

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

19 JANUARY 2007

Agenda Item	
Report No	

CRIME SITUATION

Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

The report informs Members of notable crimes, incidents, initiatives and convictions since the last report.

BACKGROUND:

The following is a brief summary of a few of the incidents attended, illustrating the diverse and sometimes serious nature of crime and incidents throughout the Force.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is invited to note the current position.

Ian J Latimer
Chief Constable

SHETLAND AREA COMMAND

1 October 2006 – 31 December 2006

STOLEN VEHICLES REPORTED	0
SUDDEN DEATHS ATTENDED	7
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	16
FIRES ATTENDED	4

NOTABLE CRIMES

Following enquiries into a Theft by HB at a charity shop in Lerwick, two men were apprehended and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following the report of extensive damage being caused to Brae High School, enquiries resulted in the apprehension of three young men.

Following report of a break-in and theft of a quantity of alcohol from Whiteness Public Hall, three men were apprehended and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Thefts by Housebreaking have been reported to commercial premises at *Garriock Brothers*, Gremista Industrial Estate, Lerwick and at *InterSport*, Commercial Street, Lerwick. A positive line of enquiry is being followed in relation to these crimes.

Enquiry into the theft of a large quantity of Lobsters from cages in the North Mainland area of Shetland has been carried out, which has resulted in two men being charged with these crimes and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following several reports involving the theft of fuel and fuel tanks from small boats in the North Mainland Area of Shetland, enquiries carried out have resulted in two men being charged and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following an allegation by two young boys of indecent assault, an extensive investigation was instigated which resulted in the apprehension of a 16-year-old male youth. This young man remains in custody, on remand, pending his trial.

A registered Sex Offender was apprehended at Holmsgarth Ferry Terminal, Lerwick, having travelled to Shetland in breach of the conditions of his Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO). This followed close co-operation between officers of Shetland Command Area and Grampian Police. The man is currently remanded in custody awaiting sentencing.

A young Burra man was airlifted to hospital in Aberdeen, suffering internal injuries, having reported being assaulted in Lerwick Town Centre in the early hours of 24 December 2006. Over 36 hours elapsed between the incident and the victim attending hospital and a further 26 hours elapsed before the matter was finally reported to police on Boxing Day. The delay has not assisted efforts to trace those responsible but extensive enquiries are currently ongoing.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

On 2 October 2006 a 48-year-old man was reported missing from Baltasound in Unst. Extensive searches, both land and sea based, were carried out with a negative result. Police enquiries have been conducted throughout Shetland and beyond. However, whilst no possible explanation has yet been ruled out, no evidence has been uncovered suggesting he has been the victim of a crime. During November relatives of the missing person took part in a national media appeal for information. This, sadly, has not resulted in any new information. Enquiries continue.

In October, police were called to the Lerwick Ferry Terminal at Holmsgarth after a member of staff reported having found a suspicious package. On attendance the package appeared to have been placed in such a way to cause alarm but was found to be harmless. Enquiries into this incident are continuing.

During late October a Full Emergency was declared at Sumburgh Airport involving the MCA Rescue Helicopter 'Oscar Charlie'. The aircraft landed without incident.

In early December a Full Emergency was declared at Scatsta Airport after an inbound Bristow's helicopter reported problems with its nose wheel. On landing, the helicopter's nose wheel disintegrated. There were no injuries.

NOTABLE INITIATIVES

The project to install a public space CCTV system in Lerwick Town Centre continues to make progress. More than 20 companies have responded to an advertisement placed seeking expressions of interest in the installation and commissioning of the proposed 14 camera system which will be based at Lerwick Police Station. Currently the process to assess the respondents' capacity and suitability to be invited to tender is underway. The final tender document is currently being worked on by Community Safety and Contract Compliance staff of Shetland Islands Council. It is hoped that the system will be operational in the spring/early summer of 2007. The Command Area is currently examining options for monitoring the system once installed. When operational this initiative will bring invaluable benefits for public order and safety.

The proposed by-law for Lerwick, prohibiting the drinking of alcohol in public places, currently awaits confirmation by the Scottish Executive following clarification of points appertaining to the boundaries contained within the by-law. A draft operational Order has been prepared in respect of the implementation of the by-law, particularly in its initial educative phase leading on to the enforcement phase.

Members of Shetland Community Safety Partnership (including Northern Constabulary staff) recently attended training in regard to problem solving within partnerships. The training, facilitated by a mainland based consultancy, was funded entirely by the Scottish Executive and received very positive feedback from all participants.

Shetland Command Area and the Environmental Health Department of Shetland Islands Council have developed working arrangements and practices aimed at jointly tackling noise complaints from members of the public. This has resulted in a 40% reduction in repeat calls to premises regarding complaints of noise. Efforts in this respect were recognised recently by the *Noise Abatement*

Society who conferred the *John Connel Enterprise Award*, for outstanding contribution to noise reduction in Shetland, on the partners in the scheme. The award was presented at a ceremony at the House of Commons, on 1 November 2006, where Sergeant Finlay MacBeath represented the Command Area.

Concerted efforts are being made within the Command Area to tackle the problem of underage drinking. During the review period this has been carried out by targeting public areas at peak times and has resulted in 55 separate incidents when alcohol has been seized from underage youths. A number of adults have also been charged and reported for purchasing alcohol for those underage. Of particular concern is the number of youths who have been found, comatose, in public areas and have required hospitalisation, as a result of over-indulgence in alcohol. Robust efforts will continue within the Command Area to tackle this problem by enforcing the law and raising public awareness.

NOTABLE CONVICTIONS

Following an incident of breach of the peace and assault of a schoolteacher at Anderson High School, Lerwick, a man appeared at Lerwick Sheriff Court and on conviction was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

A man was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment at Lerwick Sheriff Court having been convicted of the indecent assault of a woman within her home.

Following a Sheriff and Jury trial at Lerwick, a woman was convicted and sentenced to 4 years imprisonment for a violent assault on another woman in her own home, resisting arrest and assaulting three police officers and a local GP.

A young man awaits sentence having been convicted at Lerwick Sheriff Court of sending indecent text messages, via his mobile telephone, to a young woman.

MISSING PERSONS PROFILE

During the period under review 16 reports of missing persons were made to the Police in Shetland. The following indicates the types of incidents reported:

1. Eight incidents of teenagers / youths failing to return home by deadlines set by parents / guardians. The majority of these are a small group of problematic teenage girls who habitually fail to return home. Following enquiries they have always been located, usually at friends' addresses or Lerwick town centre. A considerable amount of police time is spent on these enquiries.
2. Seven incidents were 'false alarms with good intent' mainly consisting of well meaning reports from friends / relatives who had concerns regarding the well being of individuals.
3. One incident (reported above under 'Notable Incidents') has been the subject of extensive police enquiries during the review period. At the time of this report the gentleman concerned remains listed as a missing person.

ORKNEY AREA COMMAND

1 October 2006 – 31 December 2006

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	1
SUDDEN DEATHS ATTENDED	4
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	0
FIRES ATTENDED	0

NOTABLE CRIMES

It is pleasing to report that, although there were a wide range of more minor crimes, there were relatively few serious crimes, which included a serious fraud and a number of child protection enquiries. Of particular note, throughout the review period, has been the reduction in vandalism.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

During late October 2006, a very professional major incident multi-agency response successfully dealt with what was assessed to be the worst weather and flooding in living memory. The situation was made much more serious due to the loss of a vitally important water pumping station. This necessitated detailed contingency planning to meet the real possibility of serious water shortages for a significant period of time. Fortunately, this was averted but clearly demonstrated the excellent partnership working between all the responding agencies.

During the review period, a number of irresponsible drivers were arrested in Orkney for drink driving, some with counts exceeding four times the legal limit. Of particular note was a man who was convicted of drink driving for a third time and the number of drivers arrested in the North and South Isles following a proactive enforcement campaign.

During November 2006, two Indian nationals were killed aboard an oil tanker in the Pentland Firth. Detailed enquiries by the police and Marine Accident Investigation Branch are continuing.

NOTABLE CONVICTIONS

During October 2006, two teenagers were sentenced at Kirkwall Sheriff Court in relation to a racially aggravated serious assault on a man in Kirkwall during January 2006. One teenager was placed on probation for two years, ordered to carry out 240 hours community service and to pay compensation of £500, whilst the other was ordered to carry out 240 hours community service and to pay compensation of £1500. In another serious assault case, a South Ronaldsay man was sentenced to 150 hours community service and placed on probation for 12 months following an incident in Kirkwall during June 2006.

Following a serious assault in St Margaret's Hope during November 2005, three men were sentenced at Kirkwall Sheriff Court to fines of £2250, £2250 and £2500 respectively. A Finstown man was also sentenced to three months imprisonment at Kirkwall Sheriff Court during October 2006 following a disturbance in Kirkwall in September 2006.

During October 2006, two men were sentenced to a fine and to be of good behaviour respectively, after admitting to growing cannabis plants at a house in Kirkwall during June 2006.

Following a catalogue of offences committed during the autumn, including vandalism, theft by housebreaking and theft, four youths pled guilty at Kirkwall Sheriff Court. One youth was sentenced to seven months imprisonment. The other offenders were dealt with by way of referral to the Children's Panel, compensation and good behaviour orders. In a separate case two youths were also found guilty of a spate of vandalisms committed in Kirkwall during December 2005.

NOTABLE INITIATIVES

During October 2006, a very successful two-day multi-agency major incident and pollution exercise was hosted by Talisman UK at the Flotta Oil Terminal. In addition, several major incident exercises were carried out at airfields in the North Isles.

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

During September 2006, the emergency and other uniformed services held a very successful 'open day' in Kirkwall, with stands and practical demonstrations. The event was attended by approximately 500 people and raised more than £1000 for a local charity.

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

WESTERN ISLES AREA COMMAND

1 October 2006 – 31 December 2006

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	3
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	14
MISSING PERSONS REPORTS	20
FIRES ATTENDED	23

NOTABLE CRIMES

During the early hours of 29 October, two brothers from the Lochs area of Lewis – aged 26 yrs and 32 yrs – were assaulted by two males within Stornoway town centre. The victims sustained broken noses and one of them sustained a split ear. Two males – aged 26 yrs and 19 yrs – were subsequently traced and charged with 3 counts of assault and 1 count of serious assault.

On the morning of 1 November, Police were notified by the Ambulance Service that they were attending to the victim of an apparent stabbing. A 39 year old male had sustained two stab wounds to his chest whilst in the Westview Grove area of Stornoway. Following enquiry, a 37 year old male was charged with attempted murder and is currently on bail awaiting trial.

On 10 November, a verbal altercation between two males within licensed premises in Stornoway town centre resulted in a 37 year old male being repeatedly struck on the head by a beer bottle. He required 11 staples and 9 ordinary stitches to multiple lacerations to his scalp. A 29 year old male has been charged with assault to severe injury.

During the evening of 18 November, Police were informed of an allegation that a 20 year old male was sexually assaulted by 4 males within the Castle Grounds, Stornoway. After extensive enquiry – and as a result of CCTV and medical evidence – this allegation proved to be false and the alleged victim has been charged with wasting Police time.

During the early hours of 2 December, a 34 year old male smashed his way into his partner's house in the Shawbost area of Lewis. As he did so, his partner and her 16 year old daughter took refuge in their bathroom. He broke three windows, made threats to kill his partner and stabbed a knife through the bathroom door, narrowly missing the victim's head. The male was thereafter traced and charged with attempted murder and various other offences relating to disorder and road traffic.

On 22 December, Police received a report indicating a concern for a 19 year woman residing in South Uist. Entry was gained to her flat where she was found drunk and asleep along with her 2 year old child. The child was removed under emergency Police powers and has been re-housed meantime while enquiry continues. The mother is to be reported to the Procurator Fiscal for exposing the child to danger.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

On 14 November, a full scale emergency took place at Stornoway Airport whereby a Jet stream 31 aircraft had one engine down as a result of an oil leak. The usual protocols were carried out by Police and the aircraft landed safely.

On 1 December, Police were informed of a serious one vehicle road traffic accident on the Rhenigidale road in Harris. A van travelling along the single track road swerved and left the carriageway, careering down a steep embankment before somersaulting and landing on its roof. The driver and sole occupant – a 71 year old male – was conveyed to Western Isles Hospital. He was found to have serious spinal injuries and was transferred to Southern General Hospital in Glasgow. Police enquiries into the circumstances of this accident are continuing.

On 4 December, severe weather combined with high tidal surges caused some concern across the Uists. Police monitored the situation overnight and supervised some of the vulnerable waterways, which were slightly affected by heavy seas and high water levels.

NOTABLE INITIATIVES.

FESTIVE DRINK DRIVING CAMPAIGN – As part of the National Drink Driving Initiative, 39 motorists throughout the Western Isles were breath tested. Nine of these motorists provided positive tests whilst one other refused to provide a sample. All 10 are being reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Of the 9 drivers who tested positive, 3 were involved in road traffic accidents.

OPERATION HORN – During this period, the two-man pro-active team returned to full-time operation – concentrating on offences such as vandalism, the misuse of controlled drugs and the supply of alcohol to youths. As a result, several crimes have been detected in the period and numerous confiscations made from underage drinkers.

PROOF OF AGE READERS - The Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership launched the ‘Proof of Age’ readers’ scheme on 11 December within the Star Inn, South Beach Street, Stornoway. This scheme is a way to assist the licensee and their staff in the selling of age restricted products. Under the scheme, these card readers - valued at £100 – can be purchased with a 75% discount. The card readers electronically scan and verify ‘Young Scot’ cards - which provide accredited proof of age of the person making the purchase. Young Scot cards are available to young people within the Western Isles from age 14-25. At present within the Western Isles, over 89% of the over 16/17 age group have been issued with these cards. This process is ongoing and all secondary children in the Western Isles will continue to be issued with these cards which are already being used to allow payment for school meals and other non-cash transactions. The Western Isles Area Commander fully supports this initiative, which will assist the licensee in the campaign to prevent under age drinking and purchase of alcohol from licensed premises.

WORK EXPERIENCE - Between the 30 October and 3 November a work experience programme was carried out within Stornoway Police Station. This consisted of a total of 8 pupils from various schools throughout the Western Isles attending work at the

police station between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday for one week. During their week they were given inputs on numerous aspects of police work and administration. They had unlimited access to officers of all ages and experiences to obtain the maximum information regarding a career in the police. Instruction was given to the groups on the following subjects: Health and Safety, Observation Skills, Report Writing, Custody Procedure, Intoximeter (drink driving procedures), CID awareness, Officer Safety Training and First Aid, Firearms in the Police and Court/Giving Evidence. During the week the group were required to research and prepare a presentation/debate on a topical subject. This culminated in the students presenting their subject to invited dignitaries at the end of the period of work experience. This scheme has received very positive feedback from all the students and schools involved.

