

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

23 APRIL 2008

Crime Situation

Report by the Chief Constable

Agenda Item	
Report No	

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.

**I Latimer
Chief Constable**

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Shetland

PERIOD: From: 01/01/2008 To: 31/03/2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

During the year to 31/03/2008, Shetland Command Area achieved a clear up rate, for class 1-5 crime, of 70.7%. There has also been a decrease of 24 (3.1%) in the overall number of crimes as compared to the same period last year. A particularly pleasing factor is that the reduction is evident across most crime classes and comes on top of a reduction of 8% on the previous year. These year end results are excellent and staff within the Command Area will work hard to build on and improve them in the coming year.

The program of targetted high visibility footpatrols in Lerwick, during peak times, continues with a view to combating anti-social behaviour, violence and reducing the overall fear of crime. This has resulted in the number of crimes of violence more than halving from 33 in 2006/07 to 15 in 2007/08. Fourteen of these crimes of violence have been detected with a positive line of enquiry being pursued on the remaining one. The visibility of police officers on foot patrol has been the subject of much positive comment from politicians, the business community, and the general public. We will continue to seek ways to increase the frequency of such patrols even further.

A 26-year-old man was sentenced to a year's imprisonment following the serious assault of another man who sustained two fractures to his jaw.

Following lengthy enquiries into numerous crimes of dishonesty in the Lerwick area, which included housebreaking to both private dwellings and commercial premises, shoplifting and theft of royal mail, a 26-year-old man was apprehended. He appeared from custody at Lerwick Sheriff Court on 16 charges. The man pled guilty and was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.

A 45-year-old woman received a 3 year jail sentence having been reported on charges of cruelty and historical abuse to her own children.

Following a break-in to the premises of Thulecraft, Lerwick, a 34-year-old fisherman was traced onboard a Peterhead registered fishing boat berthed in Lerwick Harbour. He was arrested and appeared from custody at Lerwick Sheriff Court.

A 37-year-old man pled guilty at Lerwick Sheriff Court to charges of cultivating and being concerned in the supply of cannabis. He was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

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

A 23-year-old man was arrested having been found in possession of heroin. He has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

A 59-year-old man has been arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal for being concerned in the supply of heroin. This was after he was stopped and searched by officers on Commercial Street, Lerwick and being found in possession of dealer wraps of heroin.

A 44-year-old Liverpool man was stopped and searched disembarking NorthLink Ferries from Aberdeen. He was found in possession of approximately £9000 worth of heroin, was arrested and appeared at Lerwick Sheriff Court where he was released on bail pending trial.

A 32-year-old man and a 39-year-old man were arrested after a house in Voe was searched and approximately £5000 of heroin recovered. Both appeared at Lerwick Sheriff Court and have been bailed pending trial.

A 37-year-old man was arrested after his house, in Lerwick, was searched under warrant and cannabis plants found growing within. He appeared at Lerwick Sheriff Court on charges of being concerned in the supply of cannabis and has been remanded in custody pending trial.

3. SAFER ROADS

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

We continue to enforce legislation and have made use of the local media to encourage and advise motorists of ongoing issues.

During the review period there have been 51 collisions. As a result of these collisions 4 people received slight injuries. The remaining collisions caused no injury.

Enforcement of road traffic legislation has resulted in 10 drivers being charged with drink driving. Of these one was following a collision, 3 after being stopped for motoring offences and the other 6 when it was suspected they were under the influence of alcohol. These figures represent a very slight decrease on the same period last year. During the review period no-one has been detected driving under the influence of drugs.

Also, during the period, 34 people have been charged with not wearing a seatbelt, 6 for using a mobile phone whilst driving and 26 for speeding offences. In addition, 5 people

have been arrested for driving whilst disqualified and 23 charged with driving with no insurance.

In the next three months we will be participating in ACPO(S) road safety campaigns 'Seatbelt & Speeding day of action' and 'Rural Roads Weekend' as well as locally targeting construction and use offences and speeding.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

The provision of a CCTV system for Lerwick Town Centre continues to make progress. The Community Safety Partnership, chaired by the Area Commander, continues to drive this project. During the period under review major milestones have been passed in respect of the approval of all planning applications and signing of a partnership agreement between Northern Constabulary and Shetland Islands Council. The contract has been awarded and work is expected to commence in the near future in respect of installation.

The Command Area continues to make full use of Fixed Penalties for minor crimes and offences. This frees up much officer time to remain on patrol, as opposed to writing reports, and assists the courts by removing a large number of offenders from the court system.

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 has achieved 93.5% 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 has achieved 93.2% within 14 days. This is, overall, the best performance in the Force and stands as a testament to the hard work of officers on the front line and our determination to meet and exceed national standards.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Shetland Command Area is now preparing for the summer period. As last year we expect to face a great deal of demand for our services in respect of many of the events and planned activities. We are already working with the organisers of events such as the Johnsmas Foy and Midsummer Carnival to ensure they can take place in safety with the minimum of disruption to the public.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Orkney

Period: From 1/01/2008 To: 31/03/2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

Reported crime during the review period has decreased by 79 crimes, a 15.9% reduction, compared with the same period last year with a continuing good overall detection rate of 64.4% being recorded. This significant decrease is accounted for by a decrease in Class 3 crimes (Crimes of Dishonesty), 178 from 236 over the same period, with a very good detection rate of 70.2% for this class.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

It is pleasing again to report the relatively low numbers of serious crime. During the period under review a major enquiry was undertaken into an alleged serious sexual assault, this enquiry was concluded in February and a crime report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal, this case is now Sub-Judice.

