

**NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**27 November 2009**

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

**I Latimer  
Chief Constable  
Date: 9 November 2009**

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**AREA COMMAND: Shetland**

**PERIOD: From: 1 July 2009 To: 30 September 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

Over the period commencing 1 July 2009 until the end of September 2009 reported crime rates have varied for the different types. There has been a slight increase in dishonesties from 55 in 2008 to 58 this year. There has been a reduction in crimes of violence. Our reported vandalisms have increased from 52 in 2008 to 68 this year. An operation has been set up to deal with vandalisms which is having some early success.

The overall detection rate for class 1-5 crimes of 64.3 %.

We continue to promote foot patrols as an effective method of reducing incidents of crime and to provide public reassurance. This has proved to be both popular with the community by giving public reassurance and effective in preventing and detecting crime.

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

Resources are committed to the seizure of drugs and detection of those involved in supplying drugs on Shetland. This includes the development and research of intelligence and information received from the community. Intelligence led enforcement operations conducted in partnership with other agencies such as the local charity Dogs Against Drugs have seen successful as detailed in some of the more notable seizures:

On 10/08/09 a search of a dwelling in Lerwick resulted in heroin with a street value of £8000; cannabis resin worth £500 and several thousand pounds of cash was seized. The householder was arrested and has since pled guilty to the charges against him. He awaits sentence.

On 28/08/09 two males suspected to have taken class A drugs to Shetland were stopped and searched when seen leaving a house in Lerwick. A quantity of heroin was seized with a value of approximately £3500. Both men were apprehended.

On 04/09/09 a search of a dwelling in Lerwick was carried out whereby £1000 worth of heroin was seized. Four occupants were arrested and subsequently reported to the procurator fiscal.

On 04/09/09 a search of a dwelling in the Dunrossness Area resulted in £3500 worth of heroin being seized. The male occupant was arrested and remains in custody pending trial.

On 22/09/09 a man and woman were stopped and searched at Holmsgarth Ferry Terminal as they disembarked the ferry from Aberdeen. Following a medical examination the man was found to have heroin with a street value of £8500 secreted in his body. He was also carrying a significant quantity of Amphetamine Paste which is only the second seizure of this type of drug in Northern Constabulary. The purity of this amphetamine is suspected to be particularly high and full analysis of the drug is not yet complete. This man is currently remanded in custody pending trial.

On 24/09/09 a dwelling house in Lerwick was searched under warrant and a cannabis cultivation site was discovered. The male occupant was arrested and has since pled guilty to the offence of cultivating cannabis. He remains in custody pending sentence.

On 24/09/09 during the search of a dwelling in Lerwick £2400 worth of heroin and 1000 illegal valium tablets was seized. The male householder was arrested and reported to the procurator fiscal.

On 19/09/09 there was a serious assault at Scalloway whereby the accused struck the victim several times about the head with a pool cue following a disagreement in licensed premises. The accused was arrested and is currently on bail.

There will be more pre planned coordinated drug enforcement across the Division as we approach the festive period.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

Figures for road collisions remains low in Shetland. There have been no fatalities and only 1 serious injury during this period.

There have been 12 incidents of drink driving and no incidents of driving whilst under the influence of drugs during this period. This is in line with last year's performance figures. It is encouraging to see that many of our detections for this crime originate from the public calling in about their concerns.

The promotion of Road Safety remains a key priority and we continue working along with the Shetland Island Road Safety Forum and the Shetland Islands Council's Community Safety Department. We have distributed a number of Motorcycle Safety leaflets during this period to tourists and local motorcyclists.

Work is ongoing with both education and the Shetland Islands Council Road Safety Officer looking at introducing the Driving Ambitions scheme to schools in Shetland. All schools are currently running the Crash Magnets programme.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

We continue to work with our partners to ensure a safe and secure environment within Shetland. This has included working within various fields.

The public space CCTV system for Lerwick is nearing its final stages with small technical difficulties and issues regarding planning permissions for signage now being close to being resolved. It is anticipated that the system should be completed and operational within the next few weeks. This will be a valuable tool that will be utilised during the busy upcoming festive and fire festival periods, enhancing the safety of the public and ensuring they can enjoy these periods safely.

