

Agenda Item	5
Report No	CP/17/23

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Communities and Place Committee

Date: 31 August 2023

Report Title: Police – Area Performance Report

Report By: Chief Superintendent Robert Shepherd –
Divisional Commander (N Division)

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 To provide an update to the Committee on the progress with reference to the objectives outlined in the Highland Policing Plan 2020-2023.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are invited to note:

- i. Progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 Year 3, attached as Annex A to this report, for the period covering 01 April 2022 - 31 March 2023.

3. Report Format – Police Area Performance Summary Report

3.1 This document will now cover all priorities featured in the local Policing Plan and evidence Prevention and Intervention work corresponding to each of the Policing priorities, provide local narrative in relation to Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism.

4. Implications

4.1 Resource – There are no immediate resource applications arising from this noting report.

4.2 Legal – There are no immediate legal implications arising from this noting report.

OFFICIAL

Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – There are no immediate community implications arising from this noting report.

Climate Change/Carbon Clever – There are no immediate implications arising from this noting report.

Risk – There are no immediate implications arising from this noting report.

Gaelic – There are no immediate implications arising from this noting report.

Chief Superintendent Robert Shepherd
Divisional Commander – N Division
18 August 2023

OFFICIAL

Performance Against Local Policing Plan 2020-2023



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Highland Communities and Place Committee
Thursday 31 August 2023

Reporting Period - 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023



Report by Chief Superintendent Robert Shepherd –
Divisional Commander (N Division)

Communities, People and Partnerships... at the Heart of the
Highlands



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Contents

Introduction by the Divisional Commander	2
Local Policing Priorities	4
N Division (Highland): At a glance	5
Road Safety and Road Crime	7
Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence (including Alcohol and Drug misuse)	10
Acquisitive Crime	12
Protecting Vulnerable People	14
Serious and Organised Crime	17
Counter Terrorism	19
Crime Statistics	21

Introduction by the Divisional Commander

I am pleased to present the N Division Scrutiny Report, as the Divisional Commander for Highland and Islands. This report specifically covers the Highland area for the reporting period 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

The demands placed on the Police have been unique and continue to be challenging. The Police continue to assist and support Partners working within communities, whilst at the same time fulfilling traditional Police activity which has had both a personal and organisational strain on Policing.

Demands on Policing continue to increase and this is likely to be seen in statistics during the coming year.

Finance and resourcing continues to be a challenge for Police Scotland since the disappointing financial settlement from Scottish Government for 2023/2024. The impact of this on N Division was a reduction of 9 police officer posts in April 2023 (bringing us down to 586 N Division officers) and an overtime budget of £580,000 (against £1.8 million spent in 2022/2023). At least 6 further Police officer posts are expected to be lost by N Division in coming days. Operational Support Division currently has 12 officers based in Inverness but their current planning involves removing all 12 officers from N Division. This would be a total officer reduction from the Highlands of 27 officers. Similar reductions are being seen across Police Scotland. Prior to his retirement this month, our Chief Constable Sir Iain Livingstone was candid in his communications that there will be a need for tough decisions in how we police and that we will see an impact on our performance and the level of service we are able to provide our communities. That being said, Police Scotland, my officers and I remain dedicated to providing the communities of the Highlands with the very best service possible.

The interpretation of statistics from the reporting period and comparisons to the previous year and 3 Year Average can be difficult and one should be wary of drawing hasty conclusions following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officers have been active across all priority areas of our Policing Plan. We have maintained a proactive presence on Highland roads, enforcing road traffic legislation, working with partners to improve road safety and investigating road traffic collisions. We have seen reductions in Culpable and Reckless Conduct offences, however many areas of acquisitive crime against the 5 Year Average and Year on year has significantly increased.

There has been a slight increase in Domestic Crime against the 5 Year Average as well as there being a reduction from the previous year and there has been an increase Year on Year in relation to Sexual Crime. We have strong partnership relationships, structures and working arrangements for the protection of vulnerable people, which we will continue to develop. Our work tackling serious organised criminals, especially those engaged in County Lines has continued to be disruptive and also identifies vulnerable young people caught up in this awful practice.

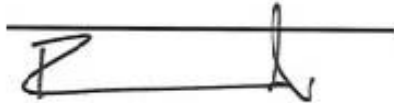
Partnership is also a key feature of our approach to countering terrorism, which continues with public sector, private sector, education and third sector partners and our communities.

The implementation of technology through mobile devices, crime and case management systems continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Policing in Highland and allow officers more time to actively patrol their communities.

Assaults against officers continue to be at an unacceptable level. N Division has the highest rate of assaults against officers per head within Police Scotland. An assault against a Police officer is an assault against society and should not be tolerated by any of us.

Finally, with that in mind, I have volunteered N Division to be the Pilot Division within Police Scotland for officers to wear and utilise Body Worn Cameras.