In February 2008 at Aberdeen High Court a 35-year-old male, was found guilty of the Rape of a 22-year-old female at Stromness in September 2006. This male was subsequently sentenced to 5 years imprisonment at Edinburgh High Court.

3. SAFER ROADS

There have been no fatal or serious injury road accidents during the review period. The detection of speeders, seatbelt, mobile phone users and drink drivers remain a high priority.

Kirkwall Sheriff court disposals for drink driving included a 29-year-old male who received a total fine of £3400 and disqualified for 5 years, a 19-year-old male fined a total of £2350 and disqualified for 2 years, and a 29-year-old male who received fines totalling £2800 and disqualified for 5 years.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Kirkwall CCTV continues to provide both opportunities for prevention of crime and its early detection.

During the major enquiry regarding the alleged serious sexual assault referred to above, a significant media strategy was undertaken to appeal for information, and to provide personal safety advice and public reassurance. The co-operation of the various local media

provided great assistance to the enquiry. Additional high visibility foot patrols were carried out over this period in addition to visible door to door enquiries. During this period the full co-operation of the public was commendable.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

External funding sourced through the Orkney Drugs Alcohol Smoking Action Team (DASAT) for extra high visibility patrols dedicated to Drink Drivers and Anti-Social Behaviour was not used due to a major enquiry. This funding has been allowed to be carried forward and we look forward to carrying out extra patrols over the coming period.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD REPORT

AREA COMMAND: Western Isles

PERIOD: From: 01/01/2008 To: 31/03/2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

The year 2007/08 has proved to be another successful year for the Western Isles Area Command, a detection rate of 72.5% being achieved for Class 1-5 crimes (88% for all crimes). 970 Class 1-5 crimes were made known during the year, a 13.7% reduction in comparison to the previous year (1125 such crimes made known). The maintaining of a high detection rate in conjunction with a reduction in the incidence of crime is due to the hard work of all staff throughout the year, allied to the various successful initiatives that have been implemented (ie Operations Horn and Harlequin, drugs detection dog, etc).

Following a report received on 26th January that a Marine Harvest site in Scalpay, Harris, had been broken into, enquiries were commenced. Substantial damage was caused within the premises by the use of a forklift. 3 males have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for theft by HB, malicious mischief/vandalism and various road traffic offences.

On 25th February a 41-year-old Stornoway man was cautioned and charged with culpable and reckless conduct, in relation to the supply of alcohol to several youths under 16 yrs of age.

Notable sentences:

On 8th January a 38-year-old male was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment for possessing an offensive weapon.

On 8th January a 29-year-old male was given 200 hours CSO for 2 charges of Forgery & Counterfeiting, and one charge of MODA 1971 Sec. 5(3).

On 23rd January a 20-year-old male was given 180 hours CSO for MODA 1971 Sec. 4(3)(b).

On 23rd January a 25-year-old male was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment for Breach of CSO (original charge Breach of the Peace) and 4 months imprisonment for Breach of the Peace.

On 25th January a 19-year-old male was given 12 months detention for Breach of Probation Order (original charges MODA 1971 Sec. 5(2) and 5(3)).

On 28th January a 27-year-old male was sentenced to 13 weeks imprisonment for Assault.

On 6th February a 38-year-old male was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment for Breach of the Peace (racial aggravation).

On 6th February a 17-year-old male was sentenced to 6 months detention for Breach of the Peace, Assault (bail aggravation) and Vandalism (bail aggravation).

On 6th February a 16-year-old male was sentenced to 6 months detention for Assault (Bail aggravation).

On 7th February an 18-year-old male was sentenced to 9 months detention for charges of Assault, Breach of the Peace x 2, Police (S) Act 1967 Sec. 41(1)(a).

On 7th February a 23-year-old female was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment for Breach of RLO x 2 (original charge Breach of the Peace x 2).

On 22nd February a 31-year-old female was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for Breach of the Peace.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

The supply and misuse of controlled drugs within the Western Isles remains a priority concern for the Area Command. The last 4 months have seen significant successes in terms of arrests and seizures, and intelligence gathering and referrals to the Tasking Process continue to be used as a means for directing resources.

The incidence of 'serious violent crime' remains relatively high in comparison to previous years, albeit a 12% reduction has been achieved in comparison to 2006/07 (51 incidents during 07/08, down from 58 such incidents during 06/07). Nevertheless, such incidents are rare in comparison to other areas of the UK and the Area Command maintained its high detection rate of such crimes in 2007/08 – achieving a 94.1% clear-up rate.

A 51-year-old male was arrested on 9th January for serious assault on a 75 year old female in Vatersay, Isle of Barra.

On 17th January an intelligence-led drugs operation resulted in the recovery of 1kg of cocaine valued at £60,000. A 42-year-old male was arrested and is currently on bail.

Notable Sentences:

On 23rd January a 55-year-old male was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for Breach of Bail and 5 months imprisonment for Assault to Injury and Disfigurement.

On 25th January a 27 year old male was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for ill treatment of a child. Also given 3 months imprisonment for Breach of Probation Order (original charge malicious mischief).

On 6th February a 27-year-old male was fined £750 for Assault (sexual aggravation), and £500 compensation order.

On 7th March a 17-year-old male was given a 300 hours CSO + 9 months RLO (from 8pm – 7am), plus a 2 x £500 compensation orders for Assault to Severe Injury and Resisting Arrest.

