

**NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**30 MARCH 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

## **SHETLAND COMMAND AREA**

**1 January 2007 – 28 February 2007**

STOLEN VEHICLES REPORTED	1
SUDDEN DEATHS ATTENDED	3
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	4
FIRES ATTENDED	12

### **NOTABLE CRIMES**

Following deployment of Police drug sniffer dogs at Lerwick Post Office, a package containing a quantity of Class C controlled drugs was identified. The recipient of the package was subsequently traced and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following discovery of the bodies of a husband and his wife in a house at Burra, a major police enquiry was conducted. As a result of the enquiry no third party is being sought in connection with the deaths. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following report of the theft of firearms from a house in the Walls, two men have been apprehended. The stolen weapons were recovered and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

A police enquiry commenced following report of serious vandalism and malicious damage to the interior of a cabin onboard a Northlink Ferry, which was en-route from Aberdeen to Lerwick. A passenger was identified as being responsible and a report sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following receipt of intelligence, a man was detained on arrival at Sumburgh Airport. The man was searched and found to be in possession of a quantity of both Class A and Class B controlled drugs. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

### **NOTABLE INCIDENTS**

A fire involving an oxy-acetylene cylinder was reported at the Malakoff Shipyard in Lerwick. Following advice from officers of Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service (HIFRS), the surrounding area was evacuated for a period of 24 hours to allow the cylinder to cool down naturally. Approximately 200 people were evacuated from their homes and business and the main road through the town was closed. The following day the area was declared safe by HIFRS and a return to normality ensued. This incident demonstrated the value of close partnership working between all agencies.

A suspicious package was discovered at Scatsta Airport. Police attended and found what appeared to be a quantity of baker's yeast discarded outside the terminal building. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the source. At the present time this is being treated as a false alarm with good intent.

A man from the London area reported, via his mobile telephone, that he had got into difficulties whilst walking on Ronas Hill, north Shetland, in the most atrocious weather conditions. Following an extensive search, involving over 60 people, the man was located, suffering from hypothermia, and removed to hospital in Lerwick where he made a full recovery.

## **NOTABLE INITIATIVES**

The project, driven under the auspices of the Shetland Community Safety Partnership, to provide a Town Centre CCTV system for Lerwick continues to make good progress. Command Area and Local Authority Community Safety staff are jointly overseeing the planning phase and the project remains on target to 'go live' by the summer of this year.

The byelaw to prohibit the drinking of alcohol in public places in Lerwick has finally been given the approval of Scottish Executive Ministers. It came into force on 2 March 2007 and initially there will be a one month awareness-raising or educational phase before it is fully enforced. Members will be kept updated on its effect in future reports.

## **NOTABLE CONVICTIONS**

A Registered Sex Offender appeared at Lerwick Sheriff Court having travelled to Shetland in breach of conditions of his Sexual Offences Prevention Order. He was sentenced to 8 months imprisonment.

A man appeared at Lerwick Sheriff Court where he pled guilty to the theft of a safe and its contents from post office premises. He awaits sentence.

A man appeared at Lerwick Sheriff Court where he pled guilty to a number of offences including contraventions of the Misuse of Drugs Act, possession of stolen property, theft, theft by shoplifting, theft by housebreaking, assault, breach of his bail conditions and various non-appearances at court. He was sentenced to 8 months imprisonment.

A man appeared at Lerwick Sheriff Court where he pled guilty to an assault to severe injury. He was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment.

A man appeared at Lerwick Sheriff Court and pled guilty to being concerned in the supply of Class A controlled drugs. He was sentenced to 7 months imprisonment.

## **MISSING PERSONS PROFILE**

During the period under review 4 reports of missing persons were made to the Police in Shetland. The following indicates the types of incidents reported:

1. 3 incidents of teenagers / youths failing to return home by deadlines set by parents / guardians.
2. 1 incident was a 'false alarm with good intent' consisting of a well-meaning report from friends / relatives who had concerns regarding the well being of the individual.
3. The case of the Unst man, Sandy MacAulay, missing since October 2006, remains outstanding despite extensive enquiries in Shetland, nationally and internationally. At this stage in the enquiry there is no evidence of a criminal element in relation to his disappearance.

## **ORKNEY AREA COMMAND**

**Period: 1 January 2007 - 28 February 2007**

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	0
SUDDEN DEATHS ATTENDED	2
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	1 (traced safe and well)
FIRES ATTENDED	0

### **NOTABLE CRIMES**

It is pleasing to report that, although there were a wide range of more minor crimes and offences, there were relatively few serious crimes. These included a serious fraud and a number of child protection enquiries. Of particular note throughout the review period was the overall reduction in reported crime, in particular vandalism and dishonesty. It is also of note that incidents of internet related crime, in particular fraud, are increasing.

During February 2007, a man under the influence of alcohol entered a bank in Kirkwall and demanded money, stating that he had a firearm. He was arrested and subsequently sentenced to six weeks imprisonment for breach of the peace. No money was taken and no persons were injured as a result of the incident. He was not in possession of a firearm.

Two youths were arrested in late February 2007 for taking and driving away two motor vehicles and for numerous road traffic offences.

### **NOTABLE INCIDENTS**

During the review period, more irresponsible drivers were dealt with across the County in relation to drink driving offences. Several drivers had alcohol counts exceeding four times the legal limit. Of particular note was a woman from Westray who seriously injured herself following a road crash in Westray during September 2005.

During February 2007, the police attended an industrial accident in Stromness, when a man seriously injured his hand in a processing machine. Initial enquiries were carried out by the Police on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive.

### **NOTABLE CONVICTIONS**

During January 2007, at Kirkwall Sheriff Court, a Kirkwall man pled guilty to dangerous driving and was disqualified from driving for 18 months, required to resit his driving test and fined £3500, following a road crash in Orphir in May 2006. He

admitted to driving his vehicle at excessive speed, which was calculated at 109 mph, following a detailed collision reconstruction and analysis.

Following a three day trial at Kirkwall Sheriff Court in February 2007, a man living in St Margaret's Hope was convicted of a series of credit card frauds committed in Orkney and elsewhere during 2005. This man is currently on remand awaiting sentence.

### **NOTABLE INITIATIVES**

During the review period significant work was carried out by the Area Command and partner agencies in preparing for the joint multi-agency inspection of services to protect children. This inspection commenced in late February 2007 and is being led by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, supported by Inspectors from Social Work, Police and the NHS. Fieldwork will continue into March 2007 amongst all the agencies and other interested parties, after which a detailed report will be produced, which will highlight how well all the relevant agencies work together in protecting children.

During the review period Operation Kaliber continued with regular and significant seizures of alcohol from youngsters. A number of individuals and licensees were also reported to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to the supply of alcohol to underage people.

Throughout the review period a number of antisocial behaviour orders and acceptable behaviour contracts were successfully implemented in partnership with Orkney Islands Council and other agencies.

## **WESTERN ISLES AREA COMMAND**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	2
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	8
MISSING PERSONS REPORTS	17
FIRES ATTENDED	8

### **NOTABLE CRIMES**

Police were notified on 18<sup>th</sup> January by Social Work of concerns relating to a 4 yr old boy from Tong, Isle of Lewis, who had been treated at Western Isles Hospital the previous day after having allegedly fallen from a 1<sup>st</sup> floor window. Joint Police and Social Work inquiry indicated that the boy had allegedly been deliberately dropped out of the window. A 25 yr old female was subsequently arrested and appeared in Court on a charge of Attempted Murder. She is currently on bail awaiting trial.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Police received a report relating to thefts from two elderly females living in South Lochs. Following enquires and the execution of a warrant at the home of the suspect, a 31 yr old female residing on the Isle of Lewis was arrested and charged with theft. Enquiries are continuing to establish the full amount of monies stolen.

A search warrant was executed on a small commercial premises within Stornoway on 25<sup>th</sup> January. Various paraphernalia associated with illicit drug-taking were found and seized. A 32 yr old female from Stornoway was duly charged with an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

During the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> January, a Ford Transit van was stolen from outside a commercial garage in Stornoway by three teenage male youths. The van was later traced relatively undamaged, abandoned on the foreshore of Sandwick Road Cemetery. All three youths were subsequently traced and charged with their involvement in the theft of the vehicle.

During the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> January, a 28 yr old male from Stornoway telephoned the APU ward at Western Isles Hospital requesting admission. On being told the correct procedure for admission he intimated that he had a gun and would use it. Police were contacted and the Area Commander became directly involved in his role as Police Negotiator. The matter was subsequently resolved without incident, with the male found not to be in possession of any firearm. The male was arrested for Breach of the Peace and is to be assessed by APU medical staff.

During the early hours of 29<sup>th</sup> January, a serious assault took place during a drink-fuelled stramash within a flat in Stornoway. A 27 yr old male assaulted a 30 yr old

male with a slater's axe, resulting in a fracture to the victim's skull. The perpetrator appeared in Court the following day and is currently on remand awaiting trial.

A 21 yr old male from Point, Isle of Lewis, was detained on the afternoon of 29<sup>th</sup> January on suspicion of perpetrating numerous frauds at various boarding houses within Stornoway. He had obtained accommodation at various lodging establishments with neither the means nor intention to pay. He was subsequently charged with 6 counts of fraud, 1 theft, 1 breach of the peace and 2 Road Traffic offences. He pled guilty to all offences at Court the following day and is currently awaiting sentencing.

Following a male being detained on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at Ullapool Ferry Terminal and other intelligence received, a search warrant was executed at an address in Plasterfield, Isle of Lewis. Personal quantities of cannabis and amphetamines were immediately recovered. A further suspicious package was also recovered and found to contain quantities of cocaine, amphetamine and ecstasy. The 'street' value of drugs within the package amounted to approximately £4000. A 34 yr old female and the male are to be reported to the Procurator Fiscal for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

### **NOTABLE INCIDENTS**

The Western Isles endured severe gales on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January. All vulnerable bridges and causeways were monitored by Police and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. There was relatively little disruption, although the Scalpay bridge in Harris was closed to all traffic for part of the afternoon on 11<sup>th</sup> January and to high-sided vehicles for most of 12<sup>th</sup> January.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January, a two vehicle road traffic accident occurred on the A866 Stornoway to Portnaguran road, close to the Melbost junction. Police, Ambulance and Fire Service all attended, with the road being closed to traffic for approximately 2 ½ hours. Five casualties were taken to the Western Isles Hospital. Following Police enquiry into the circumstances, a 19 yr old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for dangerous driving.

On the morning of 4<sup>th</sup> February, a house in Sheshader, Point, Isle of Lewis, was extensively damaged by fire. Highlands & Islands Fire Rescue Service attended and fought the blaze for approximately 4 hours before finally extinguishing the fire. Fortunately the two occupants were able to escape without injury. The cause is believed to be a faulty electric blanket and there are no suspicious circumstances.

During the early hours of 24<sup>th</sup> February, an alarming road traffic accident occurred at Mossend/ Simons Road junction on the outskirts of Stornoway. A motor car travelling on Mossend road attempted to turn right onto Constable Road but lost control and mounted the verge, demolished a street lamp-post, collided with a farm fence and street name-sign before landing on its roof and rolling onto the offside, facing the way it had been travelling. The lamp-post was hit with such force that it landed on the verge, about 30 metres away. A 24 yr old male appeared at Court on road traffic and disorder charges. He was fined a total of £1350, disqualified from driving for 18 months and had his licence endorsed.

## **NOTABLE INITIATIVES.**

NEW DRUGS DOG – During the period, substantial funding has been received to finance the provision of a drugs dog & handler, kennel and training, for use - full-time - within the Western Isles Command Area. An officer, PC Neil MacDonald, has been identified for the position of dog handler, whilst ‘Roxy’ - a 13 month Cocker Spaniel - has been sourced as the area’s drugs dog. Both will undergo the required training over the next few months. A formal launch took place at Stornoway Airport on 6<sup>th</sup> March and was attended by the First Minister, Jack McConnell. This initiative is looked upon as being a vital step in combating the supply of controlled drugs into, and within, the Western Isles.

OPERATION HORN – During this period, the two-man pro-active team continued to concentrate on offences such as vandalism, the misuse of controlled drugs and the supply of alcohol to youths. A number of vandalisms from the early part of 2006/07 have now been detected as a result of these efforts.

ROAD SAFETY DVD - A new film aimed at raising awareness of the many issues facing new, young and inexperienced drivers in the Western Isles has been launched; funded by the Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership. The DVD is called ‘Freedom...In A Way’ (Saorsa...Ann An Doigh) and was launched at the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007. Northern Constabulary have been working with the Community Safety partnership on the creation of the DVD, which further builds on the Road Safety Event held in Stornoway during September 2006. The DVD has been recorded in a mixture of English and Gaelic by MAC TV Stornoway. The DVD is now being shown to all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students in the Western Isles as part of the continued Road Safety education programme.

CONFISCATIONS – There have been no drug asset confiscations during this period.

## **NOTABLE CONVICTIONS**

On 8<sup>th</sup> January a 35 year old male was fined £2000 for Assault.

On 8<sup>th</sup> January a 23 year old male was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment and disqualified from driving for 4 years for refusing to provide specimens of breath for analysis and dangerous driving.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January a 27 year old male was fined a total of £700 for Theft and 3 charges of Fraud (Electronic Means).

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January a 50 year old male was fined £750 for Breach of the Peace.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January a 47 year old male was fined £750 and disqualified from driving for 4 years for refusing to supply a blood sample.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January a 17 year old male was fined £500 and given Restriction of Liberty Order for 6 months for Breach of the peace.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January a 34 year old male was fined a total of £1750 for 3 charges of Breach of the Peace, 2 charges of Vandalism and one charge of resisting arrest.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January a 52 year old male was fined a total of £900 for Breach of the Peace and Assault. A £300 Compensation Order was also imposed.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January a 24 year old male was sentenced to a total of 5 months imprisonment for refusing to leave licensed premises, 2 charges of Breach of the Peace, Assault and Resisting Arrest.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January a 32 year old male was fined a total of £750 for Breach of the Peace, Resisting Arrest and Breach of Bail Order.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January a 28 year old male was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for 2 charges of Assault.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January a 20 year old male was sentenced to 3 months detention for Assault to Injury and Disfigurement and for Breaching his Restriction of Liberty Order.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February a 40 year old male was fined £750 for possession of controlled drugs.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February a 43 year old male was fined £2000 for being concerned in the supplying of cannabis resin.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February a 34 year old male had a 200 hour Community Service Order imposed and was disqualified from driving for 5 years for drunk driving. He will also have to resit his driving test at the end of his disqualification period.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February a 17 year old male was given a 2 year Probation Order and ordered to pay £1500 to the Social Work Department after pleading guilty to having unlawful sexual intercourse with a 15 year old girl.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February a 20 year old male fined £500 and disqualified from driving for 18 months for drunk driving.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February a 43 year old male fined £600 and disqualified from driving for 2 years for drunk driving.

On 19<sup>th</sup> February a 31 year old male was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for charges of Breach of the Peace, making Criminal Threats and Police Assault.

On 21<sup>st</sup> February an 18 year old male was sentenced to 4 months detention for Breach of the Peace, Vandalism and Resisting Arrest. He was also sentenced to 6 months detention for 2 charges of Police Assault and one of Resisting Arrest.

On 21<sup>st</sup> February a 41 year old male was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for Assault to Severe Injury.

On 21<sup>st</sup> February a 51 year old male was fined £1000 and disqualified from driving for 18 months for drunk driving.

On 26<sup>th</sup> February a 24 year old male was fined a total of £1350 for careless driving, failing to provide a sample of breath for analysis, and being abusive to medical staff who were treating him. He was also disqualified from driving for 18 months.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February an 18 year old male was sentenced to 3 months detention for 2 charges of Vandalism and one of Resisting Arrest.

### **MISSING PERSONS PROFILE**

During the period a total of 17 reports of missing persons were made to the Police. The following indicates the types of incidents reported:

11 incidents of youths failing to return home when expected. All were traced safe and well. Of these incidents, 5 relate to the same 15 yr old female truanting from the Nicolson Institute, whilst 3 incidents relate to occasions whereby another 15 yr old female left home without her parents' knowledge/ consent.