This report highlights the positive work and the challenges faced by officers in Highland.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Shepherd', written over a horizontal line.

Chief Superintendent Robert Shepherd
Divisional Commander – N Division

Local Policing Priorities

The Local Policing Priorities for the N Division area are decided by data from our Strategic Assessment which details Threats and Risks, and also feedback from Local Authorities, Partners and residents in the Your Police survey.



ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Collaborate to reduce casualties and crime on our roads



ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, VIOLENCE AND DISORDER

Engage with the public and communities to reduce and prevent crime



ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Reduce crime through preventing offending and reducing re-offending



PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Support people considered vulnerable through working with partners



SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

Reduce the harm caused by serious organised crime including cyber related crime



TERRORISM AND PUBLIC ORDER

Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare through collaborative preparedness

N Division (Highland): At a glance

Road Safety and Road Crime

Overall, Road Crime offences have decreased by 6.3% (490.8 fewer offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 14.2% (903 more offences) against the Last Year To Date (LYTD).

Offences in relation to Disqualified Driving have decreased by 1.4% (2.4 fewer offences) against the 5 Year Average and decreased by 12.2% (23 fewer offences) against the LYTD.

Mobile Telephone offences have increased by 68.1% (94.4 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 109.9% (122 more offences) against the LYTD.

Failure to Insure Against Third Party Risk offences have increased by 10.2% (72.8 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 20.2% (133 more offences) against the LYTD.

Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence (including Alcohol and Drugs Misuse)

Overall, Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 3.8% (57.4 fewer crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 14.0% (178 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Culpable and Reckless Conduct have decreased by 8.9% (4.2 fewer crimes) against the 5 Year Average and decreased by 30.6% (19 fewer crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Assault have increased by 4.5% (78.6 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 6.9% (117 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Murder have reduced by 44.4% (0.8 fewer crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 100.0% (1 more crime) against the LYTD.

Acquisitive Crime

Overall, Acquisitive Crime has increased by 10.2% (275.8 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 22.6% (549 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Housebreaking (Dwelling House) have increased by 9.6% (10.8 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 21.6% (22 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Fraud offences have increased by 65.1% (235.8 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 18.7% (94 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Overall, Sexual Crime has increased by 33.0% (184.6 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 35.0% (193 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Domestic related offences has increased by 1.1% (13.0 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and decreased by 0.6% (7 fewer crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Hate Crime has increased by 9.5% (8.8 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 40.9% (38 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Serious and Organised Crime

Detective Chief Inspector Craig Still stated:

“The activities of Serious and Organised Crime Groups continue to affect the Division. The presence of County Lines groups in the Inverness area is similar to that experienced in neighbouring divisions and we work closely across geographical boundaries to maximise information and intelligence gathering and target active groups. The Division continues to take a proactive approach to enforcement utilising resource and assets at a Local, Regional and National level”.

Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism

Police Constable Lisa Campbell, N Division’s Local Counter Terrorism Officer stated:

“As the Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer (CTLO) for N Division, I ensure areas have a Local Contest Liaison Officer who is kept up to date on latest developments in Contest.

I liaise with CT Intelligence, CT Security Advisors, the Prevent Delivery Unit as well as local Area Commanders to address any CT related matters in the area and provide support to the Area Command if required.

I can also provide presentations on Act now, Radicalisation awareness, threat overview and current trends. These can be delivered to a variety of sectors including education and local members”.

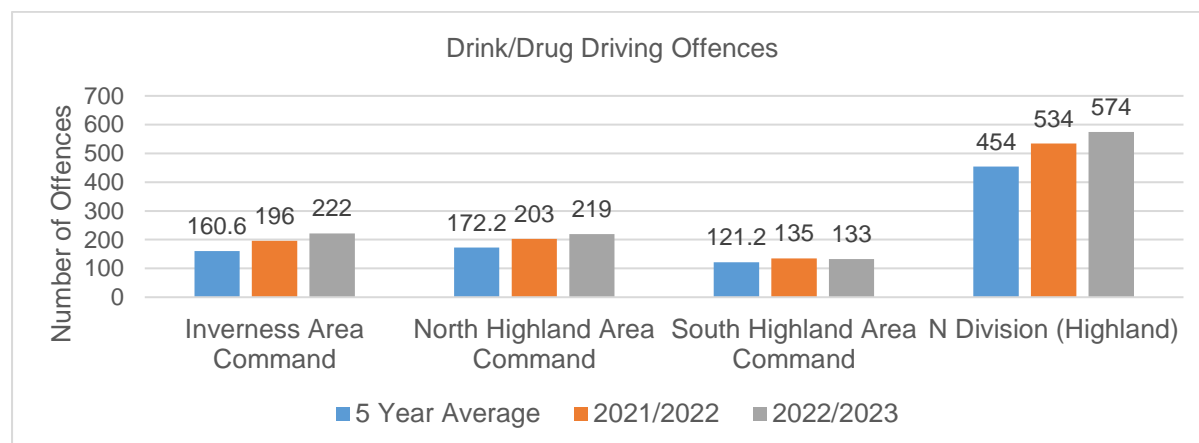
Road Safety and Road Crime

Intention - With Partners, enhance Road Safety across the Highland Area.

