

Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders



Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Quarter 1 – 2022/2023

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.

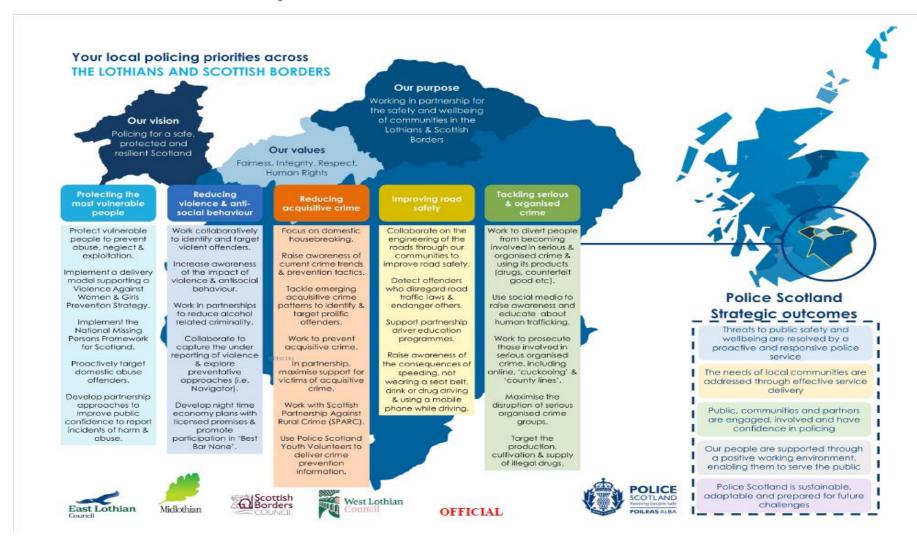
Our Values

Integrity, Fairness and Respect.

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Lothian and Scottish Borders Division Policing Priorities



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 2022 to June 2022 and are compared against the five year average, unless otherwise stated. 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

Reporting Period: April 22 – June 2022							
Total Crime: (Group1-5) 918 Crime Decrease 0.8%							
Protecting the most	t Vulnerable People	Reducing Violence and	d Antisocial Behaviour				
Domestic Bail Offences	Domestic Crime Detection Rate	Common Assault	Robbery				
66.7% -0.5% 21 (8.4 more) Q1 - 72.6%		38.9% 309 (86.6 more)	130.8% 6 (3.4 more)				
Reducing Acq	uisitive Crime	Improving Road Safety	Serious Organised Crime				
All Housebreaking Detection rate	All Housebreaking	Road Traffic Casualties	Drug supply				
-19.59% Q1 10.81%	-32.23 % 37 (20 less) n not 5 year average compariso	-36.36%* 28 (16 less)*	-13.8% 15 (2.4 less)				

Executive Summary

I am delighted to say during this quarter we have seen our events calendar return to something nearing normality following a two year hiatus. Our community policing teams, often assisted by colleagues from national divisions, have helped successfully deliver a wide range of community and commercial events. From common ridings and parades, to rallies and rugby sevens. The events not only bring pleasure to those who attend, observe, facilitate or participate, but provide our officers with valuable opportunities to improve public confidence through visibility, presence and accessibility. These informal, friendly and spontaneous conversations are just as important as formal meetings and are a great way of staying connected, listening to community concerns and keeping the public informed of what we are doing about them.

In a similar vein, you may be aware of our ongoing 'Your Police' survey which launched in May. This is the more formal mechanism by which we can understand the views and priorities of our communities. Your feedback is invaluable and will help shape the 2023 – 26 Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan. I would strongly encourage you to became involved and influence the future of policing in your area.

The survey can be found by clicking here and it takes less than 10 minutes to complete https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2022-2023/

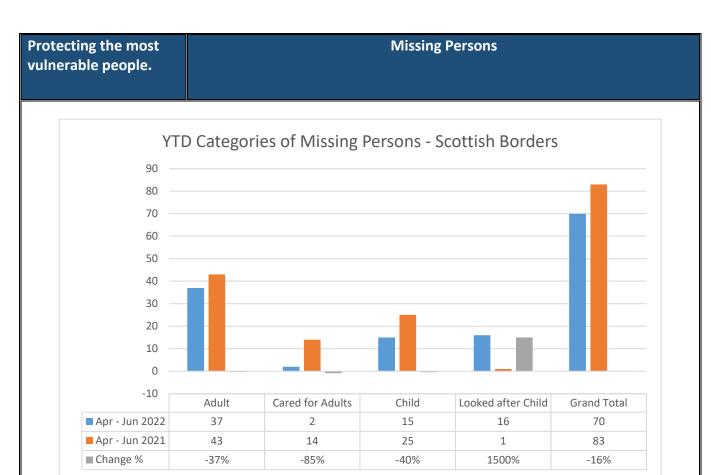
Alternatively, please contact us if you'd like to complete the survey in a different way by emailing insightengagement@scotland.police.uk.

