

**NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**18 JANUARY 2008**

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**

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

### **AREA COMMAND: Shetland**

**PERIOD: From: 01/10/2007 To: 31/12/2007**

#### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

During the year to 31/12/2007, Shetland Command Area achieved a clear up rate, for class 1-5 crime, of 67.9%. There has also been a decrease of 48 (7.8%) in the overall number of crimes as compared to the same period last year. A particularly pleasing factor is that the reduction is evident across all crime classes. These are excellent results and staff within the Command Area will work hard to build on and improve them.

The program of targeted high visibility footpatrols in Lerwick, during peak times, continue with a view to combating anti-social behaviour and violence. This has resulted in the number of crimes of violence more than halving from 27 to 12 as compared to the same period last year. Eleven of these crimes of violence have been detected with a positive line of enquiry being pursued on the remaining one.

A 17-year-old male was detected for theft by housebreaking following fingerprint identification from the point of entry.

A 34-year-old male was traced and interviewed following enquiry into a theft by housebreaking at the Toll Clock Shopping Centre, Lerwick, where clothing to value of £800 was removed. The male provided full confession and was reported to Procurator Fiscal, Lerwick.

A 26-year-old male allegedly assaulted a 42-year-old male with fists, feet and knife in Sandveien, Lerwick, causing non-life threatening head injuries. Both men were subsequently traced and interviewed, where it was alleged that the 42-year-old had initially threatened the younger male first, with the knife. Both men were arrested and subsequently appeared from custody. The 26-year-old was remanded in custody, pending further court appearance.

Following an assault with a bottle in a Lerwick bar a 35-year-old male was arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The victim sustained a head injury requiring 14 stitches.

A 25-year-old male reported having been the victim of serious assault. He initially made comment, naming the assailant, before becoming uncooperative and declining to provide a statement or any other details. He was conveyed to Gilbert Bain Hospital, Lerwick, where it was found he had two fractures to his jaw, requiring specialist surgery and treatment in Aberdeen. A 26-year-old male was arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal for serious assault.

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

We continue to make progress in tackling the supply of controlled drugs in and to Shetland. The following are some of the main cases resulting from two of our drug operations :

Following receipt of information, a house in the Lerwick area was searched under Drugs Warrant. A 34-year-old male and 31-year-old female were reported for the supply and possession of controlled drugs respectively. The male is one of several subjects of an ongoing Area Command drugs operation.

A male from the Liverpool area was detained for drugs search on North Road, Lerwick. He was found in possession of heroin and a sum of money. The male is connected to an ongoing Area Command drugs operation and Warrant was obtained to search his home address. Search of property led to seizure of Heroin to approximate value of £9,300 along with £3,690 cash and 13.4 gms Cannabis resin. He was reported to the Procurator Fiscal, Lerwick, from custody.

Following receipt of information, a house in Brae was searched under Drugs Warrant. A Cannabis cultivation was found and a number of plants were seized. A 44-year-old male is to be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following receipt of information, a house in Lerwick was searched under Drugs Warrant. A quantity of heroin seized along with £200 worth of stolen property. The 41-year-old occupant is the subject of an ongoing Area Command drugs operation and is to be reported for possession. Enquiries are ongoing regarding the recovered stolen property.

An outstanding suspect was traced, having recently returned to Shetland, in an enquiry regarding the supply of Class A drugs to a child, dating back to February 2007. The accused, a 27-year-old male, has since been remanded in custody pending sentence.

During the period under review two drug dealers from the Liverpool area appeared at the High Court in Edinburgh to be sentenced for drug supply offences, mentioned in the last NJPB report. The men were sentenced to 5 years and 5½ years respectively.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

The promotion of Road Safety remains one of our key priorities. Through a combination of enforcement and the development of initiatives with our partner agencies we are striving to make Shetland's roads safer for all who use them.

Sadly, during the period under review, 3 young men lost their lives on Shetland's roads in 2 separate collisions. The circumstances of both incidents are the subject of reports to the Procurator Fiscal at Lerwick. Whilst initial investigations do not point to any common causal link, we are working hard with our partner agencies to raise the profile of road safety, encouraging road users to remember that safer roads is everyone's business. We continue to enforce legislation and have made use of the local media to encourage and advise motorists of ongoing issues.

During the review period there have been 71 collisions. As a result of these collisions three people lost their lives (as above) and 17 received minor injuries. The remaining collisions caused no injury.

Enforcement of road traffic legislation has resulted in 15 drivers being charged with drink driving. Of these 3 were following collisions, 2 after being stopped for motoring offences and the other 10 when it was suspected they were under the influence of alcohol. These figures represent a very slight increase on the same period last year. During the review period no-one has been detected driving under the influence of drugs.

Also, during the period, 9 people have been charged with not wearing a seatbelt, 6 for using a mobile phone whilst driving and 21 for speeding offences. In addition, 3 people have been arrested for driving whilst disqualified and 14 charged with driving with no insurance.

In the next three months we will be participating in ACPO(S) road safety campaigns 'Gear Up for Winter', 'Seatbelt & Speeding day of action' and 'Rural Roads Weekend' as well as a local campaign dealing with uninsured motorists and the seizure of vehicles.

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

The provision of a CCTV system for Lerwick Town Centre continues to make progress. Applications in the planning process are now well advanced and a preferred bidder has been identified to supply the system. The Community Safety Partnership, chaired by the Area Commander, continue to drive this project and although there will be some slippage in timescale, due mainly to the demands of the planning process, we remain confident that the system will be operational by the end of the year.

A 21-year-old female alleged that she had been raped by her partner, a 22-year-old male. Enquiries established that partner was formerly a registered sex offender. He was detained and interviewed. He admitted assault but denied sexual offence or motivation. He was reported from custody and since bailed with condition not to enter Shetland unless pre-arranged with Court. This male has since been reported for breach of this condition.

A 27-year-old vulnerable female reported that she had been victim of sexual offences by a 61-year-old male registered sex offender. Enquiries revealed that the victim had met the male whilst drunk. He thereafter resided with her at her home address for 12 days. He was arrested and reported from custody for breach of notification requirements. He was subsequently sentenced to 14 weeks imprisonment at Lerwick Sheriff Court.

Shetland Command Area, along with Shetland Islands Council, Trading Standards Department, have been nominated for a national award under the Community Involvement section of the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2008. The initiative "*No uninvited sales people! For a Safer Shetland*" is aimed at discouraging itinerant salespersons travelling from the mainland to prey on vulnerable residents with high pressure and often illegal sales techniques. The awards are due to be announced at a ceremony in London in the Spring.

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 92.7% 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 89.7% within 14 days. This is, overall, the best performance in the Force and stands as a testament to the hard work of officers on the front line and our determination to meet and exceed national standards.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

Shetland Command Area continues to make good use of and obtain the benefits from the recently introduced fixed penalty scheme for anti-social offences. The benefits of this process are clear with officers spending less time in the office writing reports (and thus being able to spend more time on patrol) and the courts dealing with much fewer minor offenders.

Planning is now underway for the winter festivities including the Up-Helly-AA festivals. In this respect we enjoy a close and valuable working relationship with the various organising committees.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

### **AREA COMMAND: Orkney**

**Period: From 1/10/2007 To: 31/12/2007**

#### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

Reported crime during the review period increased by 14 crimes or a 4.2% increase compared with the same period last year with a continuing good detection rate of 65.1% being recorded. The small increase is accounted for by increases in Class 3 crimes (Crimes of Dishonesty), 145 from 119 over the same period, with a very good detection rate of 69.0% for this class. There has also been a reduction in the other classes of crime.

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

It is pleasing again to report the relatively low numbers of serious crime. However during December 2007 a 20-year-old female reported being subject to a serious sexual assault. Following this report a major enquiry took place and a team of officers are presently dedicated to this ongoing enquiry.

#### **3. SAFER ROADS**

There have been no fatal or serious injury road accidents during the review period. The detection of speeders, mobile phone users, drink drivers and those not wearing seatbelts remain a high priority.

Kirkwall Sheriff court disposals included a 40-year-old male who received a 6 month custodial sentence for disqualified driving. A 20-year-old was fined £700 and disqualified from driving for 18 months and a drink driver who was fined £1000 and disqualified for 3 ½ years.

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

During October 2007, a diver was reported missing whilst diving on the wreck of Konig. Local rescue efforts failed to locate the diver, so assistance was sought from Grampian Police Underwater Search Unit, who used a ROV (remotely operated vehicle) in an attempt to locate the missing diver. Despite their efforts the diver remains missing.

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

External funding, sourced through the Orkney Drugs Alcohol Smoking Action Team (DASAT) has enabled the Area Command to put extra high visibility patrols dedicated to Drink Drivers and additional funds from the Scottish Government allowed extra foot patrols to be carried out over the festive period.

It is pleasing to note that there has been a reduction in street disorder over this period.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD REPORT**

### **AREA COMMAND: WESTERN ISLES**

**PERIOD: From: 01/10/2007 To: 31/12/2007**

#### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

For the year 2007/08 to date (31<sup>st</sup> December 2007), the detection rate within the Western Isles for Class 1-5 crimes stands at 71.7%, 87.5% for all crimes; both detection rates marginally lower than for the same period last year. 774 Class 1-5 crimes have been made known for the year to date, an 8.4% reduction in comparison to the same period last year (845 such crimes made known).

Following a domestic incident at an address in Stornoway on 7<sup>th</sup> October, a 22-year-old male was traced at another address by officers and found to be in possession of a machete which he brandished at officers, making threats of violence as he did so. After negotiation, the man discarded the weapon and was thereafter arrested for a number of offences.

As a result of enquiries carried out by the Pro-active Team, 2 female juveniles are to be reported for culpable and reckless conduct for releasing the moorings of a boat in Stornoway harbour on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The boat is worth quarter of a million pounds.

A 24-year-old male was arrested on 9<sup>th</sup> November in relation to 15 incidents of breach of the peace, mainly relating to spoof Internet sites created which were of an offensive and, in some instances, racially discriminatory nature. This was a protracted enquiry which was reported earlier in the year. The case has been taken on petition.

#### **Notable Sentences:**

On 5<sup>th</sup> October a 33-year-old male was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment for breaching his Probation Order.

On 11<sup>th</sup> October, a 28-year-old male was fined £300, along with a £1000 Compensation Order, for 2 charges of vandalism and one of assault.

On 25<sup>th</sup> October, a 17-year-old male was sentenced to 4 months detention for 2 charges of taking and driving away a vehicle.

On 12<sup>th</sup> December, a 33-year-old male was fined a total of £1000 for 2 charges of theft by housebreaking, offences which dated back to 1998. A compensation order for £1799 was also imposed.

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

The supply and misuse of controlled drugs within the Western Isles remains to be 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.

The incidence of 'serious violent crime' remains relatively high in comparison to previous years, albeit on a par for 2006/07. Such incidents nevertheless are rare in comparison to other areas of the UK and the Area Command maintains a high detection rate for such crimes, currently standing at 95.3% for 2007/08 to date.

Following a disturbance on 10<sup>th</sup> October at a Stornoway address, a 29-year-old male was detained and thereafter arrested for serious assault, breach of the peace and vandalism.

On 21<sup>st</sup> October a fire occurred at a residential property in Balivanich, Benbecula. The fire is being treated as suspicious and enquiries remain ongoing.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November, a 32-year-old man was arrested for indecent assault and assault with intent to ravish.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December a 23-year-old male and a 17-year-old female were found to be in possession of controlled substances within Stornoway. Further controlled substances were recovered from an address on the outskirts of Stornoway. Further enquiries resulted in the arrest of a 22-year-old male. All three appeared from custody at Stornoway Sheriff Court on a number of charges relating to offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

#### **Notable Convictions:**

On 5<sup>th</sup> October, a 33-year-old male and 29-year-old male were each sentenced to 3 years and 9 months imprisonment for assault to severe injury. A 20-year-old male was also sentenced to 1 year and 10 months detention.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, a 20 year-old-male and a 25-year-old male were each sentenced to 9 months imprisonment for drugs offences, including supply/ intent to supply.

On 29<sup>th</sup> November, a 30-year-old male was given an 18 month Probation Order, ordered to carry out 240 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £500 compensation following being convicted for assault to severe injury.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

Our on-going national intelligence model led 'Operation Hillman' continues to address issues of speeding, drink/drug driving, documentary offences and other road safety issues. Notably, 80 drink driving offences have been detected in the Western Isles to date for 2007/08. Fortunately, serious and fatal injuries as a result of road accidents remain a rare occurrence in the Western Isles. To date for 2007/08 there have been no fatalities and six persons seriously injured.

On the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> October, a motor vehicle left the carriageway on the outskirts of Stornoway, striking a wall and a pedestrian who was standing nearby. The pedestrian required hospital treatment having sustained broken ribs and other injuries to his arms and legs. A 46-year-old female and 47-year-old male subsequently reported their car as being stolen. Following enquiry, the female was charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice, wasting police time, dangerous driving and 2 charges relating to failure to stop/report a road traffic accident. The male was also reported for attempting to pervert the course of justice.

A 33 year-old-male was arrested on 13<sup>th</sup> October for drink driving in Castlebay, Isle of Barra, having failed a roadside test after been stopped due to the nature of his driving. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 29<sup>th</sup> October, a 42-year-old male was stopped on the outskirts of Stornoway on suspicion of drink driving. He appeared from custody at Stornoway Sheriff Court.

On 30<sup>th</sup> October, a 48-year-old female was arrested in Castlebay, Barra, having failed a roadside breath test. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November, a 9 year-old-boy sustained serious injuries in Point, Isle of Lewis, having being struck by a van moments after he exited a school bus. The 50-year-old male driver of the van has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for drink driving and careless driving.

On 9<sup>th</sup> November, a 43-year-old male was stopped within his vehicle on the A859 on the outskirts of Stornoway. He was found to be 4 times over the prescribed alcohol limit and appeared from custody at Stornoway Sheriff Court.

On 20<sup>th</sup> November, a 53-year-old male was arrested in Castlebay, Barra, for drink driving. A report is to be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 24<sup>th</sup> December, a driver and her three passengers all required hospital treatment as a result of one vehicle road traffic accident on the A859 at Ardhasaig, Isle of Harris. The vehicle exited the carriageway, striking an adjacent rock-face before coming to rest on its roof. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 28<sup>th</sup> December, a 61-year-old female pedestrian was struck by a vehicle near to a local supermarket in Stornoway. She sustained a fracture to her leg. The 50-year-old male driver has been charged with careless driving.

Road Safety Conferences/Events are to be organised for Benbecula and Barra. These will take place in Feb/March 08.

#### **Notable Convictions:**

On 17<sup>th</sup> October, a 45-year-old female was given a 2-year Probation Order and disqualified for 3 years for 2 charges of drink driving and one of driving with no insurance.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, a 20-year-old male was fined £800 for careless driving and refusing to supply a breath specimen. He was also disqualified from driving for one year.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October, a 42-year-old male was fined £750 for drink driving and disqualified from driving for 15 months.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November, a 21-year-old male was fined a total of £750 plus a £1000 compensation order for drink driving, dangerous driving and taking and driving away a vehicle without the owner's permission.

On 12<sup>th</sup> November, a 43-year-old female was fined £600 for drink driving and disqualified from driving for 2 years.

On 14<sup>th</sup> November, a 19-year-old male was fined a total of £1150 and disqualified for one year for drink driving, driving whilst disqualified and driving with no insurance.

On 28<sup>th</sup> November, a 64-year-old male was fined a total of £800 for resisting arrest and refusing to supply a breath specimen. He was also disqualified from driving for 1 year.

On 13<sup>th</sup> December, a 40-year-old male was fined £750 and was disqualified from driving for 18 months for drink driving.

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

Operation Harlequin is an operation completely funded by the Western Isles Community Safety Partnership. This operation funds two police officers every Friday and Saturday night for 4 hours to specifically target anti-social behaviour in and around Stornoway town centre. These officers are separate from the core policing tasks and have been very successful in seizing alcohol and dealing with anti-social behaviour within the town centre in the early part of the evening. During December, these officers teamed up with the Community Wardens to jointly patrol and target the illegal supply of alcohol to underage youths. This operation will continue until the end of March 2008 when the funding stream ends.

Funding from the Scottish Government through the Western Isles Community Safety Partnership allowed the Area Command to commit more police officers during the busy Christmas and New Year periods. Extra officers were on duty to target drink drivers and anti-social behaviour at, and outside, licensed premises – particularly at closing times. This funding was used across the Western Isles to allow more officers on duty at peak periods throughout the festive period and allowed for an even more visible Police presence throughout the islands.

The Community Safety department at Stornoway continues to liaise with CnES and their most 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.

The Pro Active Initiative has been re-established with two officers concentrating on youth related matters such as vandalism, underage drinking, other anti-social conduct and road traffic offences. Positive results are now being achieved, with several historical vandalisms having been detected during the later weeks of December 2007.

Work is ongoing in the Community Safety Department in the Western Isles to provide an educational Vandalism Action Team package for schools throughout the islands. This is a bid to reduce the level of vandalism in the Western Isles by showing children that vandalism affects us all in different ways and will not be tolerated. This training package will be provided periodically and it is hoped to be launched in February 2008. This package will also be available for use in other parts of the Force. The Vandalism Action Team consists of representation from the Police, Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Community Wardens and Community Education. Upon completion of the education package, the Vandalism Action Team will then move towards active ways of targeting and reducing vandalism by various means. The team has links with the criminal justice system through the Procurator Fiscal and Children's Reporter and other local authority departments. The team is led by the local Police Community Safety Sergeant.

The Area Command is continuing to meet its targets in relation to Report Submission times; 81% of Reports to Procurator Fiscal being submitted within 28 days, 85.7% of Reports to the Children's Reporter being submitted within 10 days.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

During October, the Force, Trading Standards and Highlands & Islands Fire and Rescue Service jointly visited fireworks retailers within the Western Isles as part of their annual safety inspection checks.

The period saw two public events take place in Stornoway; the 'Switching on of the Lights' ceremony in early December and the fireworks display on New Years Eve. Both events were well attended by the general public and passed without incident.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD REPORT**

### **AREA COMMAND: CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND**

**PERIOD: From: 01/10/2007 To: 31/12/2007**

#### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The Area Command detection rate at 31 December 2007 for class 1 to 5 crimes was 54.4%. This is an increase of 3.3% over the 3 month period with some good detections across all classes of crimes. Work is ongoing into a number of incidents which it is expected will have an influence on our performance during the next period.

The number of Group 1-4 crimes reported up to 31 December was 1191. For the same period last year the number of crimes reported was 1303. This represents a 8.6% decrease since 2006.

The detection rate for domestic housebreakings presently stands at 33.3% up to 31 December 2007. Further work is underway into a number of outstanding crimes which will influence this figure during the next period.

The detection rate for car crime currently stands at 81.3%. This is well in excess of the 68% performance target.

In November 2007 a 53-year-old male was convicted at the High Court in Inverness of 14 charges including rape, lewd & libidinous behaviour, assault with intent to rape and offences under the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 1976. He was refused further bail and is due to be sentenced on 10 January 2008.

On 14 November 2007 a 19-year-old male was arrested and charged with abduction and three counts of assault after an alleged incident involving his ex-partner in Thurso. He is currently remanded in custody awaiting trial.

The upgrading of the Wick CCTV system will soon be completed. A lot of work has been done in relation to interviewing and recruiting of volunteer operators. There have been technical issues with some of the new equipment which has had to be replaced. The volunteers are to undergo training during January 2008 and a 'go live' date is expected after that. The extra cameras available and the volunteer operators will become an effective tool in reducing and detecting crime in the area. An additional camera has also been added to the Thurso CCTV System which will cover the area at Riverside Road and take in Old St Peter's Church which has been targeted by vandals in the past.

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

From October to December 2007, 68 stop searches for drugs were carried out in the Area Command with 16 proving positive.

16 premises were also searched under warrant during this time with 7 positive results. Controlled drugs with an estimated street value of £2612 were seized during this period.

There were 15 seizures of Class A drugs from October to December 2007. 4 people have been reported for supply/possession with intent to supply offences. To date, 8 cases of supply/intent to supply of controlled drugs have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. There were 4 cases during the same period last year.

The detection rate for serious/violent crimes up to 31st December 2007 stands at 93.1%, exceeding the 90% target. The number of reported class 1 crimes up to the end of this period was 58, which is on target to achieve the 5% reduction figure of 93 crimes in 2007/08.

In October 2007 a 28-year-old male was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment for grooming, lewd & libidinous practices/behaviour and underage sexual intercourse. This case was referred to the High Court in Edinburgh. During enquiries into this case further victims were discovered from other areas of Scotland and these investigations are ongoing in the respective Police Forces.

On 17 October 2007 a male was found in possession of a large quantity of Cannabis resin and cash amounting to £6185 in the Sutherland area. He was subsequently arrested and charged with possession with intent to supply controlled drugs.

On 26 October 2007 information was received regarding a robbery which had occurred on 8 January 2007. This had previously been investigated and for which one male had been arrested in connection with the crime. As a result of this new information and subsequent enquiries a further suspect was traced and arrested for his part in this crime.

On 22 December 2007, following searches of people and premises in Wick, three males were arrested and charged with possession with intent to supply controlled drugs. Significant quantities were seized during this enquiry.

## **2. SAFER ROADS**

There have been 2 fatal road traffic accidents during this period which is an increase of 2 on the same period in 2006. These accidents resulted in the death of a 15-year-old female passenger and an 86-year-old female driver.

There was one report of a serious injury road traffic accident during this period. The same period in 2006 saw 4 serious injury road accidents reported. This represents a reduction of 75%.

23 drunk drivers were detected from October to December 2007. This is a slight decrease on the same period last year when 25 drunk drivers were arrested. One drug driving offence was detected during the current period. This is an increase on the same period last year when no cases of drug driving were detected.

The following information shows the numbers of persons reported for various road traffic offences between October and December 2007:

Speeding : 39

Seatbelt offences: 2

Mobile phone offences: 6  
Miscellaneous offences: 31

On 8 and 9 December 2007 a 59-year-old man was detected for drunk driving.

During December 2007 Area Command officers took part in the ACPOS led festive road safety campaign. Over 500 hours of dedicated road patrols were carried out. During the campaign, there was a slight decrease in the number of drunk drivers compared with the 2006 campaign.

Officers continue to target offending drivers, enforce all areas of road traffic law and encourage safe driver behaviour where possible all year round.

During the forthcoming period operations will focus on the prevention aspect of road accidents.

### **3. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

The Area Command Submission rate for crime reports to the Procurator Fiscal within timescales stood at 83.8% at the end of December 2007. This exceeds the Force objective of 80%.

The submission rate of crime reports to the Reporter to the Childrens' Panel currently stands at 74.7%. This is a slight decrease on the last period, just short of the 80% target. Work is ongoing in the Area Command to improve on these figures to meet or exceed the target rate.

Excellent work has been done in respect of the use of Fixed Penalty Notices for Anti Social Behaviour offences. During the period, 30 notices were issued. This represents a substantial saving in officer time for administration.

At 31 December 2007 the number of reported vandalisms stood at 688. The same period last year recorded 719 vandalisms reported. Although this is a slight decrease the Area Command as a whole continues to be affected by vandalism. Work is being developed to increase public awareness of this crime and work towards a reduction in vandalisms.

During October 2007 two 15-year-old boys were arrested and charged with a range of offences in the Thurso area. They have been reported to the Reporter of the Childrens' Panel for 15 charges of theft, 7 vandalisms, fire-raising and culpable and reckless conduct.