Objective – With Partners, deliver a Road Safety Strategy focusing on: Challenging driver behaviour; Education at the road side and elsewhere; Detection of offences linked to contributing factors of Fatal and Serious Road Traffic Collisions and collectively reducing potential harm.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2021/2022	YTD 2022/2023	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Number of Fatalities - Road Traffic Collisions	22.8	20.7	13	33	2	N/A
Drink/Drug Driving Offences	454.0	506.3	534	574	40	93.0%
Speeding Offences	2862.8	2166.7	1948	1781	-167	104.7%

2022/2023 Drink/Drug Driving Offences -



Operation CEDAR - (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce) builds on established practices and will continue to focus on various agencies working in partnership to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured in the Highland area.

Operation CEDAR involves proactive multi-agency enforcement operations on the roads, which sits alongside education activity aimed at improving driver behaviour of all ages. Partner agencies continue to work together to improve understanding of the factors which could contribute to improving road safety for everyone on the roads and together respond to these issues.

Driver Engagement North - A multi-agency initiative makes use of an interactive driving simulator designed to assess and highlight a participant's reactions, hazard awareness and any potential

vulnerabilities on the roads. The project, launched in Inverness during October 2019 received funding from Transport Scotland and is led by Police Scotland with support from a number of partners including NHS Highland, Local Authority Community Safety Groups, IAM Roadsmart, Age Concern and RoSPA. The simulator has been specially designed to assess and demonstrate a driver's reactions and abilities in a safe environment under the supervision of specialists who will be able to offer advice and support.

While this initiative is aimed at older drivers, advice will be offered to family members and/or friends who are concerned regarding an individual's fitness to drive.

Any interested parties looking for more information can contact:

highlandandislandsdriverengagement@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

Operation Close Pass – Close Pass is a cycle safety initiative which aims to highlight how much room motorists should allow when passing cyclists who are considered to be vulnerable road users. This educational initiative is aimed at changing driver behaviour through engagement and interaction.

North Coast 500 (NC500) and Visitor Management - There are Road Policing plans in place for motorcyclists/vulnerable road users and Visitor Management for the year ahead. Analytical work has been carried out to ensure Police Scotland are targeting the right areas and road users at the right time.

Police Scotland are committed to reducing road casualties across the Highland area and patrols will be conducted on priority routes on a daily basis and undertaking specific weekends of action on the NC500 route, utilising car and motorcycle patrols with the aim of influencing driver and road user behaviour, detect and deter criminality on our roads and reassure communities. We will continue to promote our activity through media channels and encourage anyone with road safety concerns to contact Police Scotland.

Inspector Donald MacKinnon of the Road Policing Unit, Operational Support Division stated:

“For the reporting period, there have been 33 road deaths across Highland, a figure influenced by the highest number of multiple fatality collisions in years (two triple fatality and four double fatality collisions). There have been 12 road deaths on the A9 and 5 road deaths on the A836, both of which have and continue to feature on our priority patrol matrix. Foreign drivers have been involved in 5 collisions resulting in 9 road deaths. Investigating road deaths can be complex and protracted and we have faced competing demands but despite various challenges, we have been committed to patrolling the roads and interacting with road users with the aim of positively influencing driver behaviour across the divisional area in line with.

Operation CEDAR - Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce which builds on existing practices and continues to focus our partnership working to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our Highland and Islands roads. We have met and listened to public and elected members concerns around road safety and have responded accordingly using various analytical products to determine where and when to deploy our resources. Over and above day-to-day business, road policing officers undertook the following enforcement activity;

- **8 dedicated operations on the Isle of Skye (Road Policing officers staying in Skye to maximise patrol time).**
- **4 dedicated NC500 operations (Road Policing officers staying on the route to maximise patrol time).**

Preventative initiatives have been delivered in relation to;

- **Older drivers – Driver Engagement North – positive engagement with older drivers and their families / friends in relation to honest conversations about fitness to drive.**

- **New drivers – New Driver Early Intervention Scheme – several inputs delivered to apprentices, students and private/public sector employees across the divisional area.**
- **Motorcyclists – Rider Refinement North – 6 sessions aimed at improving rider awareness/skills.**
- **Cycle safety – Close Pass – 7 operations aimed at improving driver awareness/interaction with cyclists”.**

Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence (including Alcohol and Drug misuse)

Intention – With Partners, better understand the causes to prevent and reduce instances of Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence to enhance community safety across the Highland Area.

