

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

22 NOVEMBER 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

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Shetland

PERIOD: From: 01/08/2007 To: 30/09/2007

1. REDUCING CRIME

During the year to 30 September 2007, Shetland Command Area achieved a clear up rate, for class 1-5 crime, of 65.2%. There has also been a small increase of 12 in the overall number of crimes as compared to the same period last year. All staff within the Command Area will work hard to build on these results.

The program of targetted 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 22 to 8 as compared to the same period last year. Seven of these crimes of violence have been detected with a positive line of enquiry being pursued on the remaining one.

During the current reporting period a man was reported for multiple thefts from number of shops around Lerwick town centre, having been stopped and checked by Police and found to be in possession of suspected stolen goods. This man is well known to Police and has a long history of acquisitive drugs-related offences.

A woman was reported for theft by housebreaking where she stole a high value item of jewellery from a neighbour and attempted to steal from several other neighbours. This individual has a long history of acquisitive drugs-related crime.

A 13-year-old girl was reported for a number of vandalisms to motor vehicles in Lerwick during August. Nine vehicles were damaged.

Three youths aged from 15 to 16 years were reported for number of vandalisms to vehicles and premises in Sandwick and Dunrossness (including Sandwick school) and theft from motor vehicles during late August. Eight vehicles were damaged.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Tackling the supply of controlled drugs is one of our strategic priorities. The current review period saw considerable success in our efforts to reduce the availability of controlled drugs in Shetland. The following are some of the main cases resulting from two of our drug operations :

A 16-year-old youth was reported for supply of controlled drugs, following search of his home under Warrant. Intelligence received led to "customers" being identified and providing statements in relation to supply of Cannabis resin in the local community.

Two men from the Liverpool area were detained and subsequently arrested from the Northlink ferry. Subsequent search of men and vessel led to seizure of ¼ oz of Heroin intended for onward supply to unnamed persons involved in supply of controlled drugs within Shetland.

A 28-year-old Shetland man reported from custody following search of Scalloway address under Drugs Warrant. Approximately 56 grams Heroin and £6,000 in cash recovered. During subsequent interview, the man admitted involvement in supply of Heroin in Shetland.

A 33-year-old woman from Glasgow was arrested following information from family member that she was in possession of controlled drugs while in charge of a young child. Search of premise led to 1 gram of Heroin and 103 suspected Valium tablets being recovered, as well as several large bottles of Methadone.

A 43-year-old man from the Liverpool area was detained and subsequently arrested from the Northlink ferry. The man was searched and found in possession of approximately 250 grams of Heroin (approximately £35,000 worth), intended for onward supply to unnamed persons involved in supply of controlled drugs within Shetland.

A 33-year-old man from the Sussex area was detained and subsequently arrested following the search of Lerwick premises under Drugs Warrant. The man was found in possession of 2.2 grams of Heroin (some of which internally concealed) and £200. He has been reported for possession with intent to supply.

A 48-year-old man from the Liverpool area was detained and subsequently arrested from the Northlink ferry. The man was searched and found in possession of approximately 95 grams of Heroin (approximately £15,000 worth) intended for onward supply to unnamed persons involved in supply of controlled drugs within Shetland.

Operations to take forward work in this area are ongoing and we continue to work closely with our partner agencies. Whilst we are unable to comment specifically at this stage on any particular case, it ought to be acknowledged that information received from members of the community has played a vital part in our success to date.

3. SAFER ROADS

The promotion of Road Safety through tackling drink/drug driving remains one of our key priorities. During the review period 28 breath tests were carried out, 8 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 progress. Applications in the planning process are now well advanced as is the tender exercise. 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.

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 92.1% 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 and stands as a testament to the hard work of officers on the front line and a determination to meet and exceed national targets.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

In common with other areas of the Force this Command Area has experienced a busy summer period with a number of festivals and public events including a visit by the pop group "Franz Ferdinand". This has been undertaken whilst maintaining the normal and expected high level of service to the public.

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: 01/08/2007 To: 30/09/2007

1. REDUCING CRIME

Reported crime during the review period increased by 21 crimes compared to the same period last year with a continuing very good detection rate of 72.8%.

Significant and unusual incidents during the review period included a number of assaults, thefts and frauds. Of particular note, was the graffiti damage caused to one of the antiquities at Skara Brae during August 2007, which, unfortunately remains undetected.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

It is pleasing to report once again the relatively low number of more serious crimes and offences during the review period.

During August 2007, a young man was placed on probation and subjected to a Restriction of Liberty Order imposed at Kirkwall Sheriff Court in relation to a variety of offences including road traffic offences, breach of bail and possession of a knife. Another young man was fined £1000 in relation to a serious assault committed earlier this year.

A Kirkwall man was subject to a fine and compensation totalling £1300 at Kirkwall Sheriff Court during August 2007 after being seen on CCTV cameras in Kirkwall during May 2007 supplying cannabis to another man.

During September 2007 a man was seriously assaulted in Kirkwall. A man is currently the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal at Kirkwall.

3. SAFER ROADS

There have been no fatal road accidents during the review period, although there was one serious collision in which there was one seriously injured casualty. The detection of speeders and drink drivers remained a high priority with a number of successful detections. Kirkwall Sheriff Court disposals included a man awaiting sentence for drink driving and an associated complaint of assault that occurred in Kirkwall during July 2007. Another man is awaiting sentence in relation to him driving a motorbike recklessly in Kirkwall during February 2007.