Another way to positively influence policing is to join us, and our targeted campaign which aims to recruit and retain people from the Scottish Borders continues with a special event, held via MS Teams, on the evening of Monday 29 August between 6.30pm and 8pm. Please keep an eye on our social media channels for more information and that all important Teams link.

In other news, there has been a legislative development in terms of violent crime through the implementation on 28 June 2022 of the **Offensive Weapons Act 2019, S6(1)**. This creates the offence of possessing a corrosive substance in a public place without reasonable excuse or lawful authority; a corrosive substance being any substance capable of burning human skin through corrosion. While incidents involving such chemicals are a rarity, particularly here in the Scottish Borders, this new legislation will provide us another tool to help disrupt and deter violent criminals.

I trust you will find this report informative and interesting, and I look forward to presenting it to you and answering your questions at the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board on 2 September.

Vincent Fisher Local Area Commander Scottish Borders



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:

■ Apr - Jun 2021 ■ Change %

- 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;

Apr - Jun 2022

- Year 2017 / 2018 2390 missing person investigations;
- Year 2018 / 2019 2581 missing person investigations;
- Year 2019 / 2020 1786 missing person investigations.
- Year 2020 / 2021 1468 missing person investigations.

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

The overall recorded number of missing people in quarter 1 has decreased from 83 last year to 70 this year, a 16% drop.

Progress in terms of the various missing persons protocols remains as previously reported.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.

Domestic Abuse Incidents

	5yr Average	Q1 2022/23	% Change
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents	294.2	328	11.5
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	166.8	223	33.7
Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime	41.26	47.6	6.3
Total crimes and offences detection rate	73.18	72.7	-0.5
Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	12.6	21	66.7

During quarter 1 of this year 328 incidents of domestic abuse have been reported in the Scottish Borders, this is an increase of 11.5% on the 5 year average. When comparing to last year to date there has been a 2.4% decrease in the number of incidents reported. At the end of quarter 1 the detection rate was 72.7%, this has since risen to 75.8% on the 7th of August 2022.

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. During quarter 1 a 26 year old male was charged with 9 offences against 2 ex partners. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

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. During quarter 1 there were 3 MATAC referral's 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 21 bail offences during quarter 1, a rise of 66.7% when compared to the five year average, this 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	Hate Crime
_	nace crime
vulnerable people.	

	5 year average	Q1 2022/23	Q1 Per 10,000
Hate Incidents	22.6	33	2.9
Hate Crimes *	20	25	2.2
Hate Crime Detection Rate	86.0	20.0	

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 assaults have accounted for 11% of all hate crimes. Most hate crimes, around 89% YTD, involve derogatory comments. 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.

A number of hate crime enquiries were still ongoing during Q1. Some of those enquiries have since concluded and the crimes subsequently detected. As a consequence our detection rate has now risen to around 50% and we would expect that to rise yet further as the other enquiries reach completion and the administrative process that ultimately generates the solvency is undertaken.

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.

We have recently secured support from a number of Co-op branches across the Borders who have agreed to act as Safe Spaces and have their staff undertake training in support of the Keep Safe initiative.

Keep Safe is a partnership initiative developed with Police Scotland and the I Am Me community led charity to raise awareness and increase reports of Disability Hate Crime. Keep Safe works with local businesses to create a

network of safer places for disabled, elderly, and vulnerable people to go if they are lost, scared, need help, or if they are the victim of crime.
A full list of Keep Safe places can be found on I Am Me Scotland's website: http://www.iammescotland.co.uk/keep-safe-in-your-area/ And are also available on the Keep Safe phone app (available free for Android and Apple devices).
Details on how businesses and other organisation can volunteer to take part in the Keep Safe initiative can also be found there.

Protecting t	he	Sexual Crimes	
most vulner	able	(Group 2)	
people.			