CHILD SAFETY EVENT - On Friday 27 October within Shawbost Secondary School, Isle of Lewis, Sergeant Roddy MacKay, Community Safety Department, Stornoway Police Station, along with colleagues from other agencies, gave child safety inputs to 190 students and 22 teachers from surrounding schools. Northern Constabulary concentrated on Road Safety as their theme and through group discussion, role play for the younger pupils and general advice and statistical information the pupils gained an insight and further understanding of accident prevention, cycling, dark nights safety as pedestrians and safety on public/school bus transport. This was the second last event of this type for all primary/junior secondary schools in Lewis and Harris with the final event planned for Lionel in Ness in April 2007. Thereafter these events will be repeated in the Uists and Barra. This type of event provides a great opportunity to promote road safety to large target audience groups and the Western Isles Area Command will continue to support them.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – On 7 December, Stornoway Amenity Trust, along with Newton and Sandwick Partnerships, held the annual Christmas Light Switching-on ceremony within Perceval Square car park, Stornoway. During the ceremony, a number of side stalls and attractions were present in the Fisherman's car park area, Perceval Square and on Point Street. These attractions included charity stalls and, for the first time, some fairground waltzers. The event attracted a very large crowd despite the appalling weather conditions and concluded without incident.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY– On 30 December, the annual fireworks display took place at the low road within the Castle Grounds, Stornoway. Large crowds gathered within Stornoway town centre to witness the spectacle and the event passed without incident.

NOTABLE CONVICTIONS

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 2 October, a 16 year old female was found guilty of breach of the peace, assault and Police assault. She was sentenced to an 18 month Probation Order and ordered to attend alcohol and drug counselling.

A 16 year old male was found guilty of attempted theft, theft, breach of the peace and assault at Stornoway Sheriff Court on 2 October. He was sentenced to 3 months detention at a Young Offenders Institute.

A 28 year old male was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment at Stornoway Sheriff Court on 2 October, having being found guilty of supplying controlled drugs.

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 10 October a 59 year old male was fined a total of £700 and disqualified from driving for 18 months. He was found guilty of drink driving and several document offences.

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 17 October, a 36 year old female was fined a total of £850 and her driving licence endorsed with 6 penalty points after being found guilty of speeding and documentary offences.

On 23 October, a 46 year old male was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment by Stornoway Sheriff Court for a breach of the peace.

At Lochmaddy Sheriff Court on 24 October, a 30 year old male from Barra pled guilty to charges of failing to stop for Police and failing to provide a blood specimen. He was fined and disqualified from driving for 3 years.

At Lochmaddy Sheriff Court on 24 October, a 47 year old male pled guilty to a breach of the peace, having removed his 3 year old son from his mother's care against her will. He was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment.

At Lochmaddy Sheriff Court on 24 October, a 19 year old male was found guilty of lewd and libidinous conduct towards a number of teenage youths. He was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment.

At Lochmaddy Sheriff Court on 24 October, a 45 year old male was found guilty of drink driving and disqualified for 18 months.

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 30 October, a 45 year old male was found guilty of drink driving and disqualified for 3 years. He was also fined £500.

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 1 November, an 18 year old male was found guilty of driving whilst unfit through drink or drugs. He was disqualified from driving for 18 months and fined £400.

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 13 November, a 33 year old male was found guilty of indecent assault and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. He was also placed on the Sex Offenders Register for 10 years.

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 13 November, a 16 year old male was sentenced to 3 months detention at a Young Offenders Institute. He was found guilty of shoplifting, breach of the peace, assault and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 14 November, a 16 year old male was found guilty of breach of the peace, police assault and a bail offence and sentenced to 4 months detention at a Young Offenders Institute.

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 14 November, a 32 year old male was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment after being found guilty of a breach of the peace and a bail offence.

At Lochmaddy Sheriff Court on 21 November, a 48 year old female was found guilty of drink driving. She was disqualified from driving for 3 years.

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 28 November, a 43 year old male was found guilty of a breach of the peace and possession of an offensive weapon. He was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment.

At Stornoway Sheriff Court on 7 December, a 45 year old male was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for breach of the peace, Police Assault and a bail offence.

At Lochmaddy Sheriff Court on 19 December, a 37 year old male was found guilty of drink driving and disqualified for 3 years.

At Lochmaddy Sheriff Court on 19 December, a 52 year old male was found guilty of drink driving and disqualified for 3 years.

At Lochmaddy Sheriff Court on 19 December, a 48 year old female was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment having pled guilty to a racially aggravated breach of the peace.

At Glasgow High Court on 19 December, a 16 year old male was found guilty of assault to severe injury and sentenced to 3 years and 4 months imprisonment.

MISSING PERSONS PROFILE

During the period a total of 20 reports of missing persons were made to the Police. The following indicates the types of incidents reported:

Ten incidents of youths failing to return home when expected. All were traced safe and well.

Two incidents relating to elderly male residents within residential homes going missing. Both were traced safe and well.

One incident relating to a mother reporting her 2 ½ year old son going missing from his back garden. The boy was traced safe and well within his own home a short time later.

One incident relating to a female resident in Carloway reporting her 39 year old partner missing. He was traced safe and well a few days later.

Three incidents relating to youths residing at NCH Hillcrest, Stornoway, absconding or failing to return home when required to do so. In all 3 incidents, the youths concerned were traced safe and well and conveyed home.

One incident relating to a mother reporting that her 15 year old son had failed to attend at school that day and she was unaware of his current whereabouts. He was traced safe and well within a friends house, where he had been all day. The friends mother was given suitable advice.

One incident relating to a 62 year old patient within the Western Isles Hospital absconding. He was traced safe and well within his home address and conveyed back to hospital.

One incident relating to a 68 year old male resident in Harris being reported missing by his doctor. He returned home, safe and well, a short time after being reported missing.

CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND AREA COMMAND

1 October 2006 – 31 December 2006

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	6
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	21
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	36
FIRES ATTENDED	26

NOTABLE CRIMES

A Police investigation in Wick into a large number of wilful damage incidents across the town which occurred between April and November 2006 resulted in four teenage youths being charged with 130 separate offences of vandalism.

A similar police investigation into a series of incidents at various locations in Thurso over several months resulted in 6 youths being charged with 61 separate offences of vandalism.

An ongoing dispute in the Lairg area resulted in a complaint to Police from one of the parties that he had been verbally abused in a homophobic manner. Police investigations resulted in a male person being charged and the matter reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

A 19 year old Wick male was identified by Police for shoplifting offences and subsequently arrested. Following interview the male was charged with four crimes. A repeat offender, he appeared from custody and was remanded.

The front door of a property in Wick was damaged by fire after it was alleged a lit toilet roll was put through the letter box overnight whilst the occupants of the house were asleep in bed. The fire activated the smoke alarm which alerted the occupants who were then able to extinguish the fire themselves. None of the occupants were injured as a result of this crime. Police enquiries continue to ascertain the identity of the culprits.

Following a domestic dispute in the Wick area a female was arrested and charged with the attempted murder of her partner.

Following a report of a stolen vehicle at Kinlochbervie, Sutherland Police Officers conducted enquiries which led to the identify of the culprit. The vehicle was later recovered in North Wales in the possession of the culprit who was apprehended.

A Wick Police investigation has resulted in an individual being reported for a series of diesel and plant thefts from a number of locations which date back as far as 2004. Along with charges of theft the culprit faces charges of wilful damage to private vehicles belonging to serving Police Officers, whilst the vehicles were parked and unattended at their home addresses. This matter has now been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Following a dispute amongst a group of young men in the Wick area, a 23 year old male was reported to have been seriously assaulted by his three peers. The victim suffered superficial stab wounds to his neck, concussion, a broken nose and a suspected broken arm. A male suspect was apprehended and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

A 33 year old male from the Wick area suffered severe facial lacerations when attacked by another male. A Police investigation identified the accused who was arrested and the matter reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

A young male in the Thurso area was subsequently arrested having been identified on CCTV footage as being responsible for a Robbery after producing a knife and threatening staff at a local convenience store. Staff were able to activate an alarm, whereupon the accused fled the store with a handful of lottery scratch cards.