Of particular note was a car that was stopped during late September 2007 by the Kirkwall community wardens, which resulted in the driver being processed for drink driving.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

During the review period the Area Command was heavily involved in policing a wide range of annual events including the agricultural shows, visits by cruise ships and many other public events. It is pleasing to report that all these events passed without significant incident.

During mid-August 2007, a diver was killed in Scapa Flow whilst diving on the wreck of the Dresden.

Despite bad weather, the Police Dependants Trust event held at Kirkwall Police Station was very successful with more than £3000 raised for this very worthwhile charity. It is very pleasing to note the excellent support from all those who assisted in this event, provided raffles and donations and to all those members of the public who attended.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

During the review period the introduction of fixed penalty notices for specific types of anti social behaviour commenced in Orkney. A number of fixed penalties for more minor incidents were issued.

Following recurring complaints of noise within a house in Kirkwall during September 2007, officers seized a television and charged the occupant of the house with noise nuisance.

Dealing with anti social behaviour and the maintenance of public order remains a high priority. It is pleasing to note that there has been a continuing reduction, compared to last year, in public order related offences including petty assault, breach of the peace and drunkenness.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Western Isles

PERIOD: From: 01/08/2007 To: 30/09/2007

1. REDUCING CRIME

For the year 2007/08 to date (half yearly), the detection rate within the Western Isles for Class 1-5 crimes stands at 71.2%, 86.7% for all crimes; both detection rates marginally lower than for the same period last year. 535 Class 1-5 crimes have been made known for the year to date, a 7.8% reduction in comparison to the same period last year (580 such crimes made known).

On 17th August a 45 year old male was assaulted within his bedroom at Stornoway, whereby he was repeatedly punched to his head and body by a person wearing a mask. Following enquiry, a 45 year old male from Stornoway was arrested and charged with several offences including assault, breach of the peace and theft.

In the early hours of 9th September, Police received a report of a 59 year old male having been assaulted within an address in North Uist. The victim sustained a fractured cheekbone in the attack. Two suspects were interviewed and later released pending further enquiries.

On 5th September the old 'Gibson Hotel', Stornoway – currently unoccupied premises – was reported as having been broken into. Several items – CDs, DVDs and console games – were stolen. Following enquiry, a 13 year old male youth is the subject of a report to be submitted to the Childrens Reporter.

On the evening of 10th September, an attempt was made to break into the Borge Medical Practice, Isle of Lewis. During the same evening, three insecure vehicles in the Borge area of the Isle of Lewis were entered and items stolen. Following enquiry, a 24 year old male and a 15 year old male have been reported for all these offences.

On 14th September the Water Wheel premises/display in the Castle Grounds, Stornoway, was deliberately set alight. Fortunately the fire was extinguished by a passer-by prior to any serious damage being sustained. Following enquiry, a 13 year old male youth is the subject of a report to be submitted to the Childrens Reporter.

Notable Sentences:

On 6th August, a 25 year old female was placed on probation for 2 years, ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work and had a Compensation Order of £539 imposed after been found guilty of theft.

On 7th August, a 38 year old male was found guilty of a breach of the peace and sentenced to 2 months imprisonment.

On 8th August, a 17 year old male was sentenced to 6 months detention and ordered to pay £160 compensation after being found guilty of assault, vandalism and breach of the peace.

On 17th August, a 27 year old male was sentenced to 10 weeks imprisonment on being found guilty of breach of the peace.

On 21st August, an 18 year old male was found guilty of breaching his Probation Order after having previously being convicted of assault, theft of a car, breach of the peace and police assault. He was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment.

On 22nd August, a 21 year old male was found guilty of assault and breach of the peace. He was sentenced to 10 weeks imprisonment.

On 5th September, a 31 year old male was found guilty of vandalism and sentenced to 4 months imprisonment. He was also disqualified from driving for 18 months after being found guilty of several road traffic offences.

On 11th September, a 21 year old male was found guilty of breaching several Court orders and was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment.

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 96.9% for 2007/08 to date.

On 14th August a 30 year old male from the Isle of Lewis was detained, interviewed and subsequently arrested after admitting to possessing a large number of indecent images of children. He appeared in Court from custody the following day and was released on bail.

Notable Convictions:

A 17 year old male was found guilty of a sexually aggravated offence and on 20th August was placed on Probation for 1 year. He was also placed on the Sex Offenders Register for the same period of time.

3. SAFER ROADS

Our ongoing national intelligence model led 'Operation Hillman' continues to address issues of speeding, drunk/drug driving, documentary offences and other road safety issues. Notably, 57 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 only two persons seriously injured. No children have been killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents to date for 2007/08.

On the afternoon of 13th August a two-vehicle road traffic accident occurred on the A866 at Sandwick, Isle of Lewis. The road was blocked to all traffic for nearly one hour as emergency services dealt with the incident. Fortunately there were no serious injuries. A 37 year old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On the evening of 14th September, a 16 year old male was struck by a passing vehicle as he waited on the verge of the carriageway at Back, Isle of Lewis, for a bus into Stornoway. The vehicle failed to stop. The youth sustained broken ribs and a severely fractured arm which required the insertion of steel plates. Enquiries have so far failed to trace the vehicle and/or driver.

A year long weekly one hour input to sixth year pupils commenced on Tuesday 11th September at the Nicolson Institute on driver training and road safety. The project is being delivered by Community Safety Sergeant, Roddy MacKay, and guest speakers. The target group is pre-drivers, learners and those having their driving tests. The group consists of about 15 pupils.

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

Notable Convictions:

On 6th August, a 28 year old male was found guilty of several road traffic offences and disqualified from driving for 2 years. He was also fined £1250.

On 6th August, a 30 year old male was found guilty of road traffic documentary offences and refusing to supply a specimen of breath and disqualified from driving for 3 years. He was also fined £800.

On 7th August, an 18 year old male was disqualified from driving for 2 years and fined £1050 after being found guilty of drink driving.

On 8th August, a 45 year old male was found guilty of drink driving and disqualified from driving for 4 years. He was also fined £1000.

On 14th August, a 46 year old male was found guilty of several road traffic offences and fined £800. He was also disqualified from driving for 2 years.

On 19th September, a 25 year old male was fined £1000 and disqualified from driving for 4 years after being found guilty of drink driving.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

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.

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 and other outlying areas in the Western Isles on Friday and Saturday evenings. These patrols are carried out by two dedicated uniformed officers. These patrols have been very successful in the removal and destruction of alcohol from underage drinkers, particularly in and around Stornoway town centre.

On 3rd August, Police received a report from Lochcarnan, South Uist relating to a maritime accident which resulted in the death of a 14 year old female army cadet from Aberdeen-shire. An on going major investigation commenced with enquiries being carried out across the U.K. A report on the circumstances will be submitted in the very near future.

In the early hours of 2nd September, a house in Point, Isle of Lewis, was extensively damaged in a fire. Sadly, the sole occupant – a 50 year old male - perished in the blaze. There were no suspicious circumstances.

During September, Chief Inspector Fraser, Area Commander, had discussions with the designate Chairman of License Trade Association of Western Isles. A draft Western Isles Pub Watch scheme was passed to the Association for consideration. Training is to be commenced for all Door and Pub staff through Security Industry Association. Chief Inspector Fraser is to address the next Licensing Board meeting in October with a presentation highlighting the impact of alcohol on anti social behaviour and crime in Stornoway and the implications on local licencees due to new Licensing legislation.

A week long work experience course ran from 17th September to 21st September at Stornoway Police station. 8 students took part from Castlebay School, Barra, Sir E Scott School, Tarbert, Harris and The Nicolson Institute, Stornoway. During the course the participating students experienced a flavour of Policing in the Western Isles.

A presentation was given to CnES Homecare Staff on 26th September on policing and particularly Community Safety by PS MacKay.

The Pro Active Initiative is to be re-established; two officers due to commence on the Team in October. The Team will, again, concentrate on youth related matters such as vandalism, underage drinking, other anti social conduct and road traffic offences.

The Area Command is continuing to meet its targets in relation to Report Submission times; 82% of Reports to Procurator Fiscal being submitted within 28 days, 89% of

Reports to Childrens Reporter being submitted within 10 days and 92% of SPR8 charge code details being submitted within 5 days of caution and charge.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

The annual Lewis Carnival took place in Stornoway on 4th August. As usual, the town was very busy that afternoon but the event passed without trouble.

Three days of Merchant Navy Events took place in Barra from 1st September to 3rd September. These commemorative events were well attended and took place without incident.

Police, Trading Standards and Highlands & Islands Fire Service are to jointly visit fireworks retailers within the Western Isles as part of their annual safety inspection checks.

The Area Command is approaching the festive period and preparations are due to commence regarding the 'Christmas Lights' switching on ceremony in Stornoway and the New Year fireworks display at the Castle Grounds, Stornoway. Resources will also be utilised to ensure an appropriate level of policing to take into account the extended licensing hours at this particular time of year.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Caithness & Sutherland

PERIOD: From: 01/08/2007 To: 30/09/2007

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Area Command detection rate for class 1 –5 crimes was 51.9% at 30 September 2007. The local objective is to clear up 63% of all groups 1–5 crimes and offences by the end of 2007/2008 in line with the Force objective. Although the Area Command detection rate has fallen since the last period, the area as a whole has continued to experience a high volume of vandalism, which has affected our overall rate.

The number of Group 1-4 crimes reported up to 30 September 2007 are 842. At the same period last year the number reported stood at 852. This represents a 1.2% decrease since 2006.

There have been 12 reports of housebreaking to domestic premises during the period. 3 have been detected and 4 cases are awaiting results of laboratory analysis.

The detection rate for car crime currently stands at 81%. This is well in excess of the 68% target.

During August and September 2007 several rural Post offices were broken into throughout the Area Command and large amounts of cash stolen. An operation was put in place to disrupt and detect the perpetrators and this came to a successful conclusion recently in Lochaber area. Currently two men from the North of England are being investigated. A report is now being prepared for the Procurator Fiscal in respect of the crimes in Caithness and Sutherland.

On 1 September 2007 a 68 year old man was interviewed and admitted breaking into the golf club at Reay, Caithness in 2003. From swabs taken during a scene of crime examination at the time, a successful DNA comparison was made with a previously taken sample from this individual.

On 6 August 2007 two 17 year old men were charged with vandalism to the Clydesdale Bank in Brora. £1800 worth of damage was caused and a crime report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal at Dornoch.

Liaison continues with the Highland Council and other partnership agencies through the Anti Social Behaviour Group. Although no Anti Social Behaviour Orders have been granted to date a large majority of the cases brought to the group have been successfully resolved by other means.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

During August and September 2007 54 stop searches for drugs were carried out in the Area Command with 12 proving positive.