Crime Type	5 Year average	Q1 2022/23	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2022/23 Detection Rate
Group 2	65	70	7.7%	6.1	64.3%
Rape & Attempt Rape	12.4	20	61.3%	1.7	80.0%
Indecent/Sexual Assault	24.8	25	0.8%	2.2	68.0%
Other Group 2	27.8	25	-10.1%	2.2	48.0%

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 7.7% this year when compared to the five year average and that is predominantly due to increases in reports of Rape, Attempted Rape and Sexual Assault.

The detection rate is up 5.5% when compared to the 5 year average.

17% 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.

73% 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 (26% for Q1), 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 organisations.

Of note, in June one male perpetrator was charged with 5 Rapes, 1 sexual assault, 2 breaches of bail and 2 misuse of drug offences, he was held in custody to appear at court.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Drug Supply, Production &
	Cultivation

Drugs Supply	5 year average	Q1 2022/23	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2022/23 Detection Rate
Drugs Supply, Production and Cultivation	17.4	15	-13.8%	1.3	46.7%

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 13.8% 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 Q1 SB-CAT officers continued to carryout intelligence led stop and searches. Of note, in response to an increase in violent disorder in the Hawick area, believed to be linked to drugs debts, a number of search warrants were executed there on 10 June. As a result of the searches 4 males and 1 female were charged with 9 misuse of drugs offences as well as 7 disorder offences. Drugs with a potential street value of £12,575 were seized during the operation.

Reducing Violence and Antisocial	Crimes of Violence (Group 1)
Behaviour	(a sap)

Crime Type	5 year average	Q1 2022/23	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2022/23 Detection Rate
Group 1	29.2	46	57.5%	4.0	65.2%
Serious Assault	12.2	14	14.8%	1.2	78.6%
Robbery	2.6	6	130.8%	0.5	66.7%
Common Assault	222.4	309	38.9%	26.8	66.0%

^{*}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 57.5% increase in violent crime in the Scottish Borders compared to the five year average, equating to an increase of 16.8 crimes. There has been a 4.5% increase when compared to LYTD. The detection rate for overall violent crime is 65.2%, a decrease of 4% when compared to the 5 year average, but up 3.9% when compared to LYTD.

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

- The 82% increase in reports of threats and extortion which equates to an actual increase of 3.6 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 200% (8 crimes) 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 65.2% to 73.7%.

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 38.9% against the five year average, the detection rate was 66% at the end of quarter 1. Approximately 49% of common assaults were recorded as taking place in private spaces, the remaining 51% taking place in public spaces. 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 25% of domestic assaults were non-recent.

Reducing Violence	Reducing
and Antisocial	Antisocial
Behaviour	Behaviour

Indicator	5 Year Average	2022-23 Q1	Change	TYTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2022/23 Detection Rate
Antisocial Behaviour Incidents	1685.8	1224	-27.4		
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)	202.2	165	-18.4%	14.3	20.6%
Fire-raising	8.6	18	109.3%	1.6	27.8%
Breach of the Peach and S38 CJ&L(S) A 2010	232.4	217	-6.6%	18.8	71.4%

The number of Anti-Social behaviour incidents has decreased by 27.4 % this year-to-date when compared to the 5 year average. This is a total reduction of 461.8 incidents and is reflective of the exceptionally high demand we saw in recent years during periods of Covid restriction.

All Group 4 Crimes, which include Vandalism and Fire-raising have decreased 11.1% when compared to the five year average, a decrease of 24.2 crimes. A proportion of the reported breaches of the peace and S38 CJ&L(S) Act offences will have a domestic element to them, and Police officers too and staff will be victims in some cases.

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.

On the 19 June we received the report of a Wilful Fire-raising at Peebles swimming pool. As result of extensive enquiries and with the assistance of the local community, two young men were charged and reported for the offences.

Antisocial Behaviour Patrols form part of our weekend plans and targeted patrols are carried out by response and community officers at high tariff times in hotspot areas.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime	Dishonesty (group 3)
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5 Year Average	Q1 2022/23	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2022/23 Detection Rate
359.8	361	0.3%	31.3	23.8%

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 2022/2023 overall Group 3 crimes have increased by 1.2crimes (0.3%) when compared to the five year average (This overall figure incorporates housebreaking crimes).

The largest increase has been seen in frauds, where there has been an increase of 27.2% which equates to an actual increase of 23.2 crimes.

