

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES' SERVICES COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

POLICE SCOTLAND - PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

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.

1.2 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.**

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 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. This report has not already been considered by this or any other committee.

3 Discussion

3.1 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

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- 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

3.2 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.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report helps deliver on Our People (Education, Health & Wellbeing) and Our Environment (Infrastructure and Resilient Communities).

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Education Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Infrastructure Resilient Communities

Underpinning the Priorities are a number of key principles. They are: right people, right places, right time; responsible finances; climate and sustainability; Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plans; human rights and public protection; tackling poverty and inequalities; digital infrastructure and economy.

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

4.3 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 and Fairer Duty Scotland			x
Children and Young People's			x

Rights and Wellbeing			
Climate Change and Sustainability			x
Health and Wellbeing			x
Town Centre First			x

4.4 The Integrated Impact Assessment tool is an internal tool for Aberdeenshire Council officers to use to support with decisions being made by the Council. It has been designed on Sharepoint and can only be accessed by individuals with Council email addresses. Police Scotland, as an external partner, have their own Impact Assessing process and have utilised that when writing this report.

4.5 The Committee is monitoring the performance of Police Scotland as required under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. It links to the Corporate Risk of Working with Other Organisations.

5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5.2 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 Kate Stephen
Date 17/08/2022

List of Appendices – Aberdeenshire Police Performance Report (Apr 21 – March 22)



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Communities Committee

North East Division
Aberdeenshire

April 2021 – March 2022

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Introduction

I present to you the latest Police and Fire and Rescue Services report on behalf of Police Scotland, North East Division and my first as Divisional Commander. The report documents a detailed journey of Police performance in Aberdeenshire aligned to the agreed priorities at both local and national levels, between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

The reporting period detailed within reflects on an exceptional time for Policing, the communities of Aberdeenshire and society as a whole. As we continued to tackle the Covid pandemic and move toward recovery, Police, like many of our partners, required to evolve to new and innovative ways of working.

In line with previous reports, comparison against 5 Year Averages provides a more realistic picture as opposed to measuring against the figures recorded during periods of lockdown.

Cyber related criminality, notably fraud and extortion, continued to increase during this period. The complexities of such crime types cannot be overstated and locally we work toward delivery of the national Cyber Strategy and awareness raising to reduce such occurrences. Locally, our Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT) continues to prove effective in investigative and preventative work to tackle this issue.

Throughout the period we saw an overall reduction in relation to general acquisitive crimes. Performance improved on last year with a notable decrease in Housebreakings on the 5 Year Average which reflects the efforts of Officers from Community Policing Teams and the Crime Reduction Unit, collaborating with Detectives from CID Proactive Units.

Tragically during the reporting period 15 people were killed in road traffic collisions, the increase reflecting increased overall road usage when compared to the preceding year. We recognise the regular concerns expressed by the community around Road Safety matters and continue to proactively patrol and enforce legislation on our roads.

We remain focused on providing an effective, visible service and working closely with partners. I am grateful for the continued support of those statutory, third sector and voluntary partners who my Officers in Aberdeenshire work ever closer with every day to improve the lives of those resident within our communities.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Staff, Officers and Special Constables operating in the Aberdeenshire area for their considerable efforts in the preceding 2 years. They have had to cope with unprecedented demands and have provided copious amounts of goodwill, flexibility and innovation, all while showing a determination above any expectations to continue to provide a high quality level of service, despite the exceptional circumstances in which they have found themselves. The wellbeing of personnel within North East Division and the national teams who support us is something I am passionate about and will continue to focus upon in the coming months and years ahead.

Regards

Kate Stephen
Chief Superintendent

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Staffing

	Authorised Establishment	March 2022	Difference
Police Officers ¹	1092 FTE	1042.92 FTE	-49.08 FTE
	March 2021	March 2022	Difference
Police Staff ¹	121.28 FTE	119.46 FTE	-1.82 FTE

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

Officer numbers are lower during this period as a result of restricted recruitment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a pause on both recruitment and training ahead of and during the COP26 climate change summit and increased retirements at short notice resulting from changes to pension arrangements.