8 premises were also searched under warrant during this time with 3 positive results. Controlled drugs with an estimated street value of £ 1764 were seized during this period.

There were 6 seizures of Class A drugs during August and September. One person was reported for supply/possession with intent to supply. To date this year 4 cases of supply/intent to supply have been reported. There were 3 cases during the same period last year.

The detection rate for serious/violent crimes stands at 90.7%, just over the 90% target. The number of reported class 1 crimes this year is 36. At this stage last year the figure was 39. This represents a 7.7% reduction, in excess of the target 2% reduction.

On 4 August 2007 a 33 year old man and a 39 year old woman were arrested and charged with the attempted murder of a 36 year old man, who was found on waste ground in Wick with slash and stab wounds to his body. A crime report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Wick.

On 29 September 2007 an incident was captured on CCTV in Wick which resulted in a 22 year old man being arrested and charged with attempted murder of a 39 old man. A crime report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

In August 2007 a 33 year old man was sentenced to 7 months imprisonment, at Wick Sheriff Court, after being convicted of assault to injury, 4 counts of Police assault and breach of the peace.

Operations are ongoing, targeting individuals involved in the supply of controlled drugs in Sutherland and Caithness. This work is being undertaken by the area Proactive Team.

3. SAFER ROADS

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

There have been 3 reports of serious road accidents during this period. The same period in 2006 saw 4 serious road accidents reported. This represents a reduction of 25% on the same period last year.

14 drunk drivers have been detected during August & September 2007. This is a slight increase on the same period last year when 11 drunk drivers were detected. No drug driving offences have been detected during this period. This represents no change since the same period in 2006.

The following information shows the numbers of persons detected for various road traffic offences between August & September 2007:

Speeders : 47

Seatbelt offences: 28

Mobile phone offences: 22

Miscellaneous offences: 33

In August 2007 an 18 year old man was convicted of drunk driving at Wick Sheriff Court. He was fined £600 and disqualified from driving for 4 years.

In September a 21 year old man was convicted of careless driving at Wick Sheriff Court. He was fined £400 and disqualified from driving for 6 months.

During August and September 2007 Area Command officers have continued to target offending drivers, enforce all areas of road traffic law and encourage safe driver behaviour. Dedicated officers also participated in multi-agency work with VOSA, targeting HGVs & PSVs. The Northern Safety Camera Partnership also deploy regularly in our area.

An operation is being planned to address Road safety issues over November and December 2007. This will focus upon winter safety, drink/drug driving and irresponsible driver behaviour. Public safety messages will be made available to the media and targeted patrols will be utilised at known problem locations and times.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Area Command Submission rate for crime reports to the Procurator Fiscal within time scales currently stands at 83.2% which exceeds the Force objective.

The submission rate for crime reports to the Childrens' Reporter currently stands at 76.5%. This is a slight increase on the last period but 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.

At 30 September 2007 the number of reported vandalisms stood at 488. The same period last year recorded 466 incidents reported. The Area Command as a whole has continued to suffer from vandalism.

The Area Command continues to engage effectively with other partner agencies to reduce crime and promote Community Safety.

The bottle-marking scheme has continued successfully in Thurso and the Community Safety Officer is now looking to expand the initiative to the Wick area.

A lot of good work has also been done by the CCTV working party and the new CCTV cameras are now installed in Wick ready to go live. Work is ongoing to recruit and train volunteer operators.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

One racial incident was reported during August and September 2007. This incident related to a teenage boy being verbally abused. A 14 year old boy has been cautioned and charged and a report has been submitted to the Reporter to the Childrens' Panel accordingly.

On 5 August 2007 a 38 year old male was traced and cautioned and charged in connection with an outstanding racial incident from 1 July 2007. A crime report has since been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Wick.

There have been 5 racist incidents reported this year. Three have been detected. The detection rate for racial incidents this year currently stands at 60%. All racial incidents are thoroughly investigated in accordance with Force policy and Lord Advocate's guidelines.

56 reports of breach of the peace and 46 reports of assaults were reported during August and September 2007, which shows a marked decrease on the number of breach of the peace reports since the last period and a slight increase in the number of reported assaults. Caithness & Sutherland Area Command maintains a detection rate of 99.1% for class 6 crimes which is well in excess of the Force objective.

In September 2007 a 33 year old man was convicted of breach of the peace and vandalism to Police property whilst in custody at Wick Police Station. Extensive damage was done to the lavatory facilities. He was fined £500 and a compensation order of £4681.58 was imposed.

The Dunrobin Car Rally in Golspie, massed pipe bands in Wick and the Northern Lights festival in Durness have all taken place in the Area Command during this period. The BBC Symphony Orchestra are staging a televised event at Dornoch Cathedral in November but this event is not expected to have a significant impact on local policing resources.