1 incident relates to a 28 year old male absconding from the APU Ward at the Western Isles Hospital, against a Temporary Detention Order. The male suffers from psychotic/ paranoid tendencies and was considered to be a 'high risk' missing person. He later returned to the ward on his own volition and was subsequently sectioned and transferred to New Craigs Hospital, Inverness, by medical staff.

1 incident relates to a 34 yr old male patient suffering from depression leaving the Western Isles Hospital without permission. He was traced safe and well by Police and returned for treatment.

1 incident related to a 36 yr old female and her 16 yr old daughter - both resident on the West Side of the Isle of Lewis - being reported missing by a family member. They were both traced safe and well locally, simply having failed to notify family members where they were going.

2 further incidents also related to adult females being reported missing by family members. Both were traced safe and well.

1 incident related to a missing person enquiry raised by Warwickshire Police in connection with a 31 yr old female currently resident on the Isle of Lewis. She was traced by local Police and found to be safe and well.

## **CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND AREA COMMAND**

**1<sup>st</sup> January – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	2
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	18
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	29
FIRES ATTENDED	9

### **NOTABLE CRIMES**

Following a disturbance in Wick Town Centre a number of persons were assaulted whilst on a night out. One man was seriously injured by a male who was later apprehended by police and reported to the Procurator Fiscal for 3 charges of serious assault.

An armed robbery was carried out at a shop in Thurso by two men in the early hours of 8 January 2007. The Manager was held at knife point before being left tied up and a four figure sum was stolen. One suspect has been arrested and was remanded at Wick Sheriff Court on 18/1/2007. Enquiries are ongoing with regard to the second suspect.

Two Wick men were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for reset following the theft of fence wire. Enquiries were carried out into this theft which led to the men being identified and a crime report being submitted.

Numerous other thefts of fence wire and fuel took place during January and February in Caithness but as of this date no persons have as yet been identified for these crimes although enquiries continue.

Following the report of a disturbance where a man was brandishing a knife, police attended at an address in Golspie where a 28 year old man was arrested and appeared in court charged with attempted murder. He was released on bail to appear on Petition at a future date.

A housebreaking was carried out at a hotel in Castletown where a three figure sum of money was stolen. Enquiries are continuing and a definite line of enquiry has been established.

A report was received at Brora Police Station that a man had been assaulted by a youth on two occasions in the same evening. The attacker used a golf club as a weapon in the assault. Police attended and the youth was arrested and has appeared in court charged with serious assault. He has been bailed pending further court appearance.

Following a spate of vandalism incidents in Thurso, enquiries were carried out which resulted in five youths being reported to the Reporter to the Children's Panel for over-16 offences.

A Drugs Search Warrant was executed at an address in Wick and a man was detained and interviewed following the discovery of a quantity of suspected amphetamine, sufficient to suggest he is concerned in the supply of controlled substances. He has been released meantime pending analysis.

A 37 year old female telephoned Dornoch Police Station to report that she had stabbed her husband. Police attended and following enquiries, the female was arrested and appeared in court charged with attempted murder, although injuries were not life threatening. She was released on bail pending future court appearance.

A disturbance took place on the Cemetery Road, Wick, whereby a young 14 year old female was seriously assaulted by two other young females. Following enquiries a report has been submitted to the Reporter to the Children's Panel in Thurso.

Following a party at a house in Wick, several youths were involved in a fight in which one youth was badly beaten by two others. Police were called and following enquiries a 21 year old man has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal, charged with serious assault. Enquiries continue to establish the identity of the second male.

Following a report of a serious child protection issue involving internet grooming, a 28 year old Edinburgh male was identified and subsequently arrested for a number of serious sexual offences against a 13 year old and a 15 year old female in Caithness and Inverness. The male appeared from custody at Wick Sheriff Court on Petition and a date for trial has been set.

### **NOTABLE INCIDENTS**

On 26 February 2007 a male person was reported missing from his work place on a local farm near Wick. Extensive enquiries were carried out both locally and countrywide over a two week period. The man has now been located safe and well in the Grampian Police area.

A local farmer, whilst stalking deer in Braehour Forest, by Scotscalder, found the body of a man lying in a secluded spot in the Forest. Police were alerted and with the assistance of the Forestry Commission the remains were recovered from a relatively inaccessible area. Documentation was found at the scene and enquiries are ongoing to confirm the identity of the man.

### **NOTABLE INITIATIVES**

**Wick CCTV** – Funding has been identified from various sources to expand the four-camera Wick CCTV System to include a further eight cameras and monitoring equipment at identified locations and crime hot spots within Wick. This represents a further investment of approximately £100,000 to combat crime in Caithness.

**Standards for Community Engagement Training Day** - A series of seminars has taken place in Caithness to promote the Standards for Community Engagement. Several officers including Area Commander, Area Inspectors and Community Safety Officer have attended along with members of other statutory and voluntary agencies, it is anticipated other seminars will follow.

**Youth Underage Drinking Initiative** – A number of off licence convenience stores in Thurso have agreed to participate in an under age drinking initiative to identify the source of purchase by youths when found in possession of alcohol. As well as the obvious health and prevention benefits, it is anticipated that this will help ascertain whether there are staff training needs within the store or to possibly identify individuals who are purchasing the alcohol and further supplying it to the youths

### **NOTABLE CONVICTIONS.**

A male resident in Wick received 34 months imprisonment for theft, housebreaking reset, and possession of controlled drugs. The sentencing Sheriff described him as being responsible for a mini crime wave in Wick.

A male resident in Sutherland received a 27 month sentence in relation to sexual offences committed against teenage girls over a number of years.