Police Scotland has been recruiting nationally with some 300 new probationary Constables welcomed recently to commence training at the Police Scotland College, Tulliallan. 17 of these Officers are due to be posted to North East Division. This is in addition to the 82 probationers who have completed training and commenced operational policing this year within the Division.

Through our 'Strategic Workforce Plan', we are working to identify the Officer, staff and skills profile needed to best serve our communities and to ensure policing provides value for money to the public purse. The plan provides an evidence-based approach to identifying policing requirements across the country with considerations such as changing population profiles and the needs of communities.

We recognise that funding arrangements set-out in the Scottish Government's spending review, if progressed, will mean difficult decisions for policing in Scotland that may result in a smaller workforce and this is something we are monitoring closely.

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Complaints About the Police

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 2021	% Change 2022 v 2021
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident ²	N/A	67.1%	71.0%		-3.9%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	177	211	-34	-16.1%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	40.3	48.1	-7.8	-16.2%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	177	269	-92	-34.2%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	0	1	-1	-
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	78	81	-3	-3.7%
Total Allegations	N/A	255	351	-96	-27.4%

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

Despite the many significant challenges imposed upon policing in recent times, the number of Complaints About the Police have reduced during the reporting period, akin to pre-pandemic levels.

Overall satisfaction on how incidents have been dealt with has **decreased slightly** on the previous year to **67.1%**, which is in line with the national average. This indicator has a number of variables which may influence the feedback provided by those consulted. We continue to take opportunities to learn from complaints and focused analysis in this area highlighted a positive position in respect of initial contact and attitude of attending Officers with members of the public feeling reassured that their needs were understood.

The number of complaints received about the Police during the reported period has **decreased by 34** equating to a **16.1% reduction**. Similarly the number of On Duty and Quality of Service allegations, which primarily focus on Police powers and procedures, have **decreased by 34.2% and 3.7%** respectively.

Whilst it is encouraging to see a significant drop in complaints against the Police, for those that are received our Front Line Resolution process, which affords the complainer the opportunity to ask questions and receive an explanation regarding actions taken by the Police, remains the primary means by which complaints are resolved. Where complaints are not resolved in this manner, they are subject of a robust investigation by the Professional Standards Department. Any learning points received at the conclusion of a Complaint About the Police are appropriately shared and briefed to Officers and Staff to prevent recurrence.



Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	1,703.6	1,632	1,335	-71.6	-4.2%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	74.4%	73.2%	76.8%		-1.2%
Robbery - Recorded	41.0	27	34	-14.0	-34.1%
Robbery - Detection Rate	83.9%	77.8%	82.4%		-6.1%
Serious Assault – Recorded	89.2	85	62	-4.2	-4.7%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	93.7%	100.0%	85.5%		+6.3%
Vandalism - Recorded	1,143.8	1,081	941	-62.8	-5.5%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	28.1%	29.2%	35.0%		+1.1%
Licensed Premises Visits	5,028	3,368	1,648	-1,660	-33.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 2021	% Change 2022 v 2021
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded ³	N/A	339	277	+62	+22.4%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	70.8%	74.0%		-3.2%
Number of Complaints of Disorder ⁵	N/A	5,037	7,619	-2,582	-33.9%

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.

The recorded crime and detection rates in relation to Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder are in the main, positive.

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 increase in Group 1 crime continues to be driven by increases in online Threats and Extortion (often with a sexual element). Such crimes, where the perpetrators can be based anywhere in the world are complex and as such, this contributes to the drop in detection rates for this crime type. The Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT) continue to have responsibility for all Investigative and Preventative strategies in this area of criminality.

This reporting period saw an escalation of socialising in public places, licensed premises and the return of the night time economy which has impacted on crime trends across Scotland. This was not unexpected as restrictions were lifted and we are seeing a return to more familiar levels of criminality more closely resembling business as usual.

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Despite this, assurance is provided in the fact we are still **4.2% below** the 5 Year Average for Common Assaults. With a consistently high detection rate of above **73.0%** we are confident we are directing our resources to the correct areas and engaging effectively with preventative and partnership opportunities. This very positive figure demonstrates our continued and renewed focus and commitment to violence reduction has been effective thus far.