Operations are planned to take place during October and November 2007 to address anti social behaviour issues associated with Halloween and fireworks events. Media publicity and high profile patrols at known problem locations and times will be utilised.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Ross, Cromarty & Skye

PERIOD: From: 01/08/07 To: 30/09/07

1. REDUCING CRIME

Over the reporting period the levels of dishonesties remained relatively static, however, there were a number of notable offences, namely a spate of opportunist thefts from tents at the Loopallu Music Festival in Ullapool in September and also commercial premises were subject to housebreakings in Kyle of Lochalsh, Achiltibuie and the Black Isle which are being linked to a spate of similar housebreakings in Caithness and Sutherland. At the time of writing there is positive work ongoing to identify the persons responsible. Vandalisms remained at a relatively low level and were generally related to school premises. Overall the Area Command marginally increased its detection rate to 62.7% 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 targeted suspected dealers as part of the operation to police the Loopallu Music festival in Ullapool which a total of 4,000 people attended over the weekend. Also during the period much proactive work was done in respect of drug misuse and dealing resulting in the recovery of MDMA, cannabis resin, Valium, heroin, methadone, cocaine and diazepam. One male was found in possession of 130g of cannabis resin. The Area Command also appointed a new Area Drugs Officer to work within the Area Command Proactive Team.

3. SAFER ROADS

The Area Command continued to provide a high profile presence on the roads leading to a total of 25 drink driving offences being detected. We continued to highlight these offences in the local media to emphasise our commitment to this initiative and to get the message over that it is wholly socially unacceptable behaviour. Notably, a significant number of those arrested for suspected drink driving were found to be more than 3 times over the legal limit of 35 microgrammes in 100 millilitres of breath, the highest count during the period being 129mg. The number of road traffic collisions remained relatively static. Notably however, without exception, all serious road traffic collisions involved motorcycles during the period.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

We continue to work alongside our partner agencies in the areas of child protection, domestic abuse, race & diversity, drug abuse and community safety. During the period, Officers jointly investigated 33 child protection cases, which is a notable

decrease from the previous period although many cases are proving to be protracted and complex. Notably, there is a concerning rise in the instances of predatory males seeking to "groom" young, impressionable teenage girls through internet social websites such as Bebo, Facebook, MSN Messaging and MySpace. Officers attended 58 incidents of domestic abuse, again a notable decrease from the previous period. During the period there were 74 reports of missing persons of which 6 were assessed as high risk and 25 related to abscondee from care. Notably during the period, a 14 year old vulnerable girl was traced on a train travelling south from Inverness after being reported missing, a 74 year old woman was reported missing overnight in the Glenelg area and was traced the following morning suffering from hypothermia and a 53 year old man from the Black Isle was traced safe and well in Badenoch after concerns over his wellbeing and an extensive search over several days. There was also a pleasing decrease in mountain rescues with 8 reported to the police during the period mainly due to the end of the summer season. Poor weather was a major contributory cause in several 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 with an agreement to increase the Offender Management Unit by another two full-time officers. As part of the ongoing Force Review Project the Area Command management team are currently considering structures that will best address the move to a Divisional structure next April in terms of overall Public Protection. The Area Command management team has continued to provide a presence at all Local Authority Ward Forums to date in an effort to inform the process and show our commitment to partnership working. The Area Command has identified the ongoing problems of anti social behaviour associated with underage drinking and are tackling this on several fronts including proactive patrols of known areas of congregation, alcohol seizures, notification to parents and the introduction of a Bottle Marking Scheme which is being supported by the majority of our off-licence outlets.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

The Area Command continues to conduct regular high-profile local initiatives under the banners of Operations ELAN, ENDEAVOUR and ENVELOPE aimed at tackling public order and antisocial behaviour, particularly late night and at weekends around licensed premises. During the period there were 40 separate occasions where officers either confiscated alcohol from young persons or reported persons for breaching local byelaws in respect of alcohol in public places. The Area Command has also begun operating the fixed penalty scheme for minor disorder offences and although early days it is anticipated that there will be positive outcomes which will be reported on once a useful period of time has elapsed. Through the joint Anti Social Behaviour Partnership Group the Area Command is supporting several funding initiatives which include improved lighting in identified public hot-spots and the acquisition of Street Football equipment which has proved popular and effective in reducing disorder in other areas of Scotland. Our Community Safety Officer is currently putting proposals together for funding of a series of "Blue Light" events similar to those operating successfully in Fife which involves the provision of organised evening and weekend activities for teenagers in areas identified as being most susceptible to anti social behaviour and disorder.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Inverness

PERIOD: From: 01/08/2007 To: 30/09/2007

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 **61.3%**, this is just 0.7% below the local objective to clear up 62% of all 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, lure cycles have been deployed to tackle this crime.

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

- In August 2007, a male person was charged with 7 separate thefts from a Quarry on the outskirts of Inverness.
- In August 2007, a 27-year-old male was charged with 7 housebreakings in Inverness and Beaulieu.
- In September 2007, a 31-year-old male was charged with 8 thefts by housebreaking in Inverness following his release from prison.
- In September 2007, a number of housebreakings and fireraising were committed in Merkinch, Inverness. A positive line of enquiry is being followed and it is anticipated that a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.
- In September 2007, an 18-year-old male was charged with 5 thefts of bags and property from Inverness College.

Crimes 1 to 5 have increased by **6.3% or 197 crimes**. Class 5 crimes including drug related cases have increased from 940 to 1072 and is where most of the increase in crime has occurred and is indicative of our robust stance in relation to drugs misuse.

Overall there has been many positive trends in terms of crime levels and it is encouraging to note a reduction in crimes of vandalism from **828 to 783** which is attributed to the sound partnership working and visible policing model in the area.

Directed Patrol Matrix Policing continues to be utilised to improve Police visibility in the City, with a focus upon partnership working and problem solving policing. Shops in Inverness City Centre will be visited to reinforce the crime prevention message in the run-up to Christmas and a high profile anti crime initiative will continue as we strive to reduce crime levels.

