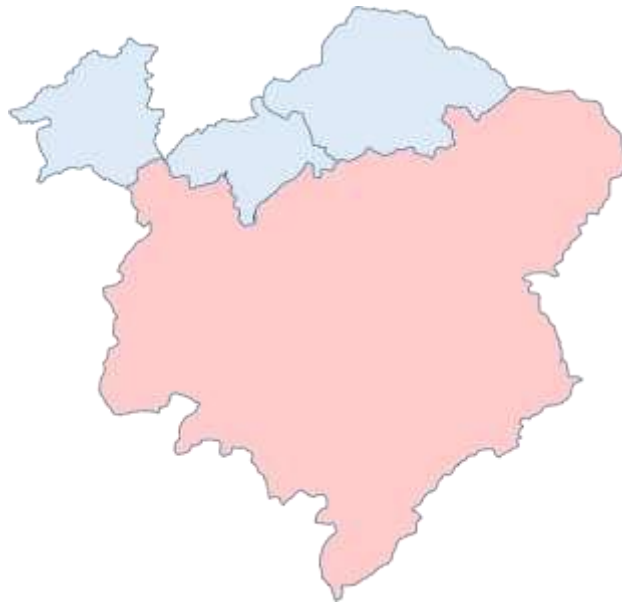


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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders



Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Quarter 4 – 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.

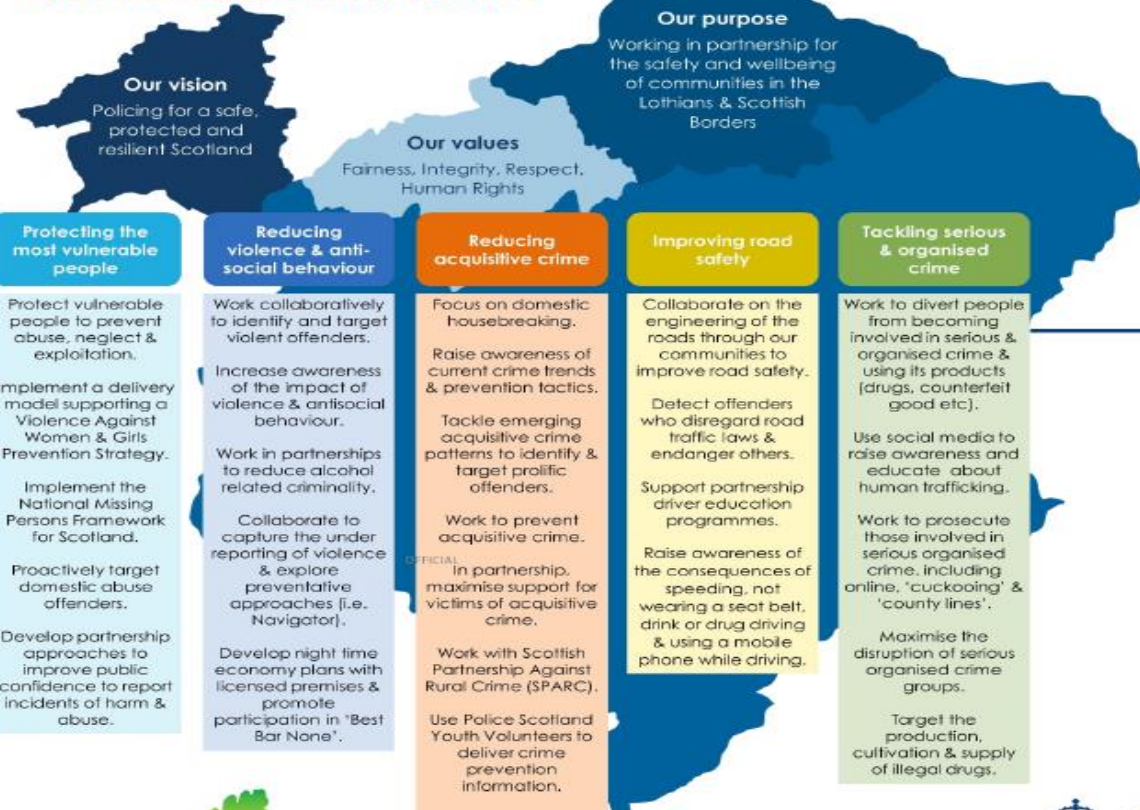
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Lothian and Scottish Borders Division Policing Priorities

Your local policing priorities across THE LOTHIANS AND SCOTTISH BORDERS



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



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 March 2022 and are compared against the five year average. 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

I am pleased to advise our return to normality, post pandemic, has continued throughout quarter four, although admittedly it did get off to a difficult start as we wrestled with the hangover of the Omicron variant. Now that too has abated - for now at least - we face a new challenge in the form of the 'McLeod Remedy.' You may have seen recent press articles in which the Chief Constable describes the impact of Police pension changes that allow officers who are over the age of fifty and have 25 years' service or more to retire sooner than they might have done otherwise. The numbers retiring from policing this year are higher than normal year on year averages, the implications of which continue to be assessed by the organisation on an ongoing basis. Supporting frontline policing (in all its forms) and ensuring those who call upon us for help receive, not just a response, but a quality service, is, and always be, our priority. As a single national service we are able to identify resources and manage recruitment to provide support and stability where it is needed most. Locally we are likewise managing, on a daily basis, our resources to ensure that we are meeting the demands of our communities, maybe not always expectations. The Chief Constable has undertaken to recruit around 300 new recruits each quarter in the year ahead to support our return to overall policing numbers and we in the Borders will receive our share. This builds on the work we've already done here more locally in recent years to target our recruitment specifically at those already living in the Borders. This improves staff retention and reduces the likelihood of officers moving to other divisions, or areas of this division, as soon as their probationary periods are up.