Work continues with our partners in the area Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership Group. A number of cases are being progressed by the Group in the Wick and Thurso areas.

During this period the Safer Scotland Campaign 'Communities Against Alcohol Fuelled Violence' ran Force-wide. Area Command officers took part in extra patrols where over 300 hours were committed by staff. Particular focus was centred on licensed premises checks during the Festive period. A number of checks were also carried out on youths drinking alcohol in the street. Officers were issued with "Alco-dips" which are tester

sticks that can confirm the presence of alcohol in liquids. This was effectively used over the period. Further work using these testers will be carried out during the forthcoming period.

#### **4. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

Five racial incidents have been reported between October and December 2007. Three have been detected and crime reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. One incident was reported by way of a general occurrence memo to the Procurator Fiscal who decided that a crime report was not required. The remaining incident has been fully investigated, however no evidence has been found to substantiate any charges.

In total there have been 10 racial incidents reported this year. Six have been detected. The detection rate for racial incidents currently stands at 60%. All racial incidents are thoroughly investigated in accordance with Force policy and the Lord Advocate's guidelines.

96 reports of breach of the peace and 65 reports of assaults were reported between October and December 2007. This shows a marked decrease on the number of breach of the peace and assault reports when compared against the same period last year where figures of 155 breaches of the peace and 74 assaults were reported. Caithness and Sutherland Area Command continues to maintain a detection rate of 99.1% for class 6 crimes which is well in excess of the Force objective.

On 10 November 2007 a 39-year-old male was arrested and charged with various crimes including racially aggravated conduct and assault. He was subsequently convicted at Dornoch Sheriff Court and sentenced to 4 months imprisonment.

On 18 November 2007 a 56-year-old man was arrested and charged with racially aggravated conduct following an incident at Haster, by Wick. He subsequently pled guilty to the charges and has been placed on probation for 18 months.

There are no significant forthcoming public events planned in the area at this time.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD REPORT**

### **AREA COMMAND: ROSS, CROMARTY & SKYE**

**PERIOD: From: 01/10/2007 To: 31/12/2007**

#### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

Over the reporting period, the level of dishonesties reported has remained at a fairly static level, with no significant trends or patterns identified. Several commercial properties were targeted in Achiltibuie which have been linked to a spate of similar housebreakings in Caithness and Sutherland with a positive line of enquiry being pursued at this time. Vandalism has also remained at a fairly low level with school premises continuing to be targeted. Overall the Area Command increased its detection rate to 63.4% for all Class 1 to 5 crimes.

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

Tackling drug supply continues to be a high priority for the Area Command. Intelligence-led proactive work has resulted in the recovery of cannabis resin, herbal cannabis, diazepam, ketamine, cocaine, amphetamine and heroin during this period. Notably, in November 2007, heroin with a street value of £100,000 and a firearm were discovered during an operation at property in the Black Isle. A male is currently being held in custody. In December 2007, a male was arrested for attempted murder after two men were seriously injured in an incident in Dingwall.

#### **3. SAFER ROADS**

The Area Command continues to provide a high profile presence on the roads. During this period, 51 individuals were detected drink driving and 3 individuals were detected driving whilst under the influence of drugs. The message continues to be conveyed through the local media that targeting drink driving is a priority for the Police and is wholly socially unacceptable behaviour. A number of vehicles were also seized during this period, as a consequence of driving without insurance. The number of road traffic collisions throughout the Area Command remained at a fairly static level. Sadly, however, there were 3 fatal collisions and 7 serious collisions during the reporting period. The Area Command continues to participate in all ACPOS and local road safety campaigns.

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

The Area Command continues to liaise with partner agencies in relation to child protection, domestic abuse, race and diversity, drug abuse and community safety. During this period, officers investigated 33 child protection cases, the same level as the previous period. Officers attended 90 reported incidents of domestic abuse, a notable increase from the previous period, with a number of incidents classified as 'High Risk'. There were 115 missing persons reported during this period, 6 of which were classified

as 'High Risk' and 48 related to abscondees from care. Missing young persons from residential establishments in the Area Command are the most frequent type of missing person calls received. Five mountain rescue incidents were reported to the police during this period. On several occasions, injuries to walkers/climbers necessitated assistance from Mountain Rescue Teams to recover the casualties. The Offender Management Unit is now staffed by three full time officers, with significant work being carried out in offender management. The Area Command management team continues to attend all Local Authority Ward Forums demonstrating our commitment to community policing and partnership working. Antisocial behaviour continues to be addressed through proactive patrols in identified hotspots, alcohol seizures, notification to parents and a Bottle Marking Scheme has been introduced, which is supported by the majority of off-licences in the area.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

The Area Command continues to conduct regular high-profile local initiatives under the banners of Operation Elan, Endeavour and Envelope, which are aimed at tackling public order and anti-social behaviour, particularly over the weekend and late at night around the town centres. On 47 occasions, alcohol has been confiscated from under-age drinkers and individuals have been reported for breaching local byelaws in respect of drinking alcohol in public places. The Area Command is now fully using the fixed penalty scheme for minor public order offences. Community Safety is currently putting proposals together for funding a series of 'Blue Light' events similar to those operating in the Fife area. This involves the provision of organised evening and weekend diversionary activities for teenagers in areas identified as suffering from anti-social behaviour and disorder.

# **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD REPORT**

**AREA COMMAND: Inverness**

**PERIOD: From: 01/10/2007 To: 31/2/2007**

## **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 62.8%, and at the same time crime increased by 0.3% which equates to 12 crimes.

The review period has seen an increase in both Housebreaking and Shoplifting in the Area Command in comparison with the same period last year. To deal with these issues, crime prevention surveys have been undertaken and security advice given. Cycle thefts have continued to affect the Area Command over the review period, and as such, protective measures have been deployed to tackle this crime. On a positive note vandalism has decreased again by 14% (1305 to 1126 crimes over the period).