Throughout the period we have continued to work closely with the licensing authorities on both the implementation and acceptance by Hall Committees in relation to the good practice guidelines for running events as well as the implementation of the new Licensing Legislation. The aim of this is to provide a safe and secure environment for everyone to enjoy themselves within licensed premises in Shetland.

Work has progressed on the management rules in relation to the Viking Bus Station which have now been implemented to improve public safety. This along with the works carried out in relation to the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) report has been welcomed by users of the bus station. This will continue to be monitored to ensure that the processes implemented remain fit for purpose.

As well as the above, work has also been undertaken regarding Secure by Design reports, basic crime prevention and security advice and early exploratory work has been carried out in relation to the running of a Safer Islander event in 2010. This event is designed to give personal security advice and guidance to young persons on a range of issues from water safety to personal security advice.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

Over the review period we have continued our practice of carrying out "High Visibility" targeted patrols. The issues and problem areas are identified through local and Divisional daily meetings and through the Tactical Assessment that is produced on a monthly basis by the N.I.M unit in Wick. These targeted patrols have resulted in a reduction of anti social behaviour in the areas patrolled.

We are continuing to build on our strong relationship with the Neighbourhood Support Workers and hold joint briefings, particularly on Friday evenings, in order to direct both resources to where they are required most. We have initiated joint working, whereby police officers will team up with Neighbourhood Support Workers, at both Licensed Events and on targeted foot patrols.

We have applied for funding from the Scottish Government through the "Safer Streets" initiative for 2009/10 to target anti-social behaviour.

There have been a total of 20 incidents logged under child protection during this period (28% of the total within the Division). These incidents have ranged from underage sex enquiries, to concern for a child living with a single parent suffering from mental health problems.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**AREA COMMAND: Orkney**

**PERIOD: From: 1 July 2009 To: 30 September 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The crime rate remains low.

The detection rate at 30 September 2009 was 68.2%. Crimes fell by 21.3% which in real terms is 76 crimes. This remains a strong position which can be improved further.

There have been 18 Class 1 crimes and 13 Class 2 with all but two being detected. There is some doubt as to whether these crimes actually happened.

Thefts and vandalisms have dropped compared to last year, which is a good sign. Targeted high visibility patrols are contributing to the reduction.

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

Orkney Crime Management Unit has been heavily involved in progressing enquiries into the murder investigation on Sanday. Other protracted enquiries include two separate diving accidents on Scapa Flow. Resources have been directed towards the investigation of several historical sexual offences and a complex fraud enquiry.

Pro-activity has remained a priority and an intelligence led operation has been initiated to gather community intelligence in relation to drugs misuse on the Island.

There will be more pre planned coordinated drug enforcement across the Division as we approach the festive period.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

The dedicated proactive and focused patrolling by local officers on Orkney's roads continues to help maintain low collision and injury rates. During the review period a total of 15 minor, non-injury, collisions were recorded; 3 collisions that resulted in slight injury and 1 in which a casualty received serious, but not life-threatening injuries. No fatalities were recorded.

Police patrols largely tend to be focused on the three areas of concern that contribute to fatal and serious injuries – failing to wear safety-belts, speeding and drink-driving.

As a consequence, a total of 88 drivers were detected travelling in excess of speed limits. 111 drivers/passengers were detected failing to wear safety-belts and 16 offenders who were found to be using mobile phones whilst driving.

During the course of patrols on Orkney's roads during the period under review, 91 drivers were breath tested with 6 proving positive.

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

With the new, multi-agency Adult Support and Protection Committee now established, there is a need to raise awareness amongst front-line staff whose roles could potentially bring them in contact with vulnerable adults. Together with staff members from the local authority's Community Social Services (CCS) department, an interactive training DVD-Rom was completed following a number of months' preparation. This will replace Level 1 training (awareness raising for front-line staff) previously delivered in person – something that proved time consuming to both police and CSS staff.

Through the daily (local) and monthly (divisional) Tactical Tasking process, local officers continue to focus their proactive time on patrolling identified hotspots within the locality. During the course of patrols a total of 43 persons under the age of 18 years were traced in possession of alcohol within public places.

During September, all Secondary 1 students in Orkney attended a multi-agency Safe Islander event at Kirkwall's TA Centre. A total of eight 'sets' ranging from Police personal safety to RNLI water safety were presented to the youngsters. The event was sponsored by Talisman Energy (UK) Ltd.