3. SAFER ROADS

The Area Command's on-going national intelligence model led 'Operation Hillman' continues to address issues of speeding, drink/drug driving, documentary offences and other road safety issues. Notably, 107 drink driving offences were detected during 2007/08. Fortunately, serious and fatal injuries as a result of road accidents remain a rare occurrence in the Western Isles. During 2007/08 there were no fatalities, albeit 11 persons were seriously injured.

On the evening of 4th January, an 18-year-old male was struck by a van as he walked along the B895 Newmarket to Tolsta road at Tong, Isle of Lewis. He sustained several serious injuries including a fractured skull, severe grazing to his body and internal injuries. He was flown to Glasgow Royal Infirmary for treatment.

Notable Sentences:

On 23rd January a 53-year-old male was fined £750 and disqualified from driving for life for drunk driving.

On 5th February a 20-year-old male was fined £900 and disqualified from driving for 3 years for refusing to supply a breath specimen.

On 22nd February a 46-year-old male was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment and disqualified from driving for 5 years for drunk driving and driving while disqualified. Also to resit driving test.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Operation Harlequin continues to provide two uniformed Police officers each Friday and Saturday night for 4 hours to specifically target anti-social behaviour throughout the Western Isles. These officers are separate from the core Policing tasks and have been very successful in seizing alcohol and dealing with anti-social behaviour within the area during the early part of the evening. This initiative has been funded by the Western Isles Community Safety Partnership and will now continue into the new financial year (2008/09) following the successful receipt of further funding.

The Community Safety department at Stornoway continues to liaise with CnES and their Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator with a view to gathering information and

dealing with reports of anti-social behaviour within the Western Isles. Several problematic individuals and families have been identified for intervention.

A number of youths have been reported to the Reporter to the Childrens Panel and the Procurator Fiscal for outstanding vandalisms following enquiries carried out by the Proactive Team. These recent detections of historical vandalisms provided a significant boost to the Area Command's detection rate, taking it above the 70% target.

On 26th February, a 61-year-old fish farm worker drowned when the boat he was travelling in, along with four co-workers, capsized in poor weather on a fresh-water loch in Lochs, Isle of Lewis. The circumstances are currently being investigated by the Health & Safety Executive.

The Area Command continues to perform well in relation to submission times; 91.3% of SPR8 charge code details being submitted within 5 days of caution and charge. Submission targets of 80% for Reports to Procurator Fiscal and Childrens Reporter were not quite achieved, albeit each stand at 79.5% and 79.8% respectively (target was 80%). The Area Command is confident that these targets will be improved upon in the coming year.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

There are very few public events held within the Western Isles at this time of year and as such we have been able to divert more resources towards general policing. The Benbecula 10K race did take place on 15th March and passed without incident.

The introduction last year of Fixed Penalties for anti-social offences/minor crimes of disorder has proved to be very effective at timeously addressing such behaviour and 'fast tracking' offenders through the criminal justice system. 44 such penalties have been issued over the period, with the vast majority having been paid thus significantly reducing the amount of officer time spent report writing and carrying out other bureaucratic duties.

Racist incidents are a relatively rare occurrence in the Area Command and we take pride in the fact that 100% of such offences have been detected during 2007/08.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD REPORT

AREA COMMAND: Caithness & Sutherland

PERIOD: From: 01/01/2008 To: 31/03/2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Area Command detection rate for crime at 31 March 2008 stands at 55.4%. This is an increase, from 54.4% at the end of December 2007. The local objective is to clear up 63% of all group 1 – 5 crimes and offences by the end of 2007/2008 in line with the Force objective of 63%.

The number of group 1-4 crimes reported up to 31 March 2008 is 1586. The same period last year saw 1742 crimes reported. This represents an 8.9% decrease.

The detection rate for domestic housebreakings stands at 36.4% at 31 March 2008. This is an increase of 3.1% since the last period. It should be noted that the actual number of break ins to domestic dwellings is very low, with only 6 reported since 1 January 2008.

The detection rate for car crime remains well in excess of the 68% performance target at 76.3%.

On 19 March 2008 a 36-year-old man was convicted of assault to injury at Wick Sheriff Court and was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment.

On 17 March 2008 a 20-year-old male, with a significant offending history, was convicted of contravening his bail conditions and resisting / obstructing Police officers. He was sentenced to 9 months in a Young Offenders Institution.

The upgrading of the Wick CCTV system is almost complete. The technical installation is almost finished with Scotshield still to install the new monitors and associated equipment in the Station. Volunteer training has been rescheduled to April. Funding has been received from the Highland Council Ward discretionary budget to pay for the computer tower to enable wireless/remote access from the Police Control room to the conference room. This will facilitate ease of training, security/confidentiality of data management and the ability to monitor from the conference room if needed. A full media release is planned as soon as a 'go live' date is decided.

The 'youth letters' system has now been rolled out throughout the Caithness and Sutherland area. Where youths are found in circumstances not amounting to a crime, i.e. in possession of alcohol or in situations of perceived anti-social behaviour, letters are sent to parents or guardians informing them of the contact with Police.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

From 1 January 2008 to 31 March 2008, 74 stop/searches for drugs were carried out in the Area Command with 18 proving positive. 9 premises were searched during this

time with 6 positive results. Controlled drugs with an estimated street value of £1593.75 were seized during this period.

The detection rate for serious/violent crime up to 31 March 2008 stands at 95.9%, exceeding the 90% performance target. The number of reported class 1 crimes at the end of this period was 73, which has achieved the target 5% reduction from 84 crimes in 2006/07.