A number of notable detections were made over the review period, including:

- In October 2007, two males were charged with robbery on a taxi driver. They were arrested and appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court.
- In October 2007, a male person, was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for theft of a vehicle from Ness Castle, Inverness. It was later found crashed nearby.
- In October 2007, following a break-in to a vehicle parked on Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness, a male person was traced nearby, as was the stolen property. This person has appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court.
- In October 2007, a male was arrested for robbery at Bridge Street, Inverness. The accused was traced in the grounds of the Castle and the victim's property was recovered. This male appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court.
- In October 2007, a vehicle was stolen from Harbour Road, Inverness. The vehicle was subsequently recovered in the Tayside Police area and a male person was arrested.
- In December 2007, a female was apprehended for shoplifting in the city centre. Further enquiries suggested she had been shoplifting property in excess of £2500 over a two-week period.

Dedicated patrols continue to be utilised to improve Police visibility in the City, with a focus upon partnership working and problem solving policing. A very successful anti crime initiative was carried out in the run up to the festive period and increased visibility in crime hot spots led to a number of successful detections whilst providing public confidence and reassurance particularly in the city centre.

## **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 80.7%. On a very positive note serious violent

crime reduced by 21% (159 to 126 crimes) and this will continue to be a high policing priority in the city centre and beyond.

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

- In October 2007, a 27-year-old female reported having been raped. A 25-year-old male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- In November 2007, a teenage female reported having been indecently assaulted. Following enquiries, she has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for wasting Police time.
- In November 2007, a male person was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for illegally impersonating a Police Officer.
- In December 2007, a 37-year-old male was stabbed and a 21-year-old male was arrested for attempted murder and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- In December 2007, a 32-year-old female was found murdered in Inverness. A 46-year-old male has been arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

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 December 2007, the number of these offences recorded in the Inverness Area Command was 165 and this is indicative of the robust stance taken in relation to the drugs threat in our communities.

Intelligence led policing in the Inverness Area Command during this period has resulted in a number of noteworthy seizures of controlled drugs, including:

- In October 2007, dealing quantities of cannabis resin and valium were found in a bedsit in Inverness. A 19-year-old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- In November 2007, a 56-year-old male was stopped on the A9 travelling north and found to be in possession of a kilo of cannabis resin.
- In November 2007, following a house search in the South Kessock area of Inverness, a 35-year-old male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for dealing in Class A, B and C drugs.

The Area Command now has a Pro-Active Team led by a Sergeant and 8 Constables who play a pivotal role in tackling serious and organised crime across the area using a variety of tactics covertly and overtly to reduce crime and improve public safety.

### **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. Up to 31 December 2007, there have been 34 people killed or seriously injured as a result of road accidents in the area. This level of death and injury continues to be a cause of concern and we will continue to develop the educational approach to road safety whilst visibly enforcing the law.

Some 3794 road traffic offences have been detected with a focus upon speeding, drink/drug driving, failing to wear seat belts and driving defective vehicles.

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 December 2007, there had been 196 drunk drivers detected in the area.

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 December 2007, there had been 8 drug drivers detected in the area.

High visibility mobile patrols continue to target areas of community concern and accident blackspots with continued focus upon drink/drug driving, disqualified drivers, the wearing of seatbelts and speeding offences, with a particular focus upon responding to community concerns.

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

The Area Command continues to develop meaningful partnerships with our key partners and communities with a clear focus upon business at Highland Council Ward level.

The Community Beat Team continue to work closely with local communities in identifying local issues and solutions. During the review period a number of successful initiatives were developed to improve community safety, including taxi marshals, safe late night buses and retail security teams in and around the city centre. These initiatives appear to have worked well and hopefully will continue to develop in the Area Command during 2008. In addition the local Licensing Board has agreed a policy in relation to the use of plastic glasses within licensed premises in Inverness.

During the review period there has been a large number of missing person enquiries with over 21 high risk missing persons, 146 medium risk missing persons and 25 low risk missing persons together with 11 unauthorised missing persons. These enquiries continue to be resource intensive and a challenge for the Area Command particularly in relation to those individuals who go missing from residential establishments in the city. The Area Command continues to work with other partners to ensure that clear and robust structures are in place to deal with the high number of missing person enquiries.

Under age drinking, public drinking and public drunkenness continue to be issues which pervade our communities and creates a policing challenge which must be tackled on a multi agency basis. There were some 342 cases of public drunkenness. At the same time some 41 offences in relation to liquor licensing laws were detected. We continue to work with the Licensing Board, Licensed Trade Association and Licensees in relation to the introduction of the Licensing Scotland Act 2005 with the transitional arrangements commencing in February 2008.

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

Increased visibility at peak periods has led to increased detections in relation to public order offences and anti social behaviour.

During the period April – December 2007 there were 2625 Breaches of the Peace and maintaining public order continues to be a key priority in and around the city centre at peak periods during the weekend. Fixed Penalty Notices for anti social behaviour and public disorder continue to be used to good effect and has reduced the amount of time spent by officers in reporting procedures and in Court related duties, all to the benefit of improved front line operational policing. Curfew checks and identification of bail offenders appears to be having a positive effect in relation to habitual offenders and this approach will continue to be developed with a view to reducing public disorder particularly within the city centre at peak periods during the weekends. An initiative in the period leading up to Christmas and New Year involved the deployment of Police dogs and handlers in the city centre and the retail areas surrounding Inverness. This proved to be very popular with the local community particularly in relation to the buoyant daytime and nighttime economy at that time of year. The initiative also had a positive impact on public confidence and reassurance as it increased visible policing and importantly it acted as a deterrent to those who were intent on indulging in criminal behaviour and public disorder.

The Area Command continues to take a robust stance in relation to the policing of football matches at Inverness Caledonian Thistle Football Stadium. On 16 December 2007 Inverness Caledonian Thistle played Celtic Football Club in a Category A match in Inverness. There were 7 persons arrested during the match within the ground and 2 further persons were ejected from the Stadium for singing offensive songs.

