

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES' SERVICES COMMITTEE – 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

POLICE SCOTLAND - PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 To advise members of how the police service is performing against key performance measures and associated targets, as set out in the Aberdeenshire Police Plan approved at the meeting of the Communities Committee.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 **Discuss the attached performance monitoring information relating to the Aberdeenshire component of the North East Division of Police Scotland.**
- 2.2 **Request the Divisional Commander to continue to report to Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives.**

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 The performance monitoring report will provide a regular opportunity for elected members to maintain scrutiny of significant police activities, in order to achieve good outcomes for the residents of Aberdeenshire.
- 3.2 This report has not already been considered by this or any other committee.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 In terms of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, it is worth noting the respective powers and duties that are relevant to the Committee's consideration of police matters.

The Chief Constable is responsible for:

- policing of Scotland and must account to the Scottish Police Authority
- ensuring adequate arrangements are in place for the policing of each local authority area
- designating a constable as Divisional Commander after consultation with the local authority

The Divisional Commander is responsible for:

- involving the local authority in setting of priorities and objectives for policing of its area
- providing to the local authority information it may reasonably require

- preparing and submitting a local police plan to their local authority for approval and, if approved, publishing the local police plan
- preparing and submitting replacement plan to the local authority for approval following a review (local police plans must be reviewed at least once every 3 years)

The local authority may:

- monitor and provide feedback to the Divisional Commander on policing of its area
- specify policing measures it wishes the Divisional Commander to include in a local policing plan

4.2 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

5.1 N/A

5.2 This report helps deliver on each of the LOIP Priorities.

5.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing			X
Equalities			X
Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Town Centre First			X
Sustainability			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X

5.4 An equality impact assessment is not required because this report is principally designed to advise members of the performance of the police service for the relevant reporting periods. There will be no differential impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.

5.5 There are no Risks directly identified in respect of this matter in terms of the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers as the Committee is monitoring the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as required under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 however links to the Corporate Risk of Working with Other Organisations.

6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Committee is able to consider/comment on this item in terms of Section D.1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to matters concerning Police Scotland.

Richie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Chief Superintendent George Macdonald
Date 12/08/2021

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POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Communities Committee

North East Division
Aberdeenshire

April 2020 – March 2021



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Introduction

I am pleased to present the Communities Committee Report on behalf of Police Scotland, North East Division, detailing Police performance in Aberdeenshire for the fiscal year 2020-2021.

As a result of the global Coronavirus Pandemic, the period under review is unprecedented and the unique circumstances and challenges encountered understandably frame the narrative of this report. Generally we have witnessed strong support from the communities across Aberdeenshire in response to the changing landscape, with feedback indicating a confidence in our approach.

With the vast majority of individuals largely restricted to their homes during the early stages of the Pandemic we experienced, as anticipated, a reduction in call demand and crime reporting. As restrictions eased we returned to more familiar levels of crime reporting however this initial period, along with varying degrees of 'lock-down' encountered in the proceeding months, will undoubtedly impact on comparison with figures from the previous reporting period. Looking ahead the use of three and five year baselines may provide a more accurate picture in terms of assessing performance and identifying emerging trends.

While recognising the unique landscape encountered during this year we welcome reductions in Crimes of Violence, Sexual Crimes and Crime of Dishonesty against the comparable 5 Year Averages. This is testimony to the dedication and commitment of the Police Scotland Officers across the North East.

This reporting year has drawn significant focus in all the areas of public protection, harm reduction and vulnerabilities. We continue to work tirelessly with partners to ensure messaging campaigns are implemented across a diverse range of platforms, support to services is accessible seven days a week and robust safety plans and security measures are collectively implemented to prevent future harm reoccurring.

We welcome a reduction in casualties on Aberdeenshire's roads and while this can be partially attributed to our collaborative efforts in support of both local and national Road Safety campaigns, we take cognisance of the reduced levels of traffic as a result of the Pandemic. Operation CEDaR continues to be the overarching strategy to improve Road Safety and reduce Road Crime in the North East.

We continue to work collaboratively with partners, positively contributing to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans in Aberdeenshire. Our relocation to Buchan House in Peterhead has also secured our ability to fully integrate services with Aberdeenshire Council, where we are working collaboratively with partners addressing local issues within communities in the Buchan Corner.

Despite encountering one of the most challenging periods in Policing, we remain steadfast in our commitment and focus to reduce crime and enhance the safety of our communities across Aberdeenshire. I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to Chief Inspectors Rob Sturton (North Aberdeenshire) and Jackie Knight (South Aberdeenshire) as well as their respective teams for their efforts in this respect.

Regards



George Macdonald
Chief Superintendent



Staffing

	Authorised Establishment	March 2020	Difference
Police Officers ¹	1103 FTE	1060.12 FTE	-42.88 FTE
	March 2019	March 2020	Difference
Police Staff ¹	117.41 FTE	121.28 FTE	+ 3.87 FTE

¹ North East Division (Moray, Aberdeenshire, and Aberdeen City) Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

An effective governance structure is in place to ensure an appropriate balance between Officers leaving and joining the organisation is maintained.

While the current figure for the Division is below our Authorised Establishment, this can in part be explained by the limitations placed on training as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic. These limitations were deemed essential to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff. Enhanced recruitment to the North East will be undertaken over the coming months to address the shortfall.

Aberdeenshire currently has **47** Probationary Officers based at 10 operational stations throughout the area.

In addition to the Authorised Establishment, Aberdeenshire benefits from the services of **46** Special Constables, who work alongside and support their full time colleagues. Despite the challenges of the last year, these individuals have demonstrated their commitment to local communities, providing an invaluable service in support of the organisation.



Complaints About the Police

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	%Change 2021 v 2020
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident ²	N/A	71.0%	83.7%		-12.7%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	201	236	-35	-14.8%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	44.1	43.8	+0.3	+0.7%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	249	312	-63	-20.2%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	1	2	-1	-
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	74	38	+36	+94.7%
Total Allegations	N/A	324	352	-28	-8.0%

² North East Division (Aberdeenshire, Moray, and Aberdeen City)

Levels of overall satisfaction remain high at **71%**, in line with the national average. While this is a reduction on the previous year it is of relevance that the survey methodology changed in April 2020 from a telephone survey to a text survey, due to Coronavirus restrictions. This change correlated with a predicted and notable drop across all measures. As such, comparison with previous years may not be reflective of performance or experience.

As well as a reduction in 'off duty' allegations, it is encouraging to see a decrease in the number of complaints received during this reporting period, **down 14.8%** as well as a significant decrease in the number of 'on duty' allegations raised, **down 20.2%**.

A number of complaints stem from a lack of understanding of Police power and procedures. These allegations are categorised as 'Quality of Service' which have risen by **36** in total. The unprecedented challenges associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic resulted in dynamic and, at times, difficult decisions around Officer deployment. Some of these complaints can be directly attributed to our response to the Pandemic although it is considered that many others have been influenced by people's behaviour, general tolerance levels and frequently changing guidance, direction and to a lesser extent, legislation over the last year. Our Policing tone of "Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce", has remained consistent throughout ensuring our response has remained proportionate, reasonable and fair.

Our Front Line Resolution process, which affords the complainer an opportunity to ask questions and receive an explanation regarding actions taken by Police, remains the primary means by which Complaints About the Police are resolved in the North East. During this reporting period, if complaints were not resolved in this way our dedicated Service Delivery team would investigate, supported by the national Professional Standards Department where appropriate.

Of the 201 complaints about the Police received, 24% required action by our Service Delivery team, with only **9%** of allegations contained within these complaints upheld.



Following recommendations arising from the review of Complaint handling conducted by the Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini, since May 2021, all Complaints About the Police have been retained and investigated by the national Professional Standards Department. While this has had no bearing on the reporting period it marks a change going forward and will of course influence future reports.

Through User Experience Surveys and robust governance processes, in partnership with our Professional Standards colleagues, we will ensure that learning points and areas for improvement continue to be identified, shared and acted upon to improve our overall service to the public.



Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	1,824.2	1,326	1,734	-498.2	-27.3%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	73.8%	76.9%	74.5%		+3.1%
Robbery - Recorded	39.8	33	36	-6.8	-17.1%
Robbery - Detection Rate	83.9%	87.9%	94.4%		+4.0%
Vandalism - Recorded	1,228.2	937	1,239	-291.2	-23.7%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	26.1%	35.1%	30.0%		+9.0%
Licensed Premises Visits	5,162	1,648	5,831	-3,514	-68.1%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded ³	N/A	271	331	-60.0	-18.1%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	76.0%	85.2%		-9.2%
Serious Assault – Recorded	95.6	58	95	-37.0	-38.9%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	94.1%	87.9%	95.8%		-7.9%
Number of Complaints of Disorder ⁵	N/A	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data unavailable

³ Crimes of Violence include Murder, Attempted Murder, Culpable Homicide, Cruelty, Neglect and Un-natural Treatment of Children and Adults, Abduction, Robbery, Assault with intent to Rob, Serious Assault, Threats and Extortion and Coercive or Controlling Behaviour (which was added in 2019).

⁵ Disorder includes Public Nuisance, Disturbance, Noise, Neighbour Dispute and Nuisance Phone Call incidents.

Group 1 Crime is a term used to encapsulate all forms of serious non-sexual Violent Crime and incorporates a range of diverse offences.

The overall figures in this regard are unsurprisingly framed by the Coronavirus Pandemic where call demand and crime reporting reduced as restrictions on movement saw people locked down during various stages of the reporting period. As 'lock down' restriction eased we returned to more familiar levels of criminality however, comparison with last year's figures do not provide an accurate reference and will influence comparison reporting for some time.

The lack of a meaningful night time economy and associated licensing restrictions also influenced crime trends across Aberdeenshire and saw a demand shift from public to private space violence, impacting on our prevention capabilities.

In respect of the reporting period, there are welcome reductions in Common Assault, **down 27.3%** against the 5 Year Average with a strong detection rate of **76.9%**.



Continuing the trend, Serious Assaults are also **down by 38.9%**. There is a slight reduction in detection rates from the previous year albeit they remain consistently high at 87.9%.

Recorded Robbery has also **decreased by 17.1%** against the 5 Year Average and detection rates remain high at **87.9%**, which is **4.0%** above the 5 Year Average.

Recognising the impact that these crimes have on victims we continue to ensure that those intent on committing acts of violence are held accountable for their actions and that victims are provided with the appropriate support.

The implementation of licensing restrictions throughout the review period resulted in a significant reduction of the night time economy. To better understand the implications for the hospitality sector and to provide advice, guidance and support, we have remained fully engaged with partners across Aberdeenshire.

While activity at licensed premises was curtailed we remained alert to the wider impacts harmful levels of alcohol consumption can have in terms of Antisocial Behaviour and Violence. We continued to work with various agencies to tackle alcohol fuelled violence, provide support to the most vulnerable and promote a responsible drinking culture.

We are acutely aware that local communities continue to experience quality of life issues and in response our teams across Aberdeenshire, working collaboratively with partners, have designed bespoke initiatives ensuring an appropriate balance of enforcement, education and diversion. Community Policing Inspectors are empowered to take ownership of issues within their own areas, ensuring a proportionate response while effectively balancing competing demands. This approach has contributed to a notable reduction in Vandalism, nearing **24.0%**, in comparison with the 5 Year Average, with an increased detection rate of **9.0%**.

In support of the North Aberdeenshire Local Outcome Improvement Plans, we continue to serve alongside partners to deliver on the Peterhead Locality Plan, working to reduce incidences of crime and fear of crime and to improve outcomes for children and young people. This includes considerable engagement with schools and ongoing multi-agency work to address youth Antisocial Behaviour within Peterhead and around Mintlaw.

We have worked with partners in developing the Locality Action Plans for Banff & Macduff and Fraserburgh. These have identified a range of measures to tackle Antisocial Behaviour, including Diversion, Publicity, Education, Intervention, Support and Enforcement with tasks being undertaken by Police, Education and the local authority.