On 8 February 2008 a 26-year-old man was convicted at Wick Sheriff Court of supplying Heroin and was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment.

On 7 March 2008 a 30-year-old man was convicted at Wick Sheriff Court of abduction, assault to injury and breach of the peace. Due to the seriousness of the charges the Sheriff referred the case to the High Court for sentencing.

These results show that the Area Command continues to be very successful at targeting and detecting crime. The Force Review is now coming to fruition and the efficiency savings realised as a result have allowed to us to increase our front line operational Policing capability. Extra officers can now be deployed in roles which allow us to maintain and improve on the achievements made this year. Increased resources to Area Proactive Teams and the Divisional Intelligence Unit is one of the ways in which we intend to continue using an intelligence-led approach to targeting criminality at all levels.

3. SAFER ROADS

There have been no fatal road traffic accidents during this period. This represents no change on the same period last year. Unfortunately there were 5 fatal road accidents in 2007/08 compared to 3 in 2006/07.

There have been 2 reports of serious injury road accidents during this period. The same period in 2007 also saw 2 reported. Over the year as a whole 10 serious road accidents were reported. The year 2006/07 saw 21 being reported. This represents a substantial reduction of 47.6% which is in line with current policy to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the road.

12 drunk drivers have been detected during January, February and March 2008. This sees no increase on the same period last year. One drug driving offence has been detected during this period. None were detected during the same period last year.

The following information shows the numbers of persons detected for various road traffic offences between January and March 2008:

Speeders : 42

Seatbelt offences: 27

Mobile phone offences: 22

Miscellaneous offences: 77

On 18 March 2008 two young males were convicted of careless driving at Wick Sheriff Court after being detected racing each other on a public road. They were both fined £300 and had 6 penalty points imposed on their licences.

In January 2008 a male person was convicted of drunk driving at Wick Sheriff Court. He was disqualified for 5 years and sentenced to 400 hours community service.

A new local operation has now commenced in the Area Command focussing on road safety and the prevention of accidents. Officers continue to target offending drivers through dedicated, intelligence-led patrols and during routine tours of duty. Road safety education packages are also to be delivered in schools directed at pupils who are of an age to be able to drive or likely to become passengers in vehicles driven by young, inexperienced drivers.

Exhaust noise monitoring equipment is now available for use by officers in the Area Command. It has already been put to use and offending drivers reported.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Area Command submission rate for crime reports to the Procurator Fiscal stands at 80% at 31 March 2008. This meets the Force objective of 80%.

The submission rate for crime reports to the Reporter to the Children's Panel stands at 75.7%. The Force objective is 80%.

The use of the fixed penalty scheme for anti-social behaviour continues to be used to good effect with 20 fixed penalty notices being issued during this period. This has released many hours of officer time that was previously spent writing crime reports.

At 31 March 2008 the number of reported vandalism stood at 971. The previous year saw 977 vandalism reported. Although this is a decrease on last year the volume of vandalism reported, particularly in Wick, is relatively high.

On 4 January 2008 a 20-year-old man was arrested and subsequently convicted, at Wick Sheriff Court of fire-raising to a dwelling house in Thurso. He was sentenced to 2 years probation and 150 hours community service.

On 21 February 2008 a 42-year-old man, with an extensive criminal history, was arrested after an incident at the Job Centre in Wick where he threatened staff with violence, committed a breach of the peace and resisted Police Officers who arrested him. He was subsequently convicted at Wick Sheriff Court on 19 March 2008 and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment.

Since the beginning of February 2008 dedicated anti-vandalism patrols have been carried out in Wick. These patrols have been staffed by uniform and plain clothes officers, supported by Special Constables. These patrols have been useful in tackling incidents of anti-social behaviour and increased opportunities for officers to use their

initiative to get involved in other areas of proactive work, i.e. increasing use of stop/search power for drugs and stolen property.

Work also continues to try and engage our partner agencies in supporting 'youth diversion schemes' through the Community Safety Action Team and Vandalism Action Group. One possible scheme is the introduction of 'evening football' for youths who may not engage in the normal youth activities available locally. Wick High School offers its all weather pitch at substantially reduced rates and partners have been asked to look at the resources they can offer to help.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Three racial incidents have been reported between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2008. Two remain undetected at this time despite thorough enquiry. Over the last year a total of 13 racial incidents had been reported and 7 have been detected. Our detection rate for this type of crime stands at 53.8%. All incidents of this nature are thoroughly investigated in accordance with Force policy and the Lord Advocate's guidelines and where evidence exists, perpetrators are reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Low numbers of this type of crime are reported in the Area Command despite a growing migrant community.

85 reports of breach of the peace and 63 assaults were reported this period. This is a slight decrease since the same period last year, when 110 breach of the peace and 57 assaults were reported. Caithness & Sutherland Area Command maintains a detection rate of 93.2% for class 6 crimes, well in excess of the Force objective.

In January 2008 a Thurso man, with an extensive criminal history, was convicted of various offences, including a number of charges of breach of the peace and possession of an offensive weapon. He was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment.

The local operations in respect of vandalism and road safety have also increased opportunities to tackle all kinds of anti-social behaviour and our increased, high visibility presence, provides reassurance to the community.

Curfews are increasingly being imposed by the Courts in an attempt to curtail the criminal activity of some offenders. Officers throughout the Area Command are tasked with checking individuals subject to a curfew to ensure they are complying with their conditions. This operation has led to a number of reports being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for curfew breaches.