The initiative, led by a local licensee, to establish a Pub Watch scheme remains in progression.

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

A productive working partnership continues between Orkney Islands Council and Orkney Area Command, particularly in relation to addressing anti-social behaviour. Noise nuisance incidents that can result in repeat calls to a specific address have been curtailed through police officers reporting cases to the local Environmental Health Department, who can, if evidence exists, issue immediate Noise Abatement Notices.

During the period under review, a total of eight individuals agreed to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, the majority relative to noise nuisance incidents at their home addresses. One person is subject to an Antisocial Behaviour Order, which to date has resulted in no further incidents being logged.

There have been 14 incidents logged under Child Protection within the Area Command (19% of the total within the Division). During this period Child Protection enquiries have ranged from physical assaults, to enquiries involving historical abuse to an adult homosexual male cautioned and charged with Indecent Assault/BOP of a 14 year old male within a public area in Kirkwall.

The HMIE Joint Inspection of Orkney Child Protection cases commenced in August, involving all partner agencies involved in Child Protection issues.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**AREA COMMAND: Western Isles**

**PERIOD: From: 1 July 2009 To: 30 September 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The Western Isles detection rate for crimes 1 to 5 is currently at 69.4% against the Force average of 61.9%.

Of particular note is the reduction in crime of 33% compared to the same period last year.

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

The following relates to the more serious and protracted of incidents during the review period.

- A 28 year old male was reported having been found in possession of £3,900 worth of drugs. Enquiries are ongoing with this case.
- In a separate case, a 48 year old female from the Liverpool area has been reported in relation to drug supplying in the Western Isles.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

Drink driving continues to be targeted and 16 persons have been arrested over the period. Only two of these have been as a result of a road accident.

The Community Safety officer continues to work closely with CNES and partners in addressing road traffic issues, including the introduction of new speed restrictions on the edge of Stornoway.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

- Over the summer period, there was a spate of vandalism in and around Stornoway/Parkend area, most of which were detected and a number of youths along with an 18 year old male have been reported.
- A 23 year old male was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment in relation to a violent disturbance at the Western Isles Hospital when staff were threatened.

A bomb disposal team were called to an address in the Robertson Road area of Stornoway as a result of the sighting of an alleged explosive device. The device transpired to be fake and enquiries are ongoing into this incident.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

During the summer period, the Western Isles saw a marked increase to the number of visitors. This in turn led to large attendance at local events, such as The Hebridean Celtic Festival, Homecoming Tattoo, Barrafest and Whisky Galore, as well as many community galas and shows.

All these events passed peacefully with only minor matters for the Police to deal with.

## **6. OTHER**

Of note, 4 officers from the Western Isles Command competed at the British Police Athletics Championship at Doncaster in July, returning with 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals. This is a great achievement for not only a relatively small Force like Northern but more so for this Command Area.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**AREA COMMAND: Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross**

**PERIOD: From: 1 July 2009 To: 30 September 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

In the period 1 July 2009 to 30 September 2009, our detection rate for class 1-5 crimes was 54.7%, with 1097 crimes being made known and 600 detected. We will continue to use intelligence led policing style, ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) technology and our Proactive teams to increase our detection rate.

In Caithness vandalism continues to be a real concern. While we have increased our detection rate in relation to these types of crime they continue to be the largest portion of crimes committed in our area. We are taking a number of measures, under the banner of Operation Jigsaw, to address this form of anti-social behaviour. These measures include: tasking for the proactive team based on a local problem profile, community safety security surveys and press releases.

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

The number of reported violent crimes during the period was 14, all of which have been detected. A historical incident from the first quarter of this report year was also detected thus allowing us to maintain a 100% detection rate in this area.

Caithness, Sutherland and East Ross Crime Management and Pro-active Teams have worked closely together to develop intelligence with the NIM Unit to enforce drugs legislation across the Division. This culminated in a Division Wide Enforcement Day on the 4 September

Seizures within the Command Area included 50 cannabis plants from an address in Brora, the seizure of over 900 grams of cannabis resin and 560 grams of herbal cannabis from an address in Tain and the apprehension of a man on the A9 driving into the Division in possession of 56 grams of heroin for supply.

Pro-active stop searches and intelligence lead policing continue to be used to address the issue of Class A and Class B drugs within our communities.

Further enforcement dates are planned for the coming months.