Notwithstanding, it may take some time to build our numbers back to full strength and we locally therefore will continue to assess where we are needed most and how we can work with partners and communities to achieve the best possible outcomes for those we serve and continue to keep the people, places and communities within the Scottish Borders safe.

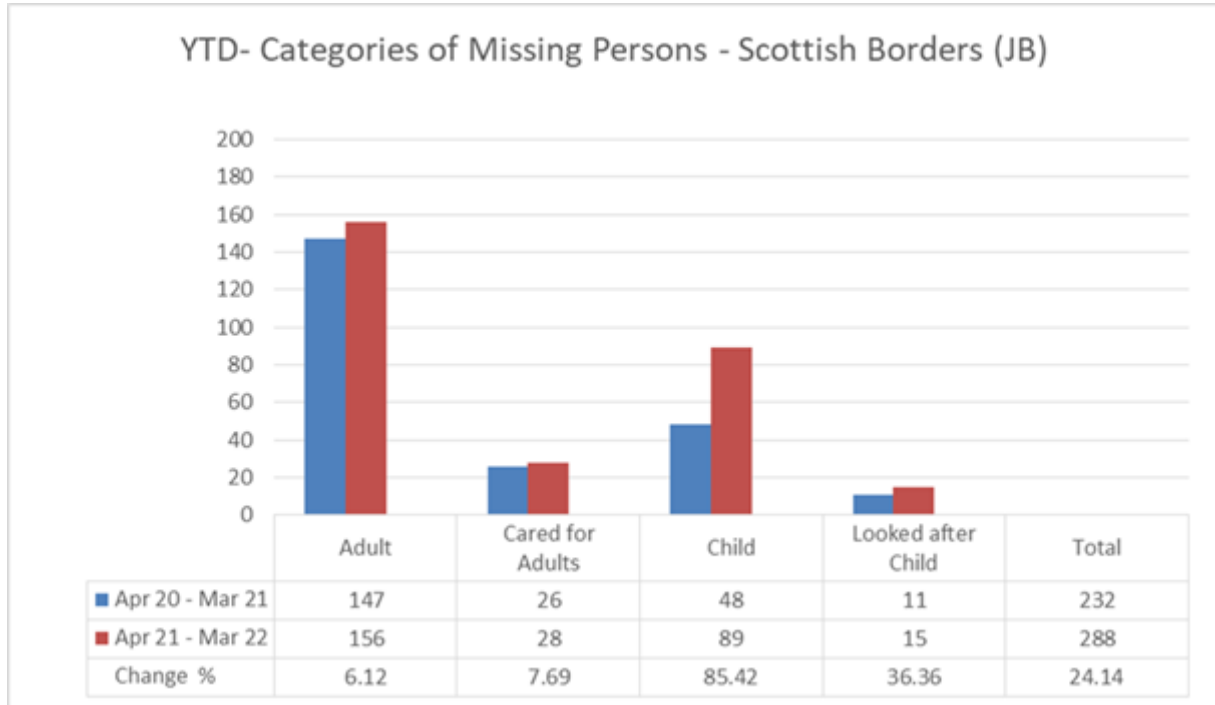
In other national media reports, you may have read about the 'rising tide of digitally enabled crime', and this is something we can identify with. This report, as in previous scrutiny reports, describes the impact this trend is having on violent crime, sexual crime and acquisitive crime here in the Scottish Borders and this is something replicated across the UK. The numbers of staff working in digital forensics has increased recently by almost a third, such is our commitment to ensuring the 'on-line space' is as safe as the physical world in which we live. What this means though, is that the staff working to protect victims from on-line harm, and to detect and deter the perpetrators responsible, and are not as visible as we have previously come to expect officers to be. Please be assured, that they are there, working in our communities as they always have been, albeit in a way that is more reflective of the way we now live our lives.

We are grateful for the ongoing support we receive from public and partners here in the Scottish Borders and we look forward to working with each one of you in the coming weeks and months and collectively making the Borders a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and play.

Vincent Fisher

Local Area Commander

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.
 - Year 2021 / 2022 - 1565 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 the Scottish Borders has increased from 232 last year to 288 this year, a 24.1% increase. This is broadly in-line with expectation and is largely due to the easing of Covid restrictions. At the height of lockdown, most people were at home and accounted for and the opportunities for people to go missing were far more limited. With Covid hopefully now behind us, our efforts intensify in terms of implementing the various missing person protocols. A summary of progress to date is detailed below.