A former male resident of Brora, has pled guilty to a series of sexual offences and is awaiting High Court sentencing.

A man appeared at Dornoch Sheriff Court on 29/01/2007 and was sentenced to a custodial period of 8 months for abduction of his son. An appeal has since been lodged against this sentence.

A local man appeared at Dornoch Sheriff Court on 29/01/2007 and was sentenced for a period of 3 months for assault and breach of the peace..

A Bonar Bridge female was sentenced at Dornoch Sheriff Court on 29/01/2007 for drunk driving whilst in charge of a school bus. She was fined £1000 and given a 3 year disqualification.

### **MISSING PERSONS**

There were 29 instances of reported missing persons during the period under review which can be broken down into the following categories which give an indication of the type of enquiries undertaken and the difficulties encountered.

There were 15 reports from concerned parents of children either absenting themselves or failing to return at the appointed hour to the family home.

One youth was reported missing by a concerned parent following a disagreement and once located, was left in the care of grandparents.

There was 1 report from a Bed & Breakfast Proprietor when an elderly male had booked into a guesthouse and failed to book in.

There were 2 other reports of persons missing following marital disagreement.

There were 4 reports of persons with mental health care issues failing to return home.

There was 1 report of looked after young persons either missing or failing to return to the Social Work Children's Centre at Wick.

4 children were reported missing from school. One child is part of a family who appears to have gone travelling abroad for six months and attempts are still being made to locate them.

1 male was reported missing by employer when he failed to attend. The man has since been located safe and well outwith this area.

28 missing person enquiries were successfully concluded with all persons subsequently traced or accounted for. Enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the family possibly travelling abroad are still being carried out and this missing child remains outstanding meantime.

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

### **JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2007**

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	18
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	20
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	4 HIGH RISK 9 MEDIUM RISK 21 LOW RISK 11 ABSCONDERS FROM CARE
FIRES ATTENDED	4 REPORTABLE 31 NON – REPORTABLE

### **NOTABLE CRIMES**

Throughout January and February 2007 Police investigated a series of associated thefts from motor vehicles and several thefts of motor vehicles in the Alness and Invergordon areas. As a result of protracted enquiries a team of young males from these areas was identified as being responsible and they have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2007, Post Offices in Skye and Lochalsh were targeted by a criminal team of East European nationals who carried out a series of distraction thefts involving currency exchanges with a large number of currency notes. Several hundreds of pounds were acquired by this team as a result. Subsequently, the team responsible was detained in Wester Ross in respect of these crimes and other similar crimes committed in the Western Isles and Inverness-shire.

An increasing number of enquiries in relation to suspected “grooming” of young females through the Internet were undertaken during the reporting period. In particular, one such enquiry has led to a 28 year old male from Shropshire being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for sexual offences towards a 13 year old girl in the Ross-shire and Inverness-shire areas.

### **NOTABLE INCIDENTS**

About mid-day on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2007 emergency services attended at a house fire at Gordon Place, Fearn, Easter Ross. The sole occupant of the house, a 62-year-old male, died as a result of the fire. A full investigation was carried out jointly by police and fire services and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. There are no suspicious circumstances surrounding this incident.

On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2007, police attended at a two-vehicle road traffic collision on the Tain to Tarrel Road near Woody Braes where a Peugeot motor car lost control due to the icy conditions and collided with a Mitsubishi motor. The Peugeot overturned and landed partially on top of the Mitsubishi causing injury to the occupants of both

vehicles and requiring one person to be freed from her vehicle. Injuries were not life-threatening but did require hospitalisation.

During the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 emergency services were called to a collision between a motor vehicle and a northbound train at the level crossing at Delny, Easter Ross. As a result of the collision two 17-year-old youths who were passengers of the Ford Fiesta car died of their injuries. The driver of the Ford Fiesta survived the collision but sustained serious injuries. A full enquiry was conducted by Police in conjunction with Network Rail and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

In the early hours of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2007, a serious road traffic collision involving an unlawfully taken vehicle occurred near Ankerville Farm, Nigg, Easter Ross. As a result of the incident one occupant was thrown from the vehicle and the other was trapped and required to be freed by Fire and Rescue services and was subsequently treated at Raigmore Hospital for multiple fractures. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

During the period Local Child Protection Officers jointly investigated with Social services staff 29 allegations of child abuse.

During the reporting period Officers attended and investigated 67 reports of Domestic Abuse.

### **NOTABLE INITIATIVES**

An operation targeting a known drug supplier in Easter Ross has led to the individual being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for 28 offences in relation to being concerned in the supply of drugs in the Ross-shire area over the past several years.

A protracted enquiry was carried out into the ongoing anti-social behaviour of a family in Easter Ross. As a result of these enquiries, carried out in conjunction with the Immigration Services, one member of the family was found to have entered the country illegally from the United States of America. He was subsequently deported to the USA where he was wanted in connection with several serious offences.

### **NOTABLE CONVICTIONS**

In February 2007, a man was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment at the High Court sitting in Aberdeen for the rape of a woman in Dingwall in August 2004.

In February 2007, 5 men were sentenced to a total of 25 years imprisonment at the High Court sitting in Edinburgh for being concerned in the supply of heroin in the Black Isle as a result of a significant and protracted operation codenamed ÉCLAIR.

### **MISSING PERSONS**

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2007, Police began enquiries to trace a German national who was reported missing from his accommodation in Skye and for whom there were concerns

for his welfare. After 4 days, during which there were several searches involving coastguard personnel, the missing man was traced safe and well in the Staffin area.

