

Highland Council
Community Safety, Public Engagement & Equalities
Committee
13 June 2013

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| Agenda Item | 5ii |
| Report No | CPE 20/13 |

Highland Local Police Area – Police Scotland Update

Report by Highland Area Commander– Chief Superintendant Julian Innes

Summary

This paper provides an update on Police Scotland and its support to Highland and the Highland and Islands Division.

1. WIDER POLICE SCOTLAND SUPPORT TO THE HIGHLAND AND ISLAND DIVISION

A significant level of support and expertise is being committed by the wider Police Scotland to policing operations within the Highland and Islands Division. A number of investigations have been supported by the Inverness based Major Incident Team (MIT) which is part of the Specialist Crime Directorate (SCD). An example of this was a recent deployment of the MIT to assist with a recent investigation in Wick. The Organised Crime and Counter Terrorist Unit, again part of the SCD, has been involved operations to disrupt a Liverpool based organised crime group which was involved in the supply of illegal drugs to the divisional area. This has resulted in a number of arrests. The Air Support Unit has deployed on two search operations, one in Skye and the other in Ullapool. Moreover, the Operational Support Division has supported the Highland and Islands Division by providing an armed police response to 6 incidents. In addition, the Armed Response Vehicle Unit has supported Operation Route (tackling travelling criminals using the roads network & promoting road safety through pro-activity), Operation Engage (utilising stop & search powers) Operation Respect (deterring street violence) and Operation Notebook (tackling anti-social behaviour). The Police Scotland Motorcycle Group has provided a number of assets to assist with the Scottish Six Day Motorcycle Trials and the recent Motorcycle Awareness weekend; furthermore, the Trunk Road Policing Group will be 'keeping people safe' on the roads during the Rockness event. The challenge is to support the Islands who fortunately have not had much demand thus far.

POLICE SCOTLAND CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLENCE DAYS

On the 3rd May the Highland and Islands Division participated in the first Police Scotland wide Campaign Against Violence (CAV) Day. CAV days are about keeping people safe and are designed to provide a high impact, highly visible approach by getting as many officers as possible into our communities at key times. Officers who work in 'non-front line' posts are encouraged to

deploy throughout the Division on CAV days to provide additional capacity. On the last CAV these additional officers conducted 23 searches resulting in 7 positive results in reference to possession of drugs and alcohol as well as 65 Licensed Premises checks. The Division will conduct around 30 CAV days per year. The next divisional wide CAV day is on the 28th June and the next Police Scotland wide CAV day 26th July. These officers can be made available to meet demand anywhere or any local issue.

101 NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER

The 101 Non-Emergency number has now been successfully introduced across Scotland and replaces a range of non emergency numbers used across the former Scottish police forces. As at the 12 May, 5788 (both land line and mobile) '101' calls had been received by the Area Control Room in Inverness of which 2658 were land line calls from the Highland region.

The key reasons for the introduction of 101 non-emergency number in Scotland are to:

- Help keep people safe by giving them one easy-to-remember, easy to dial number for contacting the police whenever they are in Scotland.
- Make the police more accessible, whilst reducing pressure on the 999 system.
- Help the police cut crime by making it easier for the public to pass on information
- Support the creation of a more efficient and effective police service for the people of Scotland
- Increase interoperability with England and Wales, with 101 becoming the nationally recognised non-emergency number for contacting the police across the UK

Elected Members can support the promotion of the new 101 non emergency number within their communities whenever possible.

VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY / EARLY RETIREMENT

The next iteration of the Scottish Police Authority Voluntary Redundancy Early Retirement (VR/ER) Scheme was opened on the 7 May 2013 and will remain open until 31 March 2014. The National Voluntary Review Panel (NVRP) will meet approximately monthly to review applications received. The NVRP will review applications against a range of criteria which will include the business continuity impact, cost of release and availability of funding. Previous applications for the February and March 2013 round of VR/ER which were unsuccessful will be re-considered. There were 42 unsuccessful applications from Highland and Islands Division during the last round of VR/ER.

Recommendation:

The Committee is invited to note the update.

Signature: Chief Superintendent Julian Innes

Designation: Highland and Islands Divisional Commander

Date: 31 May 2013

Background Papers: