

**NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**14 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Agenda Item	
Report No	

**CRIME SITUATION**

Report by the Chief Constable

**SUMMARY**

The report informs Members of notable crimes, incidents, initiatives and convictions since the last report.

**BACKGROUND:**

The following is a brief summary of a few of the incidents attended, illustrating the diverse and sometimes serious nature of crime and incidents throughout the Force.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Board is invited to note the current position.

**Ian J Latimer**  
**Chief Constable**

## **AREA COMMAND: Shetland**

**PERIOD: From 01/05/2007 to 31/07/2007**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

During the year to 31 July 2007 Shetland Command Area achieved a clear up rate for class 1- 5 crime of 64.5%. This comes at the same time as delivering a reduction in class 1 - 5 crime of 12.4% as compared to the same period last year. All staff within the Command Area will work hard to build on and maintain these results.

The program of high visibility footpatrols in Lerwick during peak times continue with a view to combating anti social behaviour and violence. There has been, as a result, a considerable reduction in the number of complaints in this respect.

During the current reporting period a man was apprehended and charged with an attempted theft by housebreaking at the Toll Clock Shopping Centre and a number of other similar crimes in Lerwick, including the theft of £5,000 from an insecure house in the town. He is now on bail awaiting sentence at Lerwick Sheriff Court. Almost all the stolen property has been recovered.

During the year ended 31 March 2007, Shetland Command Area recorded a reduction in reported vandalism of 25%. Figures for the first third of the current year show we have maintained that improved position with reports in this category being similar to the same period last year. Intelligence led patrolling is playing a large part in our ability to deliver this sustained improvement.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

After concerns last year on the increase in violent assaults, taking place mainly in Lerwick Town Centre, it is pleasing to note a reduction in crimes of violence from 15 to 5 during this period compared to the same period last year. Also notable is that all these crimes have been detected. The detected crimes of violence include an attempted murder on board a vessel at Scalloway Harbour. Following enquiries a male person was apprehended and remains remanded in custody awaiting trial.

During the review period a young male, who had been convicted at the High Court in Aberdeen, was sentenced for serious sexual crimes against children ranging in age from 7 - 14 years. The severity of the crimes was reflected in the sentence of 5 years imprisonment. This was a complex enquiry handled, almost exclusively, from within Command Area resources.

Following enquiries in the Ollaberry area a man was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for the cultivation of Cannabis Plants. A large number of plants and hydroponic equipment were seized.

As a result of enquiries a male person was apprehended for the cultivation of Cannabis Plants. Prepared herbal cannabis and cultivation equipment were seized.

Enquiries were carried out into the death of a 17 year old girl in Lerwick. Initial autopsy results indicate the death was not directly drug related. Enquiries are ongoing into this matter.

Following the death of a man in Lerwick, who was a known drug user, a full police enquiry was carried out. Autopsy results indicate the death was alcohol and drug related.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

It is disappointing to note that during the review period two fatal Road Traffic Collisions occurred on Shetland's roads. Both incidents involved motorcycles, which were the only vehicles involved. Local staff were assisted by officers who attended from the Road Policing Unit, Dingwall to provide expertise to the investigations. Considerable publicity has been generated over the summer months reminding motorists and in particular motorcyclists, to take care during periods of extended daylight and near perfect driving conditions.

Tackling drink / drug driving remains one of our key priorities. During the review period 67 breath tests were carried out 10 of which proved positive and resulted in the individuals involved being reported to the Procurator Fiscal. A particularly encouraging aspect is the high number of reports from members of the public reporting concerns on the 'Safer Shetland Action Line'.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

The provision of a CCTV system for Lerwick Town Centre continues to make somewhat slow progress. A number of obstacles in the planning process are being worked through and concerns have now also been raised by the Roads Department. The Community Safety Partnership continue to drive this project and although there will now be some slippage in timescale we remain confident that the system will be operational by the end of the year.

We continue to work with our partners to ensure speedy and efficient Criminal Justice processes. Against the national target of 80% of police reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal within 28 days of caution and charge, this Command Area currently achieves 93% within 28 days. Similarly, against the target of 80% of police reports to the Children's Reporter within 14 days of caution and charge, this Command Area currently achieves 100% within 14 days. This is the best performance in the Force.

### **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

At the end of May Shetland hosted a high profile Royal Visit involving Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay together with Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway. The policing of this very successful event involved virtually every officer in the Command Area together with a number from elsewhere in the Force.

In common with other areas of the Force the Command Area has experienced a busy summer period with a number of festivals and public events. This has been undertaken whilst maintaining the normal and expected high level of service to the public.

Planning is currently underway for two concerts on the Island in September by the leading Scottish pop group "Franz Ferdinand".

## **AREA COMMAND: Orkney**

**PERIOD: From 01/05/2007 to 31/07/2007**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

Reported crime at this time of the year has increased, largely due to a number of incidents comprising multiple charges of theft and fraud in respect of a small number of individuals. The detection rate remains very good at 75.4%.

A Kirkwall man was sentenced to 13 months imprisonment during July 2007 in relation to a number of thefts, assault and possession of a knife, committed during the last six months.

A young man from Tankerness was sentenced to 220 days imprisonment at Kirkwall Sheriff Court during July 2007 for breaching bail conditions imposed on him at an earlier court appearance.

During July 2007 a man from the North Isles admitted at Kirkwall Sheriff Court to causing unnecessary suffering to his animals. Sentence was deferred until October 2007. In an unrelated case, another man from the North Isles was fined £1400 for causing unnecessary suffering to a cattle beast.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

During May 2007 a person was arrested on warrant in relation to the murder of Shamsuddin Mahmood in Kirkwall in 1994.

During May and June 2007 enquiries commenced into a number of unrelated allegations of serious sexual offences including several historical incidents. Of particular note was a man arrested in June 2007 in relation to a number of alleged sexual offences.