The increase in fraud is mirrored nationally. 55.4% 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 a more conventional investigative approach. At the end of quarter 4 of last year we received a report of fraud whereby a couple booked into a Scottish Borders Hotel for a fortnight and failed to pay for the accommodation at the end of their stay. Enquiries established the couple were responsible for a second fraud at another hotel in the Scottish Borders. The loss to the Border's Hotels was in excess of £2700. A male and female have since been detected and reported for these crimes.

On 16 June a report was received of the Theft of a trailer, 2 quad bikes and 2 chain saws from a rural property in the Jedburgh area. As a result of work in partnership with Northumbria Police a 19 year old male was cautioned and charged with Theft and has been reported for these offences.

The Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) continue to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year. They continue to distribute free wireless perimeter alarm kits and crime prevention advice to farmers and rural business.

In partnership with Eddleston community council, a survey for a potential new cold calling zone in the village was carried out and should be implemented during Q2. This would bring the total number of zones in the Scottish Borders to 57. Any community organisation wishing to refresh their zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or who are interested in setting up a new zone should contact their local community policing team.

Reducing	Housebreaking
Acquisitive Crime	

Crime Type	5 Year Average	Q1 2022/23	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	Q1 2022/23 Detection Rate
Dwelling HB	23.4	17	-27.4%	1.5	11.8%
Non Dwelling (Sheds, garages) HB	10.8	14	29.6%	1.2	0.00%
Other (Business) HB	20.4	6	-70.6%	0.5	33.3%
All HB	54.6	37	-32.2%	3.2	10.8%

All housebreaking (including attempts) crimes have decreased by 32.2% 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. We have seen exactly that in Hawick in recent months.

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 their 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.

On Sunday 5 June 2022 we received a report that the Border Distillery in Commercial Road, Hawick had been broken into and around £200 of alcohol stolen. On 19 June a 33 year old male was charged with housebreaking in relation to that incident and has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Our focus is not only on the apprehension of those individuals committing acts of crime but working with our communities to prevent crime. In Quarter 1, Secure By Design work was carried out in partnership with developers and architects including a new social housing development in Galashiels.

An environmental security survey of Borders General Hospital A&E department was carried out in partnership with NHS Borders. This was requested in response to the increase in A&E patient numbers and waiting times and associated increased levels of patient frustration, sometimes leading to incidents of verbal abuse and violence directed to staff. A number of recommendations were made.

Improving road	Road Casualties
safety	

	Q1 2021/22	Q1 2022/23	Change
Fatal	1	2	100%
Serious	18	9	-50%
Slight	25	17	-32%
Total	44	28	-36.4%
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	-
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	1	0	-100%

	5 Year Average	Q1 2022/23	Change
Dangerous driving	10.8	21	94.4%
Disqualified driving	7	6	-14.3%
Driving Licence	32	16	-50.0%
Insurance	80.8	51	-36.9%
Drink/Drug Driving Detections	25.6	32	25.0%

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.

While tragically two people died in fatal collisions on Borders roads during Q1, one more than during the same period last year, the falling numbers in terms of slight and serious injuries are encouraging. Serious injuries have halved and slight injuries by a third. This is significant.

We continue to promote and encourage drivers young and old to undertake additional training through the Drivewise initiative. This can be accessed by calling 01896 757575.

In 2019, Section 5A of the Road Traffic Act 1988 was implemented in Scotland, bringing us in line with England and Wales. While Section 4 of the same act makes it an offence to drive while 'unfit' through drink or drugs, this new legislation removes the burden of proof in terms of a driver's fitness. Seventeen drugs, each with a legal concentration in blood are specified in regulation and drivers are initially detected by way of a roadside drug wipe. They are thereafter arrested and conveyed to a police station where bloods are taken and submitted for laboratory analysis. This offence is included in the drink / drug drive detection rates, and given it didn't exist prior to October 2019, has had a bearing on our percentage increase against the five year average.

The prevalence of dash cams has assisted us in securing evidence against more drivers who drive dangerously. A national project is underway which will make it easier for motorists or other witnesses to submit their video footage through an online portal. We would expect to see a further increase in reports of dangerous and careless driving once launched.

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			
	Apr-22 May-22 Jun-22			
Visits	24	50	47	
Enforcement hours	59.7	121.2	107.8	
Activations	96	223	156	
Activations per Enforcement Area	1.6	1.8	1.4	

2020-21	2021-22
239	121
516	289
625	475
1.2	1.6

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

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

We continue to tackle these groups at a local level through the gathering and development of intelligence, proactive stop and 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.

