

Agenda Item	4
Report No	CIA/01/25

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Inverness City Area Committee

Date: 2 February 2025

Report Title: Police – Area Performance Report

Report By: Chief Inspector Jamie Wilson - Area Commander
(Inverness 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 2023 – 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.

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.

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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: 23/01/2025

Author: Chief Inspector Jamie Wilson

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**Performance Against
Local Policing Plan 2023-2026**



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**Inverness Area Committee Report
Monday 3 February 2025**

Reporting Period - 01 April 2024 – 31 December 2024



**Report by
Chief Inspector Jamie Wilson
Area Commander – Inverness Area Command**

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



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Introduction by Area Commander

Chief Inspector Jamie Wilson

This report provides an overview of policing activity within the Inverness area from 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Our focus remains on threat, harm, and risk, with a strong emphasis on prevention, problem-solving, and proactive policing, aligned with the Chief Constable's priorities outlined in the Annual Police Plan.

I am pleased to report a significant decrease in serious violence in Inverness during this reporting period. This positive trend reflects our continued efforts to address community concerns and enhance public safety.

The report also highlights a notable increase in detections for drugs offences, particularly relating to the supply of illegal drugs. This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to disrupting the supply of illegal drugs and protecting our communities from the associated harms. Our team is committed to tackling County Lines activity. This remains a significant challenge and is a priority. We are employing a multi-faceted approach, working closely with partners and communities to disrupt criminal networks and safeguard vulnerable individuals.

Road policing remains a key priority. While we continue to see an increase in drink and drug driving offences, robust enforcement action is being taken to deter this dangerous behaviour. The roll out of enhanced training in drug driving detection may account for the increased detection rate in Inverness area command.

Protecting vulnerable people in terms of Domestic Abuse is an absolute priority and our response to this type of crime is highly developed in terms of risk and victim focus, but we can never become complacent, and we recognise that we need to continue to be proactive and work very closely with our partners in the preventative space.

Unfortunately, crimes of dishonesty have increased, particularly theft by shoplifting and fraud. My team are actively looking at preventative measures we can implement to drive this number down, whilst robustly investigating any crime of dishonesty reported to the police

Over the coming Months, my team will continue to adapt our policing approach to address emerging challenges and ensure the safety and well-being of all members of our community. This will involve proactive and intelligence-led policing to prevent and disrupt crime, strengthening partnerships with community groups and other agencies to address local concerns and enhancing public trust and confidence through open and transparent communication.

We appreciate the continued support of the Inverness Area Committee in our efforts to make Inverness a safe and thriving community.

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

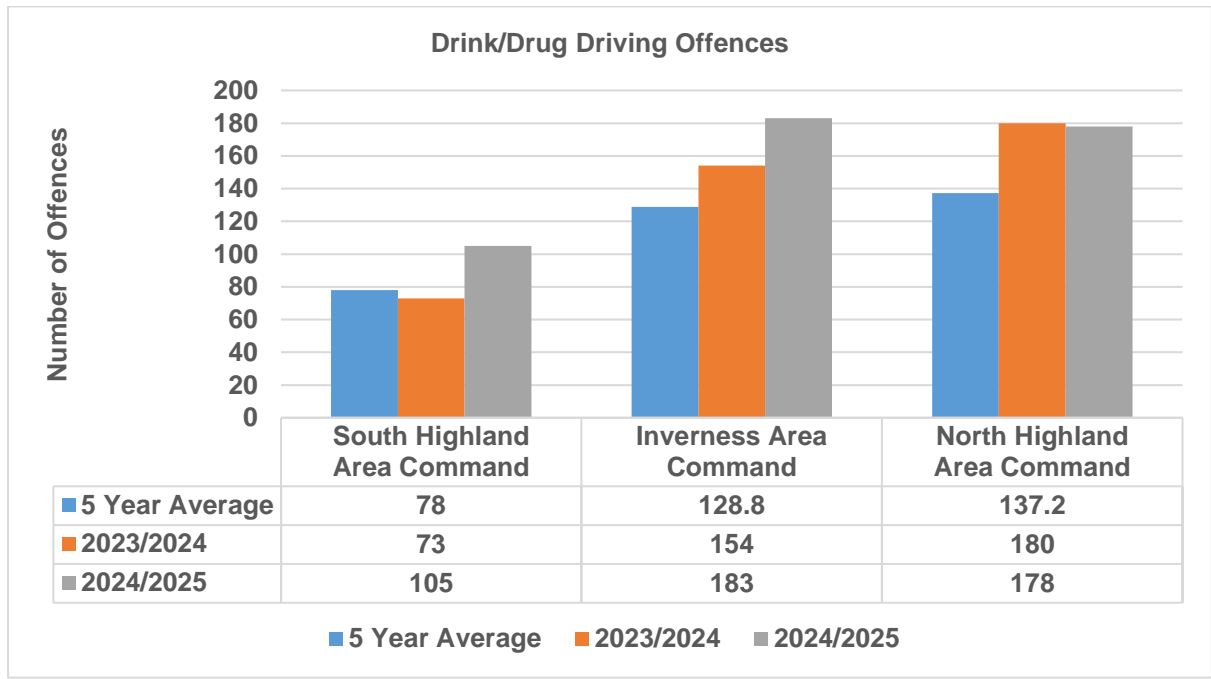
Road Safety and Road Crime

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	2.2	2.0	2	1	-1	
Drink/Drug Driving Offences	128.8	134.3	154	183	29	89.3%
Speeding Offences	311.6	230.7	151	192	41	100.0%

2023/2024 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	1.0	0.3	1	0	-1	-
Assault	543.2	572.0	647	555	-92	61.0%
Serious Assault	38.2	41.0	40	28	-12	74.52%
Drug (Possession) Offences	387.4	357.3	349	381	32	80.9%

Harm Prevention Officer – A 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).