Serious Assaults remain low and **down by nearly 5%** when compared against the 5 Year Average. Although the figures have risen since last year this is consistent with the national picture and taking this into account our detection rates are exceptional at **100%**. 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.

Recorded Robbery has fallen **34.1% below** the 5 Year Average and we maintain nearly a **78%** detection rate. Acknowledging the detection rate is below the 5 Year Average, it is still well above the national average and is an indication of the robust and professional standard of investigation, and the focused efforts of our teams.

Preventative and proactive measures have been implemented across our communities developed through the Divisional North East Violence Prevention Board to effectively understand, manage and direct our resources to where there is an identified need.

Collective efforts continue to better understand these issues to promote and support a responsible drinking culture with indications that alcohol consumption has increased during the pandemic. We actively support early interventions highlighting the challenges and consequences of excessive alcohol consumption across all age ranges to prevent individuals becoming involved in criminality.

Vandalism also continues to **reduce** when compared to the 5 Year Average by **5.5%** and the detection rate remains consistent with an **increase of 1.1%** against the 5 Year Average.

Antisocial Behaviour incidents have **reduced significantly and in real terms by 33.9%**. This is very much welcomed by the local communities we serve and allays some of the expected fears as we moved from a significant period of inactivity to the public moving freely about outside spaces.

We are very aware that local communities continue to experience quality of life issues and working together with partners, we continue to design bespoke initiatives ensuring there is an appropriate balance of enforcement, education and diversion.

This approach is seen in action through our continued commitment to Locality Plans in Fraserburgh, Banff & Macduff and Peterhead where this partnership approach aims to provide positive outcomes in communities experiencing acute challenges.

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Acquisitive Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	2,490.4	2,502	2,293	+11.6	+0.5%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	48.3%	42.0%	49.1%		-6.3%
Housebreakings - Recorded	294.6	186	202	-108.6	-36.9%
Housebreakings - Detection Rate	32.9%	44.6%	30.7%		+11.7%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded ⁶	246.4	190	182	-56.4	-22.9%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	40.4%	55.8%	50.5%		+15.4%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	99.6	93	80	-6.6	-6.6%
Common Theft - Recorded	672.4	576	491	-96.4	-14.3%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	29.8%	32.3%	38.3%		+2.5%

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

Overall, Crimes of Dishonesty remain consistent with only a **0.5% increase** compared to the 5 Year Average. Despite this slight overall increase, there have been **significant reductions** in key crime types such as housebreaking and motor vehicle crime, showing our continued commitment to this priority crime area.

Housebreaking in Aberdeenshire continues to fall with a **decrease of 36.9%** in recorded crime whilst the **detection rate has risen 11.7%** against the 5 Year Average. Close monitoring of the intelligence picture ensures we target the right people and patrol the right places to minimise the traumatic effect this most invasive of crimes has on victims.

Theft of Motor Vehicles has seen a reduction in recorded crimes (**6.6% less** recorded than the 5 Year Average). Robust, proactive policing plans are in place to ensure Aberdeenshire remains a hostile environment for those intent on committing crimes of dishonesty.

This period has also seen a notable reduction in Motor Vehicle crime, **down 22.9%** against the 5 Year Average. Detection rates have increased by **15.4%** by the same comparison. We have also seen an encouraging reduction of **14.3%** in Common Thefts across Aberdeenshire compared to the 5 Year Average.

We welcome these returns cautiously in view of the context and we will continue with the simple philosophy to prevent crime wherever possible and where this cannot be achieved, detect it. Our Crime Reduction Team have a crucial role to ensure our communities are aware of the measures they can take to reduce the likelihood of them becoming victims of acquisitive crime.

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There are few aspects of everyday life that have not been affected by the development of digital technology, which has resulted in rises in reported 'Non-Contact' Frauds and in particular, Cyber Enabled Frauds. The Divisional Cyber-Enabled Crime Team (DCECT), within the Criminal Investigation Department, have responsibility for all Investigative and Preventative strategies in this area of criminality.