Resources have been committed to reducing the number of crimes of dishonesty in the area which includes an ongoing operation to detect and reduce the theft of plant from commercial premises and protracted enquiries with colleagues in Central Division to detect those responsible for series crime such as housebreaking and other aggravated thefts across the area.

Resources have been allocated to the investigation of a fatal accident at Causeymire Wind Farm. This is a protracted and detailed enquiry which is likely to develop over the coming months.

### 3. SAFER ROADS

The number of drunk drivers detected in Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross during the period of review is 27. This shows our continued pro-active stance in relation to this problem.

There were 2 fatal road collisions, resulting in 4 fatalities. Included in is a fatal collision which occurred at one of the railway crossings in Halkirk. This incident is the subject of an on-going enquiry being conducted by British Transport Police.

Anti-Social Driving, particularly in the Caithness Area, is a subject which our communities have brought to our attention. In response to this, two directed initiatives were held in the Thurso and Wick areas. The first of these was educational (11 & 12 September), while the second was an enforcement exercise (25 & 26 September). Further initiatives will be held over the coming months.

During the review period officers in the Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross area dealt with 708 road traffic offences.

Further educational work in the form of press releases, information leaflets and the "Driving Ambitions" schools programme will be carried out in the coming weeks.

### 4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

**Sutherland Summit:** The Summit took place in Lairg on Monday 14 September 2009. Bringing together the Scottish Government Minister for Enterprise, Jim Mather MSP, Minister for the Environment, Roseanna Cunningham MSP, John Thurso MP, MSPs, Councillors, and partner agencies, including Northern Constabulary and communities, the summit sought to identify and examine the issues facing Sutherland. The Summit also worked to identify solutions and potential projects for economic, social and environmental sustainable development that agencies and communities can take forward in partnership. We will be attending follow up sessions to discuss the results of the Summit with a view to turning discussion into action.

**Missing Persons:** There has been a total of 44 missing persons in Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross area. Within this total there were 5 High risk, 26 Medium risk, 7 Low risk and 6 Unauthorised Absconders. The search for and locating of each of these missing persons requires a considerable amount of police resources and enquiry.

## 5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

**Castle of Mey:** August 2009 saw the annual visit of HRH Duke and Duchess of Rothesay to the Castle Mey, Caithness. This significant event, which was managed by the North Division with support from throughout the force, passed without incident. Work has begun on planning for next year's annual event with a view to developing and learning from the experiences of this year

**Royal Visit:** On 9 September 2009 HRH the Princess Royal visited several locations in Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross. These included Tain, Golspie and Wick. This event, which was managed by the North Division with support from other areas and Headquarters, passed without incident.

**Community Response Team:** Following on from the good practice developed in Central Division, the North Division has begun to develop a Community Response Team. This team has been deployed on a number of occasions and over the coming months it will be developed to provide a flexible proactive form of community policing throughout the Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross area.

**Public Protection:** There have been 38 incidents logged under Child Protection within the Area Command (53% of the total within the Division). During this period two Child Protection Orders have been sought, both due to children deemed to be at risk of physical injury and neglect from their parents/parents' partners. Child Protection enquiries have ranged from physical assaults and underage sex enquiries to concern for young children involved in a paedophile ring. Also, a number of families who have had previous contact with other Forces and Social Work Services in other parts of the country have moved into the Area Command.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**AREA COMMAND: Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh and Ross & Cromarty**

**PERIOD: From: 1 July 2009 To: 30 September 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The detection rate for Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh at the end of September 2009 stood at 54.3%. In terms of crime reduction we can demonstrate a highly credible reduction in crime of 20.1% in comparison with the previous year. This equates to 162 fewer crimes (or victims of crime) across the Area.

A similar story can be told for Ross and Cromarty, where proactivity has been sustained, resulting in an 8.2% drop in crime across all classes and an impressive increase in the detection rate to 65.8%. We are not complacent however, and continue to address the issues of anti social behaviour, youth related crime and acquisitive crime through the continued use of the Community Response Team. Regular and varied crime initiatives and operations have been carried out across the entire Ross and Cromarty Area Command and many more are planned for the months ahead.

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

#### **Sustained Crime Reduction**

The significant drop in serious crimes during the first half of 2009 has been sustained. The following serious crimes have been the subject of successful enquiries.

