

Agenda Item	3
Report No	BSAC/01/25

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee**

Date: **10/01/2025**

Report Title: **Police – Area Performance Report**

Report By: **Chief Inspector Donna Allan - Area Commander (South Highland Area Command)**

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 To provide an update to Committee Board on the progress with reference to the objectives outlined in the Highland Policing Plan 2023–2026.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are invited to note:

- i. Progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2023–2026 Year 1 attached as Annex A to this report, for the period covering 01 April 2024 – 31 December 2024.
- ii. The change in format necessitate by a reduction in back-office capacity to prepare additional area committee reports.

3. Report Format – Police Area Performance Summary Report

3.1 This document covers priorities featured in the Local Policing Plan and evidences Prevention and Intervention work corresponding to each of the Policing Priorities, provide local narrative in relation to Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism.

3.2 At present, for The Highland Council, we report bi-annually at a Highland level, additionally, there has been a local agreement that we would also provide scrutiny reports individually to all 11 Local Area Committees, 10 of them bi-annually and 1 of them annually.

In response to the budgetary challenges facing Policing, we have had to restructure the Divisional establishment, to ensure we maintain critical front line services, and this has resulted in a reduction in our back-office functionality, which is where the preparation of such reports is undertaken by Police officers, supported by analysts.

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Scoping the frequency of reporting across other Local Authority areas, it is apparent that this provision of additional Local Area Committee reports is anomalous, and likely as a result of the geographical diversity of the Highland area.

To this end, we are looking to move to Area Command level reporting bi-annually, but with the assurance that the local Inspector or Area Commander will be able to still articulate local context.

This is the first report using this new format and we will be monitoring its implementation.

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.

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.

Designation: Chief Inspector

Date: 10/01/2025

Author: Chief Inspector Donna Allan

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Performance Against Local Policing Plan 2023-2026



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee Report Monday 20 January 2025

Reporting Period - 01 April 2024 – 31 December 2024



Report by
Chief Inspector Donna Allan
Area Commander – South Highland Area Command

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



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Introduction by Area Commander

Chief Inspector Donna Allan

I present to you the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee Scrutiny Report covering the reporting period 1 April - 31 December 2024.

The statistics being reported are now at South Highland Area Command level which incorporates the following Area Committees:-

Badenoch & Strathspey, Nairnshire, Lochaber and Skye & Raasay.

A verbal update will be provided by the Police Scotland representative in relation to the local context of this Area Committee.

The interpretation of statistics continues to be a key part of what we do, identifying potential crime trends and ensuring I have the right officers in the right place to keep our communities safe. We do compare data on previous years, however we are not yet at a point where we can accurately compare year on year data as a result of the COVID pandemic. I am always happy to discuss the data and provide some context around the statistics provided within the report.

Having faced the challenges which COVID brought we now see some real cost of living difficulties which will impact all of our communities, including those who have not felt such hardship before. My team are continuing to work, wherever we can, with Partners to protect the vulnerable people within our communities.

Along with our colleagues in Roads Policing, we maintain our presence on our Highland roads, enforcing road traffic legislation, improving road safety and investigating road traffic collisions. I know this has been a particular area of concern, especially with the notable increase in visitors to the Highlands. My team continue to engage with the Visitor Management Plan, working with various Partners to ensure the Highlands continues to be a safe and enjoyable place to visit.

Our focus on road safety is reflected in the increase in drink/drug driving offences detected by officers. We will continue to highlight the harm this creates and target our resources accordingly.

I have to report a slight increase in Serious Assaults. This in turn is also higher in comparison to the 5 year average - but that may still be linked to that figure being skewed by the lower numbers during lockdown.

I am pleased to report a reduction in Frauds, however the global nature and scale of many of these frauds continues to cause concern – particularly when targeting vulnerable people. We regularly publish information designed to help people protect themselves and, with financial institutions, reinforced messages around keeping money safe.

We have seen a small reduction in missing person reports, however missing person enquiries place significant demands on our resource.

Our work tackling Serious and Organised Crime continues, we continue to disrupt these individuals and working effectively with Partners is key. We use these relationships to identify individuals that are vulnerable to exploitation, making early interventions and making the Highlands inhospitable to Serious and Organised Crime Groups.