Data in respect of Complaints of Disorder is unavailable at this time however anecdotally there has been an increase in youth annoyance calls during the sporadic lifting of restrictions, apparently related to those being permitted to congregate outside in larger groups. This is expected to increase as restrictions continue to ease and plans are being implemented across Aberdeenshire to engage with partners to identify and introduce diversionary measures.



Acquisitive Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	2,603	2,332	2,341	-271.0	-10.4%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	45.3%	48.2%	48.3%		+2.9%
Housebreakings - Recorded	351.0	199	261	-152.0	-43.3%
Housebreakings - Detection Rate	30.1%	31.2%	36.8%		+1.1%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded ⁶	309.0	184	193	-125.0	-40.5%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	33.8%	50.0%	39.4%		+16.2%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	114.2	81	81	-33.2	-29.1%
Common Theft - Recorded	740.2	490	638	-250.2	-33.8%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	26.9%	38.2%	30.6%		+11.3%

⁶Theft from secure motor vehicle; Theft from insecure motor vehicle; Theft of a motor vehicle; Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

There is a welcome reduction in Recorded Crimes of Dishonesty which are **down 10.4%** against the 5 Year Average. The positive reporting continues with increased detection rates across all areas of acquisitive crime. These successes manifest from a very focused and structured preventative acquisitive crime strategy, led by Aberdeenshire's Community Policing Teams in collaboration with specialist resources and external partners.

Operation Corrola was launched this year by North East Division to tackle rural thefts at commercial premises in Aberdeenshire linked with similar crimes in the Inverness and Moray areas. This resulted in the detection of a number of crimes and apprehension of recidivist offenders known for 'crime series' offending in Aberdeenshire. They later received custodial sentences which will impact positively on performance moving forward.

Despite the strong performances in prevention and detection this year, the future focus remains primarily on prevention. Police Scotland's Crime Reduction Team have a crucial role to ensure our communities are aware of the measures they can take to reduce the likelihoods of them becoming victims of acquisitive crime.

Acquisitive crime governance structures are in place within North East Division to address 'intelligence led' emerging trends proactively, while directing and co-ordinating Community Policing resources across Aberdeenshire reactively to all areas affected by this crime type.

Looking forward, Police Scotland recognises the significant rise in reported 'Non-Contact' Frauds and in particular Cyber Enabled Frauds with interconnected and associated crimes and offences.

To address this emerging trend North East Division is the first division in Scotland to implement a dedicated unit, the Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team, within the Criminal Investigation Department



who will have responsibility for all Investigative and Preventative strategies in this area of criminality. The unit will look to improve and forge strong links in the financial sector and develop and strengthen links with Economic and National Cyber Investigations.

Aberdeenshire's Local Policing Teams will work in conjunction with this specialist unit, alongside third sector agencies such as Crimestoppers, Citizens Advice, Victim Support and Adult Protection who will be pivotal to the success of our approach. This is in keeping with the national strategies in this area, offering actionable advice across local communities and commercial institutions along with business resilience expertise.

While significant efforts are ongoing locally to improve our investigative capabilities in this area, the primary focus remains on prevention, education and support for those most vulnerable to these crime types. It is apparent these have increased nationally as a result of the evolution of Cyber Enabled Frauds coupled with increased internet usage societally and as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic.



Road Safety and Road Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
People Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	88	114	-26	-22.8%
Children Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	4	8	-4	-
People Killed	N/A	6	8	-2	-
Children Killed ⁷	N/A	0	0	-	-
Road Safety Education Inputs	N/A	N/A	51	N/A	N/A
Advice/Education Given to Motorists ⁸	N/A	15,064	17,508	-2,444	-14.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	103.0	37	47	-66.0	-64.1%
Speeding Offences	2,265.4	1,313	2,674	-952.4	-42.0%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	223.2	187	213	-36.2	-16.2%
Dangerous Driving	104.8	113	95	+8.2	+7.8%
Disqualified Driving	51.0	40	59	-11.0	-21.6%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	5,364.0	4,283	5,724	-1,081	-20.2%
Parking Fixed Penalties Issued ⁹	878.6	285	854	-593.6	-67.6%

⁷ Child is under 16 years of age.