A 37 year old male was arrested and appeared at Dornoch Sheriff Court from custody following a report of indecent assault by a 17 year old female.

In Brora, a 35 year old male disturbed in the act of damaging a car went on to physically attack the vehicle owner. A neighbour attempted to intervene, whereupon the accused produced a knife and attempted to use it to cause injury. On being apprehended by Police the accused resisted violently. He was subsequently charged with attempted murder and other offences, kept in Police custody, and appeared at Dornoch Sheriff Court.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, visited Caithness on 10 October 2006 and carried out public engagements at Wick Harbour, JGC Engineering at Janetstown, and Caithness Indoor Riding School at Halkirk.

Police investigations were carried out in the High Ormlie area in Thurso, following a report of spray paint graffiti. The vandalism was found to include comments of a racist nature, which had been sprayed on to the outer walls of an Indian Takeaway restaurant. Police enquiries continue.

Sutherland Police Officers and the Scottish Ambulance Service attended to a 15 year old girl from the Rogart area, following her self administering a quantity of non-prescribed medication. She was subsequently conveyed to Raigmore Hospital where she made a full recovery.

Enquiries in Wick continue into a matter reported to the Police by a female who alleged that she had been verbally abused and assaulted in a racially aggravated manner by two persons known to her. Police enquiries continue into this matter.

Following a report of an object submerged in the waters of Wick Harbour local Police assisted by Wick Coastguard and Grampian Police Underwater Search Unit recovered

a vehicle and the remains of the sole male occupant who tragically died as a result. There were no suspicious circumstances.

NOTABLE INITIATIVES

The Wick CCTV Sub Group have been successful in raising funds to increase the number of cameras from 4 to 12 in the Wick Town Public Space CCTV System. Final amendments are being made to the report for the positioning of the additional facilities at various locations which will be submitted to the Pan Highland Group in early 2007.

On the 22 December 2006 the annual "Mad Friday" festive night out once again took place in Thurso. Licensed premises were overwhelmed by the numbers of people out celebrating. The evening passed without any notable public order issues and was co-ordinated well by the organisers of transport from the Dounreay U.K.A.E.A. site.

The Dornoch, Thurso and Wick Hogmanay Street Parties went underway with additional Police and staff working to accommodate the events. No significant problems were experienced and the events were co-ordinated well by the organisers.

On the lead up to, and including, the festive season we saw the introduction of a number of Safer Scotland Initiatives to reduce Violent Crime. The campaign is aimed at targeting offenders, effective checks at licensed premises etc thus ensuring public safety and reducing opportunities for anti-social behaviour at this busy time of year.

ACPOS Road Safety Campaigns within the Force area continued to be supported. The ACPOS Winter Road Safety Campaign got underway on October 30, with motorists being given winter safety advice in relation to their vehicles and driving. On 6 December 2006, the ACPOS Festive Drink Driving Safety Campaign commenced running through to 3 January 2007.

NOTABLE CONVICTIONS

On 11 October 2006 at Wick Sheriff Court a man was sentenced to 7 months imprisonment after being found guilty of Domestic Assault and also two offences of Breach of the Peace.

On 9 November 2006 at Wick Sheriff Court a man was found guilty of driving whilst disqualified and given a further two year driving disqualification, and was ordered to pay fines totalling £450.

On 10 November 2006 at Wick Sheriff Court a prolific offender was sentenced to 40 days imprisonment for three counts of Theft by Shoplifting.

On 24 November 2006 at Wick Sheriff Court, a man was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment after pleading guilty to Theft.

On 24 November 2006 at Wick Sheriff Court, following a guilty plea, a man was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment for a Breach of the Peace and 4 months imprisonment for assaulting police and resisting arrest. The sentences were to run consecutively making a total of 6 months detention.

On 4 December 2006 at Dornoch Sheriff Court, a male was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment for the offences of Assault and Breach of the Peace

On 21 December 2006 at Wick Sheriff Court a man was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and placed on to the Sex Offenders Register for 7 years following a conviction for various sex offences.

On 21 December 2006 at Wick Sheriff Court, after a guilty plea, a man was given an additional 3 year driving disqualification and a £750 fine, for disqualified driving and other kindred offences.

On 22 December 2006 at the High Court in Inverness a Dornoch male youth was sentenced to 2 years within a Secure Youth Offenders Institute and was placed on to the Sex Offenders Register for 5 years, following conviction for sexual assault. This conviction is now under appeal.

MISSING PERSONS

There were 36 instances of reported missing persons during the period under review which can be broken down into the following categories which give an indication of the type of enquiries undertaken and the difficulties encountered.

There were 18 reports from concerned parents of children either absenting themselves or failing to return at the appointed hour to the family home.

There was 1 report from a concerned relative when an elderly male had booked into a guesthouse and failed to return for some considerable length of time.

There were 3 other reports of persons missing from concerned relatives/friends and a further 2 reports from Hospitals where patients had absconded from their care. There were 3 reports of persons with mental health care issues failing to return home.

There were 8 reports of looked after young persons either missing or failing to return to the Social Work Children's Centre at Wick or to their Care Workers.

Officers assisted another Force, by conducting enquiries into a missing person report on their behalf in Caithness and Sutherland.

All missing person enquiries were successfully concluded with all persons subsequently traced or accounted for.

ROSS, CROMARTY & SKYE AREA COMMAND

1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2006

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	18
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	26
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	3 HIGH RISK 20 MEDIUM RISK 34 LOW RISK 26 ABSCONDERS FROM CARE
FIRES ATTENDED	21 REPORTABLE 61 NON – REPORTABLE

NOTABLE CRIMES

On 3 October 2006 a local suspected drug dealer was searched and found to be in possession of a quantity of suspected heroin. The person was reported to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to offences of possession of drugs with intent to supply.

On 28 October 2006 a man was arrested on the A835 at Brahan after being found driving a stolen motor vehicle from the Grampian Police area.

During the evening of 11 October 2006 a male person wearing a balaclava and armed with a weapon entered the Co-op premises in Firhill, Alness in an apparent attempt to rob the shop. Staff thwarted the attempt and the man ran off. Enquiries are still ongoing to trace this individual.

In the early hours of 12 November 2006 a man was seriously assaulted in a house in Munloch and required hospitalisation. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 14 November 2006 a Morayshire man was arrested in relation to a series of thefts of high value metals across the Area Command. A report is being prepared for the Procurator Fiscal.

On 19 November 2006 police received a report of the theft of a quantity of high value property from a house in Munloch. Following enquiries the property was recovered from a house in Cheshire, England and a woman has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

During the early hours on 17 November 2006 in Invergordon the occupants of a vehicle were found to be in possession of a significant quantity of Class A drugs. A subsequent search of a house in Inverness recovered a substantial amount of cash and drugs. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

In the early hours of 5 December 2006 a vehicle and the two occupants were searched in the Dingwall area. A quantity of suspected cannabis resin and MDMA was recovered along with an offensive weapon. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 6 December 2006, in Dingwall, following a routine check, the driver of a motor vehicle was found to be without insurance. The vehicle was subsequently seized under new Road Traffic powers. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 14 December 2006, in Muir of Ord, following a routine check, the driver of a motor vehicle was found to be without insurance or other driving documents. The vehicle was subsequently seized under new Road Traffic powers. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 15 December 2006 a significant quantity of cash was recovered from a house in Dingwall which was seized as being suspected to have been the proceeds of crime. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On the evening of 31 December 2006 a quantity of suspected heroin and several offensive weapons were recovered from a car on the A9 in Easter Ross. Three people were detained and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

On 6 October 2006 Police began extensive enquiries to trace a Canadian national who was reported missing from a B&B in Plockton. After six days he was traced safe and well in Inverness.