During July 2007 a man was arrested and remanded in custody in relation to an incident involving the use of a knife during a disturbance in a house.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

There have been no fatal or serious road accidents during the review period although there has been a slight increase in the numbers of minor collisions. During the review period the detection of speeders and drink drivers remained a high priority with significant sentences and periods of disqualification imposed at Kirkwall Sheriff Court. These sentences included a man banned for three years and ordered to complete 160 hours community service for drink driving; a young man who was fined £250 and banned for six months for driving at 96 mph in a 60 mph limit; and a man disqualified for 2 years and ordered to carry out 180 hours community service for drink driving and colliding with a fence. Of particular note was a man who was dealt with for driving

whilst disqualified shortly after being sentenced for drink driving and another man who was disqualified from driving for 15 months and fined £750 for dangerous driving.

A 16 year old youth was disqualified from driving for one year and fined £900 at Kirkwall Sheriff Court after driving whilst disqualified and other road traffic offences committed on the Kirkwall to St Margaret's Hope road during late April 2007.

Two young Stromness men were disqualified for 18 months, fined and ordered to pay compensation at Kirkwall Sheriff Court for a number of offences including drink driving and damage caused when a car was driven across Stromness Golf Course during April 2007.

#### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

A man was placed on probation at Kirkwall Sheriff Court in May 2007, given 80 hours community service and a six month restriction of liberty order following his behaviour and conduct towards a woman in Kirkwall in April 2007.

During early May 2007 two men were sentenced at Kirkwall Sheriff Court to a Restriction of Liberty Order for six months and a fine and compensation totalling £1500 respectively, following a domestic incident that took place in Kirkwall during March 2007.

The Area Command was involved in two major incident exercises during the review period, one relating to an incident at the North Ronaldsay Airfield and the other a major maritime emergency in Scapa Flow.

On 13-14 June 2007, HRH The Duke of Kent made a very successful visit to Orkney to carry out a number of engagements in his role as President of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. In addition, on 24 July 2007 the Area Command was involved in a private visit by HRH The Princess Royal to Hoy.

During June 2007, a man was lost overboard from a boat in Hoy Sound. Following extensive enquiries and searching a body was recovered in July 2007.

#### **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

Dealing with antisocial behaviour and the maintenance of public order remains a high priority. It is pleasing to note that there has been a slight reduction in public order related crimes and offences during the review period.

## **AREA COMMAND: Western Isles**

**PERIOD: From 01/05/07 to 31/07/07**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

For the year 2007/08 to date (end of July), the detection rate within the Western Isles for Class 1-5 crimes stood at 71.7%, 87% for all crimes; both detection rates marginally higher than for the same period last year. 382 Class 1-5 crimes have been made known for the year to date, a slight decrease in comparison to the same period last year (400 such crimes made known).

On 20<sup>th</sup> May a report was received relating to a 30 year old female in Stornoway having overdosed on Cocaine. Enquiry established that this female had been supplied the drug in a local public house and at the same time was allegedly indecently assaulted. A male person has been identified and was interviewed regarding this. Enquiries are continuing.

On 11<sup>th</sup> June a 15 year old male youth was seriously assaulted within the car park at Nicolson Institute, Stornoway by three other similar aged male youths. During an unprovoked attack, the victim was punched to the face and stamped and kicked to his head as he lay on the ground. All three males were arrested and appeared in Court; two released on bail with the third detained in a residential establishment outwith the Western Isles.

On 11<sup>th</sup> June Police received a referral from Social Work Department intimating concerns regarding an injured child whose injuries were not considered to be consistent with her mother's explanation. Following joint enquiry, a 27 year old female was arrested and appeared at Court the following day on a charge of assault. She is currently on bail awaiting trial.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July £1000 was stolen from the safe within a hotel in Stornoway. Following enquiry, a 24 year old male employee, was arrested and charged with theft.

On 14<sup>th</sup> July a break-in was reported at a local retail outlet in Balivanich, Benbecula. Investigation of the surrounding area also revealed a theft from a nearby insecure vehicle and attempts to steal two further vehicles. Following enquiry a 30 year old male, from the mainland but currently working in Benbecula, was arrested and charged for these offences. Alcohol was a significant factor in the commission of these crimes, the culprit being previously unknown to Police.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July over £1300 was reported to have been stolen from an office at West Camp, Balivanich. Enquiries identified a 19 year old male as being responsible and he was duly arrested and charged with the offence. He pled guilty at Court and is currently awaiting sentencing pending background reports.

## Notable Sentences:

A 23 year old male was sentenced to a total of 8 months imprisonment on 17<sup>th</sup> May. He was found guilty of theft, carrying an offensive weapon and failure to comply with a bail condition.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May a 27 year old male was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for assault and breach of the peace.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June a 17 year old male was sentenced to a total of 5 months detention for attempted theft and the breaching of two Probation Orders.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June a 21 year old male was sentenced to a total of 5 months imprisonment for theft by housebreaking, cruelty to animals, attempted fraud and attempted theft. This person was also banned from keeping animals for 5 years.

A 32 year old male was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment on 4<sup>th</sup> June after being found guilty of refusing to quit a licensed premises and thereafter resisting arrest.

On 4<sup>th</sup> June a 32 year old male was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment after being found guilty of 2 offences under the Emergency Workers (Scotland) Act and a charge of resisting arrest. He was also ordered to pay £800 compensation to the Fire Service.

On 9<sup>th</sup> July a 32 year old male was fined £800 for vandalism and 2 charges of breach of the peace.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July a 31 year old female was found guilty of the theft of a substantial amount of money. She was placed on Probation for 2 years, ordered to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work and instructed to make restitution of £3,500.

A 28 year old male was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment on 18<sup>th</sup> July. He was found guilty of assault, breach of the peace and a failure to comply with his Community Service Order.