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.

Threat Level



The National Threat Level is SUBSTANTIAL.

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

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

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

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

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

Complaints	Executive Summary

	April 2022 – June 2022				
	Number of Complaints about the Police		Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents		
Complaints received about the Police	29		42.86		
	On Duty Allegations	Off Duty Allegations	Quality of Service Allegations	Total Number of Allegations	
Total Allegations Recorded	23	-	14	37	

The breakdown above details the total number of Complaints about the Police received in relation to the Scottish Borders area command as at 1 July 2022.

The breakdown below provides further detail on the allegation category and type. As can be seen there has been a 19.7% 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	On Duty - TOTAL	44	23	-47.7%
Council	Assault	2	0	-100.0%
	Discriminatory Behaviour	1	0	-100.0%
	Excessive Force	5	2	-60.0%
	Incivility	8	4	-50.0%
	Irregularity in Procedure	24	13	-45.8%
	Oppressive Conduct/Harassment Other - Non Criminal Traffic Irregularity/Offence		0	-100.0%
			0	0
			2	х
	Unlawful/Unnecessary Arrest or Detention	0	0	0
	Quality Of Service - TOTAL	24	14	-41.7%
	Policy/Procedure	5	2	-60.0%
	Service Delivery	6	5	-16.7%
	Service Outcome	13	7	-46.2%

Scottish Borders CAT team - Q1 Update

As stated in previous reports and at previous

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 during Q1.

Road safety – SBCAT have undertaken 92 road checks during Q1 and identified 54 road traffic offences, including 6 vehicle ASBO warmings and 9 vehicle seizures though pro-active patrols and close working with Roads Policing colleagues. In addition to this the SBCAT have issued 91 parking tickets throughout various towns in the Scottish Borders.

Drugs – During Q1 SBCAT executed 9 MDA warrants at properties throughout the Scottish Borders based on intelligence received from our communities. In addition to this SBCAT officers have conducted 36 intelligence led MDA person searches during high-visibility mobile patrols. In summary the overall success rate of the drug searches (properties and persons) is 78%. This is far higher than the national average and demonstrates that SBCAT officers are searching the right people, in the right place at the right time. This high success rate helps maintain public confidence in the use of stop and search powers. The overall value of drugs seized by SBCAT is in excess of £7800.00

Youth ASB – SBCAT continues to work with partners in an effort to reduce the impact of ASB across the region. During Q1 there were a number of incidents of vandalisms, fireraisings and anti-social behaviour by large groups of youths in the Peebles area. SBCAT officers enquired into the vandalisms and fireraisings resulting in the youths responsible being reported for the offences. In addition high-visibility mobile and foot patrols continue during priority times to deal with and deter ongoing ASB behaviour.

There have also been ongoing issues in relation to youths climbing on and entering the disused former Borders College building in Galashiels. SBCAT officers have continued to conduct high-visibility patrols in the area and also been in contact with Eildon Housing (new owners) to encourage them to enhance the security of the building. This has significantly reduced the calls regarding this issue.

SBCAT officers have also supported the local common ridings / festivals dealing with youth ASB during the evening events and making several alcohol seizures.

In addition SBCAT officers continued to issue youth warning letters for those youths dealt with in public spaces and found to be engaging in ASB. In addition to this SBCAT officers, along with local Youth Engagement Officers, continue to liaise with partners and relevant voluntary agencies to divert youth's engaged in ASB to other areas.

