undertake intelligence led stop and searches of those suspected to be involved in the supply of controlled drugs, relying on information provided by local communities. From July to September, ten MDA warrants were executed, with class A, B and C drugs recovered.

Following a number of reported suspected fire-raising in the Walkerburn area, SBCAT officers, in conjunction with local response officers, obtained sufficient evidence to report a male for 5 separate counts of Fire-Raising.

Appendix

Lothian and Scottish Borders Divisional Crime Overview

Lothian and Scottish Borders Division	5 Year Average	2021/22 Q2	Per 10,000 Q2 2021/22	Detection Rates 2021/22 (%)
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	280.4	397	7.97	69.77
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0.8	4	0.08	100.00
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0	0	0	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	2.2	1	0.02	100.00
Attempted murder	7	14	0.28	100.00
Serious assault	135.6	149	2.99	74.50
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	46.4	42	0.84	78.57
Domestic Abuse (of female)	-	56	1.12	92.86
Domestic Abuse (of male)	-	2	0.04	100.00
Domestic Abuse (Total)	-	58	1.16	93.10
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	38.2	32	0.64	84.38
Threats and extortion	16.2	64	1.28	9.38
Other group 1 crimes	17.4	33	0.66	81.82
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	508.4	707	14.19	51.34
Rape	92.4	136	2.73	63.97
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	3.4	7	0.14	0.00
<i>Rape and attempted rape - Total</i>	95.8	143	2.87	60.84
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	7.8	5	0.1	0.00
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	138.2	206	4.14	47.09
Lewd & libidinous practices*	53.4	43	0.86	62.79
<i>Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total</i>	199.4	254	5.1	48.82
<i>Prostitution related crime - Total*</i>	0.2	1	0.02	100.00
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	28	35	0.7	71.43
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	36.4	74	1.49	60.81
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	23.2	11	0.22	54.55
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	19.4	19	0.38	36.84
Public indecency (common law)	8.6	5	0.1	20.00
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	66.8	112	2.25	41.96
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	9.8	8	0.16	75.00
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	20.8	45	0.9	31.11
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	0	-
<i>Other Group 2 crimes - Total</i>	213	309	6.2	48.87
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	4499.8	3962	79.53	26.22
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	208	182	3.65	32.42
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	202	106	2.13	10.38
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	208.2	130	2.61	40.00
<i>Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total</i>	618.2	418	8.39	29.19

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Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	115	80	1.61	21.25
Theft of a motor vehicle	233.4	164	3.29	46.34
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	317.6	138	2.77	15.94
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	17.6	22	0.44	13.64
<i>Motor vehicle crime - Total</i>	683.6	404	8.11	29.21
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	67.2	71	1.43	2.82
Common theft	1256	1117	22.42	17.64
Theft by shoplifting	1200.6	961	19.29	43.60
Fraud	340.2	748	15.02	11.36
Other Group 3 Crimes	334	243	4.88	39.51
GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.	2162	2073	41.61	29.18
Fireraising	133.4	129	2.59	26.36
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	1926.4	1790	35.93	26.70
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	4.6	2	0.04	200.00
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	93.2	146	2.93	60.96
Other Group 4 Crimes	4.4	6	0.12	0.00
GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES	2090.4	2190	43.96	92.69
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	70.8	89	1.79	88.76
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	71.4	91	1.83	94.51
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	51.8	90	1.81	76.67
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	32.8	53	1.06	77.36
<i>Total offensive/bladed weapons</i>	226.8	323	6.48	85.14
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	48.4	22	0.44	81.82
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	118	93	1.87	78.49
Bringing drugs into prison	11.4	5	0.1	60.00
<i>Supply of drugs - Total</i>	177.8	120	2.41	78.33
Possession of drugs	907	829	16.64	95.05
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	7.4	7	0.14	42.86
<i>Total drugs crimes</i>	1092.2	956	19.19	92.57
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	1.6	0	0	-
Bail offences (other than absconding)	393	510	10.24	96.08
Other Group 5 crimes	376.8	401	8.05	94.76
GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	4999	5572	111.85	67.16
Common Assault	2003	2301	46.19	57.45
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	192	252	5.06	97.62
<i>Common Assault - Total</i>	2195	2553	51.25	61.42
Breach of the Peace	133.6	60	1.2	91.67
Threatening & abusive behaviour	1849	2020	40.55	74.11
Stalking	57.2	46	0.92	82.61
<i>BOP, S38 & S39 Crim Just & Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total</i>	2039.8	2126	42.68	74.79
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	65.8	78	1.57	85.90
Drunk and incapable	30.2	17	0.34	100.00
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	38.4	12	0.24	100.00
Other alcohol related offences*	20.6	14	0.28	92.86