⁸ North East Division (figures area for Aberdeenshire, Moray, and Aberdeen City) figures by Road Policing Officers.

⁹ North East Division (figures area for Aberdeenshire, Moray, and Aberdeen City).

While the number of people killed and seriously injured on Aberdeenshire roads has decreased, cognisance must be taken of the various restrictions on movement applied throughout the year, significantly reducing levels of vehicular traffic. Despite this, our commitment to improve Road Safety during this difficult time has remained steadfast. The loss of any life on our roads is tragic and has significant widespread impact. This remains the driving motivation behind our commitment to improving Road Safety.

The implementation of restrictions throughout the year also impacted upon our ability to work directly with partners, with the cancellation of several well established campaigns such as 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' and 'Rider Refinement North'. However, through flexibility and innovation, Road Safety initiatives continued locally under Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce), a local strategy which was the subject of renewed focus and vigour during the reporting period. Through the review of statistical data, community consultation and interaction with partners, Officers responded to Road Safety



concerns with targeted activity, positively influencing driver behaviour through education and enforcement. Community Policing Teams throughout Aberdeenshire also undertook directed activity in support of national Road safety campaigns.

During the reporting period Operation 'Close Pass' was re-launched across Aberdeenshire providing focus on cyclist safety. This operation saw Officers deployed on pedal cycles educating drivers on the dangers of passing too closely to cyclists. The inclusion of digital cameras fixed to the bikes enables drivers to see the potential dangers and impact their driving may have, from a cyclist's point of view. This operation has and continues to be received positively both in local and national media.

In a bid to reduce Road Crime, several days of action in relation to Operation Contemn were conducted. This is a joint intelligence led operation involving Officers from Roads Policing and Proactive CID, targeting individuals utilising the road network in furtherance of their criminal activities. The operation to date has seen significant success.

Social Media has been widely used to highlight our activity, consistently receiving support and positive comment by the public.

We remained committed to the North East Scotland Strategic Road Casualty Group, continuing to identify and target routes with significant collision histories, appropriately balancing high visibility and unmarked patrols, utilising enforcement and education in order to improve road safety and driver behaviour.

Our activity has been aligned to the Priority Focus Areas contained in the Scottish Government's National Road Safety Framework. A new framework was issued in February 2021 and sets out a vision for Scotland to have the best road safety performance in the world by 2030 and an ambitious long term goal where no one is seriously injured or killed on our roads by 2050. The Framework builds on what has already been achieved here in Scotland over the last decade. It sets out new strategic outcomes for road safety, built around the safe system approach, coupled with a comprehensive performance management system to monitor progress. We will work diligently with partners to ensure a whole system approach is adopted.

As mentioned above, the 'Rider Refinement' training scheme, designed to improve motorcycle riding standards, was unfortunately postponed as a result of the Pandemic restrictions. Undeterred, plans are in place for this initiative to return at an appropriate juncture. Similarly, work is ongoing to ensure the much valued 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' campaign continues in a revised format ensuring that it remains relevant and fit for purpose.

As outlined in the performance report for April-September 2020, Road Safety educational inputs at schools have been paused for the time being. The themes and content of educational inputs remain under regular review with Education partners and Road Safety inputs will return at an appropriate juncture.

The reporting period saw notable decreases across Aberdeenshire in the recording of motoring offences. This can be attributed to both the restrictions of movement implemented and operational guidance issued to our Officers in response to the Pandemic. With relevant safe working practices now in place and a return to more commonly seen levels of traffic, we are already beginning to see a significant rise in proactively identified motoring offences.



Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes - Recorded ¹⁰	504.4	455	548	-49.4	-9.8%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	60.5%	67.0%	61.9%		+6.5%
Rape - Recorded	65.2	45	88	-20.2	-31.0%
Rape - Detection Rate	55.8%	42.2%	56.8%		-13.6%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	1,681	1,700	-19.0	-1.1%
Domestic Abuse Incidents Detection Rate	N/A	73.2%	75.2%		-2.0%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	127	121	+6.0	+5.0%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	76.4%	90.9%		-14.5%

¹⁰ Group 2 Crimes of Indecency include Rape, Assault with intent to Rape, Indecent Assault, Sexual Assault, Prostitution related crime and others with an indecent element.