Objective – Work with Partners to share information, support Education, Prevention, Diversionary and Enforcement Measures linked to harmful alcohol consumption; maintain robust procedures around licensed premises; support victims of violent crime by working with partners to improve service provision and prevent repeat victimisation.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2021/2022	YTD 2022/2023	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	1.8	2.0	0	1	1	100%
Assault	1730.4	1647.3	1692	1809	117	72.6%
Serious Assault	112.2	103.0	108	116	8	78.1%
Drug (Possession) Offences	1388.8	1367.7	1257	1033	-224	106.9
Drug Deaths	35.2	36.0	42	35*	-7	N/A

*The figure provided in relation to Drug Deaths is an estimated figure at time of publication. This is the total number in the reporting period in which N Division are treating as a suspected Drug Death, however the figure is subject to change as Post Mortem results and other information are received from NHS Highland.

Drug Deaths – Drug Related Deaths within the N Division area (Highland) is of significant concern. N Division continues to work with Partner Agencies in order to support individuals who find themselves involved with alcohol and controlled substance misuse. Every Drug Related Death within the N Division area is reviewed by the Harm Prevention Officer (HPO).

Harm Prevention Officer – Harm Prevention Officer (HPO) role was introduced within the N Division area in November 2020. This role is filled by a Police Constable who undertakes daily liaison between internal/external stakeholders with a view to reducing the risk posed to certain members of the public through alcohol and controlled substance misuse.

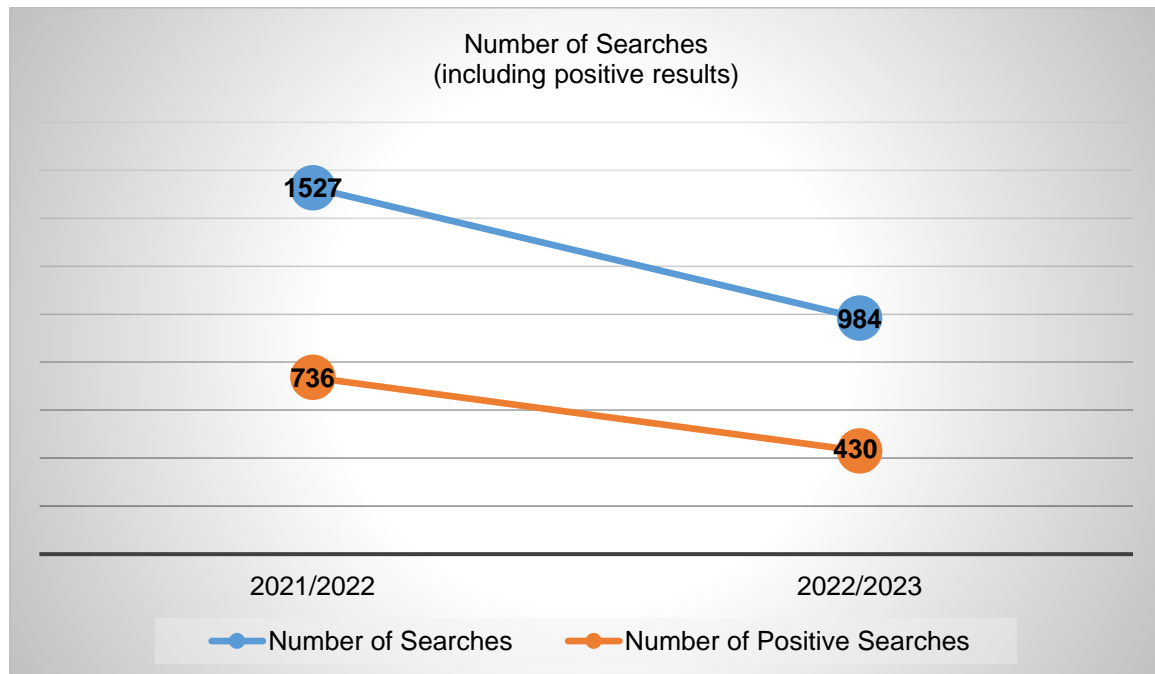
The HPO works with other partners to target Cuckooing which is a crime whereby crime groups take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for County Lines offences. The HPO works within the nationally recognised Serious and Organised Crime Strategy (Divert, Deter, Disrupt, Detect) targeting the Divert and Deter strands.

The HPO is fully funded by NHS Highland via the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership (HADP).

The HPO works with other Partners to target Cuckooing which is a crime whereby crime groups take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for County Lines offences. The HPO

works within the nationally recognised Serious and Organised Crime Strategy (Divert, Deter, Disrupt, Detect) targeting the Divert and Deter strands.

Stop and Search -



Positive Stop Search - A positive stop and search is when an item is recovered where possession of same implies criminality on the part of the individual being searched or any other; or potentially compromises the safety of that individual or another.