**Robbery:** On 30 August 2009, 2 elderly tourists were attacked and robbed on Fort William High Street. Thanks to the intervention of a member of the public and the use of the town centre CCTV system, the assailant, a 46 year old local man, was quickly apprehended and charged with assault, robbery and possession of drugs. He was subsequently sentenced to 8 months imprisonment.

**Thefts by Housebreaking:** The south end of Skye was the scene of a series of 5 Housebreakings during the summer months. Following protracted enquiries with assistance from the public and information from the national DNA database, a man was arrested and, following Court appearance, sentenced to a period of imprisonment. The investigation continues in respect of the involvement of others and a positive line of enquiry is underway.

**Break-ins to Rural Premises:** During the period under review there have been a number of break-ins to rural premises across Ross and Cromarty. Many of the premises targeted by the thieves have been isolated locations such as commercial yards and sawmills. A positive line of was followed resulting in one person being arrested and reported for numerous crimes. Enquiries continue into a number of

associates also believed to be involved in this series of crimes.

**Loopallu Music Festival:** The Loopallu Music Festival took place in Ullapool and was as expected, resource intensive. This year saw a considerable increase in drug related offence and incidents of anti social behaviour. Whilst still heralded as a success, talks will be ongoing to decide on ways to improve the event to improve public safety. It should be noted that no reports of dishonesty were received during the event which was obviously in part due to advice published prior to the event and to the decision to have both covert and overt patrolling in the camping areas.

**Card Cloning:** Enquiries are still ongoing both locally and nationally in relation to the recent spate of credit card cloning at a Dingwall supermarket. Given the perpetrators are believed to be outwith the Force area, considerable work has been carried out to collate all the incidents relevant to us and co-operation has been sought and given from other forces.

**Public Protection Unit:** The Unit have been heavily involved in the ongoing enquiry regarding the activities of a local care home as well as dealing with the many and varied public protection issues. Two major enquiries which are still ongoing relate to significant sexual abuse. Persons have been arrested in each case and now await Court proceedings.

**Notable Detections:** Considerable enquiries have been carried out and resources deployed to detect outstanding crimes across the Ross and Cromarty area command. This has resulted in a significant number of detections covering offences of vandalism and dishonesty in Strathpeffer, Alness and Dingwall.

**Notable Convictions:** Previously we reported on the major investigation that followed a double fatality road traffic collision near Kyleakin in August 2008. For their part in crimes of dishonesty, causing death by dangerous driving, dangerous driving and attempting to defeat the ends of justice, 2 men were sentenced at the High Court in Edinburgh to 3 years imprisonment and 27 months imprisonment respectively.

### 3. SAFER ROADS

#### Fatal Road Traffic Collisions

On 16 July 2009 a one vehicle road collision occurred on the A87 road near Inverinate. As a result an 87 year old woman sustained serious injuries from which she died later in hospital.

On the A82 on 9 August a motorcyclist died at the scene of a one vehicle collision at the Glen Gloy bends.

Also in Lochaber, a 22 year old man lost his life in a late night one vehicle collision on the A82 south of Spean Bridge.

## **Road Safety Issues**

This continues to be a priority across Ross and Cromarty and dedicated patrols have resulted in a number of drivers being prosecuted for using their mobile phones whilst driving. Patrols have also targeted those ignoring the speed limits and have resulted in numerous offences being detected. What is disappointing is that on at least 4 occasions those detected were travelling in excess of 100mph. It should be noted in this period in comparison to the same time last year that there has been a further reduction overall in all classes of road collisions and in numbers of casualties.

## **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

The Lochaber Street League football initiative has run successfully throughout the summer months, with upwards of 80 young people from across Lochaber participating in organised sporting activities. This highly popular activity has forged strong links between communities and the police and is a first class partnership designed to divert young people away from crime or anti-social behaviour.

Similarly, in September the street football programme was carried out in Dingwall and heralded as being a success. In the coming months it will again take place in Dingwall and will also be rolled out in Muir of Ord and Conon Bridge. An update will be given in the next Board report covering this period.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

Ross and Cromarty and Lochaber Pubwatch, together with its Skye & Lochalsh counterpart, continues to be a key partner in tackling anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and violence in and around licensed premises. The benefits of the scheme, when compared with historical data, are clearly evidenced with the inroads we have made in removing scenes of drunken violence from the community.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**EAST DIVISION: Inverness and Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey**

**PERIOD: From: 1 July 2009 To: 30 September 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The overall performance throughout the Division from April – September 2009 has seen the detection rate for Class 1–5 crime increase from 60.8% to 62.6% in comparison with the same period last year. There has also been a significant reduction in reported Class 1-5 crime in comparison with September 2008, by 452 crimes.