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 77.6%. On a positive note serious crimes of violence **fell from 97 to 84** and we will strive to reduce these types of crimes through partnership working particularly in the city centre and high visibility policing at “hot spots” at peak periods during weekends.

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

- In September 2007, a 17-year-old male was apparently glassed to the head in Westhill, Inverness and the victim sustained lacerations. A 19-year-old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for serious assault.
- In September 2007, a 36-year-old male assaulted a 41-year-old female within an address in Merkinch, Inverness, by stabbing her in the arm and leg with a kitchen knife. The accused has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- In September 2007, a 28-year-old male allegedly injected a 39-year-old male with heroin within toilets at the Eastgate Shopping Centre, Inverness. The 39-year-old male died shortly after this. The 28-year-old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for culpable homicide.

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 01/10/2007, the number of these offences recorded in the Inverness Area Command was 127 (objective: 230).

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

- In August 2007, a 36-year-old male was stopped whilst driving in Hilton, Inverness, and found to be in possession of 66 suspected ecstasy tablets and 36.7 grams of suspected amphetamine.
- In September 2007, four males were searched in the city centre at which time one of the males attempted to swallow a bag containing 14 wraps of suspected heroin.
- In September 2007, a 23-year-old female was found in possession of approximately 12.5 grams of suspected heroin in the city centre.
- In September 2007, a 30-year-old female and 42-year-old male were found to be growing a 5' tall Cannabis plant within their home address in Raigmore, Inverness.
- In September 2007, a small box containing 8 small sealed bags of suspected heroin was found in a garden in Raigmore, Inverness. The bags contained a total of 109.6 grams of suspected heroin, worth approximately £15,000.

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, compared with the mean for the period 1994 – 1998. Up to 01/10/2007, there have been 21 people killed or seriously injured as a result of road accidents in the area.

Some **2,730 road traffic offences** have been detected with a focus upon speeding, drink/drug driving, failing to wear seat belts and 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 01/10/2007, there had been **145 drunk drivers caught**.

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 01/10/2007, there had been **5 drug drivers caught**.

Over the review period there was one fatal road traffic collision and 3 serious injury road traffic collisions. This is slightly down on the same period last year when there was one fatal road traffic collision and 4 serious injury road traffic collisions.

Drink driving continues to affect the Inverness Area Command. During the review period, 79 drink drivers were detected. This is down on the same period last year when 93 drink drivers were detected. During the review period 2 drug drivers were detected. This is up on the same period last year when only one drug driver was detected.

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.

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 following structure has been put in place to develop Community Beat Policing and the dedicated officers are as follows:

Sergeant Vincent Tough, Community Beat Sergeant
Constable Alan Lewthwaite, Dalneigh, Scorguie and Kinmylies
Constable Ian Buchanan, Merkinch
Constable Connie Sinclair, Merkinch
Constable Donald Ferrier, Crown and Lochardil
Constable Fiona Michie, Raigmore and Drakies

Constable Gary Taylor, Hilton and Milton
Constable Norman Kinnaird, Culloden and Smithton
Constable Paula Lloyd, City Centre

These officers continue to be tasked to develop local solutions to local problems as part of a problem solving approach and intelligence led policing.

During the review period, the Area Command was involved in a variety of public protection issues, particularly in conjunction with other agencies. There were 43 child protection enquiries involving a variety of issues/offences. There were also 69 domestic abuse cases during this period.

During the review period there has been a large number of persons reported missing. There were 7 high-risk missing persons, 117 medium risk-missing persons, 26 low risk-missing persons, and 16 unauthorised missing persons. This continues to be very resource intensive for the Area Command.

Youths congregating and underage drinking continues to be a challenge particularly at weekends. There have been several high profile incidents in the City including major fires at the old Craig Dunain Hospital, the Old Youth Hostel and the old British Telecom Building on Academy Street, Inverness. Persons have been charged and arrested in connection with the fires at Craig Dunain and the old British Telecom Building and the fire at the old Youth Hostel is still under investigation.

A 'Ring Round' facility is currently being developed for the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. New CCTV cameras have been installed at Stephens Brae, Market Brae Steps and Stephens Street. Street Pastors are being trained to operate in Inverness and a draft protocol between Street Pastors and Northern Constabulary has been developed. Initiatives are also ongoing with the Inverness Crime Prevention Panel and Safe Inverness. **A number of initiatives continue to be developed to improve public safety including Plastic glasses, Taxi Marshals, Best Bar None, Pub Watch, Safer Late Night Buses and Retail Security Teams.**

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

During the period there has been some 2,191 public order related offences detected compared to 1,817 for the same period last year. Increased police visibility at peak periods has led to increased detections particularly in relation to public order, drunkenness, underage drinking and public drinking.

The detection rate for these types of crimes stands at 88.4%. There has been an increase in minor assaults and anti social behaviour continues to be resource intensive in the Inverness Area Command. In particular, breaches of the peace and drunkenness are problematic in the Area Command. Over the review period, Fixed Penalty Notices for anti social behaviour have been introduced and have been utilised to good effect reducing time spent on reporting procedures and court to the benefit of front line policing. In addition, pro-active Curfew Checks and identification of Bail Offenders will hopefully reduce repeat offending in the longer term.

The mobile CCTV vehicle continues to be deployed to those areas where no fixed coverage is available and this has proved to be useful in terms of prevention, disruption and detection.