A number of other persons were also charged in and around Inverness for football related offences in the period leading up to the match and again a high profile operation was held at the Drumossie Brae to stop travelling coaches and a number of other offences were detected in relation to persons being in possession of alcohol and being drunk travelling to this Scottish Premier League football match. The Area Command deployed evidence-gathering teams from Grampian Police to allow the Force to overtly target sectarian behaviour or public order offences during the match. This initiative proved very successful and will be built upon at future Category A matches at Inverness Caledonian Thistle football ground.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD REPORT**

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

**PERIOD: From: 01/10/07 To: 31/12/07**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The Area Command detection rate stands at 65.2% for class 1-5 crimes. The local objective is to clear up 63% of such crimes so it is pleasing to see that this is being achieved. The statistics, however, also show that there was an increase of 109 crimes committed during this period. The crimes which principally account for this variation are class 3 (Dishonesties) and class 4 (Vandalisms) with detection rates of 50.9%, and 46.7% respectively.

Following extensive enquiries into the theft of copper wire from Grantown in Spey in 2006, a 24-year-old male from Fochabers has been cautioned and charged with the offence. Enquiries are ongoing into other possible related incidents and to trace further accused.

Following enquiries into a number of reports of stolen cycles in the Nairn and Auldearn areas, three youths have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal/Children's Reporter. Two of the stolen cycles have also been recovered.

Following a report of a large sum of money having been stolen from a licensed premises in Grantown on Spey in September, a 36-year-old male has been arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following 17 separate incidents of theft in the Grantown on Spey area during November and December, a 26-year-old male was arrested and appeared in court from custody on four occasions. He has since been remanded in custody.

On 17<sup>th</sup> November 2007, following a large disturbance in Nairn, 8 people have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for a variety of offences including threats, assault, attempt to pervert, obstruction, resisting arrest, assisting the escape of a detained person and breach of the peace.

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007, following enquiries into a number of thefts in the Nairn area a 14 year-old-male is to be reported to the Children's Reporter for 2 x theft and theft by opening of lockfast place, and a 43-year-old male is to be reported to the Procurator Fiscal for reset. A significant amount of the stolen property has been recovered and enquiries are continuing in relation to recovering the outstanding property and further possible linked crimes.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007, reports were received that a Land Rover had been stolen from Cromdale and that two vehicles had been stolen from Dulnain Bridge. A call was also received later that day regarding a vehicle that had been found 'burnt-out' 5 miles outside of Grantown on Spey. Officers attended and the vehicle was found to have been stolen from the Grampian area and to contain documents relating to one of the

vehicles stolen from Dulnain Bridge. All vehicles stolen were later recovered and two males were arrested in connection with the crimes by Grampian Officers.

## **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

Figures for this period (end of year) show a total of 215 drug seizures for the year, against 153 for the previous year. The detection rate for class 1 (crimes against the person) stands at 91.1%, with a total of 384 crimes being committed. Child Protection issues continue to be a major resourcing implication for the Area Command.

Following a number of reports of sneak-in thefts in Grantown on Spey, a 29-year-old male and a 25-year-old male have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2007, following enquiries into a disturbance in Nairn, a 25-year-old male was cautioned and charged with Theft by Housebreaking, Robbery and Serious Assault. He appeared in court from custody.

On 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007, following a report of a male having been assaulted, three males appeared in court from custody charged with Attempted Murder.

On 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007, as a result of information received that a 52-year-old male was supplying his 17-year-old son with Cannabis. The male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for possession of drugs and possession with intent to supply.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007, following the stop/check of a vehicle on the A9, a 50-year-old male was found in possession of 25 grams of speed and 2oz of Cannabis resin.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 29-year-old male from Inverness was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment after being charged with Assault to Injury. He was also sentenced to a further 3 months imprisonment after being charged with bail offences in relation to a separate incident.

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 27-year-old male was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment after being charged with possession of an offensive weapon and breach of the peace whilst on bail.

On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 46-year-old male was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment after being charged with Assault to Severe Injury and Impairment, and Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 S27(1)(B).

On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2007, a 43-year-old male was placed on the Sex Offenders Register for 5 years and fined £600 after being charged with lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour.

On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007, a 45-year-old male was placed on the Sex Offenders Register for 5 years and sentenced to 80 hours community service after being charged with 3 x Breach of the Peace (Sexual Aggravation).

On 24<sup>th</sup> December 2007, a search of two males and a motor vehicle resulted in a large quantity of Diazepam tablets being recovered along with 4 wraps of Heroin and a personal amount of Cannabis resin. Both males were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for possession of drugs and being concerned in the supply of drugs.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

The area has continued to commit to high visibility patrols, conscious that the main A9 arterial route passes through this area. This has brought good results in “pro-active” anti crime activities, along with the normal road traffic offences. Mobile phone misuse, seat belt and speeding offences continue to be part of the monthly “Performance Board” figures. Vehicles are regularly being seized for “No Insurance” offences and “road hazard” forms have been submitted for four different locations in the Badenoch and Strathspey area.

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2007, as a result of an anonymous call regarding the erratic driving of a motor vehicle on the A96, officers attended, stopped the vehicle in question and arrested the 41-year-old male driver for driving whilst unfit through drink or drugs. His vehicle was searched and a quantity of suspected substances was recovered.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007, as result of a stop/check on a vehicle in Nairn, the 17-year-old male driver was cautioned and charged with drink driving, theft of a motor vehicle, driving without insurance and driving without being in possession of a full valid driving licence.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007, a report was received from a member of the public in Nairn regarding a motor vehicle mounting a kerb, swerving towards another vehicle and being driven in an erratic fashion. Officers traced the vehicle to the home address of the registered keeper and arrested a 60-year-old male for drink driving. He appeared in court from custody.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007, as a result of a report of a vehicle having gone through a fence in a residential area of Nairn, a 14-year-old male and a 15-year-old male have been reported to the Children’s Reporter for a number of offences including theft of a motor vehicle, drink driving, driving with no insurance, driving without a full valid licence, careless driving and failing to stop or report an accident.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 58-year-old male from Nethybridge was sentenced to 120 hours community service and disqualified from driving for 7 years after he was charged with drink driving.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 34-year-old male from Falkirk was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment and disqualified from driving for 4 years after being charged with disqualified driving.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

This period saw the SNP Conference being held at MacDonald’s Aviemore Highland Resort. High visibility mobile and foot patrols were carried out to ensure a successful and event-free conference. Anti-crime patrols continue to be deployed and, again, this

“pro-active” stance is bearing fruit. Regular ‘festive’ patrols were carried out in all licensed premises to combat anti social, and under age, drinking. Visits were made to local schools for Road Safety. This period saw ‘sniffer dogs’ being deployed to Nairn Academy, at the request of school staff. Detections were made and, it is hoped, this will contribute to young people being able to pursue their education in a “drug free” environment.