Class 1–4 crime decreased throughout the Division. Class 1 crime (serious and violent crime) reduced by 57 crimes, Class 2 crime (sexual offences) by 51 crimes, Class 3 crimes (dishonesties) by 305 crimes and Class 4 crime (vandalism) by 165 crimes. Class 5 crime increased by 126 crimes.

The current detection rate for Class 1 crime is 91.2%, Class 2 crime is 73.7%, Class 3 crime is 50.1%, Class 4 crime is 34.8% and Class 5 crime is 99%.

Broken down into Area Commands, the Inverness Area Command current detection rate is 61.1%, an increase of 1.8% from September 2008. The number of Class 1-5 crimes has reduced by 344 crimes.

The current Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn detection rate is 69.9%, an increase of 1.9%. The number of Class 1–5 crimes has fallen by 108 crimes.

Work is ongoing across the Division to address Child Protection and Domestic Abuse issues. A dedicated Domestic Abuse Liaison Officer has been appointed on a trial basis to ensure that satisfactory risk assessments are carried out for victims of domestic abuse and that suitable support networks are in place. Work also continues on the national programme for change, Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). During the review period, 95 Child Protection enquiries have taken place from July – September 2009, with many enquiries of a protracted nature. A total of 440 Child Concern Forms have been received across the Division.

Our Community Safety Officers continue to provide advice, with 15 Security Surveys and 2 CCTV surveys carried out. Five new Secured By Design domestic housing applications have been submitted, making a total of 15 for the Division this year.

With the variable shift arrangement fully established, the commitment to provide increased police presence in our communities can be met. This is of particular use during peak periods and during periods when Operations are running. The Division's commitment to reducing crime and tackling antisocial behaviour means that extra patrols are required at peak locations and times.

## 2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Emphasis is placed upon addressing serious violent crime and drugs issues.

During this period 8 offences for supply and possession with intent to supply Class A drugs were made known. In total, there were 319 drug offences made known during this period.

Notable seizures of drugs over this period include the following incidents:

- Three males were arrested following a vehicle check at Drumnadrochit after they were found to be in possession of 1kg of cocaine, with a street value of approximately £50,000.
- A drugs warrant was executed at an address in Inverness, during which 650g of cannabis resin was recovered with an estimated street value of £3250 and a quantity of tablets and powder (awaiting analysis). Male charged with supply.
- A male was arrested after his vehicle was stopped at Drumossie Brae. Within his possession was 4oz of cocaine, 2kg cannabis resin, 2kg amphetamine and 20,000 suspected ecstasy tablets. The approximate value of the drugs is in the region of £120,000.
- A search warrant was executed at an address in Inverness in August. While no controlled drugs were recovered, items of an evidential nature were however seized as the suspect is living well beyond his legitimate means. As a result of further enquiries, almost 3kg of cannabis resin and almost 2kg of amphetamine was later recovered.
- A drug enforcement day was carried out in September, with positive results. A search warrant was executed at one address and a male and female were found to be in possession of 25 g heroin, personal amounts of cannabis resin and valium, and almost £2000 was seized.

Reports have been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to these offences.

Unfortunately, there were 28 drug related overdoses made known during this period, 3 of which resulted in a death. Investigations were carried out into each of these deaths and work is ongoing in order to identify any commonalities between the overdoses. However, the number of reported overdoses has decreased in recent months. Partnership work continues into reducing overdoses throughout the Division and the supply of the drug Naloxone to users and their families is likely to have contributed to this decrease.