In the forthcoming months the following events will take place within the Area Command. In April, HRH The Earl of Wessex is visiting Easter Ross which will be part of the Divisional Area. The O'Neill Surf Open Competition will also be held in Thurso during April 2008.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Ross, Cromarty & Skye

PERIOD: From: 01/01/2008 To: 31/03/2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

The level of Class 1 – 5 crime has remained at a fairly steady level, with no significant trends or patterns identified. A spate of Housebreakings (HBs) and attempted HB's took place in January in the Invergordon area. These HB's were found to be committed by a local drug user and were detected. Vandalism remained at a low level, which is expected over these winter months. There were no changes in the level of crimes against the person and crimes of indecency. Overall the Area Command increased its detection rate to 63% for all Class 1 to 5 crimes.

Over the reporting period, the continued pattern of decrease in all levels of crime in this Area Command over the past two years, resulted in final figures for 2007/08 of a decrease of 14.2% in Class 1 – 5 crimes.

There were significant decreases in serious and violent crime whilst the detection rate was an excellent 96.2%.

The detection rate for Class 2 crimes which includes serious sexual offences and complex historical crimes of abuse was also an exceptionally high figure of 91.7%.

In respect of dishonesties, one in every two crimes was detected over the year. While the beginning of 2007/08 saw a very large amount of vandalisms, and other low level crimes being committed, hard and targeted work has resulted in an overall drop on this level of crime in this Command Area, with a healthy detection rate of 42.1%, way ahead of most other areas in Scotland.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Tackling drug supply continues to be a high priority for the Area Command and this has resulted in the recovery of Class A, B and C drugs during the reporting period. Notably, in January, following intelligence received, a vehicle was stopped and searched travelling north and 5kg of cannabis resin and 8 ounces cocaine was recovered from the boot of the vehicle. The value of drugs seized comes to around £33,000.

In February, a search of a dwellinghouse in Portree resulted in the recovery of over 400 ecstasy tablets.

Regular stop searches continue to be carried out by all officers across the Area Command.

A stolen property warrant was executed at an address in Invergordon in March and whilst searching controlled drugs were found. The following suspected amounts were seized: 43g herbal cannabis, 503g cannabis resin, 15g cocaine, 273g amphetamine, 500 valium tablets and 5 diazepam tablets. Laboratory results are awaited.

A 29-year-old male was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment and placed on the Sex Offender's Register for 10 years in January, after he was found guilty of sexually abusing a 13-year-old female that he met on the internet.

A 39-year-old female from Inverness was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment after admitting to being concerned in the supply of heroin. She was found with heroin to the value of £70,000 in Muir of Ord.

A 60-year-old man was convicted of sexually abusing two females in Aberdeenshire and Alness in the 1970's. He was sentenced to 12 years and placed on the Sex Offenders Register.

3. SAFER ROADS

The Area Command continues to provide a high profile presence on the roads. During this period, 26 individuals were detected drink driving and 3 individuals were detected driving whilst under the influence of drugs. The Area Command continues to convey through the local media that drink driving is socially unacceptable behaviour and that it continues to be a priority. Over the period, the Area Command hit what was a challenging performance indicator, which was to increase the detection of drunk drivers by 10% to a total of 190. It also greatly increased the number of drug drivers detected and none of this would have been achieved without the strong links and support of the community. A number of vehicles were also seized during this period, as a consequence of driving without insurance. The number of road traffic collisions throughout the Area Command remained at a fairly static level. There were no fatal collisions and 3 serious collisions during the reporting period. The Area Command continues to participate in all ACPOS and local road safety campaigns.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Area Command continues to liaise with partner agencies regarding child protection, domestic abuse, race & diversity, drug abuse and community safety. During this period, officers investigated 57 child protection cases, an increase in comparison with the previous period. Officers attended 62 reported incidents of domestic abuse, a decrease from the previous period, with a number of incidents classified as 'High Risk'. There were 76 missing persons reported during this period, 7 of which were classified as 'High Risk' and 33 related to absconders from care. Missing young persons from residential establishments in the Area Command are the most frequent type of missing person calls received. Ten mountain rescue incidents were reported to the police during this period, and one fatality occurred as a result of a mountain fall. On several occasions, injuries to walkers/climbers necessitated assistance from Mountain Rescue Teams, and R.A.F and Stornoway Coastguard to recover the casualties. The Offender Management Unit is now staffed by three full-time officers, with significant work being carried out in offender management. The Central Division Area will operate a Public Protection Unit, overseeing Child and Family Protection, Sex Offender Management, Community Safety, Vulnerable Adults and Domestic Abuse cases. The Area Command

management team continues to attend all Local Authority Ward Forums demonstrating our commitment to community policing and partnership working. Anti-social behaviour continues to be addressed through proactive patrols in identified hotspots, frequent licensed premises checks, alcohol seizures and notification to parents. A Bottle Marking Scheme has been introduced, which is supported by the majority of off-licences in the area. This scheme is to be extended to the whole Central Division.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

The Area Command continued to conduct regular high-profile local initiatives under the banners of Operation Elan, Endeavour and Envelope, which are aimed at tackling public order and anti-social behaviour, particularly over the weekend and late at night around the town centres. On 62 occasions, alcohol has been confiscated from under age drinkers or individuals have been reported for breaching local byelaws in respect of drinking alcohol in public places. The Area Command is now fully using the fixed penalty scheme for minor public order offences. Community Safety is currently putting proposals together for funding a series of 'Blue Light' events similar to those operating in the Fife area. This involves the provision of organised evening and weekend diversionary activities for teenagers in areas identified as suffering from anti-social behaviour and disorder.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Inverness

PERIOD: From: 01/01/2008 To: 31/03/2008

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 63%.**

Overall crimes 1 – 5 fell by 2.1% (135 crimes) which is a positive trend and more significantly serious violent crime fell by 23.1% (24 crimes) and vandalism fell by 14% (252 crimes) to round off a very successful year in terms of crime reduction and detection.