This reporting year has drawn significant focus in all the areas of public protection, harm reduction and vulnerabilities, most notably in the areas of Hidden Harm linked to child and adult protection and domestic abuse. The last quarter of the year shows no change regarding this.

During the reporting period, the Division has actively carried out local multi-agency messaging and promoted national campaigns around online safety and other types of Hidden Harms – the national 'Eyes and Ears Open' campaign an example of this. Extensive coverage in local press has included specific focus on Hidden Harm and targeting harder-to reach groups, using local community and faith groups and translating messaging into a number of languages. Working closely with the public protection strategic groups, the potential for delayed demand as a result of any restrictions being loosened has been pre-empted through increased frequency of meetings and the resulting work carried out by the Division and its partners.

The number of reported Rape and accumulative Group 2 Crimes is lower than in 2019/20 and below the 5 Year Average. The impact of the Pandemic and associated restrictions during the periods of lockdown as well as the closing down of the night-time economy may have contributed towards this. Q2 and Q3 both showed a rise in reported offences as we experienced relaxation of restrictions, whereas the lockdown and associated restrictions had a material effect on the levels of Rape and serious sexual offending being reported initially. By the end of the year, Group 2 crimes exceeded the previous year's figures, although remained below the 5 Year Average.

Detection rates for Group 2 crimes are positive, with only Rape showing a decline in the latter months, highlighting the challenges which can be present in such enquiries. Overall, the detection rate for Group 2 crime is indicative of the strong governance in place, as well as the continued dedication and expertise



of our Senior Investigating Officers and their teams. Along with continued positive feedback from partners, this is particularly noteworthy.

The number of recorded Domestic Abuse incidents across Aberdeenshire has remained consistent with the previous year **(-1.1%)**. As highlighted previously, strong messaging regarding the Hidden Harm in this area has contributed to this and is also reflected in the levels of support sought by victims from partner agencies. With the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act) comparison with a 5 Year Average is unable to be made.

Our Partnership Co-ordination Unit (PCU) provides support and access to services seven days a week for those experiencing harm, and assembles appropriate safety plans and security measures to prevent future harm reoccurring. The unit also continues to utilise the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process to assist victims and their families, and the Multi-Agency tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC) to focus on higher risk perpetrators to protect those potentially at risk.

Positively, the numbers of requests for disclosures of information under the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) continue to rise steadily as people become more familiar with it and understand the information that can be provided. We also continue to champion awareness of Domestic Abuse through campaigns such as our 'Hidden Harms' campaigns and the annual 16 Days of Action that takes place in November/December each year.

Reported Hate Crime remains in line with the previous year, with a slight increase of **5.0%**. Locally we continue to develop our understanding of these figures recognising the many factors that influence them, including how able individuals are to identify such crimes and how willing they are to report them. With this in mind we continue to campaign to raise awareness of Hate Crime, the impact on those affected, and the alternative ways to report same. We will continue to work with partner organisations and critical friends to look for ways to make our service more understanding and accessible to those experiencing this crime type.



Serious Organised Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures ¹¹	£257,040.46	£157,643.67	£291,522.34	-£99,396.79	-38.8%
Drug Possession Offences	792.4	996	1,023	-203.6	+25.7%
Drug Supply Offences	152.0	141	183	-11.0	-7.2%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Difference	% Change 2021 v 2020
Drug Deaths	N/A	23	29	-6	-20.7%
Educational Inputs	N/A	55	204	-149	-73.0%

¹¹ North East Division (Aberdeenshire, Moray & City) reported seizures (reported figures only, this may mean that the money might finally be returned to the defender, forfeit at court or seized and remitted to Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service).

Despite the challenges of the Pandemic in terms of our ability to be proactive, the number of Drug Supply Offences has remained relatively consistent (-7.2%) and the number of Drug Possession Offences have increased (+25.7%) in comparison with the 5 Year Average. This demonstrates how our Officers have successfully adapted to the challenges encountered, ensuring targeted disruption and enforcement continued.