In the late evening of the 9 October 2006 police and fire services were called to a house fire in Dingwall. The occupant was found unconscious within and was recovered by the fire service relatively uninjured. After investigation, a man has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

During October 2006 the area suffered significant flooding due to heavy rain and gale force winds. The worst incident was on 26 October when a major incident was declared across the Force area. One of the worst affected areas was Dingwall, Black Isle and Easter Ross where heavy flooding required the evacuation of houses and many roads were washed away or badly affected by water and falling trees. Thankfully, no persons were injured.

During the early hours of 22 December 2006 a fire was discovered at commercial premises in Portree, Isle of Skye. The premises were totally destroyed, the cost being estimated at £300,000 worth of damage. Investigations established that the fire had been deliberately set. A man has been arrested and a report prepared for the Procurator Fiscal.

During the early evening of 23 December 2006 an elderly woman perished in a house fire in Alness. The cause of this fire is still under investigation.

Throughout the period the local Flood Watch schemes were implemented on several occasions due to continued heavy rain.

During the period 37 allegations of child abuse were jointly investigated by Local Child Protection Officers with Social services staff.

During the reporting period Officers attended and investigated 70 reports of Domestic Abuse.

NOTABLE INITIATIVES

Through October 2006 police carried out an intelligence-led proactive operation involving 12 officers. As a result one person was reported for driving with no insurance. Sixteen drugs related incidents were uncovered. Mainly, these offences were possession of class A B and C controlled drugs that are to be reported to the Procurator Fiscal. One person was reported for possession of drugs with intent to supply. Additionally, one person was arrested for a breach of bail and a quantity of cash was seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act powers.

In December, the Area Command participated in the Highland CCTV Partnership with the installation of a screen in Tain. This has been used on several occasions and was used to very good effect when trying to trace a Canadian tourist who had previously been reported missing.

Safer Scotland – Alcohol & the Law

Letters from the Area Commander were prepared and distributed to all licensed premises in the Area Command along with leaflet ‘Alcohol & the Law’ for licensees and staff to be aware of their responsibilities

Safer Scotland – Carrier bags Christmas Campaign

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All off-sales premises in the Area Command received a quantity of specially commissioned carrier bags to be used for customers purchasing alcoholic carryouts. Letters from Area Commander were issued to accompany the carrier bags. These bags carried an anti-violence message with contact numbers.

Operation **ELAN**. Between 8 and 10 December, over 100 motor vehicles were stopped and checked at the Skye Bridge over the period of the operation with:

- 10 Vehicle Defect Rectification forms being issued
- 2 Conditional Offer Fixed Penalty notices issued
- 1 person arrested for Drink Driving
- 1 person charged for Drugs offences
- 3 persons charged with Vehicle Excise offences
- 1 person arrested on warrant
- 1 person arrested for being Drunk and Incapable
- 1 person found in possession of stolen property;
- 2 persons arrested for Assault and Breach of the Peace.

Numerous other drivers were also breath tested or searched in relation to drugs with negative results.

Operation **ENVELOPE** was undertaken between 22 and 23 December 2006. The intention was to provide a high profile police presence in the Dingwall area with a view to:

detecting incidents of anti-social behaviour, including assault, breach of the peace, vandalism and urinating etc;
detecting breaches of the alcohol by-law;
confiscation of alcohol in terms of the Crime and Punishment (Scotland) Act 1997;
search of persons in terms of Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971;
identifying youths whose conduct is unacceptable and informing their parents;
carrying out road side breath tests;
detecting road traffic offences;
Licensed Premises checks; and
carrying out high profile patrols with a view to deterring anti-social behaviour and providing public reassurance.

Most notably, as a result of a vehicle stop/check a significant quantity of suspected Ecstasy tablets was recovered. A report is being prepared for the Procurator Fiscal.

NOTABLE CONVICTIONS

In November 2006 a male was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for numerous housebreakings to dwellings in the Inverness and Ross and Cromarty areas.

MISSING PERSONS

Young persons absconding from care continue to be the most numerous and time consuming missing person enquiries. There were three protracted missing person enquiries which have all been resolved with the persons traced safe and well. A fisherman missing from the sinking of the vessel FV Brothers earlier in 2006 remains outstanding.

INVERNESS AREA COMMAND
1 October 2006 – 31 December 2006

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	- 27
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	- 37
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	- 202
REPORTABLE FIRES ATTENDED	- 13

NOTABLE CRIMES

On 01/10/06 a report was made regarding an assault in the City Centre of Inverness. The 19-year-old female victim was dragged to the ground by her hair and repeatedly kicked. She sustained swelling and bruising to left eye and forehead, with various cuts bruising and grazing to upper body. The 22-year-old female attacker was apprehended and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 5/10/6 a report was received to the effect that a 7 year old female child with an address in the Merkinch area had been found wandering alone in the Crown area of Inverness. The child was inadequately dressed for the inclement weather prevailing at the time. She alleged that an older male had taken her from a shop in the vicinity of her home to an address in the Ness area of the City and prior to her being found by a passer by in the Crown area as stated. Enquiries and concerns regarding this incident centred around the care and welfare of the child in question.

On the evening of 7/10/6 a 15 year old female was assaulted whilst within the village of Ardersier. She sustained injuries to the head and neck area. The latter was initially of concern to Medical Staff. During the initial stages of the enquiry information was to hand that the victim may have been robbed of a small amount of cash. This was not found to be the case. Two 14 year old females were subsequently charged with serious assault with regard to this incident.

On 16/10/06, a report was received of a housebreaking at a coal yard premises in the Longman area of Inverness. Portacabins were broken into and a safe removed. The safe contained a five figure sum of cash along with cheques. Enquiries are still ongoing into this crime. The monies and/or cheques have not yet been recovered.

On 18/10/06 in the early hours of the morning, three male persons were within the City Centre of Inverness. At that time they were approached by a group of male and females persons, one of whom claimed that he was in possession of a knife. Whilst acting in an aggressive manner, this male proceeded to threaten the three males and demanded money from them. He, the culprit was handed a small amount of cash. The males subsequently reported the matter to the police. A 19 year old male was later arrested for this crime.

On 20/10/06 an 18 year old female alleged that whilst she was in the area of the Canal Banks within the Dalneigh district of Inverness, she was robbed of jewellery and cash

by two females. Enquiries revealed that the allegation was totally false and said female was charged with wasting police time.

On 22/10/06 a 19 year old female alleged that she had been raped within an address in the City Centre area of Inverness. Enquiries were carried out and two males aged 19 and 20 years were subsequently arrested and charged with this offence.

On 26/10/06 a 36 year old male was attacked within a block of flats in the Hilton area of Inverness. He sustained serious injuries to the head, stab wounds to the body and a severe laceration to the face. This attack was carried out by more than one male and enquiries are still continuing to trace the persons concerned.

On 29/10/06, a 20 year old male alleged that he was stabbed whilst within the area of the football pitches at Milton, Inverness. He sustained a minor injury. Enquiries are still ongoing into this matter.

On 30/10/06, a domestic assault occurred within an address in the Raigmore area of Inverness. The 28 year old female victim was stabbed in her thigh. Her 25 year old partner was subsequently arrested in relation to this incident.