On 18<sup>th</sup> July a 17 year old male was sentenced to 4 months detention for 2 charges of vandalism and failure to comply with his Restriction of Liberty Order.

## **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

The supply & misuse of controlled drugs within the Western Isles remains a priority concern for the Area Command, notably the increasing prevalence of Class A drug abuse. This is being addressed through continued intelligence gathering and referral to the Tactical Tasking Process. The drugs detection dog and handler are now fully operational and have been deployed throughout the Command Area with success.

An allegation of rape was received from a 17 year old female in the early hours of 9<sup>th</sup> June. The incident allegedly occurred in Stornoway town centre. A suspect was

identified and interviewed. Further enquiries are currently being carried out to establish the facts and circumstances.

Following the receipt of information, a warrant was executed on 9<sup>th</sup> June at a bed and breakfast establishment in Stornoway. A personal quantity of diamorphine and cannabis resin was recovered. During the search the owner of the controlled substances – a 32 year old male from Glasgow – attempted to bite one of the Police officers. The male was duly charged with two counts of possession, attempting to destroy the evidence and Police assault.

During 18<sup>th</sup> June a 42 year old male was arrested on the West side of the Isle of Lewis on suspicion of the attempted murder of a 66 year old female. Following his arrest and interview he was charged with assault and attempted murder. He was also charged with offences of disorder committed during his arrest. The male is currently on remand awaiting trial.

A house in the Cearns area of Stornoway was extensively damaged by fire on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Following enquiries into the circumstances, a 13 year old female and 20 year old male were arrested on 10<sup>th</sup> June and appeared at Court the following day on a charge of wilful fireraising. Fortunately no persons were present within the house at the time it was set ablaze.

Notable Convictions:

On 11<sup>th</sup> July a 42 year old male was imprisoned for 2 years following a domestic disturbance in Stornoway during June in which a firearm was brandished.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July a 32 year old male from Glasgow was found guilty of 2 charges of being possession of Class A and Class B drugs and thereafter attempting to destroy the evidence. He was placed on Probation for 2 years and ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

Our on-going national intelligence model led 'Operation Hillman' continues to address issues of speeding, drunk/drug driving, documentary offences and other road safety issues. Notably, 35 drink drivers have been detected in the Western Isles over the period.

During May & June, the Community Safety Department at Stornoway carried out 'training for trainers' in relation to the Scottish Cycle Training Scheme. Participants included school staff volunteers and community wardens who were trained to roll out cycle proficiency training to schools in the Western Isles. These newly qualified trainers then proceeded to train school pupils with Police returning to the schools afterwards to test the competency of the pupils. This year 307 pupils from p6 and p7 classes throughout the Western Isles completed and passed their tests and were duly presented with their badges and certificates.

#### Notable Convictions:

On 21<sup>st</sup> May an 18 year old male was fined a total of £800 for taking and driving away a vehicle without permission, drink driving and driving with no insurance. He was also disqualified from driving for 15 months.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June a 57 year old male was found guilty of drink driving. He was fined £1000 and disqualified from driving for 2 years.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June a 57 year old female was found guilty of drink driving. She was fined £750 and disqualified from driving for 2 years.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June a 19 year old male was found guilty of driving whilst unfit through drink or drugs. He was fined £750 and disqualified from driving for 2 years.

On 27<sup>th</sup> June an 18 year old male was found guilty of dangerous driving. He was fined £750, disqualified from driving for 18 months and thereafter required to resit his driving test.

A 39 year old male was fined a total of £900 on 28<sup>th</sup> June. He had failed to provide a breath specimen, drove with no licence and had no insurance. A driving disqualification of 2 years was also imposed.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July a 33 year old male was found guilty of refusing to provide a specimen of breath. He was duly fined £750 and disqualified from driving for 2 years.

A 35 year old male had his Community Service Order revoked on 16<sup>th</sup> July after being found guilty of drink driving. He was fined £1,500.

A 62 year old male was found guilty on 16<sup>th</sup> July of assault and refusing to provide a breath specimen. He was fined a total of £1,000 and disqualified from driving for 1 year.

On 18<sup>th</sup> July a 17 year old male was fined a total of £1000 and disqualified from driving for 18 months for drink driving, driving with no insurance and taking and driving away a car without permission.

#### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

The Community Safety department at Stornoway continues to liaise with CnES and their recently appointed Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator with a view to gathering information and dealing with reports of anti-social behaviour within the Western Isles.

Police also pursue the objective of public reassurance through attendance at Community Council meetings and regular attendance at licensed premises and events. Disorder resulting from inebriation remains a feature of many of the incidents attended by Police throughout the Western Isles.

In relation to the above point, high visibility foot patrols continue to be implemented in Stornoway Town Centre between 8pm and midnight on Friday and Saturday evenings. These patrols are carried out by two dedicated uniformed officers who work in conjunction with both the 'Street Work' teams and the town Community Wardens.

The annual 'Choices for Life' event took place in Stornoway on 5th June at the Lewis Sports Centre. Primary 7 children from all schools in the Western Isles were invited to attend the event; 335 out of a total of 362 pupils attending. The show is designed to be educational, mixing music and drama to offer serious messages to primary 7 pupils on subjects ranging from drugs and alcohol misuse to bullying and peer pressure. The now hugely popular, multi-media themed event, co-ordinated by the SCDEA (Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency) on behalf of ACPOS (Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland) began life in Strathclyde seven years ago and has since gone from strength to strength.

In the Western Isles, Police have been required to carry out protracted enquiries into several sudden deaths. The most notable of these related to the disappearance of a German national holidaying in Vatersay. Police co-ordinated an extensive search involving Coastguard, Mountain Rescue Teams and the Army and received a great level of assistance from the general public. Sadly, a body was found washed up on Orosay beach, South Uist some days after the initial report. Enquiries are ongoing to confirm the identify.