No Knives, Better Lives - No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL) is a national capacity-building programme that supports primary prevention work related to knife carrying in Scotland. In 2009, the NKBL National Delivery Team at YouthLink Scotland and the Scottish Government began supporting partners in 11 selected Local Authority areas to implement NKBL. The approach to prevention is informed by the principles and values of youth work and a public health approach to violence prevention. The focus is not just on what it is we do not want young people to do and how to stop them doing it, but also what we want young people to be able to do, how we support them to understand and navigate risk and to make positive life choices.

Police Scotland's Prevention and Interventions Officers supported this initiative in the Highland area. This is further complemented by the Joint Education and Police Knives in School Protocol which has been progressed.

Further inputs continue to be undertaken by Prevention and Interventions Officers supported by Special Police Constables.

Acquisitive Crime

Intention – With Partners and Communities, prevent instances of acquisitive crime across the Highland area.

Objective – With Partners, share information, support education, prevention, diversionary and enforcement activity linked to acquisitive crime; develop work with targets – recidivist offenders to reduce reoffending linked to acquisitive crime e.g. Persistent Offenders programme; enhance the use of all media platforms to raise awareness of local and national preventative initiatives.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2021/2022	YTD 2022/2023	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (Total)	248.8	240.7	202	259	57	32.8%
Fraud	362.2	391.0	504	598	94	14.0%
Theft by Shoplifting	856.0	757.3	713	848	135	65.3%
Motor Vehicle Crime	213.4	186.7	143	192	49	53.6%

Fraud – The increase in Fraud related crimes has not only been experienced by members of the public residing within the N Division area, but across Scotland and the United Kingdom.

Fraud –

Banking Protocol

Following a number of incidents across the N Division area in respect of Frauds and Banking Protocol, work continues with various Banks within N Division to setup learning sessions between staff members to talk through Banking Protocol. This has allowed for a better understanding of the Police response, management of vulnerabilities and referrals/support available to victims.

This has and will continue to allow Bank staff to be aware as to the point in they feel that they can/should intervene.

Parcel Scam Fraud

General awareness messaging around parcel/delivery company scams was previously circulated electronically to all housing providers across the N Division area and to the University of the Highlands and Islands for sharing with their staff, clients and students.

Rural Watch - The Highland area is renowned for great natural beauty and the rural communities are safe places in which to live, work and visit. However, the nature of the environment and way of life means there are some crime prevention tips particularly relevant to rural life. Watch Schemes work well as a crime prevention and detection tool but are also extremely valuable in terms of enabling Highland

communities to share information, allowing agencies to send out relevant crime alerts, and empower local communities to be more resilient.

To receive local ALERTS about crime and other threats in your area, simply click the green JOIN button on the Rural Watch Website - www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk

City Centre Policing Team, Inverness – Work continues with all retailers within Inverness City Centre to standardise security approach and ensure the focus is on crime prevention and target hardening with implementation of a dedicated initiative targeting repeat offenders of shopliftings.

Detective Chief Inspector Craig Still stated:

“Acquisitive crime continues to be a significant issue in the Highlands with a continuing rise in Fraud. These can take many forms from individuals impersonating a representative of a victims bank to obtain sensitive information to online frauds where victims pay for goods which the suspect had no intention of providing. The Division continues to adopt a co-ordinated approach to this issue ensuring that investigation is linked with preventative measures and carried out in conjunction with partners. We continue to have a representative on the national acquisitive crime group which provides a forum for sharing intelligence and information at a national level. This also allows us to make our officers aware of emerging national threats and trends.

In regards to rural crime our partners in Rural and Acquisitive Crime unit have provided a visible presence at events including the Black Isle Show and in Orkney. This work has been carried out with the assistance of external partners to provide maximum visibility and deliver the preventative message to a wide and targeted audience.

The Division has been subject to a number of incidents including a high value ATM theft and offences committed by travelling criminals including domestic housebreakings. The Division continues to take a robust investigative approach to these offences with a number of nominals subject to enforcement action at the conclusion of enquiries. We continue to utilise measures in conjunction with our justice partners to reduce the risk of re-offending in the Highland area. Recent deployment to the UCI World Championships in Fort William was used to re-inforce the need for prevention following previous high value thefts at the event. This ensured that the event passed without incident on this occasion”.