The Crime Reduction Unit will continue to work with DCECT to identify vulnerable groups to develop on-going, targeted campaigns to raise awareness of Cyber-crime, target harden and expand knowledge. 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.

Overall, there is positive progress in our approach to dealing with Acquisitive Crime reflected in positive figures. Our success in this area during the last year has shown a concerted effort in the preventative and investigative tactics relating to Acquisitive Crime making a tangible difference to the communities of Aberdeenshire.

Early indications for the 2022-2023 financial year indicate a national increase in Acquisitive Crime, which is reflected in North East Division figures. While it is too early to draw conclusions, what cannot be ignored for this crime type is the impact the cost of living crisis is having across the country.

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Road Safety and Road Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 2021	% Change 2022 v 2021
People Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	98	95	+3	-
Children Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	1	4	-3	-
People Killed	N/A	15	4	+11	-
Children Killed ⁷	N/A	0	0	0	-
Advice/Education Given to Motorists ⁸	N/A	16,120	15,064	+1,056	+7.0%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	84.6	42	38	-42.6	-50.4%
Speeding Offences	2,109.6	2,202	1,319	+92.4	+4.4%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	236.2	307	247	+70.8	+30.0%
Dangerous Driving	132.0	173	146	+41.0	+31.1%
Disqualified Driving	52.4	45	45	-7.4	-14.1%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	5,405.2	5,729	4,380	+323.8	+6.0%
Parking Fixed Penalties Issued ⁹	Data not available	Data not available	285	-	-

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).

Tragically, **15** individuals lost their lives in Aberdeenshire during the review period. Whilst this is an **increase of 11** compared to the previous year, cognisance must be given towards the significant increase in vehicular traffic across our road networks following the lifting of restrictions linked to the pandemic. The loss of any life or serious injury on our roads is tragic and that is why we are committed to influencing driver behaviours to improve Road Safety as a priority for Policing.

Local Road Safety initiatives remained a constant focus of the Community Policing Teams across Aberdeenshire under Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce), the North East's overarching Policing strategy to increase Road Safety and reduce Road Crime. 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. Building on local efforts, Officers from the North East Road Policing Unit (NERPU)

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continued to support communities across the region by conducting targeted activity aligned to national Road Safety campaigns and patrolling key routes.

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. Excess speed remains a significant factor attributed to collisions where death or serious injury occurs. We have directed Officers on an intelligence led basis to collision hotspots as part of directed patrols. A correlation can be seen by the between the 'return to normal' of traffic flow and our targeted proactivity around Speeding with the **4.4% increase** in this area compared to last year.

During the reporting period the partner initiative Operation Close Pass was launched again in Aberdeenshire in order to focus on the safety of cyclists. Cyclists are regarded as vulnerable road users and with the sport of cycling increasing in popularity across Scotland this area has become a key area for focus.

Motorcyclists continue to represent a disproportionate statistic in relation to road death collisions. Recognising the need to engage directly with motorcyclists, this year saw the return of the 'Rider Refinement' training scheme, a 1 day course designed to help them ride responsibly.

This year also saw the launch of the Police Scotland 'New Drivers Scheme'. This scheme comprises of a presentation aimed at new and young drivers and raises awareness of Road Safety issues. It is targeted at people learning to drive, people who have recently acquired a full licence and employers of new drivers. By providing key safety messaging, reinforced through a hard-hitting case study involving real life footage, the scheme also provides a space for discussion to allow a change in perceptions at the most appropriate time – when young drivers are first going on public roads. The scheme has been well attended and will continue to develop going forward.

Our activity has been aligned to the Priority Focus Areas contained in the Scottish Government's new National Road Safety Framework, issued in February 2021, which 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.

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Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes - Recorded ¹⁰	515.6	631	474	+115.4	+22.4%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	61.1%	46.4%	65.2%		-14.7%
Rape - Recorded	67.2	74	44	+6.8	+10.1%
Rape - Detection Rate	49.7%	37.8%	43.2%		-11.9%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 2021	% Change 2022 v 2021
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	1,620	1,682	-62	-3.7%
Domestic Abuse Incidents Detection Rate	N/A	71.9%	73.5%		-1.6%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	125	127	-2	-1.6%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	70.4%	76.4%		-6.0%

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 seen an increase in the reporting of Group 2 crimes, which was not unexpected and in many ways must be welcomed if it shows an increase in victims being willing to contact Police regarding crimes that may historically have gone unreported.