The Area Command is continuing to meet its targets in relation to Report Submission times; 84% of Reports to Procurator Fiscal being submitted within 28 days, 88% of Reports to Childrens Reporter being submitted within 10 days and 93% of SPR8 charge code details being submitted within 5 days of caution and charge.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

During the summer, the Western Isles hosted a number of annual events including the Hebridean Celtic Festival, Lewis Highland Games, Barrafest and various agricultural shows, all of which attracted very large crowds and passed without incident.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July a Rangers U19 side provided the opposition for Point Football Club in a high profile game to mark the opening of their new football complex. Despite the poor weather a crowd of 1,000 attended and cheered Point to a commendable 1-1 draw. Police and traffic wardens provided a presence to monitor traffic and ensure the event passed without any problem, which it did.

On 11<sup>th</sup> August a motoring Fund Day was held at Stornoway Airport. The event was well attended and, again, passed without incident.

Preparations are currently in hand for two upcoming events in the Uists over the next few weeks; Merchant Navy days from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September and a Royal Visit to Benbecula and North Uist on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

## **AREA COMMAND: Caithness & Sutherland**

**PERIOD: From 01/05/2007 to 31/07/2007**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The Area Command detection rate for crime at 31 May 2007 was 54.1%, at 30 June 2007 was 56.1% and as at 31 July 2007 was 60.3%. The local objective is to clear up 63% of all group 1 – 5 crimes and offences by the end of 2007/2008 in line with the Force objective of a 63% detection rate. As can be seen the Area Command has improved detection rates considerably since the last period, however the area as a whole has continued to experience a high volume of vandalism, which has affected our overall rate.

On 24 May 2007 a 26 year old male was arrested and charged with a number of offences including indecent exposure, lewd and libidinous practices and breach of the peace in relation to his behaviour towards teenage girls in Wick. A crime report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 26 June 2007 a 41 year old female was charged with vandalising 8 cars in Wick. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 9 July 2007 a 45 year old man was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment for Theft by Housebreaking at Dornoch Sheriff Court.

The Caithness & Sutherland Vandalism Action Plan has continued this period in conjunction with the local initiative 'Operation Values'. Operation Values is an annual initiative held in Wick and Thurso during the summer period aimed at tackling vandalism and general anti-social behaviour. This year's event was held at the Tesco site in Wick over the weekend of 15 – 18 June. Northern Constabulary's community display vehicle was utilised and officers were available to meet with the public and offer advice and information about any matters or concerns the public may have in relation to anti-social behaviour in Wick and the wider Caithness area. Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service took the opportunity to join in to promote home and fire safety issues. As well as the overt public leg of the operation, tactical planning was undertaken to deploy covert anti-vandalism patrols. These were carried out by the area proactive team with support from uniform officers. An analysis of the focus period compared with the same period in 2006 revealed:

40% reduction in crimes of vandalism.

Incidents involving underage drinking reduced from 1 in 2006 to 0 in 2007.

Incidents relating to youths reduced from 6 in 2006 to 0 in 2007.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

The Area Command has continued to be successful in tackling the possession and supply of controlled drugs.

On 24 May a local drugs operation came to a successful conclusion whereby a 25 year old male and a 25 year old female were arrested and charged with dealing class A

drugs, heroin, amphetamine, ecstasy and cannabis resin in the Wick are over a four year period. They appeared from custody at Wick Sheriff Court and are currently awaiting trial.

On 26 May 2007 premises in the Dornoch area were searched under warrant and a substantial quantity of cannabis resin seized. A 37 year old male and a 39 year old female have been charged with possession and being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Tain.

During the period under review 26 stop/searches of persons were carried out with 6 proving positive. Twenty premises were also searched under warrant during this time with 13 of these proving positive. The value of drugs seized totalled £6725.50.

On 13 May 2007 a 31 year old female from Thurso reported she had been raped by three males within her home address. The men, aged 31, 24 and 25, were subsequently arrested and charged with rape and indecent assault. They await trial at this time.

On 14 June 2007 a 44 year old female was interviewed and admitted the embezzlement of a large amount of money during the course of her employment at a betting shop in Thurso. Enquiries are ongoing to establish the exact amount but this is expected to be in the region of £30,000. A crime report is to be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Wick upon conclusion of enquiries.

The Area Command has seen an increase in the incidence of theft by housebreaking and associated crimes. 20 house breakings have been reported this period, 7 have been detected and several are awaiting results of forensic analysis.

The Area currently maintains a detection rate of 84.2% for class 1 crimes with 16 out of 19 incidents being detected.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

There has been 1 fatal accident during this period which sees no increase on the same period in 2006.

There have been three reports of serious road accidents during this period. The same period in 2006 saw 10 serious road accidents reported. This represents a substantial reduction, in line with current policy to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the road by 30%.

17 drunk drivers have been detected during May, June & July. No drug driving offences have been detected during this period.

The following information shows the numbers of persons detected for various road traffic offences between May and July 2007:

Speeders : 24

Seatbelt offences: 24  
Mobile phone offences: 3  
Miscellaneous offences: 33

On 21 May 2007 a 59 year old male, a repeat offender, received a £400 fine and 3 years disqualification for drunk driving at Dornoch Sheriff Court.

Although the official phase of Operation Junction has now ended local officers continue to target and enforce all areas of Road Traffic Law and encourage responsible driver behaviour where possible.

#### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

The Area Command has seen a reduction in calls in relation to the perceived anti-social behaviour of youths and associated issues with underage drinking. This can be attributed to the success of the increase in proactivity by uniform and plain clothes officers in this area along with the other ongoing initiatives namely, the bottle marking initiative and the youth letters. Where children are spoken to by Police in circumstances which do not amount to a crime but could be considered as anti social, a proforma letter is sent to their parent or guardian informing them of the Police contact.

The Area Command Submission rate for crime reports to the Procurator Fiscal within time scales currently stands at 83.5% which exceeds the Force objective and is a significant increase since the last period.