The reporting period saw the continuation of Operation Corner, a 'Cuckooing' initiative allowing enhanced referral, support and preventative mechanisms for those affected by drug and alcohol misuse. Evaluation of the initiative reveals this has directly contributed to a decrease in offending.

In addition to the drug seizures, Community Policing and CID teams have collectively seized approximately £160,000 in cash during the course of enquiries into Serious and Organised Crime. This will be processed through courts and may be seized permanently under Civil Recovery laws for long term benefits to local communities.

Looking forward, North East Division continues to lead strongly in our approach to Serious and Organised Crime. Our focused monitoring of emerging trends allows us to tackle the widespread and evermore sophisticated nature of this area effectively.

'County Lines' remains a national issue and North East Division are utilising the wide range of investigative tactics available to ensure 'joined up' investigations with external Forces are focused and robust. Organised Crime Groups from England continue to pose the greatest threat in terms of 'County Lines' activity and remain prevalent in the Banff and Buchan area in particular.

New intelligence monitoring processes are now in place and communicated routinely to Aberdeenshire Area Commanders allowing risks and investigative opportunities to be assessed and addressed locally. These processes are being looked at by other forces nationally being shared as 'good practice' examples.



By using the '4D' (DETECT-DISRUPT-DETER-DIVERT) methodology, some very positive successes have been seen when reflecting on enforcement results and our work with key partners to support and signpost those linked to Organised Crime assessed as being in need of intervention.

Key partners within Aberdeenshire Council Interventions, Social Work and many others continue to play a crucial role in the 'County Lines' and 'Cuckooing' initiatives. We look to strengthen these effective relationships going forward.

Drug Deaths decreased during the review period, however, each death is a tragedy and remains our motivation for heavily supporting the work of the Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drugs partnership. The work to reduce the harm caused by illegal drug use will be the subject of increased focus in the year ahead as a result of the Scottish Government's 'National Mission'.



Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism remains a Policing Priority and North East Division continues to work strongly in partnership with members of the North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board. The key principles to the national CONTEST strategy are Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare.

Prevent

We have been working to ensure that 'Prevent' referral processes are clearly identified in organisational policies and that all partners are aware of when a prevent referral is necessary. Prevent Multi-Agency Panels (PMAP) a government framework to effectively support individuals at risk of radicalisation have been established and implemented with meaningful and effective input from all partners. A prevent group meets and engages regularly with ports and industry to focus and review all partnership prevent activity. In addition Local Contest Liaison Officers (LCLO's) continue to support locally and provide advice and guidance on all aspects of the CONTEST strategy.

Pursue

We have been working closely to improve understanding throughout the public and private sectors on the mechanisms available to promptly share information regarding concerning or suspicious activity linked to Counter Terrorism or Domestic Extremism. LCLO's have attended at local harbour offices to raise awareness and Borders Policing Command have worked with local Policing teams in an operation where vessels, deemed at increased security risk were boarded and checked. In addition a robust governance process exists to ensure that all incidents and intelligence linked to counter terrorism are effectively managed.

Protect

Police Scotland, through the multi-agency group has reached out to partners, seeking feedback on the 'Protect Duty' which proposes a legislative framework to provide for the provision of protective security at publically accessible locations. LCLO's continue to undertake a vitally important role in providing security advice at these locations and where the risks are more significant then highly trained counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA's) can undertake detailed surveys and make recommendations. Recent examples of this has been security surveys at COVID mass vaccination centres and around Deeside as we approach the Royal Court.

Prepare

We continue to drive the Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) program, ensuring that it is embedded in training packages in partner organisations. Police and partners work closely together in developing plans for a variety of emergency situations. This has included table top exercises for the Menu of Tactical Options (MOTO) which have been delivered and will continue as they develop. Furthermore CTLO's and LCLO's have attended a week of specific training covering a variety of subjects.



Miscellaneous

Stop and Search

Indicator	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021 (positive)
Consensual	0	-
Legislative	2,229	624
Number of Consensual Stop and Searches Refused	0	-