On 01/11/06, a report was received via Social Work that a 13 year old female had some time previously engaged in sexual intercourse with a male within an address in the Raigmore area of Inverness. A Joint Investigation was carried out by Police / Social Work whereby the said female refused to co-operate with any interview or examination. Enquiries are still ongoing.

On 03/11/06, a report was received regarding a large group of youths armed with various weapons congregating and about to fight in the Canal banks in the Muirtown area of Inverness. Officers attended and the group of local youths were found in the area, some of whom were in possession of controlled drugs and various offensive weapons ranging from pieces of wood, metal poles and stanley knives. A number of persons were charged with a breach of the peace and two 18 year old males were charged with mobbing and rioting as a direct result of this incident.

On 04/11/06, within the city Centre of Inverness a 24 year old male was assaulted by a 20 year old male whereby he was subjected to a ferocious attack on his person. The victim sustained injuries to his head. This incident was captured on CCTV and the male accused was subsequently charged with attempted murder.

On 08/11/06, a 22 year old male entered a barbers premises in the Culloden area of Inverness. He presented a pair of scissors to the staff and demanded money. He fled with a three figure sum of cash. He was later detained, arrested and charged in respect of this incident.

On 09/11/06, an altercation occurred between a 32 year old male and a 24 year old male within an address in the Raigmore area of Inverness. A knife was used and the 24 year old male sustained a puncture wound to the neck, chest bone and lacerations to his hands. Both these males were later detained, one of whom was charged with serious assault.

On 12/11/06, an allegation was made by a 28 year old female to the effect that she had previously been assaulted on 08/11/06 by a male whilst outside licenced premises in the City Centre of Inverness. She sustained fractures to the right side of her face which required surgery and the insertion of a metal plate. Enquiries are still ongoing to trace the male suspect in this case.

On 03/12/06, a 19 year old male was attacked whilst within licenced premises in Inverness City Centre. He was struck on the face by a male wielding a bottle and a glass. He sustained serious lacerations. A 25 year old male was subsequently arrested and charged with this offence.

On 03/12/06, following a Drug Squad operation, a 41 year old local male and a 49 year old male from Liverpool, were initially detained at an address at the Ness area of Inverness in respect of drug dealing. A large amount of Class A drugs were found in their possession including 'Crack' Cocaine. The drugs had a street value of approximately £50,000. A large amount of cash was also recovered. Both men were later arrested and reported to the PF Inverness in connection with drug supply offences.

On 09/12/06, a 21 year old male was stopped and searched under the Drugs Act whilst in the Culcabock area of Inverness. Officers acting on intelligence received, searched this male under the Misuse of Drugs Act. He was found to be in possession of a large amount of ecstasy tablets (86) with an estimated street value of £860. He was charged with supplying drugs.

On 14/12/06, a domestic incident occurred whereby a 35 year old male had an argument with his 35 year old partner within an address in the Culloden area of Inverness. He later proceeded to light a candle in the kitchen area of the house, simultaneously turning on the gas hob and thereby attempted to cause an explosion/fire. He was unsuccessful and his partner and child who were within the premises were uninjured. The potential outcome in this case could have been extremely serious. The male was later arrested.

On 17/12/06, a 38 year old male was assaulted by a 21 year old male within a licensed premises in the City Centre of Inverness. The assault consisted of the victim being repeatedly struck about the face whereby he sustained numerous cuts and bruising to the extent that he required at least 31 stitches. A male was later charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal, Inverness for this attack.

On 19/12/06, an incident occurred in the South Kessock area of Inverness, involving two local males aged 21 years and 36 years. The 21 year old male whilst in possession of a small knife proceeded to stab the other male in the stomach area. Injuries were not life-threatening and said 21 year old male was later arrested.

On 20/12/06, a domestic incident occurred within an address in the Crown area of Inverness. A 19 year old female was later arrested in relation to this serious assault on her 24 year old male partner. He sustained two stab wounds to his back which were not classed as life-threatening. She was later arrested.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

On 14/11/06, a 20 year old male was found within his home address in Inverness. On 21/11/06 a 49 year old male was also found dead in his house in the city. Both deaths, which were unconnected, were drugs related.

In the early hours of 05/12/06, a road traffic collision occurred on the A82 Road at Lochend by Inverness involving a BMW motor car and a Volvo lorry. The 21 year old male driver of the BMW motor car sustained fatal injuries as a result of this accident. The lorry driver was not attributed with any blame. The cause of death was given as Multiple Injuries, and Road Traffic Accident.

MISSING PERSONS

During the review period there have been 202 missing person reports within Inverness Area Command. Newcraigs Hospital are responsible for a large percentage of these reports. It is anticipated that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future.

Currently there are two outstanding missing persons. One is a Belgian national reported missing from a local hotel. The other is a local male, enquiries into both are continuing.

NOTABLE INITIATIVES

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

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

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

(This is linked to Force and Local priority 2)

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

(This is linked to Force and Local Priority 3)

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

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

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

NOTABLE CONVICTIONS

The following notable convictions were passed within Inverness courts during the review period as stipulated in this report.

On 03/10/06 a female person was convicted of Drugs Supply offences and she received 12 months Probation and a 200 Hour Community Service Order.

On 05/10/06 a male person was convicted of Driving Whilst Disqualified and various other Road Traffic Offences and received 8 months Imprisonment and was Disqualified for driving for Life.

On 12/10/06 a male person was convicted of Drug Possession and received 12 months Imprisonment.

On 19/10/06 a male person was convicted of an Assault and received a 200 Hours Community Service Order.

On 21/11/06 a male was convicted on Drug Supply offences and received 9 months Imprisonment.

On 12/12/06, a male was convicted of an Assault to Severe Injury offence and was sentenced to 2 years Probation and a 240 Hours Community Service order.

On 27/12/06, a male was convicted of Drug Offences and was sentenced to 3 years 4 months Imprisonment.

At Edinburgh High Court sitting in December, there were two notable Inverness cases heard. The first case referred to a male who was convicted of the Attempted Murder of an American tourist whereby he received Life Imprisonment with the recommendation that he serves at least 22 years in custody.

The second case refers to a teenage local male who was also convicted of Attempted Murder committed in South Kessock area of Inverness. He received a three and a half year custodial sentence.

BADENOCH, STRATHSPEY & NAIRN AREA COMMAND

1 October 2006 - 31 December 2006

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	2
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTS	13
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	13
FIRES ATTENDED	4

NOTABLE CRIMES

On 4 November 2006 police attended an assault. This proved to be sexually motivated with the assault victim allegedly being the perpetrator of serious sexual offences against young girls. Male was arrested and enquiries are now ongoing throughout Scotland identifying suspected female victims.

On 27 October 2006 a male was stopped and searched by members of the newly formed Area Tasking Group. Found in possession of a quantity of cannabis resin.

On 1 November 2006 officers carried out a routine search of a van in Nairn and discovered a large quantity of copper. Enquiry revealed this to have been stolen in Skye. Two males arrested and enquiries continuing into several, Force-wide reports of copper thefts.

On 6 October, and again on 12 October 2006, trailers were recovered which proved to be the proceeds of theft. Trailers recovered and two males arrested.

On 23 November 2006 a school pupil was arrested and charged with Breach of the Peace and Assault having racially abused a fellow pupil.

On 30 November 2006, as a result of a local operation on the A9, a male was found in possession of 1 kilo of cannabis resin. Male arrested and appeared in court from custody.

On 11 November 2006 a male driver failed to stop and drove off from Police. A chase ensued before the driver took off on foot. Apprehended a short distance away and kept in custody for drink driving and other offences.