Adults living with dementia who go missing - Herbert Protocol – this protocol has been fully implemented. The Herbert protocol is essentially a preventative tool that encourages family and carers of dementia sufferers to record information that will assist police and other agencies in the event the dementia sufferer goes missing. While gathering the information, the families and carers are prompted to consider and improve safety and security arrangements which lessen the risk of people going missing in the first place. Work continues to raise awareness and increase participation.

Patients who go missing from NHS premises – Training has been completed within Huntlyburn and East Brig. This training is to highlight and ensure awareness of NHS protocols around the actions staff should take and what information to provide when reporting someone missing. A checklist is provided so they know what information to provide and what actions they should take prior to calling the Police. Training will start shortly in the Borders General Hospital.

Looked after and accommodated Children who go missing from residential Care – This protocol ensures consistency of response, and effective distribution of responsibilities and actions, between foster carers, residential units, social work and Police in the event a looked after child goes missing. Implementation was complicated by a desire locally to amend the national guidance to include children missing from home. We held regular meetings with partners to establish a workable solution and it is anticipated training among staff in residential units will commence soon, with foster carers following shortly thereafter.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Domestic Abuse Incidents
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	5yr Average	Q4 2021/22	% Change
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents	1093.4	1284	17.43
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	617.4	870	40.91
Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime	42.99	45.64	2.65
Total crimes and offences detection rate	70.44	71.95	1.52
Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	42.8	61	42.52

At the end of quarter 4 of 2021/2022 there were 1284 domestic abuse incidents reported to police, which equates to an increase of 17.43% compared to the 5 year average. The detection rate for domestic crimes during quarter 4 is 71.95% which is up 1.52% when compared to the 5 year average.

While the rise in reports of domestic offending may understandably give rise to concern, it is important to understand that this may not reflect an increase in domestic offending per se. We and our partners have for many years promoted the reporting of domestic abuse, either directly or via third parties, and the confidence victims, their families and friends now have to report domestic offending, is encouraging. We routinely see types of incidents reported now, that we simply wouldn't ten or twenty years ago. We see every report of domestic abuse as an opportunity to intervene, support and protect victims from harm.

To that end, 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.

Our Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit review all domestic incidents which are reported to police. In many instances they carry out extensive protracted enquires identifying and approaching previous partners to present the best possible case to the Procurator Fiscal. As a direct consequence of such enquires, during quarter 4, a 25 year old male was sentenced to 9 years imprisonment for the rape of 3 women in Hawick. In a separate enquiry another 25 year old man from Hawick was charged with 24 offences against 3 women, these offences spanned a total of 8 years. Both of these men are currently in prison and are unable to commit further abuse.

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 those perpetrators who present the greatest risk of harm in order to achieve positive outcomes for victims and their families. In Quarter 4 there were 3 MATAC referral 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 61 bail offences YTD, a rise of 42.5% when compared to the five year average, which is testament to our commitment to tackling the scourge of domestic abuse and keeping people safe.

The Local Policing Plan gave rise to the Domestic Abuse Prevention Delivery Group, where tactics are devised and developed to reduce domestic offending. Our messaging is shared by partner agencies to increase our reach and

effectiveness. The work of this group extends beyond domestic abuse to include prevention of violence against women and girls more generally. While the pandemic limited some of our face-to-face prevention activity that is now beginning to change, and notwithstanding we maintained a strong social media presence throughout, using those platforms to get our messages across.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Hate Crime
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	5 year average	Q4 2021/22	Q4 Per 10,000
Hate Incidents	82.4	145	12.55
Hate Crimes *	66.8	133	11.51
Hate Crime Detection Rate	75.75	68.42	

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”.

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

[Hate crime - Police Scotland](#)

Like domestic abuse, hate crime has historically been underreported, and significant effort over the years has gone into encouraging more people to come forward. It is encouraging to see more people are prepared to do so, perhaps assisted by our online and third-party reporting mechanisms, and the increases we’ve seen are perhaps more indicative of this willingness, rather than a sign of deterioration in offending behaviour.

Very few hate crimes result in damage to property or physical injury to the person, throughout this year to date vandalism and assault have accounted for 17% of all hate crimes. Most hate crimes, around 80% YTD, involve derogatory comments, knocking on doors and running away, and similar acts of that nature. Irrespective of how hate behaviours manifest themselves we recognise the harm it causes individuals, families, groups and communities. We are committed to encouraging respectful tolerant interactions where everyone involved feels respected and valued.

As police officers we continue to find ourselves victim to around a fifth of hate crimes, usually when dealing with unruly arrested persons. We understand that in heated situations such as this, people are inclined to say things with the express intention of causing maximum offence, but we cannot simply accept this as being part of the job.

Our robust stance on hate crime serves to educate offenders and other members of the public on what is, and more importantly, what is not acceptable in a modern, respectable society.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Sexual Crimes (Group 2)
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Crime Type	5 Year average	Q4 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q4 2021/22 Detection Rate
Group 2	214.2	337	57.33%	29.17	49.55%
Rape & Attempt Rape	45.2	49	8.41%	4.24	51.02%
Indecent/Sexual Assault	83.8	129	53.94%	11.17	48.06%
Other Group 2	85.2	159	86.62%	13.77	50.31%

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.