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

- Between January and March 2008 a male person was reported for 26 offences of Sneak in Thefts to Hotels and Retail Premises within the Inverness City Centre and surrounding areas. This person has appeared on petition at Inverness Sheriff Court and is presently on remand.
- On the 3rd February 2008, several youths from the Merkinch area were interviewed in relation to a spate of Vandalisms. They have been charged with 14 incidents of Vandalism.
- On the 5th February 2008 two persons were apprehended outside a hotel in the Crown area in possession of a dealing quantity of drugs and £1200 cash. A search of their property recovered further controlled drugs and 2000 American Dollars.
- On the 11th February 2008, a report was received of Counterfeit Currency being used in Inverness. As a result of this 3 persons have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for 6 incidents where Counterfeit Currency had been tendered.
- On 24th February 2008 a male person was apprehended for a Theft by Housebreaking at a hotel in the Culloden area.

During the period some **376 Fixed Penalty tickets** were issued for minor offences and this has had a positive effect upon reducing bureaucracy and improving visible policing within the City to the overall benefit of the community in terms of increased resource availability.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

The Force and local objective is to maintain the clear up rates of 85% for serious violent crimes by the end of 2007/08. During the period under review, the Inverness Area Command detection rate stood at 80.5%. On a very positive note serious violent crime has been reduced by 23.1% and this will continue to be a high policing priority in the city centre and beyond.

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

- On the 5th February 2008, a female reported that she had been raped. A male person was arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- On the 23rd February 2008, a male person had been assaulted in the city centre outside licensed premises in which he had been struck in the face by a bottle. The victim was taken to hospital and received in excess of 20 stitches to a head wound. A male person was arrested and appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court.
- On the 4th March 2008 a vulnerable male person was robbed of property at his home address. A male and a female have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for Robbery.
- On the 20th March 2008, two commercial premises were broken into in Inverness City Centre. A male person was arrested and property recovered and he is presently on remand at Inverness Prison.
- On 22nd March 2008, a seventeen-year-old youth was murdered in the South Kessock area of Inverness. A seventeen-year-old youth was arrested in connection with this offence and is presently on remand at Inverness Prison.
- On the 28th March 2008, a male was arrested on Island Bank Road, Inverness in relation to a Firearms Offence and other Public Disorder Offences. He appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court on 31st March and was remanded in Custody.

The Force and local objective is to increase the number of recorded offences for supply and possession with intent to supply Class A drugs by the end of 2007/08. Up to 31/03/2008, the number of **drug related offences stood at 988** and this is indicative of the robust stance taken in relation to the drugs threat in our communities.

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

- In March 2008 a male was found in possession of 6oz of Amphetamine at Inverness bus station. He appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court and was released on bail.
- In March 2008 a house was searched in the Hilton area of Inverness and a dealing quantity of Cannabis resin was recovered. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.
- In March 2008 a male was found in possession of a dealing quantity of Cannabis resin near to Ness Bank, Inverness. Following a search of his home a dealing quantity of Ecstasy was also recovered. The male has appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court.

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

3. SAFER ROADS

The Force and local objective is to maintain a 33% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured as a result of road accidents throughout 2007/08. Up to

31/03/2008, there have been 8 people killed and 34 people seriously injured as a result of road accidents in the area. This level of death and injury continues to be a cause of concern and we will continue to develop the educational approach to road safety whilst visibly enforcing the law. During 2007/08 there has been a **4% reduction** in road traffic accidents and casualties within the Inverness Area Command.

Some 5114 **road traffic offences** have been detected with a focus upon speeding, drink/drug driving, failing to wear seat belts and driving defective vehicles.

During February 2008 a Road Crime Team was established with 1 Sergeant and 5 Constables tackling crime and road traffic enforcement activities with a focus upon the trunk roads including the A82, A96 and A9 leading to Inverness. This has increased visibility on the trunk roads and has received much favourable comment from our communities and is having a positive effect on tackling organised crime, reducing road traffic casualties and detecting road traffic 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 Community Beat Team continues to work closely with local communities in identifying local issues and solutions. During the period Senior Officer and Community Beat Constables attended **28 Ward Forum Meetings and Community Councils** to closely engage with our communities and provide them with feedback on policing priorities and performance.

Community Beat Officers continue to work from bases in Hilton and Merkinch to develop problem solving initiatives on a multi agency basis.

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

During the review period there has been a large number of missing person enquiries with over 22 high risk missing persons, 130 medium risk missing persons and 34 low risk missing persons together with 10 unauthorised missing persons. These enquiries continue to be resource intensive and a challenge for the Area Command particularly in relation to those individuals who go missing from residential establishments in the city. The Area Command continues to work with other partners to ensure that clear and robust structures are in place to deal with the high number of missing person enquiries.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

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

drunkenness continue to be issues which pervade our communities and creates a policing challenge which must be tackled on a multi agency basis.

There were some 4246 cases of public drunkenness, breaches of the peace, underage drinking, public drinking and drunk and incapable offences detected. We continue to work with the Licensing Board, Licensed Trade Association and Licensees in relation to the introduction of the Licensing Scotland Act 2005 with the transitional arrangements which commenced in February 2008.