On 1 December 2006 a male was found unconscious. Enquiry revealed a large scale fight had taken place and one male sustained a suspected broken jaw. Several persons charged with various public order offences.

On 13 December 2006 a male was arrested for breaching the conditions of his ASBO. He was subsequently remanded in custody for a subsequent court appearance.

On 5 December 2006, following a local operation on the A96, two persons were arrested for offences of disqualified driving and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

On 19 November 2006 alarm was raised by climbers that they had concerns about two of their colleagues. A full search and rescue operation was carried out and, tragically the remains of both individuals found and removed from the hills.

On 15 December 2006 alarm was raised by climbers reporting that another lone climber had apparently fallen. A full search and rescue operation was carried out and, tragically the remains of this individual were found and removed from the hill.

On 25 November 2006 a fatal road accident occurred near Boat of Garten. The deceased was a 36 year old male.

On 7 December 2006 a fatal road accident occurred at Drumochter. The deceased was a 39 year old male.

On 16 December 2006 a fatal road accident occurred on the main A9 north of Aviemore. This resulted in the deaths of an elderly couple from the Inverness area.

On 29 November 2006 a sniffer dog was deployed to Nairn Academy at the request of the school, in response to suspicions they had. Although no actual recoveries were made, positive indications were made and matters are being progressed by the school.

NOTEABLE INITIATIVES

Personal safety talk given to elderly day care patients at Nairn Town and County Hospital.

Drugs Awareness talk given to Nairn Air Cadets.

Badenoch and Strathspey Pubwatch launched.

Doorsafe Course in Nairn.

Shoplifting Awareness night held in Nairn.

Meeting held with Macdonalds Aviemore Highland Resort (MAHR) to address issues surrounding the staff accommodation blocks – Security survey completed.

Extended use of CMU vehicles to deter and detect underage drinking and anti-social use of vehicles.

Article placed in Badenoch and Strathspey Herald regarding cycling on local pavements in Aviemore.

Leaflet drop regarding the recruitment of Cadets.

Presentation made to staff at MAHR following detection of shoplifters on premises.

Visit by 'sniffer dog' to MAHR accommodation block.

NOTABLE CONVICTIONS

On 10 October 2006 a male driver was disqualified for 5 years and sentenced to 200 hours Community Service having been found guilty of Sec.5 RTA 1988.

Also on 10 October 2006 another male driver was disqualified for four years and fined £400 having been found guilty of Sec.5 RTA 1988

On 24 October 2006 a male person was sentenced to five months imprisonment for assault.

On 9 November 2006 a male youth was fined £500 for Theft.

On 30 November 2006 a male person was sentenced to 16 months at a Young Offender Institution having been found guilty of Breach/CP(S)A/Police (S) Act.

MISSING PERSON PROFILE

Of 13 Missing Person reports, eight were found to be 16 years or less. Two were of elderly people, ages 75yrs and 86yrs. Nine were female and four male. All were traced safe and well.

LOCHABER AREA COMMAND

1 October 2006 – 31 December 2006

STOLEN VEHICLE REPORTS	6
SUDDEN DEATHS ATTENDED	17
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	13
FIRES ATTENDED	18
DRINK DRIVERS	16

NOTABLE CRIMES

On 20 October, a male was observed engaged in a grossly offensive act. Following extensive enquiries a male was identified and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 23 October, a report was received of a possible break-in to a private dwelling in the Fort William area. In excess of £1,000 cash was stolen. A suspect has been identified and will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 26 October, a report was received of a substantial embezzlement from a large Lochaber business. Enquiries are ongoing into this large-scale fraud with a dedicated team of officers executing in excess of 30 Warrants at various financial institutions to uncover the scale of the situation, which will be significant.

On 2 November, during the 'early hours', officers were engaged on anti-crime patrol when they arrested a male in a stolen vehicle.

On 3 November, a fire was reported at the Yacht Club, Fort William. The building was totally destroyed. The cause is being treated as suspicious.

Over a period in November a number of mindless acts of vandalism were committed in Caol. Two female offenders were identified and reported.

On 11 November, a break-in was reported at a Fort William outdoor sports shop property where a value in excess of £2,500 was stolen. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 12 November, a male contacted Fort William Police Station claiming he was at a specific address and was going to shoot himself with a gun. Officers were deployed and a tactical solution was sought. A male was arrested for a Breach of the Peace.

On 17 November, a female bus driver was involved in a minor RTC with her bus. She was found to be well over the drink-drive limit and was arrested.

On 28 November, a drunk and disqualified driver was arrested during night-time anti-crime patrols.

On 1 December, a report was received of a stainless steel cylinder having been stolen. This was a machined component worth in excess of £20,000. It was sold for scrap. Three males were traced and arrested.

Over a period in November and December, 25 crimes including thefts of and from vehicles were reported in the Fort William area. Three youths have been caught and reports have gone to the Procurator Fiscal and the Reporter to the Childrens Panel.

On ^d December, a report was received of a large value theft by housebreaking at an industrial suppliers in Fort William. In excess of £20,000 worth of tools were stolen. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 8 December, Police and Social Work were alerted to apparent substantial non-accidental injuries to a 2 year old boy. The boy's mother and her partner have been arrested in connection with this.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

On 1 October, officers attended at a house in Caol following the reported death of a young lady. Initial indications suggested that this may have been a drugs related death as the deceased had a history of Heroin misuse. A Post Mortem examination ruled out the use of controlled drugs.

On 20 September, a male was reported missing on the Isle of Rhum having been swept away by a swollen river. On 1 October the remains were found when water levels had significantly dropped.

On 27 October, a report was received of a male person having drowned in Glen Roy. Police, Ambulance and Mountain Rescue personnel attended due to the terrain. The victim was found to have been a white-water canoeist.

NOTABLE INITIATIVES

A proactive team lead initiative entitled 'Operation Prone' was carried out, utilising officers from the Road Policing Unit and the Force Dog Section. This operation targeted mainly small goods/delivery vehicles. The operation was deemed a success with a variety of offences being detected.

Anti-Crime patrols continue on a daily basis and have been extremely successful in detecting crimes and offences.

MISSING PERSONS

During the period under review a total of 13 persons were reported missing, however, all have since turned up safe and well.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

19 JANUARY 2007

Agenda Item	
Report No	

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICE UNIT

1 OCTOBER to 31 DECEMBER 2006

Report by the Chief Constable

UNIT OVERVIEW

The Operational Support Service Unit comprises the following Sections, which are based at Police Headquarters and Burnett Road Police Station, Inverness; Dingwall Police Office and the NSCP Office, Tain.

- Community Safety
- Dogs Section
- Drugs & Alcohol Co-ordinator
- Emergency Planning
- Firearms
- Northern Safety Camera Partnership (NSCP)
- Road Policing Section, including Road Safety
- Special Constables Co-ordinator

Our work during the period was focused on the strategic aims of the Chief Constable. The following is a résumé of our work.

SUSTAINABLE CRIME REDUCTION

The Safer Scotland Violence Reduction Campaign continued to be managed by the Community Safety Section, HQ. The reporting period saw a November campaign reporting on certain alcohol and violence performance indicators. Of particular note during this operation was that officers visited 196 off sales premises to ensure that licensees were complying with the law. Four alleged offences were detected. Officers also seized 229.5 litres of alcohol from people drinking in public places as well as 10 knives and 5 other weapons during other searches.

The Christmas campaign focused on licensing offences within on-sales licensed premises with a view to reducing alcohol related violence. Officers carried out 282 visits to licensed premises and detected three offences. Officers seized 280.5 litres of alcohol from people drinking in public places, as well as 14 knives and eight other weapons as a result of other searches.