Sexual Crime in the Scottish Borders shows an increase of 57.3% this year when compared to the five year average and that is predominantly due to increases in online / non-contact offending. There has been an 86% increase in 'Other Group 2' crimes when compared to the five year average which includes communicating indecently, contraventions of Communications Act 2003 and Threatening/Disclosing Intimate images.

The detection rate is down 16.5% when comparing to the 5 year average. The dip in overall solvency for Group 2 crime in the Scottish Borders is influenced predominantly by the previously described increase in online offending and threats to distribute intimate images - crimes that require complex and often lengthy, technical enquiries. These crimes, often perpetrated by suspects overseas, are simply more difficult to detect. As society as a whole becomes more digitised, and we have seen an acceleration of this process during the pandemic, the opportunity for such offending increases.

22% of all Group 2 crimes are domestic crimes, as discussed earlier in this report every domestic incidents is subject to intense scrutiny to ensure a robust and consistent approach to tackling domestic abuse.

76% of all Group 2 crimes occur within a private residence.

It is also important to understand that a proportion of sexual crime is non-recent, and can often date back many years or even decades. This too is indicative of a societal change where victims are more inclined to talk about and disclose their experiences. Regardless of when the reported crimes were actually committed, our investigations remain thorough and our approach, sensitive and supportive.

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	Q4 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q4 2021/22 Detection Rate
Drugs Supply, Production and Cultivation	63.6	48	-24.53%	4.16	81.25%

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 13.4% when compared to the 5 year average.

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 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 learning points for all agencies involved.
- We use Social Media to encourage reporting of Criminal Behaviour through 101, 999 or Crimestoppers.

During Q4 SB-CAT officers continued to carryout intelligence led stop and searches, with approximate value of drugs removed from the street being in the region of £75,000. Of note, in February a female was charged for being in possession of £16000 worth of class A drugs in Hawick. Furthermore in March a male was charged with possession of £2800 worth of class A drugs in Jedburgh.

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Crimes of Violence (Group 1)
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Crime Type	5 year average	Q4 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q4 2021/22 Detection Rate
Group 1	103.8	157	51.25%	13.59	60.51%
Serious Assault	51.8	59	13.90%	5.11	67.80%
Robbery	14	8	-42.86%	0.69	100.00%
Common Assault	837	1141	36.32%	98.78	69.15%

*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 51.25% increase in violent crime in the Scottish Borders compared to the five year average, equating to an increase of 53.2 crimes. There has been a 9% increase when compared to LYTD. The detection rate for overall violent crime is 60.51%, a decrease of 17.7% when compared to the 5 year average.

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

- The 357% increase in reports of threats and extortion which equates to an actual increase of 33.6 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 50% when compared to LYTD (from 16 to 24).

As referenced in earlier reports, and as can clearly be seen above, threats and extortion, and in particular ‘Sextortion’, accounts for a significant proportion of Group 1 offending and is the greatest single contributor to the percentage rises we continue to experience both here in the Borders and nationally.

Sextortion involves the threat of sharing sexual information, images or clips to extort money from people, whether images actually exist or not. These crimes are often perpetrated overseas and are challenging to detect. If we extract this type of criminality from our detection rate calculations, our solvency rises from 60.51% to 76%.

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 36.32% against the five year average, the detection rate was 69.15% at the end of quarter 4. Approximately 54% of common assaults were recorded as taking place in private space versus 46% taking place in public space. Domestic Assaults account for around a third of all common assaults. The vast majority of all common assaults with a domestic marker took place in private space. About 19% of domestic assaults were non recent.

There have been 121 Assaults on Emergency Service Workers, which increased this year by over 36.9%, (from 88.4 to 121). 92% of Assaults on Emergency Service Workers were assaults on Police Officers, 8% were on NHS staff.

Robbery in the Borders is 43% below the 5 year average and we have detected 100% of the 8 crimes reported. The reasons for this marked drop in robberies is not entirely clear, but the 100% detection rate is 100% attributable to the hard work and tenacity of our officers and the support they receive from our communities following each incident.

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 pubs and other venues return to normal; 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 Q4	Change	TYTD Per 10,000 population	Q4 2021/22 Detection Rate
Antisocial Behaviour Incidents	5845.2	5360	-8.30		
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)	775.4	804	3.69%	69.6	32.59%
Fire-raising	39	35	-10.26%	3.03	57.14%
Breach of the Peace and S38 CJ&L(S) A 2010	864.6	922	6.64%	79.82	79.93%

The number of Anti-Social behaviour incidents has decreased by 8.3% this year-to-date when compared to the 5 year average. This is a total reduction of 485.2 incidents and is reflective of the exceptionally high demand we saw last year during periods of Covid restriction.

All Group 4 Crimes, which include Vandalism and Fire-raising have increased 4.4% when compared to the five year average, an increase of 37.4 crimes. A proportion of the reported breaches of the peace and S88 CJ&L(S) Act offences will have a domestic element to them, and Police officers and staff will account for some of the victims.