The submission rate for crime reports to the Childrens' Reporter currently stands at 75%. This is just short of the 80% target and the Area will be looking to increase the compliance rate to this level.

The Area Command as a whole continues to engage fully with other partner agencies to reduce crime and promote community safety.

#### **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

A total of four incidents of a racial nature were reported during this period. All relate to individuals being verbally abused. Two have been detected and crime reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. However, two remain undetected due to insufficient corroboration of evidence despite thorough investigations into both cases. It is encouraging that the Area has a low incidence of racial incidents being reported, despite the growing numbers of different nationalities joining the local community.

83 reports of breach of the peace and 33 assaults were reported during May, June and July 2007, which shows a decrease on the last period. Caithness and Sutherland Area Command maintains a detection rate of 90.4% for class 6 crimes which is well in excess of the Force objective.

The Wick Harbourfest event in June and the annual visit of HRH the Duke of Rothesay to the Castle of Mey at the end of July passed successfully. The Area will be hosting the following events in the coming period;

The Dunrobin Car Rally in Golspie ; massed pipe bands in Wick; the Northern Lights Festival in Durness and the BBC Symphony Orchestra at Dornoch Cathedral. None of these events are expected to have a significant impact on local policing resources.

## **AREA COMMAND: Ross, Cromarty & Skye**

**PERIOD: From 01/05/07 to 31/07/07**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

Over the reporting period the Area Command experienced an increase in the number of thefts, mainly attributed to a spate of opportunist thefts of scrap metal, plant, machinery and fuel in the Wester Ross and Lochalsh areas. In addition, there was a series of linked distraction thefts in the same areas which were traced to a team of criminals originating from eastern Europe. There was a welcome reduction in the incidence of minor vandalism, particularly involving school premises, which is partly attributed to the run of adverse weather. Overall the Area Command maintained a healthy detection rate of 61.5% for all Class 1 to 5 crimes.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

Drug supply continues to be a high priority for the Area Command and is being tackled in a robust and proactive manner. During the period the Area Command proactive team targetted suspected dealers as part of the operation to police the Skye Music festival which a total of 8,000 people attended over two days. Also during the period a female was stopped in the Muir of Ord area and found to be in possession of half a kilo of heroin with a street value of £75,000. Three persons have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in respect of this incident. Serious assaults continue to remain at a steady level and the Area Command has run several local public order initiatives tackling late night disorder in towns and villages. During May a female was seriously assaulted in Skye and sustained serious injuries to her head from which she has not yet recovered. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

The Area Command continued to provide a high profile presence on the roads leading to a total of 43 drink driving offences being detected, almost double the number of the previous period. We continue to highlight these offences in the local media to emphasise our commitment to this initiative and to get the message over that this is wholly socially unacceptable behaviour. Notably, in May two 10 year old girls received injuries after being hit by a car in Cromarty by a suspected drunk driver. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. The number of road traffic collisions increased during the period with the majority of drivers involved being recorded as visitors to the area which is linked to the increase in tourists to the Force area during the summer months.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

We continue to work alongside our partner agencies in the areas of child protection, domestic abuse, race and diversity, drug abuse and community safety. During the period Officers jointly investigated 63 child protection cases, which is a significant

increase from the previous period, and attended 85 incidents of domestic abuse, again a notable rise from the previous period. The Area Command was also subject to an audit in terms of the ACPOS/Crown Office joint protocol on domestic abuse with favourable comment received and great interest in the work we have done regarding risk assessment of cases. In July a 35 year old Ullapool man was sentenced to two years imprisonment for sexual offences towards young males and a 39 year old Dingwall man was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for sexual offences towards young females. Also during this period a professional nurse was sentenced to one years imprisonment after she was convicted of a high value theft of property from elderly Black Isle residents totalling £26,000.

During the period there were 91 reports of missing persons of which 15 were assessed as high risk and 30 related to abscondee from care. There was also a seasonal increase in mountain rescues with 45 reported to the police during the period, several of which involved slips and falls resulting in fractures and other associated injuries. Poor weather was a major contributory cause in many of these incidents and required the specialist technical skills of our colleagues from the Mountain Rescue Teams to recover the casualties.

Significant work continues to be carried out in the field of offender management which is an area forecast to increase in the near future. The Area Command management team are currently considering structures that will best address this anticipated growth within existing resources.

The Area Command management team have also attended all new Local Authority Ward Forums to date in an effort to inform the process and show our commitment to partnership working. This is a new process to all involved but is seen as a positive step which we aim to become an integral part of.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

As previously mentioned, the Area Command continues to conduct regular high-profile initiatives under the banners of Operations ELAN, ENDEAVOUR and ENVELOPE aimed at tackling public order, particularly late night and at weekends around licensed premises. During the period there were 60 separate occasions where officers either confiscated alcohol from young persons or reported persons for breaching local byelaws in respect of alcohol in public places. It is heartening to note that crimes of violence show a downward trend compared to a similar period last year. Throughout the period staff from the Area Command have been involved in duties at planned events including regular football matches at Ross County ground, the Skye Music Festival attended by over 8000 people over two days, the Black Isle Show attended by over 30,000 people over two days and the Tain Gala.

**AREA COMMAND: Inverness**

**PERIOD: From 01/05/2007 to 31/07/2007**

**1. REDUCING CRIME**

The Force objective is to clear up 63% of all crimes and offences comprising groups 1-5 by the end of 2007/08. During the period under review, the Inverness Area Command detection rate stood at 61%, this is just 1% below the local objective to clear up 62% of all crimes.

Call figures for May and June were well down on the same period last year. There was no clear reason for this.

The review period has seen an increase in Housebreaking in the Area Command in comparison with the same period last year. Many of these incidents have involved the theft of plant from industrial sites. To deal with these issues, crime prevention surveys have been undertaken and security advice given. Decoy trailers and plant have also been utilised in the review period in order to combat this crime.