Over the forthcoming period, high profile football matches are scheduled to take place at the Tulloch Caledonian Stadium, Inverness including two Category A matches against Celtic and Rangers. There are also plans being discussed in relation to a Hogmanay event in the city centre and an event to celebrate the end of Highland Year of Culture 2007.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn

PERIOD: From: 01/08/07 To: 30/09/07

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Area Command detection rate for class 1–5 crimes was 62.8% at 30 September 2007. The local objective is to clear up 63% of all groups 1–5 crimes and offences by the end of 2007/2008 in line with the Force objective. Akin to other Area Commands, this figure is affected by volume crime such as vandalism.

The number of Group 1-4 crimes reported up to 30th September 2007 is 580. At the same period last year the number reported stood at 600. This represents a slight increase since 2006.

On 3rd August 2007, following a routine stop on the A9 involving a white van, 18kg of tobacco and 12,600 cigarettes were seized. Officers from Badenoch and Strathspey thereafter worked with HM Revenue and Customs Officers on further intelligence gleaned.

On 17th August 2007, following a report of a male acting suspiciously within a car park in the west end of Nairn, a male and female were subsequently searched and a large quantity of cocaine and ecstasy was recovered.

On 19th September 2007, following a routine check on the A9 near Kinveachy, two male occupants were arrested following the recovery of a large quantity of cash and implements used to overcome security of gaming machines.

On 27th August 2007, following a routine check of a Mercedes car on the A9 near Aviemore, a male occupant was arrested for disqualified driving and associated offences. On searching the vehicle a large quantity of amphetamine, ecstasy, valium and LSD were recovered.

On 30th August 2007, following a routine broadcast from police at Leeds, a vehicle was traced on the A9 near Aviemore and two children were removed to a place of safety. The parents were allowed to continue on their way.

On 20th September 2007, following a report of two males acting suspiciously at a hydro electric compound in Aviemore, police officers were able to track the youths who were subsequently arrested for theft of copper wire and scrap metal from that area.

On 28th September 2007, a male person was searched on the High Street, Nairn, under the misuse of drugs legislation and a large quantity of ecstasy was recovered.

A 42 year old Nairn male was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment following his appearance at Inverness Sheriff Court on charges of theft.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

During August and September 2007, 31 stop searches for drugs were carried out in the Area Command with 9 proving positive.

The detection rate for serious/violent crimes stands at 96.3%, which is an excellent result against the 90% target.

The number of reported class 1 crimes this year is 27. At this stage last year the figure was 20. This represents a 26% increase in this crime type.

On 4th August 2007, whilst on patrol in the Fishertown area of Nairn, two males were arrested for attempted theft as they tried to hotwire and unlawfully remove a Ford Ka.

On 8th August 2007, as a result of her supplying alcohol to a 15 year old female and thereafter leaving her at the bandstand, Nairn, a 17 year old female was reported for cruel and unnatural treatment.

On 8th August 2007, following a routine broadcast from North Wales Police of the escape of a violent offender, the 42 year old male was traced to the High Street in Nairn, arrested and conveyed back to North Wales.

On 8th September 2007, following the death of a 42 year old male in Kingussie, a 37 year old female and a 58 year old male were charged with misuse of drugs offences and culpable homicide.

On 14th September 2007, following a report from a 20 year old Polish female that she had been abducted and assaulted by her ex-boyfriend, a 21 year old Polish male was apprehended and charged with these offences.

Following his being charged with assault on High Street, Nairn, a 42 year old male was sentenced to 12 months probation and ordered to carry out 120 hours unpaid work.

A 17 year old male from Gollanfield, Nairn, was sentenced to 240 hours community service for setting fire to toilets at the Links area of Nairn.

As a result of his involvement in a large scale disturbance in Grantown on Spey, a 20 year old male from Edinburgh was charged with Assault to Injury whilst on bail and was sentenced to 4 months in a Young Offenders Institution.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the period 107 drivers were issued with conditional offers of fixed penalties for motoring offences including speeding, failure to wear a seatbelt and mobile phone offences.

During the period 9 drink drivers were caught throughout the Command Area. The highest recorded count was 117 micro grams. Four of these drivers appeared in court from custody.

Between 24th and 26th August 2007, the Harley Davidson Owners Group (Thunder in the Glens) Rally took place in Badenoch and Strathspey. On the ride out on Saturday over 1000 bikes were present.

On 24th August 2007, a 44 year old male rider of a motor cycle was fatally injured.

A 22 year old male was fined £750 and disqualified for 2 years having been caught driving whilst disqualified.

A 49 year old male was fined £500 and disqualified for a year having been caught driving dangerously.

As a result of having been caught whilst over the limit a 60 year old male was fined £450 and disqualified for 4 years.

Work continues with the Kingussie young drivers to secure funding for them to access Pass Plus driving progression. In addition, staff within the Area Command have now received training in the use of a decibel meter which will be used to target noisy exhausts. Vehicles with these fitted can record noise levels louder than a jumbo jet at take off and represent a number of community safety concerns.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

During the period an awareness night was held at Aviemore Police Station. Invitations were sent to community councils, doctors and other interested parties, and those attending received inputs on firearms, search, terrorism, the role of the family liaison officer and police resourcing. A further night is planned for the Nairn area.

The Area Command Submission rate for crime reports to the Procurator Fiscal within time scales currently stands at 83% which exceeds the Force objective.