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.

Between the 27th of December 2021 and the 2nd of January 2022 there were a series of vandalisms in Innerleithen, through local police enquiries and assistance from the public 2 males aged 14 and 16 and a female aged 14 have been reported for the offences through the Youth Justice Procedures.

Our community officers in Hawick have also been attending the Hawick Rugby Club Cashback Community Rugby. The workshops took place on Wednesday evenings for all young people aged between 15-24 years of age. The scheme gives youths the opportunity to engage in physical activity whilst socialising in a positive environment and becoming upskilled on key educational themes which include tackling antisocial behaviour within the community. The scheme hopes to educate young people allowing them to engage with local community Police Officers as well as other services and mental health professionals and aims to keep young people off the streets and encourage them to respect their communities and the people therein.

Antisocial Behaviour Patrols form part of our weekend plans, targeted patrols are carried out by response and community officers at high tariff times in hotspot areas. In addition our CAT teams have been carrying out targeted ASB patrols in Hawick, Peebles, Galashiels and Kelso. Alcohol has been seized from young persons in Peebles and Hawick. There have been foot patrols carried out at the Transport Interchange at Galashiels, and at School Brae in Peebles, as well as other youth hotspots.

Our School Link Officers attended at the majority of this year's rugby seven's engaging with youths to tackle and educate around underage drinking.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime	Dishonesty (group 3)
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5 Year Average	Q4 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q4 2021/22 Detection Rate
1401.8	1348	-3.84%	116.7	28.19%

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 decreased by 53.8 crimes (3.8%) when compared to the five year average (This overall figure incorporates housebreaking crimes).

There are only 3 crime areas where there has been an increase;

- The opening of a lock fast place which is not a motor vehicle, where there has been an increase of 10.6 crimes compared to the 5 year average
- Attempt theft of motor vehicles, where there has been an increase of 2 crimes (from 5 to 7)
- The largest increase has been seen in frauds, where there has been an increase of 121.3% which equates to an actual increase of 182 crimes.

The increase in fraud is mirrored nationally. 55% of frauds in the Scottish Borders relate to Cybercrimes and as mentioned earlier, these crimes require complex and often lengthy, technical enquiries. These crimes, often perpetrated by suspects overseas, are simply more difficult to detect. As society as a whole becomes more digitised, the opportunity for such offending increases.

We still however continue to receive reports of ‘conventional’ frauds, and these require more conventional investigative approach. Two men aged 27 and 53 were arrested and charged in relation to a Bogus Caller incident in Galashiels in January. The males had tried to charge a vulnerable resident an excessive and unreasonable fee for gardening work. These men also attempted to charge the complainer a further £10,000 for extra and unnecessary work.

Whilst Frauds account for the highest volume of group 3 crimes, theft shoplifting account for almost a third of all group 3 crimes. During quarter 4 a 22 year old male from Galashiels was charged with a series of shoplifting offences committed over a 6 month period in addition to a fraud. The male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime	Housebreaking
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Crime Type	5 Year Average	Q4 2021/22	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q4 2021/22 Detection Rate
Dwelling HB	83	80	-3.61%	6.93	30.00%
Non Dwelling (Sheds, garages) HB	53.8	24	-55.39%	2.08	16.67%
Other (Business) HB	75	75	0	6.49	37.33%
All HB	211.8	179	-15.49%	15.5	31.28%

All housebreaking (including attempts) crimes have decreased by 15.49% 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 police recover cash or commodity from organised gangs, this can fuel a spate of lower level criminality as they try to recoup their losses.

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. There is evidence to suggest separate organised crime groups are working more collaboratively and employing technology such as drones to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal enterprises.

We too work closely with colleagues in other local policing areas, and indeed from forces in the north of England, to ensure all intelligence is gathered and assessed, and that our response to such criminality is as cohesive and effective as possible.

We continue to push the prevention message, encouraging businesses and homeowners to take security measures to protect their property from thieves and to improve the chances of their property being recovered in the event they do fall victim.

There has been a recent spate of high value pedal cycle thefts across Scotland, and the thieves are assisted by a combination of people who post pictures of their highly prized bikes on social media, and the prevalence of performance tracking apps. Essentially victims are advertising to thieves what they have and where they keep it making them an easy target.

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Improving road safety	Road Casualties
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	Q4 2020/21	Q4 2021/22	Change
Fatal	4	8	4
Serious	37	61	24
Slight	55	85	30
Total	96	154	58
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	0
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	0	3	3

	5 Year Average	Q4 2021/22	Change
Dangerous driving	47.4	56	18.14%
Disqualified driving	19.2	14	-27.08%
Driving Licence	120	98	-18.33%
Insurance	298.4	202	-32.31%
Drink/Drug Driving Detections	103.8	101	-2.70%


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 also 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						
	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22		2020-21	2021-22
Visits	43	40	23		517	609
Enforcement hours	106.6	97.6	53.6		962	1396
Activations	96	89	8		862	1515
Activations per Enforcement Area	0.9	0.9	0.1		0.9	1.1

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.