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 public 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

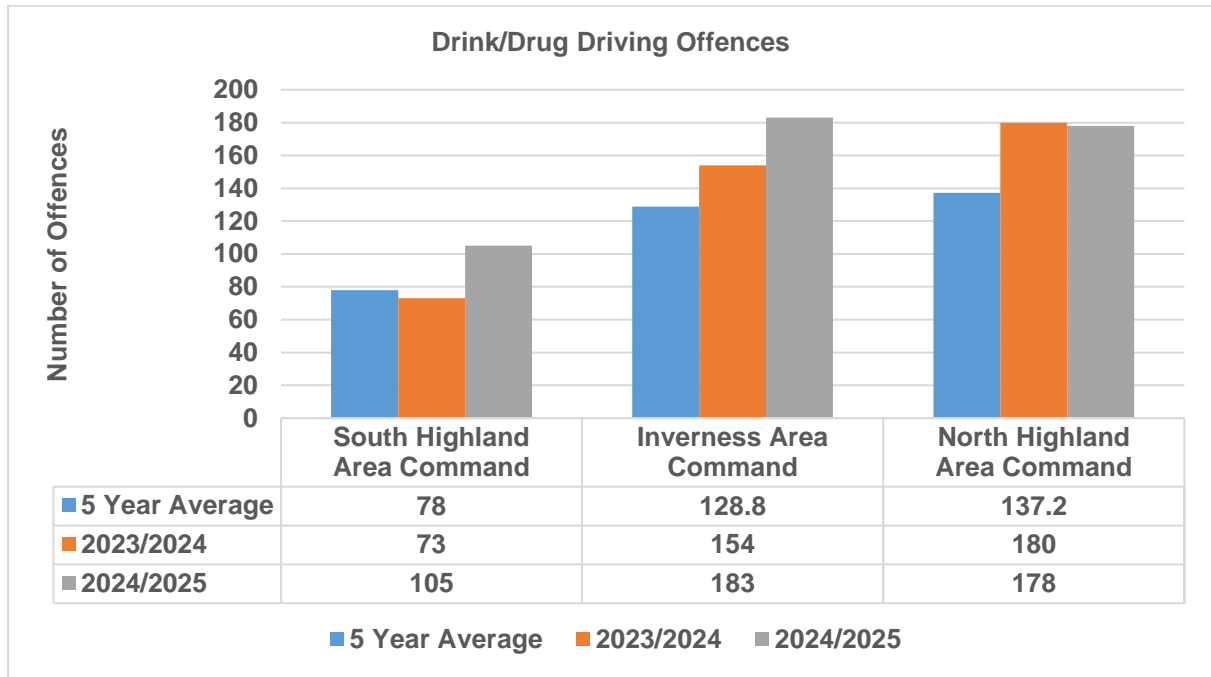
Road Safety and Road Crime

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 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Number of Fatalities - Road Traffic Collisions						
Drink/Drug Driving Offences	78.0	74.7	73	105	32	80.0%
Speeding Offences	588.0	480.3	466	389	-77	100.0%

2024/2025 Drink/Drug Driving Offences -



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 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	0.4	0.7	1	1	-	100.0%
Assault	228.6	236.0	267	279	12	68.1%
Serious Assault	18.4	20.3	27	29	2	86.2%
Drug (Possession) Offences	132.6	107.0	84	93	9	89.2%

Harm Prevention Officer – The Harm Prevention Officer (HPO) is a key partnership role and is now well established in N Division. This HPO 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).

School Liaison – Local officers continue to engage with schools and other relevant agencies, supported by preventions and interventions officers, to support various initiatives intended to deter anti-social behaviour and help our young people keep themselves safe.

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 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (Dwelling)	18.0	15.7	14	19	5	26.3%
Fraud	65.8	84.0	88	76	-12	13.2%
Theft by Shoplifting	80.4	95.3	155	105	-50	69.5%
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	13.6	15.7	18	8	-10	100.0%

Fraud –

Banking Protocol

Following a number of incidents across the N Division area in respect of Frauds and Banking Protocol, work has been ongoing with various Banks within N Division with a view to setting up 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.

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

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 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Rape	14.6	15.0	16	27	11	44.4%
Domestic Crime*				247		63.2%
Hate Crime**				37		70.3%
Missing Persons			92	90	-2	

*Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/ counting rules, comparison of recorded domestic crimes from 1st April 2024 with recorded domestic crimes prior to 1st April 2024 would not be advised.

** Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/ counting rules, comparison of recorded hate crimes from 1st April 2024 with recorded hate crimes prior to 1st April 2024 would not be advised.

Police Scotland underwent a national inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) in relation to Hate Crime with N Division (Highland and Islands) being identified as one of three focussed Divisions.

Missing Persons –

Police Scotland takes 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	2023/2024	2024/2025	Variation
Adult	53	50	-3
Cared for Adult	11	18	7
Looked After Child	3	1	-2
Child	25	21	-4
Absconder/Wanted	0	0	0
Total	92	90	-2

Each Area Command has appointed a 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.