As lockdown restrictions were eased, hospitality venues were operating again and the night-time economy re-started. This factor, along with others, contributed to an increase in reporting which continued throughout the year, with reported Group 2 crime being **22.4% above** the 5 Year Average in Aberdeenshire.

A potential contributing factor to the increase was that during the reporting period there was continued emphasis on awareness raising about Hidden Harms which were predominant during the lockdown period. Divisional leads for Domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking, Adult Protection, Rape and Serious Sexual Offences and Child Protection further enhanced this through a series of media interviews.

Another contributing factor to the increase is the prevalence of communications related offences or those linked to social media and also the continued reporting of non-recent crimes. Cyber-related investigations can be complex and take time to detect and non-recent crimes can be challenging to detect given the limited forensic opportunities. Consequently, the detection rate for Group 2 crimes is **14.7% below** the 5 Year Average. Our local divisional Officers and public protection specialists continue to review all crimes for investigative opportunities through governance processes whilst ensuring a victim based approach is adopted in all cases.

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As seen in previous reporting, North East Division continue to actively promote national campaigns locally, with both internal and external awareness raising regarding sexual offences and thus reducing crime. Examples include the award-winning national Police Scotland 'That Guy' campaign and the '#GetConsent' campaign which have both been aimed to influence potential offender behaviour complimenting previous campaigns on this subject.

The introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, is a further factor that impacts on comparison with the 5 Year Average, as it has not been enacted for the full 5 year period. By the end of this reporting year there were **62 fewer** Domestic Abuse incidents recorded than in the previous year. Positively, the Division continues to be active within the Aberdeenshire Violence Against Women Partnership (VAWP) and has continued to provide the co-ordination and support to the wider partnership in relation to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process. The number of MARAC referrals has continued to increase this year, with cases discussed throughout the year by partners to ensure appropriate support is in place for those most at risk in our community.

Our collaboration to target domestic perpetrators, both in terms of enforcement and work to address behaviour also remains a key part of our work. Our detection rate of **71.9%** continues to demonstrate this. Proactive partnerships, including our partnership with Criminal Justice Social Work, gives us a platform to do Police enforcement and the opportunity to work with partners to address perpetrator attitudes.

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. Across the Division, applications made under the scheme have risen annually and this is reflected in Aberdeenshire with a further increase during this reporting year.

Over recent years Aberdeenshire has seen a significant reduction in recorded Hate Crime. A further **reduction of 1.6%** is continuing on that downward trend. We recognise that there are risks in relying on this as a measure of success with other factors around confidence or willingness to report playing a part. We will continue to work with partner organisations to support victims and communities partners and communities to increase awareness of Hate Crime, reduce tolerance of it, and encourage the reporting of it whether directly to Police or via third parties.

There is a slight reduction in the detection rate, however at **70.4%** the figure still remains strong, and we have improved the information we provide internally to ensure strong oversight and impetus remains on detection of these crimes. We continue to work hard to seek justice for all victims whilst strengthening our foundations by upskilling victims and communities to recognise Hate Crime through our campaigns to raise awareness. We remain accessible and responsive to those who may need our support through the wide reach of our Community Policing Teams aided by our access to specialist support.

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Serious Organised Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 5 Year Av	% Change 2022 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures ¹¹	£265,655.60	£154,559.70	£157,643.67	-£111,095.90	-41.8%
Drug Possession Offences	898.6	952	1,014	+53.4	+5.9%
Drug Supply Offences	153.4	136	142	-17.4	-11.3%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Difference 2022 v 2021	% Change 2022 v 2021
Drug Deaths	N/A	25	23	+2	+8.7%
Educational Inputs	N/A	Data not available	55	N/A	N/A

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 Possession offences has remained above the 5 Year Average and the number of Drug Supply Offences have remained consistent to the previous year. This demonstrates how our Officers have successfully adapted to the challenges encountered, ensuring targeted disruption and enforcement continued.