Protecting Vulnerable People

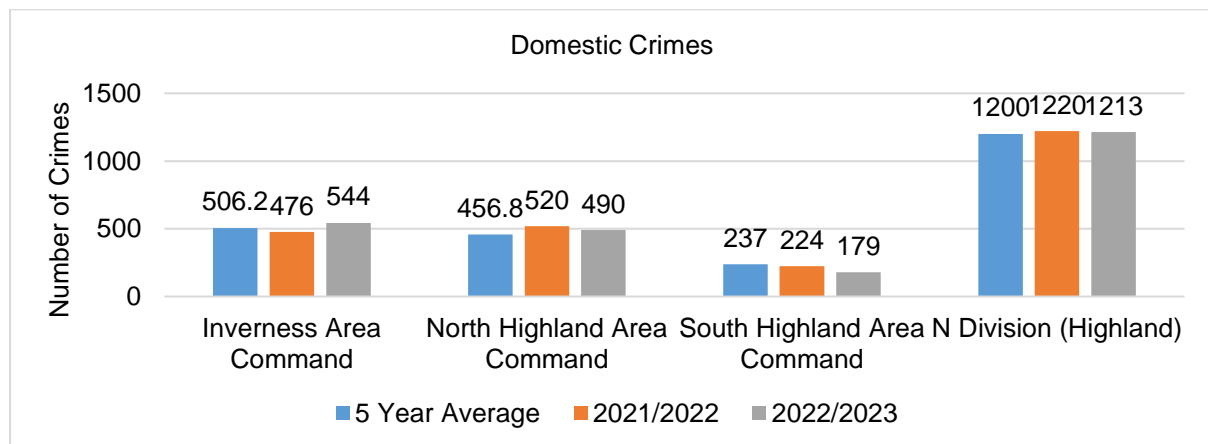
Intention – Protect people at risk of harm.

Objective – With Partners and as corporate parents we will deliver the Highland CHAMPS (Highland Champion Board) strategy; with Partners we will focus on safeguarding communities; with Partners we will address emerging issues through Prevention and Intervention.

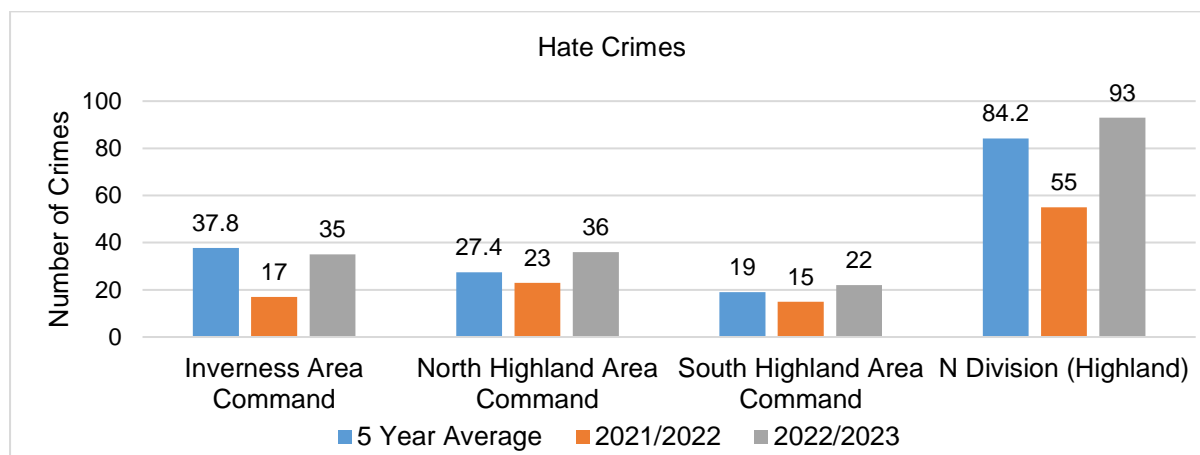
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2021/2022	YTD 2022/2023	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Sexual Crime	559.4	540.7	551	744	193	55.4%
Domestic Crime	1200.0	1262.0	1220	1213	-7	67.3%
Hate Crime	84.2	63.7	55	93	38	69.9%
Missing Persons*	See below	804	805	963	158	N/A

* (Due to system configurations these figures are not available at multi-member ward level. Due to the implementation of the National Missing Persons Application in 2019, the 5 Year Average is not available).

Domestic Crime within N Division (Highland) –



Hate Crime within N Division (Highland) -



Missing Persons –

Police Scotland treats every report of a missing person seriously and investigates appropriately with access to local, regional and national specialist resources. Missing persons investigations are a core part of local Policing and it is local officers who undertake all investigations, supported by specialist colleagues where necessary. Further, each Division including, N Division has a dedicated Missing Person Co-ordinator who advises on operational and preventative approaches.

Missing Person Category	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation
Adult	282	334	52
Cared for Adult	47	51	4
Looked After Child	311	288	-23
Child	157	280	123
Absconder/Wanted	8	10	2
Total	805	963	-158

Area Commands have an appointed local Police liaison officer who maintains contact and liaison with the residential units in their respective area. This role has developed and regular contact has built a good relationship with residential unit(s). Where required, this officer also works in conjunction with the Missing Person Co-ordinator who similarly enjoys a good working relationship with residential units.