Appendix

Lothian and Scottish Borders Divisional Crime Overview

Lothian and Scottish Borders Division	5 Year Average	2022/23 Q1	Per 10,000 Q1 2022/23	Detection Rates 2022/23
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	143.8	183	3.67	57.38
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0.6	1	0.02	100.00
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0	0	0	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	0.4	2	0.04	100.00
Attempted murder	2.4	8	0.16	100.00
Serious assault	65	65	1.3	69.23
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	22.6	20	0.4	65.00
Domestic Abuse (of female)	N/A	39	0.78	51.28
Domestic Abuse (of male)	N/A	1	0.02	0.00
Domestic Abuse (Total)	N/A	40	0.8	50.00
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	19.4	6	0.12	133.33
Threats and extortion	11.2	33	0.66	12.12
Other group 1 crimes	10	8	0.16	50.00
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	263.8	268	5.38	50.75
Rape	47.8	52	1.04	65.38
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	1.8	6	0.12	50.00
Rape and attempted rape - Total	49.6	58	1.16	63.79
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	2.8	1	0.02	0.00
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	74	81	1.63	51.85
Lewd & libidinous practices*	24	13	0.26	15.38
Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total	100.8	95	1.91	46.32
Prostitution related crime - Total*	0.2	0	0	-
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	12.8	11	0.22	90.91
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	22.8	25	0.5	48.00
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	9.4	2	0.04	50.00
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	8.2	8	0.16	62.50
Public indecency (common law)	3.2	2	0.04	100.00
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	36.2	38	0.76	42.11
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	4.6	4	0.08	0.00
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	16	25	0.5	36.00
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	0	
Other Group 2 crimes - Total	113.2	115	2.31	47.83
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	2160.8	1966	39.47	22.48
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	94.2	63	1.26	12.70
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	85.4	77	1.55	10.39
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	99.6	66	1.32	36.36
Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total	279.2	206	4.14	19.42

Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	55.4	43	0.86	4.65
Theft of a motor vehicle	113	104	2.09	32.69
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	142.6	68	1.37	13.24
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	9.4	7	0.14	14.29
Motor vehicle crime - Total	320.4	222	4.46	20.72
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	31.8	32	0.64	6.25
Common theft	595.4	607	12.18	15.16
Theft by shoplifting	561.8	476	9.56	39.92
Fraud	209.2	327	6.56	14.07
Other Group 3 Crimes	163	96	1.93	27.08
GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.	1049	1003	20.13	22.23
Fireraising	59.4	76	1.53	14.47
	937.4	864	17.34	20.60
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	1	0	0	
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	49.6	62	1.24	- 54.84
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	1.6	1	0.02	
Other Group 4 Crimes		-		0.00
GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES	1135.4	1046	21	83.37
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	40	55	1.1	87.27
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	41.8	60	1.2	85.00
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	35.4	29	0.58	55.17
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	19.6	15	0.3	60.00
Total offensive/bladed weapons	136.8	159	3.19	77.99
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	20	11	0.22	63.64
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	64	67	1.34	67.16
Bringing drugs into prison	3.8	5	0.1	40.00
Supply of drugs - Total	87.8	83	1.67	65.06
Possession of drugs	502.2	397	7.97	81.61
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	3.6	6	0.12	83.33
Total drugs crimes	593.6	486	9.76	78.81
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0.8	0	0	-
Bail offences (other than absconding)	203	230	4.62	90.87
Other Group 5 crimes	201.2	171	3.43	91.23
GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	2577.2	2632	52.83	62.54
Common Assault	1025	1224	24.57	53.02
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	107.8	96	1.93	103.13
Common Assault - Total	1132.8	1320	26.5	56.67
Breach of the Peace	53.2	16	0.32	112.50
Threatening & abusive behaviour	939.6	866	17.38	69.75
Stalking	31.2	19	0.38	89.47
BOP, S38 & S39 Crim Just & Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total	1024	901	18.09	70.92
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	39.2	13	0.26	123.08
Drunk and incapable	13	9	0.18	100.00
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	15.2	1	0.02	0.00
Other alcohol related offences*	7.2	8	0.16	112.50

Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)	35.4	18	0.36	100.00
Wildlife offences*	13.4	4	0.08	50.00
Other Group 6 offences	332.4	376	7.55	59.31
GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES	1881.6	1788	35.89	82.49
Dangerous driving offences	61.4	61	1.22	80.33
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	136.2	155	3.11	95.48
Speeding offences	204.6	68	1.37	100.00
Driving while disqualified	34	29	0.58	96.55
Driving without a licence	162	119	2.39	96.64
Failure to insure against third party risks	403	303	6.08	98.68
Seat belt offences	34	24	0.48	100.00
Mobile phone offences	50	46	0.92	100.00
Driving Carelessly	136.8	177	3.55	89.27
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	30.2	119	2.39	91.60
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	189.6	218	4.38	99.08
Other Group 7 offences	439.8	469	9.41	45.84