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 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Drug (Supply) Offences	11.8	6.3	4	9	5	33.3%

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 reflected its commitment to this work by expanding its team of dedicated officers with the sole purpose of targeting County Line offenders, working with partner agencies and protecting vulnerable persons.

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 response 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 participants 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/>

Crime Statistics

Crime Bulletin Categories	South Highland Area Command					
	2019 /20	2020 /21	2021 /22	2022 /23	2023 /24	2024 /25
TOTAL CRIME & OFFENCES	3238	2881	3103	2658	3110	3399
Group 1 - Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	341	245	261	321	367	429
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0	0	0	1	1	1
Culpable homicide (common law)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Culpable homicide (other)	2	0	2	2	1	2
Attempted murder	1	0	1	4	2	2
Serious Assault (incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	16	15	15	19	27	29
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	46	24	26	27	33	60
Common Assault	248	187	204	237	267	279
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	2	2	2	0	3	4
Stalking	8	2	1	8	3	5
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	5	1	3	0	1	7
Threats and extortion	4	4	4	11	14	18
Other group 1 crimes	2	0	1	3	4	7
Group 2 - Sexual Offences	63	97	93	118	121	105
Rape	14	14	10	19	16	27
Attempted rape	0	5	0	1	0	0
Sexual assault	29	23	40	43	47	40
Crimes associated with Prostitution	0	0	0	1	0	0
Indecent photos of children	5	5	5	7	6	8
Communicating indecently	4	18	9	15	12	4
Causing to view sexual activity or images	3	17	16	13	15	10
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image*	3	7	1	5	8	5
Other Group 2 crimes	5	8	12	14	17	11
Group 3 - Crimes of Dishonesty	355	252	327	335	442	373
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	22	21	9	24	14	19
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	5	2	1	7	2	4
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	20	15	14	10	16	7
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	4	3		4	2	1
Theft of a motor vehicle	9	12	16	13	18	8
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	15	12	9	11	12	13
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	1	0	0	0	0	1
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	7	9	7	4	7	5
Common theft	140	75	84	87	99	116
Theft by shoplifting	77	39	71	60	155	105

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Fraud	33	44	74	90	88	76
Other Group 3 crimes	22	20	42	25	29	18
Group 4 - Damage and Reckless Behaviour	182	145	192	185	195	196
Fireraising	9	4	10	9	9	14
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	163	133	175	166	177	176
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	10	7	6	10	7	6
Other Group 4 crimes	0	0	1	0	2	0
Group 5 - Crimes Against Society	306	308	286	204	226	231
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	0	0	0	1	3	1
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	15	15	11	11	6	15
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	5	8	5	18	11	10
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	0	6	5	2	4	1
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	14	26	6	9	4	9
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	2	4	0	0	0	0
Possession of drugs	177	165	157	80	84	93
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0	1	0	0	1	0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	40	36	49	45	51	62
Other crimes against public justice	52	47	53	38	62	37
Other crimes against society	1	0	0	0	0	1
Group 6 - Anti-Social Offences	241	156	220	203	181	212
Breach of the Peace	39	22	13	15	5	2
Threatening or abusive behaviour	167	105	180	170	157	198
Hate aggravated conduct (incl. stirring up hatred)	6	3	4	8	5	3
Drunk and incapable	0	2	1	0	0	0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	6	5	6	1	0	0
Other alcohol related offences	11	8	7	5	6	6
Urinating	12	11	9	4	8	3
Group 7 - Miscellaneous Offences	58	58	49	55	56	68
Wildlife offences	10	12	7	5	5	5
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	6	11	3	12	6	14
Community and public order offences	24	20	23	27	39	35
Environmental offences	4	1	7	2	2	5

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Licensing offences	14	14	9	8	4	9
Other misc. offences	0	0	0	1	0	0
Group 8 - Road Traffic Offences	1692	1620	1675	1237	1522	1785
Dangerous driving offences	38	32	43	31	39	43
Driving Carelessly	108	81	135	181	224	223
Driving under the influence	83	83	87	64	73	105
Speeding offences	768	731	708	267	466	389
Seat belt offences	17	22	25	21	13	51
Mobile phone offences	16	12	15	28	58	86
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	359	411	439	380	350	369
Vehicle defect offences	121	136	79	94	138	259
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	28	11	20	31	18	55
Road Traffic Offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	1	2	0	0	1	0
Other Group 8 Offences	153	99	124	140	142	205

For additional detail, published crime data can also be accessed online via the following link:-
[Crime data - Police Scotland](#)