During the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2007, Police attended to a report of a missing vulnerable 80-year-old man from Invergordon. After several hours searching he was traced near Invergordon suffering from hypothermia but otherwise unharmed.

## **INVRENESS AREA COMMAND**

**1 January 2007 – 28 February 2007**

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	- 8
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	- 26
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	- 95
REPORTABLE FIRES ATTENDED	- 12

### **NOTABLE CRIMES**

**Serious Assault** – On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 a 39 year old male was seriously assaulted within a dwelling house in the Westhill area of Inverness. The male victim was struck on the face with a bottle of beer and received treatment at the hospital. A 23 year old male was arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal for this incident.

**Serious Assault** – On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2007 a 15 year old female was arrested and cautioned and charged with Assault to permanent injury in which a 54 year old male sustained a serious eye injury. This occurred in the Raigmore housing estate area. The victim underwent reconstructive surgery but has lost the sight of his left eye. A report was submitted to the Reporter to the Children's Panel and to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Drugs** - On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2007 following a search of a house in the Merkinch area of Inverness a dealing quantity of Heroin and Cannabis Resin was recovered. Also found was an item which has been identified as a Firearm. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal regarding this incident.

**Immigration Matters – Operation Net** – On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007 officers from Northern Constabulary assisted by the United Kingdom Immigration Service attended at Commercial Premises in the Longman Industrial Estate of Inverness. Nine foreign nationals were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for immigration offences.

**Domestic Abuse – Attempted Murder** – On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2007 the police arrested a 52 year old female after she stabbed her partner with a knife. The victim aged 56 received treatment at Raigmore Hospital Inverness. His injuries were not life threatening. A report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Serious Assault** – On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2007 a 23 year old male was walking in the Crown Area with his two friends when he was attacked by a group of youths. He was hit about the head and body with planks of wood and was also kicked. Fortunately the victim sustained only cuts and bruises and was not permanently injured. Despite extensive enquiry this incident remains undetected.

**Drugs** – On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007 a house was searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act in the Hilton area of Inverness. Two kilograms of Cannabis Resin was recovered. A

35 year old female and a 29 year old male have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for this offence.

**Wilful Fireraising** – On 27th January 2007 a motor vehicle was deliberately set on fire in the South Kessock area of Inverness. A 32 year old male has been charged with this offence. The report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

**Drugs** – On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2007 a motor vehicle was stopped on the A9 at Daviot and two males and a female were found in possession of several ounces of Heroin. One of the males aged 33 was also found to be a disqualified driver. All three persons were reported to the Procurator Fiscal in Inverness.

**Serious Assault** – On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2007 a 20 year old male was walking in the Kinmylies area of Inverness when he was seriously assaulted by being struck on the face with a bottle. The victim sustained a deep laceration which required numerous stitches. This incident received extensive media publicity as the victim consented to his injuries being photographed and released to the media. As a result of the media appeal a 17 year old male was arrested and cautioned and charged with Serious Assault.

**Drugs/Drug Driving** – On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2007 a 27 year old male was stopped driving north on the A9 at Drumossie and found to be under the influence of Drugs. A search of his vehicle revealed 3 kilograms of a class B Drug. The street value of this is thirty thousand pounds.

### **NOTABLE INCIDENTS**

**Child Protection Enquiry** – On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007 a Child Protection Enquiry was commenced involving a 13 year old male who alleged he was subjected to physical and mental abuse by his father. A 33 year old male has been arrested and has been charged with numerous offences relating to incidents within the family. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal and enquiries are ongoing.

**Fatal Road Accident** – On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2007 a fatal road accident occurred on the A82 Inverness to Fort William road near to the Clansman Hotel. This was a two vehicle accident in which a 24 year old Dutch National female sustained fatal injuries. This was a head on collision between the two vehicles. A collision investigation was carried out and a report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal in Inverness.

### **MISSING PERSONS**

During the review period there have been **95** missing person reports within Inverness Area Command.

Newcraigs Hospital is responsible for a large percentage of these reports. It is anticipated that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future.

## **NOTABLE INITIATIVES**

**OPERATION NATION - The focus of this operation is to achieve sustainable crime reduction.**

(This operation is linked to Force and Local priority 1)

**OPERATION NEEDLE - The focus of this operation is the effective engagement of criminality in respect of serious and organised Crime.**

(This is linked to Force and Local priority 2)

**OPERATION NAVIGATE - The focus of this operation is to create safer roads with reduced deaths, injury and crime.**

(This is linked to Force and Local Priority 3)

**OPERATION NOTEBOOK - The focus of this operation is to increase public reassurance and confidence in the safety of our communities.**

(This is linked to Force and Local priority 4.)

At each Tactical Tasking meeting the focus is set on intelligence-led policing, creating taskings and directing resources, based on that intelligence, updating the progress of those Operations on a monthly basis.

## **NOTABLE CONVICTIONS**

The following notable convictions were passed within Edinburgh High Court and Inverness Courts during the review period as stipulated in this report.

On 24/01/07 at Edinburgh High Court a 50 year old male was sentenced to Life Imprisonment for the Murder of a female from the Hilton area of Inverness in July 2006 and also for the disposing of her body.

On 20/02/07 a 51 year old male was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with a £3,500 Compensation Order. This was in relation to the misappropriation of funds belonging to a Suicide Awareness Group. This incident received extensive media publicity as the male had forged the signature of a former MSP.