Scottish Borders Recorded Crime Overview

Scottish Borders	5 Year Average	2022/23 Q1	Per 10,000 Q1 2022/23	Detection Rates 2022/23
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	29.2	46	3.98	65.22
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0.2	0	-	-
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0	0	-	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	0.2	2	0.17	100
Attempted murder	0.2	1	0.09	100
Serious assault	12.2	14	1.21	78.57
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	2.6	6	0.52	66.67
Domestic Abuse (of female)	N/A	12	1.04	75
Domestic Abuse (of male)	N/A	0	•	-
Domestic Abuse (Total)	N/A	12	1.04	75
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	4	1	0.09	100
Threats and extortion	4.4	8	0.69	25
Other group 1 crimes	2.2	2	0.17	0
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	65	70	6.06	64.29
Rape	11.8	18	1.56	83.33
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	0.6	2	0.17	50
Rape and attempted rape - Total	12.4	20	1.73	80
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	0.6	0	•	-
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	19	24	2.08	70.83
Lewd & libidinous practices*	5.2	1	0.09	0
Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total	24.8	25	2.16	68
Prostitution related crime - Total*	0	0	-	-
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	4.4	2	0.17	50
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	5.8	5	0.43	40
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	2.2	0	•	-
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	1.2	2	0.17	50
Public indecency (common law)	0.4	0	•	-
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	7.4	6	0.52	66.67
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	1.6	1	0.09	0
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	4.8	9	0.78	33.33
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	ı	-
Other Group 2 crimes - Total	27.8	25	2.16	48
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	359.8	361	31.25	23.82
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	23.4	17	1.47	11.76
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	10.8	14	1.21	0
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	20.4	6	0.52	33.33
Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total	54.6	37	3.2	10.81
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	11.6	12	1.04	8.33
Theft of a motor vehicle	17.4	20	1.73	30

Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	18.6	17	1.47	23.53
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	1.6	3	0.26	33.33
Motor vehicle crime - Total	49.2	52	4.5	23.08
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	6.2	10	0.87	0
Common theft	110.8	113	9.78	17.7
Theft by shoplifting	72.6	73	6.32	46.58
Fraud	40.8	64	5.54	14.06
Other Group 3 Crimes	25.6	12	1.04	58.33
GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.	218.2	194	16.8	23.2
Fireraising	8.6	18	1.56	27.78
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	202.2	165	14.28	20.61
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	0.2	0	-	-
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	7.2	11	0.95	54.55
Other Group 4 Crimes	0	0	-	-
GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES	253.6	247	21.38	84.21
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	9.2	4	0.35	125
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	8.6	7	0.61	100
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	6.2	4	0.35	75
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	2.8	5	0.43	80
Total offensive/bladed weapons	26.8	20	1.73	95
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	2.8	1	0.09	0
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	14.6	14	1.21	50
Bringing drugs into prison	0	0	-	-
Supply of drugs - Total	17.4	15	1.3	46.67
Possession of drugs	118.8	118	10.22	82.2
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	1.6	0	-	-
Total drugs crimes	137.8	133	11.51	78.2
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0	0	-	-
Bail offences (other than absconding)	46.2	54	4.67	92.59
Other Group 5 crimes	42.8	40	3.46	87.5
GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	556.8	623	53.93	67.9
Common Assault	200	282	24.41	63.12
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	22.4	27	2.34	96.3
Common Assault - Total	222.4	309	26.75	66.02
Breach of the Peace	16.4	3	0.26	100
Threatening & abusive behaviour	207.2	208	18.01	70.19
Stalking	8.8	6	0.52	100
BOP, S38 & S39 Crim Just & Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total	232.4	217	18.79	71.43
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	5.8	3	0.26	33.33
Drunk and incapable	6	5	0.43	100
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	0	0	-	-
Other alcohol related offences*	1.2	0	-	-
Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)	7.2	5	0.43	100
Wildlife offences*	8.2	2	0.17	0

Other Group 6 offences	80.8	87	7.53	66.67
GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES	437.4	482	41.73	84.85
Dangerous driving offences	10.8	21	1.82	80.95
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	25.6	32	2.77	81.25
Speeding offences	88	14	1.21	100
Driving while disqualified	7	6	0.52	100
Driving without a licence	32	16	1.39	100
Failure to insure against third party risks	80.8	51	4.42	101.96
Seat belt offences	7	6	0.52	100
Mobile phone offences	10.8	10	0.87	100
Driving Carelessly	41.8	59	5.11	89.83
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	11.4	71	6.15	85.92
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	49.2	72	6.23	101.39
Other Group 7 offences	73	124	10.74	60.48