Fixed Penalty Notices for anti social behaviour and public disorder continue to be used to good effect and has reduced the amount of time spent by officers in reporting procedures and in Court related duties, all to the benefit of improved front line operational policing. Curfew checks and identification of bail offenders appears to be having a positive effect in relation to habitual offenders and this approach will continue to be developed with a view to reducing public disorder particularly within the city centre at peak periods during the weekends.

Extra high visibility mobile and foot patrols are conducted in hotspot areas of the City at the weekends and this has proved to be very popular with the local community particularly in relation to the buoyant daytime and nighttime economy. We continue to reduce public disorder through the **Safe Inverness Initiative and the Community Television Network, extension on City Centre CCTV, Street Pastors, Taxi Marshall and Retail Task Force initiatives.**

The Area Command continues to take a robust stance in relation to the policing of football matches at Inverness Caledonian Thistle Football Stadium. On 29th March 2008 Inverness Caledonian Thistle played Aberdeen Football Club in a Category A match in Inverness. There were 2 persons arrested during the match within the ground and 2 further persons were ejected from the Stadium.

A number of other persons were also charged in and around Inverness for related offences in the period leading up to the match and again a high profile operation was held.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn

PERIOD: From: 01/01/08 To: 31/03/08

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Area Command detection rate for Class 1-5 crimes at 31st March 2008 was 65.4%. The local objective was to clear up 63% of all Group 1-5 crimes and offences by the end of 2007/08 in line with Force Objectives and this has been exceeded. The number of Group 1-4 crimes reported up to 31st March 2008 is 1112. At the same period last year the figure stood at 1043.

Anti-crime patrols were carried out at industrial estates, building sites, post offices and on trunk roads.

On 13th January 2008, following a report of a house being broken into in Nairn, officers attended and found a smashed window and a 29-year-old male inside the premises. The male was arrested and appeared in court from custody charged with housebreaking with intent, vandalism and breach of the peace.

On 16th January 2008, following enquiries into counterfeit currency being used at various locations in Nairn, three sixteen year old male youths were arrested and charged with various offences relation to the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981. They will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal for a total of 33 charges on completion of enquiries.

On 20th March 2008, a number of warrants in relation to wildlife crimes on an estate in Badenoch were executed. Four persons were detained and interviewed, and a number of items seized including all firearms. All persons released pending further enquiries.

On 18th March 2008 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 34-year-old male from Kingussie was sentenced to 14 months imprisonment after being charged with Theft.

On 25th March 2008 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 41-year-old male from Aviemore was sentenced to 90 hours community service after being charged with Breach of the Peace (x2).

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Our local objective was to increase the number of recorded offences for Supply and Possession with Intent to Supply Class A Drugs by 2% by the end of 2007/08. This has risen by 28.8% from 37 to 52. We also aimed to reduce the incidence of Serious Violent Crime by 5% by the end of 2007/08. We have reduced it by 16.4% from 55 cases to 46 cases. Our third local objective to maintain clear up rates of 90% for "Serious Violent Crimes" throughout 2007/08 has been exceeded with a figure of 97.8% being achieved.

On 15th January 2008, following three separate incidents in the Badenoch and Strathspey area, a 43-year-old male was arrested and appeared in court from custody charged with

possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, assault and breach of the peace x 3. He was refused bail and remanded in custody.

On 21st January 2008, a report was received that a 21-year-old female had been indecently assaulted in Carrbridge. Enquiries were carried out and a 24-year-old male, who is currently on the Sex Offenders Register, was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for indecent assault.

On 26th January 2008, as a result of a stop check on a vehicle on the A95, a search of the 37-year-old male driver and his vehicle led to ½ kilo Cocaine (approx. value £15,000) and 5 kilos of base Amphetamine (approx. value £50,000) being recovered. The male appeared in court from custody charged with 2 x possession of drugs, 4 x possession with intent to supply drugs and possession on an offensive weapon.

On 8th January 2008 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 31-year-old male from Carrbridge was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment after being charged with Assault to Severe Injury.

3. SAFER ROADS

Our local objective, in line with the Force Objective was to maintain a 33% reduction in the number of all people “killed or seriously injured as a result of road accidents” throughout 2007/08, compared with the mean for the period 1994-1998. Our target figure was 31 and our actual figure was 15, a reduction of 51.6%.

However, we failed to achieve our targets of a 10% reduction in the number of “slightly injured” people as a result of road accidents throughout 2007/08 compared with the mean for the period 1994-1998, our target figure being 75, the actual figure being 109.

During the period, 498 drivers were detected for committing road traffic offences, 299 of which were issued with conditional offers of fixed penalties.

Seven vehicles were seized for having no insurance and 13 drunk drivers were detected.

On 14th January 2008 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 45-year-old male from Aberdeen was fined £500 and disqualified from driving for 3 years after being charged with driving whilst disqualified.

On 5th February 2008 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 21-year-old male from Newtonmore was fined £500 and disqualified from driving for 2 years after being charged with driving whilst disqualified.

On 11th March 2008 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 49-year-old male from Alness was fined £600 and disqualified from driving for 2 years after being charged with careless driving.

On 13th March 2008 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 59-year-old male from Thurso was fined £500 and disqualified from driving for 3 years after being charged with drink driving.

On 14th March 2008 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 25-year-old male from Tomintoul was fined £400 and disqualified from driving for 3 years after being charged with Road Traffic Act 1988 S7(6).