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 Intervention 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.

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 house)	36.4	35.3	31	41	10	26.7%
Fraud	138.0	154.0	155	168	13	14.4%
Theft by Shoplifting	408.8	423.3	603	680	77	62.9%
Theft of a motor vehicle	28.2	28.7	38	25	-13	57.7%

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.

Parcel Scam Fraud

General awareness messaging around parcel/delivery company scams has been 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

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
Sexual Crime	165.0	183.3	184	215	31	60.9%
Domestic Crime*				506		71.5%
Hate Crime**				92		68.5%
Missing Persons			519	377	-142	

*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.

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	130	91	-39
Cared for Adult	35	57	22
Care Experienced Young People	138	127	-11
Child	210	102	-108
Absconder/Wanted	6	0	-6
Total	519	377	-142

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	59.0	56.7	70	78	8	80.9%

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.

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	Inverness Area Command					
	2019 /20	2020 /21	2021 /22	2022 /23	2023 /24	2024 /25
TOTAL CRIME & OFFENCES	5922	5558	5344	5680	6566	6580
Group 1 - Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	808	783	811	913	1051	902
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	2	3	0	0	1	0
Culpable homicide (common law)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Culpable homicide (other)	0	1	1	0	0	0
Attempted murder	3	4	4	7	6	4
Serious Assault (incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	44	32	41	48	41	31
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	100	112	116	127	149	111
Common Assault	599	552	590	635	739	649
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	17	18	15	21	20	42
Stalking	12	10	3	2	8	13
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	3	3	0	3	1	2
Threats and extortion	1	7	11	25	40	13
Other group 1 crimes	5	10	12	19	17	10
Group 2 - Sexual Offences	157	118	145	221	184	215
Rape	29	35	30	44	44	40
Attempted rape	0	2	1	4	3	1
Sexual assault	53	31	47	61	60	86
Crimes associated with Prostitution	0	0	0	0	1	1
Indecent photos of children	11	7	3	18	19	11
Communicating indecently	17	7	19	18	12	19
Causing to view sexual activity or images	29	15	19	35	17	26
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image*	4	6	8	10	12	9
Other Group 2 crimes	14	15	18	31	16	22
Group 3 - Crimes of Dishonesty	1143	979	952	1203	1477	1609
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	44	43	37	41	35	45
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	12	15	12	12	11	6
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	34	32	17	42	33	51
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	13	10	9	10	8	18
Theft of a motor vehicle	43	21	23	27	43	26
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	36	16	15	20	19	43
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	3	0	3	2	7	6
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	15	6	6	10	11	7
Common theft	252	214	252	293	316	335
Theft by shoplifting	473	388	321	418	679	766

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Fraud	117	140	166	188	177	187
Other Group 3 crimes	101	94	91	140	138	119
Group 4 - Damage and Reckless Behaviour	406	419	464	470	533	496
Fireraising	17	9	17	19	22	19
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	380	396	423	440	479	444
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	0	0	0	0	0	2
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	9	14	24	9	31	31
Other Group 4 crimes	0	0	0	2	1	0
Group 5 - Crimes Against Society	865	1012	914	826	1013	1027
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (not used in crime)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	1	0	3	1	1	1
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	2	4
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	36	54	53	71	66	71
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)	30	24	18	54	39	23
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	4	4	6	0	4	0
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	81	57	42	65	84	94
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	3	6	4	0	6	4
Possession of drugs	469	527	471	359	405	425
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	5	0	0	1	0	0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	112	190	160	146	227	243
Other crimes against public justice	122	147	154	127	176	160
Other crimes against society	1	2	1	1	1	0
Group 6 - Anti-Social Offences	611	556	442	557	535	512
Breach of the Peace	100	54	36	32	31	37
Threatening or abusive behaviour	426	452	364	464	461	424
Hate aggravated conduct (incl. stirring up hatred)	10	10	4	13	15	25
Drunk and incapable	1	0	0	0	0	0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	32	21	10	7	2	2
Other alcohol related offences	21	5	14	27	19	15
Urinating	21	14	14	14	7	9
Group 7 - Miscellaneous Offences	71	103	92	111	141	127
Wildlife offences	5	13	13	6	4	8
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	3	3	8	6	13	17
Community and public order offences	48	71	54	72	92	75
Environmental offences	6	8	7	4	8	3

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Licensing offences	5	8	6	19	12	17
Other misc. offences	4	0	4	4	12	7
Group 8 - Road Traffic Offences	1861	1588	1524	1379	1632	1692
Dangerous driving offences	17	20	26	28	43	43
Driving Carelessly	124	112	132	132	198	182
Driving under the influence	104	172	151	144	178	225
Speeding offences	493	436	427	126	166	201
Seat belt offences	46	36	36	24	25	12
Mobile phone offences	56	31	47	51	62	82
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	653	480	424	497	629	549
Vehicle defect offences	129	95	92	126	74	88
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	81	38	43	29	25	26
Road Traffic Offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	1	2	1	0	2	2
Other Group 8 Offences	157	166	145	222	230	282

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