Highland CHAMPS - The Highland CHAMPS (Children have Amazing Minds, Potential and Stories) are a group based in Clachnaharry, Inverness. Highland CHAMPS welcome any young person from the Highland area who identifies as care-experienced whether they are a care-leaver, looked after at home, fostered, adopted, in residential care or other. Highland CHAMPS provide a safe space for activities, opportunities, socialising and fun. Further information regarding Highland CHAMPS can be found at:- <https://www.highland.gov.uk/highlandchamps>

Detective Chief Inspector Calum Smith stated:

“Protecting vulnerable people remains an absolute priority and is at the core of Policing across Highland. Throughout the course of the reporting period, recorded domestic incidents has remained at virtually exactly the same level as it was the previous year.

Positively, the percentage of the reported domestic abuse incidents which transpired to relate to criminal conduct was down 2% on the previous year. Alongside the clear focus on detecting

domestic crime where it occurs, officers across Highland are equally focused on the need to seek to stop domestic abuse before it occurs. In being pro-active around this, officers continue to engage with Statutory Partners and Third Sector Partners, seeking to educate and prevent abuse.

Recorded sexual crime for the period has shown a year on year increase. Detection rate has dropped 3%, however, still remains over 61% for the period. The continued increase of reporting of Sexual Crime is a clear indication of victims' preparedness to come forward and report with confidence.

Across Highland, officers continue to receive regular feedback on how they deal with victims of crime – both at time of reporting and in the aftercare Police Scotland officers promote and support victims with. Police Scotland welcomes this feedback and recognises the importance of continued learning as it seeks to ensure all officers are providing the highest standards when providing a service to victims of abuse”.

Serious and Organised Crime

Intention – With Partners, reduce the threat, risk and harm caused by Serious Organised Crime.

Objective – With Partners work to safeguard the Highland area by taking all opportunities to prevent crime and make the Highland area a hostile environment for Serious & Organised Crime Groups; to improve outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce offending through prevention, early intervention and diversion; in support of our Partners in the Local Authority and NHS via the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy we will direct those who are substance dependant towards recovery through prevention, treatment and support services; with Partners work to reduce the instances of substance misuse in our communities.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2021/2022	YTD 2022/2023	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Drug (Supply) Offences	161.8	166.7	121	128	7	85.9%

County Lines - When Organised Crime Groups from major cities such as Birmingham, Derby, Liverpool and London are expanding their drug networks to other areas, bringing with it serious criminal behaviour such as violence, exploitation and abuse. The term County Lines refers to the use of a single telephone number to order drugs, operated from outside the local area. They often set up a base in a rural town for a short time, taking over the home of a vulnerable person by 'cuckooing' and use adults and children to act as drug runners. Preventions and Interventions delivered advisory presentations to Partner agencies including Highland Council (Housing/Social Work) and NHS Highland.

Police Scotland has relaunched an awareness-raising initiative aimed at preventing young people from falling into a life of crime. Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, Police have devised an educational pack for young people that shows the devastating effects of Serious Organised Crime.

N Division has also recently expanded its team of dedicated officers with the sole purpose of targeting County Line offenders, working in partnership with partner agencies and protecting vulnerable persons.

Detective Chief Inspector Craig Still stated:

***“The activities of Serious and Organised Crime Groups continue to affect the Division. The presence of County Lines groups in the Inverness area is similar to that experienced in neighbouring divisions and we work closely across geographical boundaries to maximise information and intelligence gathering and target active groups. The Division continues to take a proactive approach to enforcement utilising resource and assets at a Local, Regional and National level.*”**

A number of recent serious incidents have been linked to County Lines related activity particularly within Inverness and Easter Ross. We have continued to build our intelligence picture in light of these incidents to identify key nominals and take robust action against them.

We have also continued to identify vulnerable individuals in our communities at risk of harm from organised crime groups and ensured that appropriate support is delivered and interventional measures put in place.

Sharing of information with partner forces in areas of the UK such as London and Liverpool is vital and we maintain strong links in these areas to identify individuals at risk of harm, locate them and ensure their safety. As such we have identified a number of young and vulnerable people who have been exploited by drugs gangs and re-united them with their families”.

Counter Terrorism

Intention – Support the delivery of the CONTEST strategy to reduce the threat posed by terrorism and domestic extremism.

Objective – Strengthen PREVENT work with Partners and institutions; with Partners, support individuals who are vulnerable to terrorism and violent extremism; strengthen PREVENT work in relation to the internet and Social Media; Effective Multi-agency planning in respect of Counter Terrorism is taking place; Develop our ability to respond effectively to any terrorist attack (with a specific focus on emerging high-risk threats, and specialist capabilities).

WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) - The workshop covers issues such as crime, normal social processes that are used to influence and manipulate, case studies that cut across the spectrum of extremism, terrorist ideologies and factors which may contribute to an individual's susceptibility to a terrorist ideology.