**BADENOCH, STRATHSPEY & NAIRN  
AREA COMMAND**

**1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2007 – 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	0
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	10
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	15
FIRES ATTENDED	1

**NOTABLE CRIMES**

On 16 October 2006, police received a report of the attempted theft of a motor vehicle from the Kingussie area. Following police enquiry and as a result of a DNA hit, a 21 year old male person has been traced and charged with this offence

On 12 January 2007, following interview of a 15 year old male, it was established that a holiday home in the Grantown on Spey area had been broken into and a quantity of alcohol stolen. The male along with 3 others was reported for these crimes.

On 14 January 2007, Police received a report of a break in to the Abernethy Primary School. Two computers were removed from the school and one was subsequently recovered nearby.

On 21 January 2007, a male person was found in possession of dealer quantities of amphetamine in the Nairn area. He was also in possession of about £500 and following a search of his home further drugs and about £700 were recovered.

On 22 January 2007, officers carried out a routine search of a van in Nairn and discovered a large quantity of copper. Enquiry revealed this to have been stolen in Banff. Two males arrested and enquiries continuing into several, Force-wide reports of copper thefts.

On 27 January 2007, following a routine check, two males were found in possession of a loaded air weapon. On completion of further enquiries, they were charged with firearms offences and a number of vandalisms which were carried out using the weapon.

On 17 February 2007, Police attended the report of a disturbance in the Queenspark area of Nairn. Following arrival, it was established that a 15 year old female had been stabbed in the arm by a 16 year old female following an altercation. As a result of further enquiries, a number of individuals were charged with public order offences.

On 18 February 2007, following a routine stop check on a motor vehicle in Nairn, two males were found in possession of a large quantity of ecstasy and amphetamine with a street value of over £4,000.

On 24 February 2007, as a result of a routine stop check of a vehicle on the A9 at the Slochd summit, two males were found in possession of over £90,000 of ecstasy in a pure form. The males resisted arrest violently and two members of the public stopped to give assistance.

### **NOTABLE INCIDENTS**

On 20 January 2007, whilst a member of a shooting party in the Kingussie area, a 63 year old male was accidentally shot by another member of the party using a shotgun. Luckily the injured male received only slight injuries to his hand and thigh.

On 15 January 2007, Police working in partnership with the SSPCA and National Wildlife Crime Unit seized a number of Fenn, Goshawk, Magnum and cage traps from the Grantown on Spey area.

On 9 February 2007, as part of an area command initiative, police with a passive drug scanning dog went into Nairn Academy. The operation which was run in conjunction with Highland Council Education was deemed a success.

On 14 February 2007, following a report that a badger set had been interfered with in the Kincaig area, police attended and as a result of enquiries a 57 year old male was charged with an offence under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

### **NOTABLE INITIATIVES**

The Community Safety Officer attended at Kingussie High School accompanied by a serving Cadet and spoke to pupils who had expressed an interest in joining the scheme.

Dedicated 'cycle marking' days are to be arranged in Nairn, Aviemore, Grantown and Kingussie.

Flyers to recruit Special Constables are now included in all firearms and shotgun renewal packs.

A drugs presentation was carried out at Kingussie High School for all S3 pupils.

The Community Safety Officer is currently working with Grantown Grammar School on a Driving Awareness day for S5 and S6 pupils.

Operation Magma has been introduced to tackle youth disorder within the Area Command.

## **NOTABLE CONVICTIONS**

On 4 January 2007, a 23 year old male was fined £500 for reckless discharge of a firearm.

On 8 January 2007, a 48 year old male was fined £800 and disqualified for 18 months for Sec 5 RTA 1988.

On 9 January 2007, a 50 year old female was fined £700 and disqualified from driving for 18 months for Sec 5 RTA 1988.

On 11 January 2007, a 26 year old male was fined £600 and disqualified for 12 months for Sec 5 RTA 1988.

On 18 January 2007, a 43 year old male was convicted of drink driving and fined £400 and disqualified for 3 years.

On 23 January 2007, a 32 year old male was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for wilful fireraising.

On 1 February 2007, a 50 year old male was disqualified for 4 years, received 2 years probation and ordered to do 200 hours unpaid work for Drink Driving.

On 8 February 2007, an 18 year old male was fined £400 and disqualified for 12 months for Drink Driving.

On 12 February 2007, a 60 year old male was fined £500 and disqualified for 12 months for Drink Driving.

On 13 February 2007, two drivers appeared for drink driving. The first, a 42 year old woman was fined £600 and disqualified for 2 years. The second driver, a 51 year old male was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment and disqualified for 5 years.

On 20 February 2007, a 22 year old male was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment for an offence contrary to Sexual Offences Act 2003.

On 27 February 2007, a 20 year old male was fined £400 and disqualified for 2 years for drink driving.

On 28 February 2007, a 48 year old male was fined £270 for assault.

## **MISSING PERSON PROFILE**

Of 15 Missing Person reports, twelve were found to be 16 years or less. One 14 year old female was reported missing on 5 consecutive occasions. Two were of 57 years from Kelso and 65 years from Campbeltown. Ten were female and five male. All were traced safe and well.