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

The local and Force objective of achieving 80% of all police reports to the Procurator Fiscal with 28 days achieved with a figure of 82.9%.

Funding secured for “Blue Light Discos” – first event held in Aviemore on 7th March attracted 65 young people. Supervision was provided by local officers assisted by youth workers. Further events planned for both Grantown on Spey and Nairn.

Young Driver Group – the “Ruthven Cruisers” have been invited to attend a demo evening at the Scottish Police College, hosted by the Road Policing Section. They will hear short road safety/better driving lectures, be given a demo drive and be allowed to try out the skid pan.

Pubwatch committees at both ends of the Command Area continue to operate with enthusiasm. Nairn currently has 19 persons banned and has 11 member premises and Badenoch and Strathspey currently has 9 persons banned with 18 member premises.

On 8th March 2008, a report was received that a male was unconscious and had sustained a bad head injury after falling a considerable distance in Coire An’t Sneachda. Cairngorm Mountain Rescue were informed and RAF Kinloss attended and conveyed the casualty to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. However, the 32-year-old male was dead on arrival.

On 15th March 2008, following a report of a missing 53-year-old female in Aviemore, a large scale search was carried out by local officers, Norcon’s dog section, ARCCCK, RAF Kinloss Mountain Rescue Team and Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team. Missing person was found deceased in the River Spey later that day.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Our objective to maintain a detection rate of 90% for all “racially aggravated” crimes throughout 2007/08 was exceeded with a detection rate of 100%.

On 29th January 2008 at Inverness Sheriff Court, a 24-year-old female from Nethybridge was sentenced to 100 hours community service order and a 2-year probation order after being charged with Breach of the Peace and Assault to Injury (Racial Aggravation).

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Lochaber

PERIOD: From: 1st January 2008 To: 31st March 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Area Command detection rate for crimes class 1 – 5 is currently 60.8% against a Force average of 63.1%.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Theft by Housebreaking

A 42-year-old female has now been cautioned and charged with theft following enquiries into a report of theft in October 2005 when a substantial sum of money was removed from a house in Torlundy, Fort William. Enquiries ongoing to trace two co-accused.

Misuse of Drugs

On 05/01/08, a stop/search of a vehicle at Carrs Corner, Fort William resulted in three persons being detained for a drug search whereby a female was found in possession of approx 28g of Diamorphine. Protracted enquiries are continuing into this case in relation to the supply of larger quantities of class A drugs throughout Lochaber and beyond.

Drugs Death / Culpable Homicide

On 11/01/08, a report was received of a female person not breathing within a house in Caol, Fort William. On attendance of emergency services, a second person, a 48-year old-male was also discovered unconscious. Following Police enquiries, it was discovered that three persons had been drinking within the house and subsequently shared heroin, intravenously. The female died as a result and male was resuscitated by the administration of Narcan. A 37-year-old male is currently on remand for Culpable Homicide.

Misuse of Drugs

On 04/03/08, during anti-crime patrols of the A82 at Glencoe, a vehicle was stopped and a quantity of heroin was found within. The two male occupants of the vehicle were detained under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Following interview, a 53-year-old male was arrested and appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff Court on Intent to Supply charges.

Misuse of Drugs

On 10/03/08, a vehicle was stopped on the A82 at Achintore Road, Fort William, as part of the routine anti-crime patrols. Due to the behaviour of the occupants, a search of the vehicle revealed a large bag of herbal substance, two blocks of herbal substance, diazepam tablets, scales, money and 'tick list'. Two males, aged 38 and 35, were arrested and appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Murder

On 20th March 2008 a vehicle was driven into the Caledonian Canal at Banavie, Fort William. As a result the driver and front seat passenger died. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the period 1st January – 31st March, there were two serious injury road accidents and 11 slight injury road accidents. There were two fatal road accidents recorded.

On 15/01/2008, a 34 year-old-male cyclist sustained fatal injuries when his pedal cycle hit a Ford Transit Pickup, at the access road to Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Fort William.

On 12/03/08, a 40-year-old delivery driver sustained fatal injuries when his Mercedes Sprinter van was involved in a two vehicle road traffic accident with a Scania large goods vehicle on the A828 road at Duror.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

It is important that a realistic and consistent message is communicated to communities in relation to the problems that exist in local area. Initiatives such as Pubwatch and the use of CCTV contribute to safety and the reduction of crime. These positive messages can be communicated through Community Councils and the Area Commander and his team will ensure that this level of consultation takes place throughout Lochaber.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Serious Assaults

On 01/01/08, a report was received of a 29-year-old male assaulted by a male striking the victim to his head with an object believe to be a glass or similar causing lacerations to his face and scalp. A 27-year-old male was arrested for serious assault and appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff Court on 3rd January 2008.

On 26/01/08, a 34-year-old male person was subjected to an unprovoked attack within Ladbrokes Bookmaker in Caol. A single punch to the victim's face caused a massive laceration. It was suspected a weapon was involved. Following enquiries, a 20-year-old

male presented himself at Fort William Police Station and following interview was arrested for serious assault. He appeared from custody at Fort William Sheriff Court where he was initially remanded. He is now on bail with various curfews in place.

On 30/01/08, a male tourist was befriended by two adult males within licensed premises in Fort William. About midnight, he was taken up Glen Nevis by one of his new 'friends' and was assaulted and robbed of cash and bankcards. Assault consisted of machete being wielded and victim sustained slight cuts to upper thigh. A 42-year-old male was charged and remanded to Porterfield. He has since been released on bail pending sentence.