During the period under review the Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordinator worked with the Highland Alcohol and Drugs Action Team to devise a Festive period campaign aimed at alcohol related crime. The campaign was launched on 4 December with the theme centering on the Scottish Executive 'Don't Push It' initiative.' This was linked with the safer Scotland Violence Reduction operation and received extensive positive media coverage.

We are endeavouring to develop and deliver a vandalism education programme for schoolchildren. A meeting between Highland Council Culture, Education and Sport officials

has taken place and several tasks have been allocated in relation to identification of funding, delivery of the package within schools, target audience etc. We hope to build upon a DVD used by Strathclyde police and a play developed by pupils at Lochaber High School.

EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF CRIMINALITY IN RESPECT OF SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

The Dog Section has been reduced to two drugs detection dogs due to transfers however, during the reporting period, the section responded to all requests from Area Commands for drug search dogs. A number of positive searches were achieved.

We are also investing in our Firearms Range to increase the facility's capability so that we can enhance the type of training we deliver to officers who respond to firearms incidents. The work is expected to be completed during January 2007.

SAFER ROADS WITH REDUCED DEATHS, INJURY AND CRIME

Unfortunately the following fatal road traffic collisions occurred during the period under review;

1. About 1449 hours, 14 October 2006 on the unclassified Balloch to B9006 road a single vehicle road collision occurred involving a Ford Focus motor car. The 19 year old male driver sustained fatal injuries.
2. About 2200 hours, 25 November 2006 on the A95 Grantown to Granish road at Drumullie a single vehicle road collision occurred involving a Fiat Punto motor car. The 36 year old front seat male passenger in the car sustained fatal injuries.
3. About 1745 hours, 26 November 2006 on the A96 Inverness to Nairn road at Delnies a single vehicle road collision occurred involving a VW Passat motor car. The 83 year old male rear seat passenger sustained fatal injuries.
4. About 0244 hours, 5 December 2006 on the A82 Fort William to Inverness road at Lochend a two vehicle road collision occurred involving a BMW motor car and Volvo goods vehicle. The 21 year old male driver of the BMW sustained fatal injuries.
5. About 1640 hours, 7 December 2006 on the A9 Perth to Inverness road at Drumochter a two vehicle road collision occurred involving a Rover 100 motor car and a Foden goods vehicle. The 39 year old male driver of the Rover sustained fatal injuries.
6. About 0745 hours, 16 December 2006 on the A9 Perth to Inverness Road at Avielochan, Aviemore a two vehicle road collision occurred involving a Renault Laguna motor car and Mercedes E320 motor car. The 64 year old male driver and 63 year old female passenger of the Renault Laguna sustained fatal injuries.

Full collision investigations were carried out into each collision. Death and collision investigation reports were submitted to the Procurator Fiscal in each case.

Our operational response to improving road safety and enforcing the law was as follows;

An ACPOS two-week Winter Safety campaign was run from 30 October to coincide with the clocks changing. Local radio adverts publicising road safety were also run during first week of the campaign on MFR.

A series of nine road safety themed radio adverts will run throughout the winter on MFR and the island commercial radio stations.

We participated in the ACPOS Festive Safety campaign running from 6 December 2006 to 3 January 2007 with high visibility patrols and multi-vehicle roadside checks at key times. Unfortunately across the Force area there was an increase in the number of alleged drink drivers detected as compared to the same period in 2005. The number of drivers apprehended rose from 61 in 2005 to 75 in 2006. The number of drivers detected whilst allegedly driving under the influence of drugs also rose from zero in 2005 to 5 in 2006. This may be partly explained by increased training for officers.

We also carried out multi-agency Goods vehicle checks in Inverness on 28 November 2006 and 12 December 2006.

Safety audits were carried out in conjunction with Transerv and the Scottish Executive at all 10 trunk road fatal collision sites that had occurred in the period July to September 2006.

During the period under review a total of 177.75 hrs. were spent on site deployment by Northern Safety Camera Partnership (NSCP) staff. This led to a total of 1218 Notices of Intended Prosecution being issued together with a total of 1128 Conditional Offers of Fixed penalty.

During the period under review, 4 site surveys were carried out at the request of Area Commands and reports regarding the results submitted. One further location was analysed with a view to deployment of cameras. The potential site has a sufficient accident history to fulfil the deployment criteria as per the Scottish Safety Camera Programme Handbook and whilst not currently meeting the speed criteria, these are being reviewed. It is therefore thought that this site will become available in the next operational year.

We shall also be investing in a new camera system fitted to two of the NSCP vehicles that detects speeding offences committed by motor cyclists. Further information will be made available in spring 2007, which will form part of a marketing campaign designed to highlight motorcycle safety and prevent offences.

Finally, preparations are underway to submit the Operational Case to the Scottish Safety Camera Office to continue safety camera operations in 2007/08.

PUBLIC RE-ASSURANCE IN THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITIES

Our display vehicle, which has CCTV capability is used by Area Commands regularly and has far exceeded the 10-deployment target set for 2006/07. Types of incidents attended were public events, football matches and areas of anti social behaviour. Our officers assisted Inverness Area Command during the festive period by deploying this vehicle as part of Operation Nimble 2.

The Community Safety Section await the arrival in January 2007 of a further S.E. funded CCTV vehicle. This vehicle is a partnership initiative with Safer Inverness and Safer Towns Invergordon. We will train a number of Special Constables who will form a team to be deployed with this vehicle to assist in addressing anti social behaviour at locations identified as having a problem with this type of behaviour.

The Anti Social Behaviour Officer continues to form part of the multi agency ASB Team based at Highland Council, Inverness. The Constable provides police held information to the team to support applications for Anti Social Behaviour Orders.

Joint work was also undertaken with Highland Council to address some issues with our partnership approach to the implementation of the Anti Social Behaviour strategy. Considerable work was undertaken to review policies and work procedures. This was followed up with a joint seminar held in Inverness in December 2006. During January 2007, staff will carry out awareness seminars throughout the Highland region for staff involved in this type of work.

We have also endeavoured to initiate a remote reporting scheme to reach minority groups. While a pilot scheme had been agreed with Reach Out Highland, this organisation has since closed. The Terence Higgins Trust (THT) has taken over some of this work. Discussions are underway to progress this proposal with THT.

The Dog Section continued to carry out high visibility patrols in support of Area Command colleagues. Several requests were received for assistance and all such requests responded to. One example of this was during the month of December, where high visibility foot patrols were carried out in the Inverness Centre and retail park to assist in public re-assurance and deter criminality associated with this particular time of year. Patrols were also carried out in Dingwall, Aviemore, Fort William and Alness Town centres.

To promote the work of the Dog Section, 7 presentations by Dog Section Officers were given to interest groups over the reporting period, including a drugs talk at Farr and Kinlochbervie High Schools, dog talks and demos to Dingwall Probus Club, Strathpeffer Primary School and "Contact The Elderly" Inverness.

Our Emergency Planning staff co-ordinated Northern Constabulary's participation in the following multi-agency exercises:

Northern Periphery maritime exercise 11-13/10/06

Inverness Airport tabletop exercise 31/10/06

Wick Airport liveplay exercise 23/11/06

Planning is ongoing with multi-agency partners regarding participation in exercises in 2007 including national pandemic influenza exercise (February), Inverness airport liveplay (March), UKAEA Dounreay tabletop (April) and Vulcan NRTE liveplay (September).

The Community Risk Register for the Highlands & Islands Strategic Co-ordinating Group has been produced and published. Individual risk assessments, for which Northern Constabulary is the lead responder, have been completed.

I Latimer
Chief Constable