During Q4 officers have continued to carry out further work with Junior Road Safety Officers in Duns, Chirside, Kelso and Galashiels giving them an overview of our speed detection equipment, discussing the speed of vehicles and other road safety issues. The JRSOs then feed this back to their school via presentations.

Tackling Serious & Organised Crime	Tackling Serious & Organised Crime
<p>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.</p> <p>We continue to tackle these groups at a local level through the gathering and development of intelligence, pro-active stop and searches, and through the execution of search warrants and execution of 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.</p> <p>Fearless, an initiative and platform supported by Crimestoppers is to be put into effect in all High Schools in the division. This will provide a valuable resource for young people to anonymously report concerns/intelligence and for them to seek information about all different types of crime and where to access further information, advice, help or support.</p> <p>During quarter 4 the Scottish Borders supported the launch of the following national campaigns; Romance Fraud, Construction Watch, Shut out Scammers and No Knives better Lives. These campaigns were supported through Social Media and leaflet drops.</p> <p>A recent meeting was Chaired by the Detective Superintendent of J Division and attended by Local Authority SOC Leads across the division. It was agreed that this meeting will be held on a regular basis to enhance communication, share best practice and ensure emerging local/ national trends are considered.</p> <p>We continue to encourage members of the public to report any concerns regarding drug dealing, or organised criminality in their communities, either directly to us or anonymously through Crimestoppers. We also continue to work with partner agencies to assist their staff in identifying signs of vulnerable people falling prey to organised crime groups and to establishing reporting mechanisms to alert us.</p> <p><u>Threat Level</u></p> <p> The National Threat Level is SUBSTANTIAL.</p> <p>The UK National Threat Level has been lowered to SUBSTANTIAL meaning an attack is likely.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p><u>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.</u></p> <p>https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/advice-for-young-people/</p>	

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Complaints	Executive Summary
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April 2021 – March 2022				
	Number of Complaints about the Police		Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	
Complaints received about the Police	112		40.53	
	On Duty Allegations	Off Duty Allegations	Quality of Service Allegations	Total Number of Allegations
Total Allegations Recorded	107	1	71	179

The breakdown above details the total number of Complaints about the Police, received in relation to the Scottish Borders area command as at 31 March 2022.

The breakdown below provides further detail on the Allegation Category and Type. As can be seen there has been a 7.5% decrease in the overall number of Complaints about the Police when comparing LYTD and YTD. This may be a consequence of the number of adverse interactions our officers had last year during the strictest periods of Covid restriction. Either way, the drop in number is encouraging.

Allegation Category	2020/21	2021/22	% change from PYTD
Off Duty - TOTAL	2	1	-50.0%
Incivility	1	0	-100.0%
Other	1	1	0.0%
On Duty - TOTAL	130	113	-13.1%
Assault	1	7	600.0%
Corrupt Practice	2	0	-100.0%
Discriminatory Behaviour	0	3	x
Excessive Force	7	7	0.0%
Incivility	27	29	7.4%
Irregularity in Procedure	77	52	-32.5%
Neglect of Duty	2	0	-100.0%
Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	7	7	0.0%

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Other - Criminal	0	1	x
Other - Non Criminal	3	5	66.7%
Traffic Irregularity/Offence	2	2	0.0%
Unlawful/Unnecessary Arrest or Detention	2	0	-100.0%
Quality Of Service - TOTAL	82	84	2.4%
Policy/Procedure	15	19	26.7%
Service Delivery	24	23	-4.2%
Service Outcome	43	42	-2.3%
Grand Total	214	198	-7.5%

Scottish Borders CAT team – Q4 Update

The SB CAT Strategic Oversight Group, comprising around a third of elected members in the Borders along with representatives of SBC and Police, continues to direct CAT tasking. Decisions are based on sound analytical evidence of ASB and other community issues relevant to the Local Policing Plan and Community Partnership Plan. The following highlights some of the more significant work done.

Road safety – along with continuing to work with the junior road safety officers, SBCAT have undertaken 98 road checks during Q4 and identified 32 road traffic offences. The CAT team carried out work in respect of antisocial driving in Galashiels alongside Roads Policing Officers and VOSA staff in February.

Drugs – Along with some of the successful execution of MDA warrants highlighted above, during Q4 SBCAT executed 12 MDA warrants with 83% success rate for recoveries. SBCAT further undertook 42 MDA person searches with a success rate of 55%. Having a high degree of success helps maintain public confidence in intelligence led MDA searches which sits above the national average of around 33%. This demonstrates we are targeting the right people in the right places at the right times.

Youth ASB – SBCAT continues to work with partners in an effort to reduce the impact of ASB across the region. During Q3 and Q4 there were a number of incidents of vandalism and fire-raising in Innerleithen. The CAT enquired into the crimes and charged several youths with the offences. There has since been a reduction in the volume of anti-social behaviour calls involving youths in the Innerleithen area.

Q4 saw a further reduction in the amount of Youth Warning Letters, with only 12 letters being issued. What has further been seen in relation to youth warning letters is the reduction in repeat names, which indicates that individuals are not coming to police attention on more than 1 occasion and the system is having the desired effect. Further work is being undertaken with partners and voluntary agencies to divert those repeat names in to more productive activities across the region.