During the evening of 26/07/2007, two males aged 15 and 16 years, were involved in multiple offences within Inverness City Centre. The offences comprised of four thefts by housebreaking and one vandalism. Both males were reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Directed Patrol Matrix Policing has been introduced to improve Police visibility in the City, with a focus upon partnership working. In June the Directed Patrol Matrix in Culloden was closed meantime following a noticeable reduction in incidents of youth disorder and crime in that area. The Directed Patrol Matrix in Hilton has been so successful that it will be used as a template for other beats.

Operation Nation is an ongoing operation to achieve sustainable crime reduction.

**2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

The Force and local objective is to maintain the clear up rates of 85% for serious violent crimes by the end of 2007/08. During the period under review, the Inverness Area Command detection rate stood at 79.4%.

The local objective is to increase clear up rates of domestic housebreaking by 2% by the end of 2007/08. During the period under review the Inverness Area Command detection rate stood at 22.9% (objective: 50%).

The Force and local objective is to increase the number of recorded offences for supply and possession with intent to supply Class A drugs by the end of 2007/08. Up to 31/07/2007, the number of these offences recorded in the Inverness Area Command was 110 (objective: 230).

Intelligence led policing in the Inverness Area Command during this period has resulted in a number of noteworthy seizures of controlled drugs. In May, four persons

(unrelated cases) were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs. Approximately 6oz of Class A drugs were recovered and the total street value of drugs seized by Police was in the area of £25,000. In addition £6,000 cash was also seized as a result of searches under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

In July, Inverness Area Command maintained a steady stream of seizures of Class A Drugs. As a result of a street check on a number of youths in Inverness, a number of houses were searched under warrant, resulting in seizures of approximately 2000 Ecstasy tablets and 3 x 9oz bars of Cannabis resin. The estimated street value being £14,000. From three separate house searches a total quantity of 14g of diamorphine was recovered with a street value of £1,400. Four persons were subsequently reported for supply offences with one male being remanded due to having been released on Licence. During Operation Matron, a vehicle stopped on the A9 south of Inverness resulted in the recovery of 26 Ecstasy tablets and 3g of Cocaine. The estimated street value of drug seizures in the Inverness Area Command for July was £16,000.

This year's Rock Ness music festival brought with it a significant number of Class A drugs seizures. Those found with drugs at this year's event were found to have 'party bags' which contained a multi-commodity of drugs. This differed from the previous year where there was significantly more Cannabis-only users detected. The utilisation of Test Purchase Officers met with a reasonable amount of success whereby 7 persons were arrested for dealing in Class A drugs. Whilst this operation was fairly labour intensive, the final results indicate that it was a worthwhile strategy, which will most likely be developed, following on from lessons learned from this year's event.

During the period under review, there have been six serious assaults, including:

- On 19/05/2007, a 24-year-old male repeatedly struck a 29-year-old male about the head with a glass bottle. The victim suffered a broken thumb and lacerations to the head which required hospital treatment. The 24-year-old male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for serious assault.
- On 30/05/2007, a 33-year-old male struck a 31-year-old male to the face with a glass. The victim suffered serious lacerations to the face which required hospital treatment. The 33-year-old male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for serious assault.
- On 15/07/2007, a 50-year-old male punched a 49-year-old male to the face, causing the victim to fall unconscious. The victim also suffered a laceration to the face which required stitches. The 50-year-old male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for serious assault.

Operation Needle is an ongoing operation in relation to the effective engagement of criminality in respect of serious and organised crime.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

The Force and local objective is to maintain a 33% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured as a result of road accidents throughout 2007/08, compared with the mean for the period 1994 – 1998. Up to 31/07/2007, there have been 16 people killed or seriously injured as a result of road accidents (objective: below 50).

The Force and local objective is to increase the number of drunk drivers caught by 10% by the end of 2007/08, compared with 2006/07. Up to 31/07/2007, there had been 103 drunk drivers caught (objective: 267).

The Force and local objective is to increase the number of drug drivers caught by 5% by the end of 2007/08 compared with 2006/07. Up to 31/07/2007, there had been 4 drug drivers caught (objective: 12).

Over the review period there were 3 fatal road traffic collisions and 4 serious injury road traffic collisions. This is down on the same period last year when there were 2 fatal road traffic collisions and 6 serious injury road traffic collisions.

Drink driving continues to affect the Inverness Area Command. During the review period, 125 drink drivers were detected. This is up on the same period last year, when 105 drink drivers were detected. During the review period, a total of 3 drug drivers were detected. This is down on the same period last year, when a total of 4 drug drivers were detected.

Increased mobile patrols on the main arterial routes into the Area Command are carried out on a frequent basis. There has been a particular focus on rural roads with increased visibility and enforcement activities.

Operation Navigate is an ongoing road traffic initiative focusing on drink/drug driving, disqualified drivers, the wearing of seatbelts and speeding offences.

#### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

The Force and local objective is to reduce the incidence of vandalism by 5% by the end of 2007/08 compared with 2006/07. Up to 31/07/2007, there had been 515 incidents of vandalism (objective: below 1648).

During the review period, the Area Command was involved in a variety of public protection issues, particularly in conjunction with other agencies. There were 61 child protection enquiries involving a variety of issues/offences. There were also 109 domestic abuse cases during this period.

During the review period there has been a large number of persons reported missing. There were 21 high risk missing persons, 127 medium risk missing persons, 39 low risk missing persons, and 16 unauthorised missing persons. This is very resource intensive for the Area Command.

Youths congregating and underage drinking are a problem in the Inverness Area Command. Children and youths are also responsible for the majority of vandalisms. The incidents involving children and youths could be attributed to the recent school summer holidays.