In particular, it seeks to support them to recognise that using their existing expertise and professional judgement, they may be able to recognise potentially vulnerable individuals who may be susceptible to being persuaded by an extremist or terrorist ideology. Workshops delivered to partners across the Highland area.

ACT Early is a program delivered to schools across the Highland area. The ACT Early session is a vehicle for debate around the sensitive issue of violent extremism within communities. As such, it is an enabler for community participants to air grievances, debate matters of interest to them and work through a group problem solving experience. The following links can provide more information regarding the program:-

<https://act.campaign.gov.uk/>

<https://actearly.uk/>

Police Constable Lisa Campbell, N Division's Local Counter Terrorism Officer stated:

“As the Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer (CTLO) for N Division, I ensure areas have a Local Contest Liaison Officer who is kept up to date on latest developments in Contest.

I liaise with CT Intelligence, CT Security Advisors, the Prevent Delivery Unit as well as local Area Commanders to address any CT related matters in the area and provide support to the Area Command if required.

I can also provide presentations on Act now, Radicalisation awareness, threat overview and current trends. These can be delivered to a variety of sectors including education and local members.

Exercise Safe Steeple 2 was held in Inverness In September 2022 and is also to be held in Shetland in August 2023 and the Western Isles in September 2023. Safe Steeple 2 is a table top exercise focussing on the recovery from an MTA, 2 hours, 2 days, 2 weeks post incident. It focusses on the multi-agency response to and recovery from a Marauding Terrorist Attack.

We are currently working close with partners to prepare them for the implementation of the Protect duty (Martyn's Law) which is likely to have significant implications for the majority of our partners".

Crime Statistics

Group 1 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	1.8	2.0	0	1	1	100.0%
Culpable Homicide	0.6	0.7	1	0	-1	N/A
Attempted Murder	11.8	9.3	9	17	8	105.9%
Serious Assault	112.2	103.0	108	114	6	78.1%
Robbery	29.8	31.7	41	31	-10	64.5%
Cruel & Unnatural Treatment of Children	12.8	14.0	15	6	-9	66.7%
Threats & Extortion	26.4	33.7	41	91	50	6.6%

Group 2 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Rape	114.2	113.0	118	138	20	59.4%
Sexual Assault (Sexual Offences Scotland Act 2009)	139.4	127.3	129	198	69	54.0%
Lewd & Libidinous Practices	32.0	30.7	32	37	5	64.9%
Public Indecency	6.4	4.7	5	8	3	62.5%
Threatening/ Disclosure of Intimate Image(s)	23.2	26.0	25	29	4	58.6%

Group 3 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (Dwelling House)	112.2	120.3	101	123	22	19.5%
Housebreaking (Non-Dwelling House)	41.6	36.7	31	35	4	34.3%
Housebreaking	95.0	83.7	70	101	31	48.5%

(Other)						
Housebreaking (Total)	248.8	240.7	202	259	57	32.8%
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	94.4	92.3	85	94	9	74.5%
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	77.6	62.7	38	72	44	36.1%
Opening a Lockfast Place	45.2	40.0	32	45	13	26.7%
Theft	764.2	649.3	642	795	153	23.9%
Theft by Shoplifting	856.0	757.3	713	848	135	65.3%
Fraud	362.2	391.0	504	598	94	14.0%

Group 4 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Fireraising	53.2	51.0	46	67	21	56.7%
Vandalism	1438.6	1352.7	1424	1459	35	40.5%
Culpable & Reckless Conduct	47.2	60.3	62	43	-19	62.8%

Group 5 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Offensive Weapon & Bladed/Pointed Instrument	204.8	211.7	181	269	88	94.4%
Drugs (Supply)	161.8	166.7	121	128	7	85.9%
Drugs (Possession)	1388.8	1367.7	1257	1033	-224	106.9%
Bail Offence(s)	349.8	387.0	417	431	14	91.0%

Group 6 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Assault	1730.4	1647.3	1692	1809	117	72.6%
Assault (Emergency Workers)	269.6	279.7	279	307	28	100.3%
Breach of the Peace/ Threatening & Abusive Behaviour	1469.2	1300	1256	1415	159	93.4%
Stalking	36.2	28.7	14	33	19	72.7%

Group 7 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Dangerous Driving	168.4	160.7	189	166	-23	86.1%

Drink/Drug Driving	454.0	506.3	534	574	40	93.0%
Speeding Offence(s)	2862.8	2166.7	1947	1781	-166	104.7%
Disqualified Driving	36.4	34.0	38	67	29	100.0%
Drive without Licence	283.6	273.0	251	295	44	95.9%
Fail to Insure Against Third Party Risks	717.2	757.0	657	790	133	99.2%
Seat Belt Offence(s)	176.6	121.0	112	102	-10	110.8%
Mobile Telephone Offence(s)	138.6	108.7	111	233	122	105.2%
Careless Driving	478.2	493.0	608	710	102	94.2%