Quad Bikes – The successful introduction of the police quad bikes continues to be seen, with deployments being undertaken to tackle localised issues such as off road motorcycles in the Monynut area of Berwickshire. A total of 7 fixed penalty notices in respect of off road motorcycling were issued in one day. The quad bikes have also been deployed to engage with farmers, promoting crime prevention measures and encouraging the reporting of rural crime and associated suspicious activity.

Appendix

Lothian and Scottish Borders Divisional Crime Overview

Lothian and Scottish Borders Division	5 Year Average	2021/22 Q4	Per 10,000 Q4 2021/22	Detection Rates 2021/22
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	560.4	788	15.82	65.23
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	2.2	7	0.14	100.00
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0.4	1	0.02	100.00
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	5	2	0.04	100.00
Attempted murder	16.4	30	0.6	83.33
Serious assault	263.8	267	5.36	76.78
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	96	94	1.89	65.96
Domestic Abuse (of female)	N/A	132	2.65	79.55
Domestic Abuse (of male)	N/A	4	0.08	50.00
Domestic Abuse (Total)	N/A	136	2.73	78.68
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	63.4	58	1.16	82.76
Threats and extortion	40.8	127	2.55	12.60
Other group 1 crimes	35.8	66	1.32	62.12
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	999.4	1329	26.68	55.15
Rape	185.2	221	4.44	62.90
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	8.2	7	0.14	42.86
<i>Rape and attempted rape - Total</i>	193.4	228	4.58	62.28
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	18.8	12	0.24	50.00
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	261.6	386	7.75	47.15
Lewd & libidinous practices*	96.8	94	1.89	67.02
<i>Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total</i>	377.2	492	9.88	51.02
<i>Prostitution related crime - Total*</i>	0.4	2	0.04	100.00
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	56.6	67	1.34	79.10
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	77.2	155	3.11	58.06
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	47	30	0.6	53.33
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	32.2	30	0.6	46.67
Public indecency (common law)	12.2	7	0.14	14.29
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	136	212	4.26	55.66
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	20.8	15	0.3	73.33
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	46.4	91	1.83	38.46
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	0	-
<i>Other Group 2 crimes - Total</i>	428.4	607	12.18	55.68
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	8928.2	7757	155.71	27.05
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	437	341	6.85	31.38
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	418.2	222	4.46	14.86
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	404	264	5.3	33.33
<i>Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total</i>	1259.2	827	16.6	27.57

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Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	228.6	152	3.05	17.76
Theft of a motor vehicle	454.8	385	7.73	37.92
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	586.6	259	5.2	21.24
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	35.8	40	0.8	15.00
<i>Motor vehicle crime - Total</i>	1305.8	836	16.78	27.99
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	140.4	148	2.97	6.76
Common theft	2421.4	2169	43.54	18.90
Theft by shoplifting	2449	1915	38.44	45.33
Fraud	762.4	1427	28.65	11.28
Other Group 3 Crimes	590	435	8.73	42.99
GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.	4247.8	4017	80.64	28.06
Fire-raising	239.2	225	4.52	29.33
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	3782.8	3481	69.88	25.97
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	6.4	4	0.08	125.00
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	210.4	296	5.94	51.35
Other Group 4 Crimes	9	11	0.22	0.00
GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES	4098.8	3984	79.97	93.85
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	132	159	3.19	89.94
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	146.2	170	3.41	88.82
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	93.6	151	3.03	77.48
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	58.6	78	1.57	78.21
<i>Total offensive/bladed weapons</i>	430.4	558	11.2	84.59
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	86	40	0.8	87.50
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	239.8	174	3.49	79.89
Bringing drugs into prison	20.4	11	0.22	54.55
<i>Supply of drugs - Total</i>	346.2	225	4.52	80.00
Possession of drugs	1795.2	1481	29.73	98.11
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	12.2	9	0.18	55.56
<i>Total drugs crimes</i>	2153.6	1715	34.43	95.51
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	2	0	0	-
Bail offences (other than absconding)	763.4	975	19.57	94.87
Other Group 5 crimes	749.4	736	14.77	95.65
GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	9592.4	10539	211.56	67.34
Common Assault	3893	4518	90.69	58.72
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	397	429	8.61	99.30
<i>Common Assault - Total</i>	4290	4947	99.31	62.24
Breach of the Peace	229.4	99	1.99	94.95
Threatening & abusive behaviour	3488.4	3634	72.95	74.99
Stalking	109.8	90	1.81	78.89
<i>BOP, S38 & S39 Crim Just & Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total</i>	3827.6	3823	76.74	75.60
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	123	128	2.57	89.06
Drunk and incapable	56.4	22	0.44	100.00
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	58.2	19	0.38	100.00
Other alcohol related offences*	43.6	38	0.76	94.74