## **LOCHABER AREA COMMAND**

**1st January 2007 – 28th February 2007**

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	1
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	9
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	5
FIRES ATTENDED	3

### **NOTABLE CRIMES**

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007, a report was received from a Fort William Hotelier who complained that a bottle of whisky had been stolen from the premises. It transpired that the whisky was a 30-year-old collector's edition valued at £900. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007, a child protection enquiry was instigated following an alleged assault on a child. Following enquiries, a male and female were arrested and held in custody for Court. On her release the following day, the female fled to Manchester with her ex-partner and allegedly abducted her mother from Fort William. Enquiries are ongoing with regard to the abduction.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2007, two foreign males attended at a bank in Fort William. They engaged the teller in a well-worked scam whereby they asked to change a large quantity of bank notes for larger denomination ones. They then changed their minds and thus attempted to confuse the teller. The teller caught on to their scheme and they left empty-handed. A positive line of enquiry is being pursued. The same males were active similarly in the Inverness and Ross, Cromarty & Skye Command Areas.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007, a motor vehicle was subjected to a stop/check in Kinlochleven. Following a search 21 suspected ecstasy tablets were seized and the driver found to be disqualified from driving. He appeared at Court from custody when he was given a further 2 ½ years disqualification. Following on from this on 14<sup>th</sup> February the same vehicle was seen again being driven South of Fort William. This time there were different occupants, however the driver was found to be uninsured and had no licence, his passengers were found in possession of 12 Ecstasy tablets.

On 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007, reports were received of a number of local businesses receiving obscene phone calls. Extensive enquiries are ongoing in an effort to trace the male caller. A high number of such calls have been made to premises in Lochaber Command Area, Ross, Cromarty & Skye and Badenoch.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007, a vehicle was stopped during regular anti-crime patrols and was found to contain a male person wanted on warrant, a meat cleaver and a number of syringes filled apparently with amphetamine. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007, a report was received of the apparent Abduction of a six-year-old girl from the Mallaig area. An extensive search was carried out locally which quickly was passed out nationally. As a result of the nation-wide alert, Police officers in Aberdeen traced the vehicle in which the girl was being carried and officers travelled from Fort William to interview her abductor. The girl was none the worse for her ordeal. A report was submitted and a male person is currently on Bail in connection with this enquiry.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007, the first of a large number of Vandalism incidents was reported in the Glencoe area. This involved local buildings being daubed with paint. Following enquiries, 3 local youths have been interviewed in connection with 5 counts of Vandalism and 1 charge of Theft.

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2007, a known local heroin user/dealer was subjected to a stop /search in his vehicle. No drugs were recovered but he was found in possession of two knives which resulted in him spending the night in custody and appearing on Petition in Court. He is currently on Bail awaiting trial.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007, information was obtained that two 10 and 11 year old girls had been the victims of a sexual offence during a "sleep-over". A 46-year-old male was interviewed by Police and was the subject of a report to the Fiscal. The case is still ongoing and the male has been excluded from Lochaber by the court until the conclusion of the case.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007, during the stop/check of the vehicle previously referred to when ecstasy was recovered, one of the male passengers was found in possession of two credit cards belonging to a wheelchair-bound female in the Caol area. As a result of enquiries he was arrested and reported to the Fiscal for the Theft of a 4-figure sum of money from this female. This case is still ongoing and the subject is banned from entering Caol by the Courts until the case is concluded.

A large number of Vandalism incidents were reported in the Fort William area during the latter half of February. Following enquiries into a Housebreaking where jewellery was stolen from a pensioner's house, 5 local children have been identified and charged with 8 counts of Theft by Housebreaking, Thefts and Vandalism.

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007, an assault took place on a service bus between Corpach and Fort William. A 36-year-old male was severely beaten by 2 17-year-old male youths. The victim was kicked to the head and face. Both accused were traced and locked up. They have been released on Bail with strict restrictions that

1. They remain within their homes 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily
2. They answer their doors personally when requested by Police
3. They do not travel on public transport
4. They do not consume alcohol.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2007, following a report of a disturbance at a housing scheme in Fort William, Police attended and found a 19 year old male outside an address. It was noticed that he had a large kitchen knife concealed up his sleeve. He was disarmed and arrested. He is currently on remand at Porterfield Prison.

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007, a 12-year-old girl was found in possession of a small quantity of cannabis at a local school. A report has been submitted to the Reporter.

### **NOTABLE INCIDENTS**

During the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 there have been 19 recorded Mountain Rescue operations co-ordinated by the local Command Area involving Search and Rescue Helicopters and both the Lochaber and Glencoe M.R.T's. There was one fatality. 17 other climbers/walkers were treated at the Belford Hospital for 6 fractures, sprains, hypothermia, a dislocated shoulder and other less serious injuries.

### **NOTABLE INITIATIVES**

During February, the Area Drugs Officer and Crime Prevention Officer undertook talks with licensees in the Fort William. The talks centred around drugs awareness and powers.

As a Command Area we have participated in a tri-Force initiative with Strathclyde and Central Police. These initiatives are regular occurrences and on this occasion it was hosted by Central Police and took place at Crianlarich. A large number of motorists were stop/checked and drugs offences, Road Traffic Offences and minor crimes were detected.

We have also participated in two tri-Command anti-crime initiatives in conjunction with Inverness, and Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn.

These activities are as well as nightly anti-crime checks done 'in house'. These have met with tremendous success with disqualified drivers being caught as well as drugs seizures.

### **MISSING PERSON PROFILE**

During the period, only four persons were reported missing.

A 25 year old female with mental health issues was reported missing from her place of employment at Nevis Range, Fort William. Following extensive Police enquiries and look out requests, it was discovered the female had travelled as far as Sutton and jumped off the roof of Sutton Hospital and later died as a result of her injuries.

An 8 year old child was reported missing but later traced safe and well playing with friends locally.

Male person reported missing from West Yorkshire area but no trace in Lochaber.

A 54 year old male was reported missing by family but traced shortly thereafter safe and well.