The monetary value of assets seized during the last year has remained comparable to the previous year and Community Policing and CID teams have collectively **seized almost £155,000** in cash during the course of enquiries into Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). This will be processed through the courts and may be seized permanently under Civil Recovery laws for long term benefits to local communities.

Drugs Deaths had a slight increase compared to the previous year which is part of a significant rise nationally. Through the work of the Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership, we continue to work closely with partners and support services to better understand the causes of drug deaths and to signpost vulnerable individuals to referral pathways thus supporting them through addiction and dependency at the earliest possible point of intervention. SOC Interventions have been developing links into rehabilitation and addiction peer groups and intervention support will ensure Intervention and Diversion can be in place for those at a vulnerable stage in their recovery.

‘Operation Protector’ or ‘Safer In Service’ Days of Action, is a new multiagency approach that proactively addresses the effects of SOC and drug misuse on our communities. During the reporting period, 4 Days of Action have taken place during which, joint teams of Police, Substance Use, Community Safety and Local Authority Staff conducted drug harm outreach visits to identify and support vulnerable people. Simultaneously, drug search warrants were executed to target and remove those causing the greatest harm in our communities. By acting now to provide support that strengthens our communities, we are making it harder for SOC to operate, reducing SOC markets and bringing lifesaving support towards those in need. This approach has been an unmitigated success and will continue to develop in the months ahead.

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Looking forward, North East Division continues to lead strongly in our approach to SOC. Our focused monitoring of emerging trends allows us to tackle the widespread and evermore sophisticated nature of this area effectively. 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 SOC assessed as being in need of intervention.

The delivery of educational inputs has changed with the development of a national bank of presentations on a variety of topics which can be delivered by any Officer or relevant member of Staff in partnership with the relevant school, instead of the former School Liaison Officers. This new means of delivery is an ongoing area of work and has meant that a measurement of how many inputs have been given is not available for this reporting period.

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Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

The North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board and the associated Prevent Delivery Group continue to deliver the national CONTEST strategy in the North East of Scotland. The Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare principles are the continued focus of the strategy which aims to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK.

International events continue to show the need to be vigilant and to prevent any complacency regarding any potential act in Aberdeenshire, given the significant infrastructure within our local area.

Prevent involves safeguarding people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and at a local level this involves close working relationships between partner agencies to identify persons at risk. Localised multi-agency training has continued during the reporting period and Prevent Multi Agency Panels are held as necessary which allows for a collaborative approach as plans are developed and implemented to divert those at risk.

Protect has the aim of strengthening our protection against a terrorist attack. Traditionally the local multi-agency work has been aimed at providing advice and guidance in relation to the protecting and safeguarding of physical locations. This work continues with tailored inputs, advice and guidance but there is an increasing requirement to improve cyber-security across all industries to minimise the potential of a cyber-attack. A Protect 'duty' is likely to be placed upon authorities and agencies (similar to the current Prevent duty) during 2022-2023 and therefore a Protect Delivery Group is being formed to manage any transition and ensure all Aberdeenshire partners are aware of their responsibilities in this regard.

Prepare involves mitigating the impact of a terrorist incident if it occurs. With a number of important national infrastructure sites in the area linked to local industry there is a program of multi-agency exercises covering a number of different scenarios and locations which assist in the progression of the Prepare priority. During the reporting period a number of exercises have been conducted at key sites in Aberdeenshire to continue the important work in this key area.

To assist in the delivery of the multi-agency agenda and priorities, North-East Division has a team of Local CONTEST Liaison Officers (LCLOs) who carry out activities within their local policing area or department, where necessary assisted by experts or specialists from national departments. This approach assists to blend national and local requirements whilst ensuring the interests and needs of local communities are at the forefront of everything we do.

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Miscellaneous

Stop and Search

Indicator	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022 (positive)
Consensual	0	-
Legislative	1,407	435
Number of Consensual Stop and Searches Refused	0	-

**Guidance with respect to accessing further Stop and Search data was circulated to Members on 9 December 2021.*

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