On 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007, a report was received that an elderly female had absconded from a hospital in Grantown on Spey. The female was traced in the River Spey and conveyed to Raigmore Hospital for medical treatment.

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007, a report was received from a local doctor expressing concerns for a female with mental health issues and her two children. Enquiries were carried out along with Grampian Police and the female and her children were located safe and well.

On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007, following the deployment of a drugs dog at Nairn Academy two pupils were found in possession personal amounts of Cannabis resin. As a result of intelligence a third pupil was arrested for being concerned in the supply of drugs and reported to the Procurator Fiscal accordingly.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

Operations Magma continues to operate, successfully, in the area with significant seizures of alcohol being made from under age drinkers.

On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2007, enquiries into an alleged robbery in Nairn led to the 13-year-old complainer being issued with a restorative warning after the initial complaint was found to be untrue.

On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007, whilst carrying out licensed premises checks in Nairn, a 17-year-old male was observed consuming alcohol in a licensed premises. He has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal accordingly.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2007, a 22-year-old male was arrested in Grantown on Spey after he was observed by officers breaching his Anti Social Behaviour Order.

On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 27-year-old Nairn male was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment and put on the Sex Offenders Register for 7 years after he was charged with Breach of the Peace.

On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 22 year old Nairn man was sentenced to 150 hours community service for assaulting a police officer.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD REPORT**

### **AREA COMMAND: LOCHABER**

**PERIOD: From: 1 October 2007 To: 31 December 2007**

#### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The Area Command detection rate for crimes class 1 – 5 is currently 67.0% against a Force average of 63.3%.

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

On 11/10/07, following a series of Thefts by Housebreaking at rural post offices throughout the Northern Constabulary area and beyond, two males have been arrested and have had an initial court appearance. They are currently on bail.

ON 17/10/07, following receipt of information, a JP search warrant was executed at a house in the Plantation area and approximately 1 KG of amphetamine was recovered (approximately £10,000). A 40-year-old woman had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 07/10/07, following allegations that a 31-year-old male in the Morar area was behaving irrationally and allegedly in possession of firearms, an appropriate response was organised between the Local Command Area and Force Headquarters. The male person was detained without incident. Enquiries are ongoing. No firearms recovered.

#### **3. SAFER ROADS**

During the period 1 October to 31 December 2007, there were 4 serious injury road accidents and 11 slight injury road accidents. There were two fatal road accidents recorded.

Operation Prone, which concentrates on aspects of traffic enforcement and education, 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, with good results.

On 17/10/07, a 58-year-old female was fatally injured and a 62-year-old female seriously injured following a collision with a van on the A82 south of Fort William.

On 18/12/07, a 50-year-old female was fatally injured following a collision with a wood lorry on the A82 south of Fort William.

The Early Bird Initiative took place to highlight the dangers to road users of driving whilst still affected by alcohol from the night before during the Festive period. A total

of 422 vehicles were stopped. One person was reported for Drink Driving and numerous vehicle defect forms issued.

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

On 19/11/07, following on from a Pubwatch disclosure, one person was found on licensed premises in possession of an offensive weapon. This timeous information prevented a serious incident occurring and endorses the good practice of sharing information to promote community safety and prevent crime under the auspices of Pubwatch. Pubwatch members continue to meet on a regular basis.

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

On 04/10/07, a report was received of a 40-year-old male having been seriously assaulted by a male with a hurling stick. The victim sustained a cut above his left eye, a broken tooth and bruised ribs. A 21-year-old male was later traced and cautioned and charged with serious assault. The accused is currently under curfew.

On 05/10/07, a 22-year-old male was arrested for throwing an object at the windscreen of moving 19 ton lorry on the Fort William bypass. The windscreen shattered and the driver sustained cuts to his face but managed to stop lorry safely. The Male appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Petition on charge of Culpable and Reckless conduct and is currently on bail.

On 20/10/07, following a report of a 17-year-old male having been struck over the head with a bottle, enquiries led to an 18-year-old male being arrested and cautioned and charged with serious assault. This male appeared in Court, pled guilty and received a non-custodial sentence.

On 24/10/07, following the discovery of two heavily blood stained knives in the Caol area of Fort William, extensive enquiries were launched to trace the origin of these items. Subsequently a 17-year-old male youth was traced who admitted to using said knives to self harm.

On 12/11/07, guests at a local backpackers hostel in Fort William reported theft of digital camera and a bicycle. As a result of diligent enquiry by initial officers, a proactive line of enquiry was established and in conjunction with Strathclyde Police, a 16 year-old-male was traced in Dunoon and all property recovered. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal, Fort William.

On 29/11/07, a 33-year-old male was seriously assaulted on the main street in Corpach. The victim was struck about the head with a chain which caused a deep laceration. A positive line of enquiry is being pursued.

On 23/12/07, a 60-year-old disabled male in Kinlochleven reported a sneak-in theft to his new house. Car keys and jewellery had been stolen. Thereafter his BMW motor car had been stolen and driven about the village. The vehicle was then returned to its parking place and subjected to sustained and serious vandalism. Enquiries were instigated locally and so far a 16-year-old male has been arrested and charged for the initial theft and subsequent damage. Enquiries ongoing.