With regards to serious violent crime, the level of Class One crime made known decreased in comparison with the same period last year. There has been a slight increase in the number of Serious Assaults made known, which may be down to recording issues rather than an increasing trend. There were no murders or attempted

murders made known.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

Force targets to reduce the number of persons killed and seriously injured as a result of road collisions are currently being met by the Division. During the period under review, there were 11 people killed or seriously injured as result of 8 road collisions. Unfortunately, 3 people were killed in road collisions. On 12 July on the A82 at South Laggan, a 78 year old male riding pillion on a motorcycle died in hospital several weeks after the collision, as a result of complications due to the accident. On 19 August, on the B1952 at Kingussie, a 21 year old male died after he lost control of his vehicle and hit a tree head on. His blood alcohol limit was later found to be more than twice the limit. On 18 September, on the A862 at Lentrán, a 16 year old male died after the vehicle he was travelling in crashed into a dyke and he was thrown from the vehicle. The driver of the car was subsequently allegedly found to be over the legal blood alcohol limit.

To date there have been no children seriously injured or killed on our roads.

During the period under review, the Division continued to target drink and drug drivers, with 3 individuals charged with driving whilst under the influence of drugs. There were 53 individuals charged with drink driving offences. The Division participated in Operation Bottle, the ACPOS summer drink drive campaign, which ran for a fortnight in July.

Targeted patrols continue with emphasis remaining on the A9, A96 and A82 trunk roads. This effort has been rewarded with the level of Class Seven crime made known and detected remaining at a steady level across the Division. There has been a significant increase in speeding offences, which is attributed to a new intelligence led deployment matrix that was introduced in January 2009 at NSCP. This matrix collates current speed survey and collision data to and is used to direct resources more effectively to target vehicles driving at excess or inappropriate speed at or near areas where serious/fatal collisions occur.

A 28 month jail sentence was imposed upon a 59 year old male in August 2009 after a fatal accident on July 19 2009 which caused the deaths of a 48 year old male and his 4 year old grand-daughter on the A9 at Crubenmore, near Kingussie.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

The detection rate for non sexual crimes of violence against the person for April – September 2009 stands at 91.2%, above the Force target of 90%.

The detection rate for crimes of indecency is below the Force target of 80% and is currently 73.7%. However, work is ongoing into some incidents, and the detection rate is expected to rise in the coming months.

The detection rate for crimes of dishonesty is currently at 50.1%. However, there has been a drop in the number of incidents. There are several housebreaking and OLP recidivists currently within prison at the moment and this has contributed towards the drop in Class 3 crimes.

The detection rate for vandalisms and fireraising has dropped to 34.8%, a decrease from 37.9% the same time last year. However, this is an increase in comparison with recent months. On a positive note, our work in tackling antisocial behaviour through Operation Respect in Merkinch and Hilton and Operation Magma and Mexican in Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn has resulted in a decrease in reported Class 4 crime.

Due to the statistical reporting process being under development, the figures regarding the timeous submission of police reports to the Procurator Fiscal or Children's Reporter are not available for September 2009. However, the figures from August 2009 indicate that 92% of police reports to the Children's Reporter are sent within 14 calendar days of caution/charge, well above the 80% target. 74.2% of police reports to the Procurator Fiscal are sent within 28 days of caution/charge, below the 80% target. Work is ongoing in order to improve this during the next period.

Convictions of note during this period include:

- A male was sentenced to 4 years in prison and a further 2 years supervision after pleading guilty to a series of lewd, indecent and libidinous acts against boys between 1990 and 2008.
- A 52 year old male was sentenced to 8 years and 4 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to lewd, indecent and libidinous practices against two females between 1984 and 2003.

Also worthy of note is the other work carried out by officers in respect of enquiries into missing persons; co-ordination of Mountain Rescue Incidents; youth work; Street Pastors liaison, Pub watch schemes in Badenoch, Nairn and Inverness; CCTV and liaison with Highland Council Anti Social Behaviour team, which are all directed in making our Communities safer.

Sadly the body of a 17 year old male who had been reported missing was found after several days of searching in a river at Foyers, where he was last seen. Police co-ordinated the search along with the Coastguard, Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team and Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

There were 21 hate crimes reported during the period. This equates to 0.3 crimes per 1000 of the population, which is below the Force target of 0.4 crimes per 1000 of the population and the detection rate currently stands at 70.4%.

The Belladrum music festival took place over the weekend of 7 and 8 August. The event went very well, with only 7 arrests over the weekend for disturbances and breaches of the peace. No drug related offences were detected.

There are a number of major forthcoming events, which will have an impact on the Division. The Winter Festival this year is due to run from Halloween to Hogmanay and incorporates many events, including the Inverness Bonfire and Fireworks Display.