At 30 September 2007 the number of reported vandalism stood at 270. The same period last year recorded 227 incidents reported. The Area Command as a whole has continued to suffer from vandalism, although it is important to point out that 46.9% of these crimes were detected as compared to the Force average of 38.6%

As the result of a fall in the hills of Ben Alder, a 43 year old male from Aberdeen was fatally injured.

On 4th September 2007, police received a report of a missing person in the Laggan area of Badenoch. Following extensive enquiries he was traced safe and well in Essex.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

There were no racially aggravated offences reported during the period.

On 11th September 2007, following an allegation of indecent assault which led to extensive police enquires, a 17 year old female and an 18 year old female from the Nairn area were charged with wasting police time.

Work continued into the planning of the Scottish National Party Conference at MacDonald Aviemore Highland Resort which is due to take place between 26-28 October 2007.

Operations are planned to take place during October and November 2007 to address anti social behaviour issues associated with Halloween and fireworks events. Media publicity and high profile patrols at known problem locations and times will be utilised.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Lochaber

PERIOD: From: 1 August 2007 To: 30 September 2007

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Area Command detection rate for crimes class 1–5 is currently 68% against a Force average of 62.3%. Once again vandalism appears to be the one problem area.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

On 01/08/07, a 20 year old drunk female was seen at Fort William Police Station where she made an allegation of rape. A named male was detained in connection with the allegation and it was soon established that the original allegation was false. The female was subsequently arrested in connection with this and was sentenced to 200 hours community service.

On 25/08/07, enquiries were instigated into the embezzlement of £17,465 from a Fort William bank branch. The male bank employee is currently under investigation for this crime.

On 05/09/07, a 36 year old male was attacked at a Fort William Travellers site by a 46 year old male. The victim was struck repeatedly on the head with a hammer and was treated in hospital for a fractured skull. The accused was traced, interviewed and cautioned and charged with Attempted Murder. He is currently on Bail.

On 22/09/07, A 40 year old male was assaulted and robbed in the Plantation area of Fort William. He sustained kicks to his face and head and was treated at the Belford Hospital. The victims carry-out was the target of the robbery. An 18 year old male was arrested for this crime and is currently on Bail in the Glasgow area. Enquiries continue to trace other suspects.

On 25/09/07, a 17 year old male was arrested after attempting to 'ring the changes' at numerous retail premises in Fort William. This is increasingly common, where the suspect attempts to confuse shop staff by requesting to change large denomination notes for smaller ones and by slight of hand attempts to short change the retailer.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the period 1st August–30th September, there were 3 serious injury road accidents and 16 slight injury road accidents. There was one fatal road accident recorded.

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.

On 02/09/07, a 45 year old male motor cyclist was fatally injured following a collision with a car on the A82 south of Fort William.

On 12/09/07, an 18 year old Mallaig man reported his car stolen to the local Police. After extensive enquiries, it was concluded that the man had lied to the Police and that his car had not been stolen. He has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 20/09/07, a 34 year old male was driving his van in the Lochside area of Fort William. He was driving entirely on the wrong side of the road and collided head on with an oncoming vehicle. He has been processed and charged with drug driving. Alcohol was not a factor.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Lochaber Drugs and Alcohol Forum are presently preparing a bid to the Highland Council Community Safety Unit, in relation to a Drama Project with the theme Drugs and Alcohol. This drama will involve an outreach worker from Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, researching material with other agencies locally, to prepare and deliver a drama to Primary 7, Secondary 1 and 2 in schools throughout Lochaber. The idea stems from the recent success of the Vandalism Drama.

Members of Lochaber Pubwatch continue to meet and deal with incidents of anti social behaviour within licensed premises.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

On 10/08/07, a male who had been accused of sexually abusing his step daughters tried to gain access to the family home. He was arrested for breaching his Bail Order.

On 10/08/07, a male was reported to be pointing a hand gun at a person in Mallaig. Following an appropriate Police response, a male person was arrested. He is currently on Bail in connection with this. The gun turned out to be a BB replica.

On 15/08/07, a report was received of womens underwear having been stolen from a washing line in Mallaig. The following day another similar report was received. On 01/09/07, a male person was arrested for a Breach of the Peace following his bizarre behaviour in a café in Mallaig. It was found that he was also responsible for the thefts of the underwear. On 04/09/07, the same male was arrested having been seen climbing up a rone pipe in Mallaig, attempting to gain access to a house and on 05/09/07 he was found in a house in Banavie by the female householder. The male had prepared a bed for sleeping and was in the process of going into the lady's shower. In all he received 40 days imprisonment.

On 27/08/07, a male person was detained outside Fort William Police Station under the Misuse of Drugs legislation and was found in possession of 2.5 grams of heroin with a street value of £190.

On 31/08/07, a 20 year old male was investigated and charged with unlawful sexual intercourse with a 15 year old female. The male plead guilty and is now an RSO.

On 06/09/07, a 40 year old male was stop checked by uniform officers in the town centre area of Fort William. Due to his demeanour, he was searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act and found to be in possession of 90 Ecstasy tablets, worth £450.

On 22/09/07, in the Plantation area of Fort William, an 18 year old male was found in possession of a Tazar type weapon and a wrap of cocaine. A court case is pending for this individual.

On 23/09/07, following an intelligence led operation, a 30 year old male was stop searched on North Road, Fort William. He was found in possession of 40 Ecstasy tablets worth £200.