A 'Ring Round' facility is currently being developed for the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. New CCTV cameras are also being installed at Stephens Brae, Market Brae Steps and Ness Islands. Installation should be complete by the end of August. There is a proposal to have a city centre Wi-Fi network installed, possibly in place within the next two months. Initiatives are also ongoing with the Inverness Crime Prevention Panel and Safe Inverness.

Operation Notebook is an ongoing operation to increase public reassurance and confidence in the safety of the community.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

The Force and local objective is to maintain a detection rate of 90% for all racially aggravated crimes during the period 2007/08. During the period under review, the Inverness Area Command detection rate stood at 0%.

The review period has seen an increase in both assaults and assaults on Police. Thankfully the assaults on Police have been of a relatively minor nature. Antisocial behaviour continues to be resource intensive in the Inverness Area Command. In particular, breaches of the peace and drunkenness are problematic in the Area.

A large proportion of assaults are alcohol related and several recent assaults have involved individuals being assaulted with glasses or bottles. Submissions have been made to the Licensing Board in respect of progressing a plastic glass initiative in Inverness City Centre in order to combat such assaults. Security companies have also been encouraged to ensure that door staff wear high visibility clothing whilst on duty. This would particularly assist in identifying door staff on CCTV footage/images.

This review period has seen a number of major public events held under the banner of the Highland Year of Culture (e.g. an Elton John concert at the Tulloch Caledonian Stadium in Inverness) as well as a large scale music festival, namely Rock Ness at Dores. Public order has been well maintained at all of these events, with very few serious incidents occurring.

Over the forthcoming period, two further music events are due to take place, namely the Belladrum Festival in Beauly and the Runrig 'Beat the Drum' concert in Drumnadrochit. High profile football matches are also scheduled to take place at the Tulloch Caledonian Stadium, Inverness.

In the review period, a pilot scheme of taxi marshals at taxi ranks in Inverness City Centre was introduced. The Police are also involved in enforcing Curfew Checks/Bail Offences/Apprehension Warrants.

**AREA COMMAND: Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn**

**PERIOD: From 1 May 2007 to 31 July 2007**

**1. REDUCING CRIME**

This period saw the continuation of Operation Matron, an initiative introduced by the Command Area to tackle travelling criminals on the main arterial routes into the Force Area. This operation links officers from Ross, Cromarty and Skye, Inverness, and Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn on high profile patrols using intelligence to lead vehicle stops. During an operation on 31 May 2007 officers recovered a stolen quad bike. Following the arrest of the two individuals, officers searched premises in the Alness area and recovered a further two quads.

Following a joint operation between immigration officers and officers from the Command Area, six individuals were apprehended in Nairn for offences against the Immigration Act 1971.

As a result of a complaint of the theft of £10,300 from the manager of retail premises in Kingussie, officers conducted protracted enquiries and thereafter travelled to the Strathclyde region, where they secured the apprehension of a 35-year-old male in relation to this crime.

The commission of a large number of vandalisms committed in the Nairn area saw the figures for this class of crime rise. Fortunately, these crimes were detected. However, in line with the trend displayed throughout the Force area, this continues to be a problem for this area.

During the period, a 27-year-old male was fined £500 for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

A 23-year-old male was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for theft by shoplifting.

**2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

As a result of a routine stop check on the A9, officers from Aviemore were involved in the largest seizure of crystal MDMA within the Force. As a result of this, a 46-year-old male was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment.

Following a report of a female being sexually assaulted in Nairn, a 41-year-old male was sentenced to 90 hours community service and placed on the Sex Offenders Register for 5 years.

A 21-year-old male was fined £1400 as a result of an incident where he assaulted another male to severe injury.

As a result of an incident whereby he set another man's hair alight, a 17-year-old male was sentenced to 12 months in a young offender's institute.

Following an incident whereby he struck another male over the head with an ashtray, a 48-year-old male was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

Following the report of a male person wanted by North Wales Police travelling through the Force area, he was apprehended in Nairn. This individual had previous convictions for armed robbery involving knives and firearms.

Following an incident of alleged supply of ecstasy, a 20-year-old was charged with drugs offences and culpable and reckless conduct.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

In order to address the number of fatalities on our roads, officers continue to tackle drink driving, seatbelt, speeding and mobile phone offences. During this period, we detected 16 drink drivers, the most notable following a collision on the A9, whereby a 53 year old male collided with the rear of a stationary vehicle being driven by a pregnant woman. The man was found to have a count of 166 microgrammes which exceeded the legal limit by 4 ½ times.

Police issued 181 conditional offers of fixed penalty for speeding, seatbelt and mobile phone offences.

Following his attendance at Rockness music festival, an 18-year-old male was involved in a two-vehicle road collision on the A9 trunk road.

A further collision occurred involving a car and a bus whereby the female driver of the car was fatally injured.

During police patrols on the A96, a male driver was detected travelling westbound at 121 miles per hour.

As a result of his driving, a male person had his vehicle seized in Nairn under Anti Social Behaviour Order (Scotland) Act 2004, Section 126.

Working with the Badenoch and Strathspey Drug and Alcohol Forum, Institute of Advanced Motorists and Institute of Driving Instructors, Police officers delivered talks to young drivers in order to address irresponsible driver behaviour. Following their attendance on the course, the young drivers were given the opportunity of testing their skills on a skid correction course in Elgin. This has had a positive effect in that there have been no calls regarding this type of behaviour since the scheme was launched.

In addition, we are working with Community Councils and locally elected members to gain funding in order that all young drivers can get a place on the Pass Plus Scheme. This allows the drivers to receive further training following their test pass. Officers also gave input at a young driver's day organised at Nairn Academy.

During the period, a 21-year-old male was fined £400 and sentenced to 4 years disqualification for drink driving. Similarly, a 42-year-old male was fined £300 and disqualified for 2 years. A 41-year-old foreign national was fined £200 and sentenced to 2 years disqualification for drink driving.

#### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

During the period, we introduced a bottle-marking scheme throughout the command Area in an attempt to identify the source of alcohol abuse by under age people. This initiative is in its infancy and it is hoped that we can try to reduce the amount of alcohol falling into the hands of young people.

As previously mentioned, Police working with the community of Kingussie, Drug and Alcohol Forum members, IAM and driving instructors met to address the issue of irresponsible driver behaviour. This was the second meeting and all the previous actions identified in the first meeting were concluded. The follow up has begun with the Community Council and locally elected members to raise funding to enable young drivers to access the Pass Plus scheme.

#### **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

Officers from the Command area assisted with the Policing of Inverness Airport following the terrorist attack at Glasgow Airport.

The Outsider festival came to Aviemore with approximately 8000 attendees either camping or on day tickets. The current roadworks at High Range, Aviemore posed a logistical problem, however with the use of the police cycles we were able to keep traffic flowing and inform the public regarding any likely delays.

Planning continued for the world orienteering championships and with an anticipated 1500 vehicles together with over 3000 competitors access to the various sites posed a problem. In addition, four open-air concerts were proposed for the square in Grantown on Spey. Four open-air bars and a large stage were proposed which had to be planned in accordance with the current ban on public drinking there.

As a result of her conduct in the Tradespark area of Nairn, an ASBO was granted against a female resident. Following an initial breach, signs of improved behaviour are encouraging as the situation continues to be monitored by the anti social behaviour partnership.

Following repeated calls on 999 system from a public phone box in Nairn, a 42 year old male was charged with an offence contrary to Telecommunications Act 1984.

As a result of over 100 calls to the 999 system and Aviemore Police Station via a mobile phone, a male suspect has been identified and enquiries are continuing.

## **AREA COMMAND: Lochaber**

**PERIOD: From 01/05/07 to 31/07/07**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The Area Command detection rate for crimes class 1 – 5 is currently 71.5%, against a Force average of 63.3% with one of the main problems continuing to be Vandalism.

Lochaber Safe Highlander Event took place at the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007, where 250 Primary 7 pupils from schools throughout Lochaber were given safety advice and information from local agencies and emergency services. Northern Constabulary delivered presentations on Vandalism to highlight the ongoing issues, which will hopefully have a significant impact on this crime. This initiative should compliment the Vandalism Drama, which was delivered to Primary 7 students earlier in the year.

Members of Lochaber Pubwatch continue to meet and deal with incidents of anti-social behaviour within the licenced premises. There are now over 45 persons banned from member premises, which has proved to be an excellent deterrent.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

In the early hours of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007, Police were called to a disturbance on a boat moored at Corpach Basin, where a male person had been seriously assaulted. As a result of Police enquiries, a 30-year-old male and his 33-year-old brother were arrested and appeared from custody. One male has subsequently been imprisoned for 24 months.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007, Officers attended a report of a Serious Assault that had occurred in a private house in Kinlochleven. A 43-year-old male was conveyed to the Belford Hospital and subsequently diagnosed as having a fractured eye socket. A 22-year-old male was detained in connection with this assault and subsequently arrested. He has appeared in court and is currently on Bail.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007, a 56 year old male was seriously assaulted within and outside his home in Onich. He was conveyed to hospital where he was treated for serious head and facial injuries. A 30-year-old male was traced following Police enquiries and subsequently cautioned and charged with Attempted Murder. He is currently on Bail awaiting Trial.

On 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007, a report was received about the sudden death of a 33-year-old male in the Plantation area of Fort William. From the outset it was suspected that illicit drugs might have been a factor in his death. A major enquiry was instigated which resulted in four persons being arrested for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs. These individuals are awaiting trial.

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 2007, a male appeared at Edinburgh High Court and was sentenced to eight years imprisonment following an attack on a 24-year-old Slovakian woman on

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2006 near Fort William. The attack was sexually motivated and resulted in the victim sustaining serious injuries, including a number of stab wounds to her neck, back and hands, broken front teeth, fractured skull and extensive bruising. The male will also now be the subject of an order of lifelong restriction for an indeterminate period for which he will serve a punishment part for eight years.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

During the period 1<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> July, there were 7 serious injury road accidents and 10 slight injury road accidents. There were no fatal road accidents recorded.

On 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007, a tri-force operation was conducted at Glencoe involving officers from Strathclyde Police, Central and Northern. A large number of vehicles were stopped and checked and a substantial amount of drugs were seized. A total of 20 persons were searched and 16 of them were found to have drugs.

Operation Prone continues to be successful with regular pro-active operations being conducted with partner agencies.

Nightly anti-crime road checks continue to be carried out throughout the Command Area.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

Members of the community are kept up to date with details of crime occurring within the area via weekly slots on Nevis Radio and local newspapers. This can assist in the prevention of crime and the detection when witnesses respond to appeals. Crime Prevention advice is also given. This information is also placed on the Command Area website.

There have been many visits to the Police Station by Nursery and Primary school pupils, Brownies and Girl Guides and Youth Groups. This fosters good relations between the Police and public from an early age and encourages good citizenship, enhancing the safety of the community. 12 students from Lochaber High School attended at Fort William Police Station for their work experience week, which further enhanced engagement with young people.

Lochaber Pubwatch members contribute to making patrons in licensed premises feel safe in an environment where it is known that incidents of anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.

Over the summer period, Northern Constabulary has engaged with community education and voluntary partners in the provision of a summer football league for 10 - 16 year olds in Caol following the success of last summer.

### **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

In the first week of September, Lochaber Command Area plays host to the international Mountain Bike World Championships with approximately 46 participating countries. This has involved numerous meetings and careful planning to ensure the safety and

wellbeing of the anticipated large influx of spectators and residents during this event. Fringe events are planned in Fort William to cater for evening entertainment.

The National Mod will be hosted in Lochaber in October along with an international shinty/hurling match in Fort William. A Royal visit is being arranged during this Celtic festival.