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<i>Drunkness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)</i>	158.2	79	1.59	97.47
Wildlife offences*	31.2	70	1.41	28.57
Other Group 6 offences	1162.4	1492	29.95	61.46
GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES	7034	6524	130.96	79.54
Dangerous driving offences	229	296	5.94	85.81
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	525.2	601	12.06	82.03
Driving while disqualified	127.2	84	1.69	96.43
Driving without a licence	550.6	546	10.96	98.35
Failure to insure against third party risks	1431.8	1246	25.01	97.83
Driving Carelessly	528.4	687	13.79	86.03
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	122.8	106	2.13	95.28
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	673.2	610	12.25	98.85
Other Group 7 offences	1727	1863	37.4	46.97

Scottish Borders Recorded Crime Overview

Scottish Borders	5 Year Average	2021/22 Q4	Per 10,000 Q4 2021/22	Detection Rates 2021/22
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	103.8	157	13.59	60.51
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0.8	1	0.09	100
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0	0	-	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	1.6	2	0.17	100
Attempted murder	3	3	0.26	133.33
Serious assault	51.8	59	5.11	67.8
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	14	8	0.69	100
Domestic Abuse (of female)	N/A	24	2.08	79.17
Domestic Abuse (of male)	N/A	0	-	-
Domestic Abuse (Total)	N/A	24	2.08	79.17
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	12	6	0.52	100
Threats and extortion	9.4	43	3.72	18.6
Other group 1 crimes	4.8	11	0.95	63.64
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	214.2	337	29.17	49.55
Rape	43.6	49	4.24	51.02
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	1.6	0	-	-
Rape and attempted rape - Total	45.2	49	4.24	51.02
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	3.4	0	-	-
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	60.4	110	9.52	45.45
Lewd & libidinous practices*	20	19	1.64	63.16
Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total	83.8	129	11.17	48.06
Prostitution related crime - Total*	0	0	-	-
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	12.8	25	2.16	80
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	14.8	50	4.33	50
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	8.8	7	0.61	85.71
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	3.8	4	0.35	50
Public indecency (common law)	2.8	2	0.17	50
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	27.2	43	3.72	44.19
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	5.4	4	0.35	50
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	9.6	24	2.08	20.83
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	-	-
Other Group 2 crimes - Total	85.2	159	13.77	50.31
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	1401.8	1348	116.7	28.19
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	83	80	6.93	30
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	53.8	24	2.08	16.67
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	75	75	6.49	37.33
Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total	211.8	179	15.5	31.28
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	38.4	29	2.51	37.93
Theft of a motor vehicle	65	52	4.5	30.77

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Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	73.4	39	3.38	17.95
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	5	7	0.61	28.57
Motor vehicle crime - Total	181.8	127	10.99	28.35
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	29.4	40	3.46	5
Common theft	438.4	362	31.34	22.93
Theft by shoplifting	300.8	245	21.21	53.88
Fraud	150	332	28.74	13.25
Other Group 3 Crimes	89.6	63	5.45	42.86
GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.	846.6	884	76.53	34.95
Fire-raising	39	35	3.03	57.14
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	775.4	804	69.6	32.59
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1.6	3	0.26	66.67
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	30.2	41	3.55	60.98
Other Group 4 Crimes	0.4	1	0.09	0
GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES	854.4	974	84.32	94.46
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	20.2	19	1.64	94.74
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	30.8	27	2.34	96.3
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	15	30	2.6	76.67
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	7.6	15	1.3	93.33
Total offensive/bladed weapons	73.6	91	7.88	89.01
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	14.6	8	0.69	75
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	49	40	3.46	82.5
Bringing drugs into prison	0	0	-	-
Supply of drugs - Total	63.6	48	4.16	81.25
Possession of drugs	392.2	436	37.75	94.95
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	3.8	1	0.09	0
Total drugs crimes	459.6	485	41.99	93.4
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0	0	-	-
Bail offences (other than absconding)	160.8	219	18.96	97.72
Other Group 5 crimes	160.4	179	15.5	96.09
GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	2052	2541	219.98	72.81
Common Assault	748.6	1020	88.3	65.29
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	88.4	121	10.48	101.65
Common Assault - Total	837	1141	98.78	69.15
Breach of the Peace	77	28	2.42	100
Threatening & abusive behaviour	759.8	868	75.15	79.49
Stalking	27.8	26	2.25	73.08
BOP, S38 & S39 Crim Just & Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total	864.6	922	79.82	79.93
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	18.2	15	1.3	93.33
Drunk and incapable	24	11	0.95	100
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	0.2	0	-	-
Other alcohol related offences*	10	14	1.21	100
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)	34.2	25	2.16	100
Wildlife offences*	15	42	3.64	11.9

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Other Group 6 offences	283	396	34.28	70.71
GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES	1685.8	1333	115.4	82.52
Dangerous driving offences	47.4	56	4.85	100
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	103.8	101	8.74	78.22
Driving while disqualified	19.2	14	1.21	100
Driving without a licence	120	98	8.48	100
Failure to insure against third party risks	298.4	202	17.49	97.03
Driving Carelessly	158.4	165	14.28	86.67
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	40.6	59	5.11	98.31
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	178.8	153	13.25	100
Other Group 7 offences	322.8	379	32.81	53.3