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<i>Drunkness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)</i>	89.2	43	0.86	97.67
Wildlife offences*	18.4	13	0.26	23.08
Other Group 6 offences	590.8	759	15.24	62.19
GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES	3720.8	3575	71.76	79.75
Dangerous driving offences	118.6	171	3.43	85.96
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	266.2	293	5.88	80.89
Driving while disqualified	66.6	41	0.82	97.56
Driving without a licence	290.6	325	6.52	97.85
Failure to insure against third party risks	732.4	691	13.87	98.41
Driving Carelessly	272	381	7.65	83.46
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	68.4	44	0.88	88.64
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	329.2	331	6.64	99.40
Other Group 7 offences	866	954	19.15	46.44

Scottish Borders Recorded Crime Overview

Scottish Borders	5 Year Average	2021/22 Q2	Per 10,000 Q2 2021/22	Detection Rates 2021/22 (%)
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	52.6	88	7.62	63.64
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0.6	1	0.09	100
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0	0	-	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	0.8	1	0.09	100
Attempted murder	0.8	3	0.26	133.33
Serious assault	25	32	2.77	65.63
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	7.2	3	0.26	100
Domestic Abuse (of female)	-	12	1.04	91.67
Domestic Abuse (of male)	-	0	-	-
Domestic Abuse (Total)	-	12	1.04	91.67
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	7.4	6	0.52	100
Threats and extortion	5.2	23	1.99	8.7
Other group 1 crimes	2.2	7	0.61	100
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	104	171	14.8	56.14
Rape	20.2	30	2.6	66.67
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	0.6	0	-	-
Rape and attempted rape - Total	20.8	30	2.6	66.67
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	1.2	0	-	-
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	30.6	54	4.67	55.56
Lewd & libidinous practices*	9.8	6	0.52	100
Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total	41.6	60	5.19	60
Prostitution related crime - Total*	0	0	-	-
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	6.4	12	1.04	66.67
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	7.2	21	1.82	61.9
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	3.6	3	0.26	66.67
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	1.2	4	0.35	50
Public indecency (common law)	1.6	2	0.17	50
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	14.2	21	1.82	42.86
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	2.8	2	0.17	50
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	4.6	16	1.39	25
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	-	-
Other Group 2 crimes - Total	41.6	81	7.01	49.38
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	703.8	707	61.21	28.85
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	42	46	3.98	32.61
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	26.8	7	0.61	57.14
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	37.8	42	3.64	47.62
Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total	106.6	95	8.22	41.05
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	18.6	14	1.21	42.86

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Theft of a motor vehicle	34.8	20	1.73	35
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	38.4	22	1.9	18.18
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	2.8	5	0.43	0
Motor vehicle crime - Total	94.6	61	5.28	27.87
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	13.2	23	1.99	4.35
Common theft	229.2	212	18.35	21.7
Theft by shoplifting	145.6	118	10.22	55.08
Fraud	63.4	164	14.2	11.59
Other Group 3 Crimes	51.2	34	2.94	50
GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.	439.4	491	42.51	34.01
Fireraising	18.6	20	1.73	60
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	405.8	450	38.96	31.78
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1.2	1	0.09	100
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	13.4	20	1.73	55
Other Group 4 Crimes	0.4	0	-	-
GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES	443	506	43.81	92.09
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	14.8	8	0.69	100
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	15.6	15	1.3	100
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	9.2	16	1.39	81.25
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	4.2	12	1.04	91.67
Total offensive/bladed weapons	43.8	51	4.42	92.16
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	8.4	5	0.43	60
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	23.6	22	1.9	59.09
Bringing drugs into prison	0	0	-	-
Supply of drugs - Total	32	27	2.34	59.26
Possession of drugs	202.8	220	19.05	93.18
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	2.4	0	-	-
Total drugs crimes	237.2	247	21.38	89.47
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0	0	-	-
Bail offences (other than absconding)	83.2	108	9.35	96.3
Other Group 5 crimes	78.8	100	8.66	94
GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	1076.6	1296	112.2	70.76
Common Assault	383.4	501	43.37	61.48
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	41.2	73	6.32	95.89
Common Assault - Total	424.6	574	49.69	65.85
Breach of the Peace	48.8	17	1.47	105.88
Threatening & abusive behaviour	406	481	41.64	76.3
Stalking	15.2	11	0.95	63.64
BOP, S38 & S39 Crim Just & Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total	470	509	44.07	77.01
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	8.6	10	0.87	100
Drunk and incapable	14	8	0.69	100
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	0.2	0	-	-
Other alcohol related offences*	4.4	3	0.26	100
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)	18.6	11	0.95	100

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Wildlife offences*	10.4	5	0.43	40
Other Group 6 offences	144.4	187	16.19	66.31
GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES	914	742	64.24	83.29
Dangerous driving offences	25	31	2.68	103.23
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	51.8	56	4.85	73.21
Driving while disqualified	11	8	0.69	100
Driving without a licence	64.2	65	5.63	101.54
Failure to insure against third party risks	151.2	135	11.69	98.52
Driving Carelessly	84.4	95	8.22	85.26
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	23	16	1.39	93.75
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	83.8	87	7.53	100
Other Group 7 offences	163	175	15.15	48