

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

28 August 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 operational activity, 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
6 August 2009**

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Shetland

PERIOD: From: 1 January 2009 To: 31 March 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

Over the period commencing 1 April 2009 until the end of June 2009 there has been an increase of 56 crimes being reported compared to the same period last year. This has mainly been due to an increase in the number of class 3 crimes (dishonesties) of 84 over the period. A small number of individuals who have been identified, targeted and reported, were responsible for this fluctuation which is reflected in the high detection rate of 78.4 % for dishonesties.

There has been a reduction in most other crime classes and we have an overall detection rate for class 1-5 crimes of 69.8% which is excellent.

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 and effective in preventing and detecting crime.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

As detailed in section 1 of this report a number of known criminals have received custodial sentences for crimes of dishonesty during this period.

We continue to have considerable success in combating controlled drugs and have ongoing operations developed through the National Intelligence Model and utilising Force and national resources. Significant seizures include :

On 12 April 2009, following receipt of confidential information and execution of Warrant, a 23 year old female was found in possession of £2,540.00 cash, and 26.9 grams of Heroin (street value £2,690). She was reported from custody and the case is going forward on indictment.

On 27 April 2009 a drugs warrant was executed in Lerwick and 137.98 grams of Amphetamine was seized (street value £1,380.00). The female reported and on indictment.

On 3 May 2009, following confidential information a, 37 year old man was detained leaving the Aberdeen to Lerwick ferry. 5.4 grams of Heroin was seized (street value £540).

On 21 May 2009, following receipt of confidential information in relation to drug dealing at a Lerwick dwelling house, a male was traced and found in possession of recently

bought Heroin. Subsequent enquiry resulted in a further warrant being executed. 3.95 grams of Heroin was seized (street value of £400). A 43 year old male was reported from custody. He was already facing drug dealing charges in relation to activity on the Island.

3. SAFER ROADS

The number of reported collisions during this period has remained low at 7. There have been no fatalities and only one serious injury.

There have been 12 incidents of drink driving which is a reduction of 1 against last year and there have been no incidents of drug driving. Shetland has introduced a protocol with the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service to reduce the level whereby drivers are detained in custody pending appearance in court, from 103 to 70 micrograms. It is hoped that this will send a strong message to those who still think about driving a car whilst under the influence of alcohol.

The promotion of Road Safety remains a key priority and is being carried out in conjunction with the Shetland Road Safety Forum and Shetland Island Council's Community Safety Department. During the recent Simmer Dim motorcycle rally officers from the Road Policing Unit attended and gave Bike Safe tuition to a number of those attending the event, as well as providing a high profile support presence.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

The provision of a CCTV system for Lerwick town centre is ongoing with issues regarding planning applications being processed and when these are resolved it is anticipated that the installation of the system will take place immediately. It is estimated that work will be completed within 9 weeks.

Liaison continues between police and our partner agencies with a view to implementing new initiatives to help and enhance the already safe community within Shetland. These have included several Secure by Design reports in relation to both residential and educational premises within Shetland and also a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) report being compiled in relation to the Viking Bus Station.

Liaison has also taken place between police and the islands Hall Committees with a view to addressing issues around licensed events being run at these halls, in which concerns have been raised regarding underage drinking. This has seen an enhanced responsibility by the committees and the drafting of proposed guidance in consultation with police and licensing officers for the running of such events. This is ongoing with further work being carried out in this field in the lead up to the implementation of the licensing laws in September 2009. The aim is to provide a safe and secure environment for everyone to enjoy themselves.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

There were no complaints against the Police recorded in Shetland during the review period.

Over the period under review police have increased the numbers of officers carrying out "High Visibility" targeted patrols. This enabled them to concentrate on areas around licensed premises and residential areas in Shetland during peak times. It also enabled police to increase visibility and public reassurance at local events being held in village halls. This increase in officer patrol hours was enabled through funding from both the Scottish and local government through the 'Safer Streets' initiative and with permission being given by the Scottish Government the funding will be available until August 2009.

The working relationship between the Neighbourhood Support Workers and Police during the review period has been built upon, resulting in both working together on a number of issues and occasions in relation to the targeting of underage drinking within Shetland. Recently a working group has been set up with a view to running safer, more enjoyable events within Shetland in the coming months.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Orkney

PERIOD: From: 1 April 2009 To: 30 June 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

Orkney benefits from a low volume of crime, therefore percentage figures can skew the overall picture of events occurring in this area. That said, over the period there have been 50 more crimes reported than last year, whilst the detection rate has increased to 68.7% against the Force average of 62.2%. Increases in serious assault from 5 to 15 have reflected a 100% detection rate. In order to address concerns in this area, we have introduced a variable shift system for criminal investigation department officers focussing on pro-activity. Work is also underway to introduce a pub watch scheme as all of these assaults have been linked to alcohol.

During this period we continue to **exceed** the national targets set for the submission of police reports to both the Children's Reporter (14 calendar days) and the Procurator Fiscal (28 calendar days).

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

In recognition of the intelligence picture surrounding the misuse of drugs on the Islands an operation has been raised through the National Intelligence Model focussing on prevention, intelligence and enforcement. This is linked to work with the Scottish Crime & Drug Enforcement Agency. This has already resulted in a more accurate intelligence picture.

On 8 June 2009, police responded to an incident on the island of Sanday as concern grew for a resident on the island. This quickly developed into a murder enquiry and on 19 June 2009, two men were apprehended for this crime. Work has continued to try and restore tranquillity to the island with a population of just under 500.

The overt side of the investigation on Sanday is nearly complete but considerable effort is still ongoing by North Division officers supported by Headquarters to ensure the very best evidence is presented to the Crown.

3. SAFER ROADS

The base line figure of reported collisions during this period has remained very low at 5. It is encouraging that there have been no fatal collisions during the period, as compared with 1 over the same period last year.

Eight drivers chose to ignore drink driving legislation and we have now set up a protocol with COPFS to reduce the limit whereby drivers are detained in custody pending their court appearance, from 103 to 70 microgrammes. During the period, there were 84 drivers breath tested which reflects about 10% of those tested returning a positive result.

Officers on the island have dealt with 150 motoring offences in targeted high-profile campaigns in an effort to reduce accidents and improve driver behaviour.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

A six month analysis of the variable shift arrangement has shown increased officer numbers during peak periods. These officers are now being tasked through daily and monthly Tactical tasking operations to focus on local issues. This has included high-visibility patrols in local housing areas focussing on hot spots, licensed premises checks and young people in possession of alcohol.

The CCTV system within Kirkwall has been augmented by two further cameras being situated at Tankerness House Gardens, Kirkwall. A review has been carried out of community consultation leading to greater focus in contact and reporting mechanisms with the Community. The results of this are fed through the daily tasking meetings and in turn used to influence policing of the islands. This was used to support a Community Council Consultation day held on 30 May 2009.

Work has also commenced on a “best bar none” initiative which it is hoped will see a multi agency approach in raising industry standards.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Work has been undertaken with DASAT, local Licensing Forum and licensing board to promote the launch of pub watch. Previous experience has seen a 28% reduction in the volume of calls to licensed premises. This has received positive local media coverage thus far.

There has been one interim ASBO issued as a result of the multi-agency work in the reduction of anti-social behaviour. There have been 9 anti-social behaviour contracts signed and a restriction of liberty order granted. These demonstrate the appropriate use of legislation and inter-agency working designed to curb this type of behaviour.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

CENTRAL DIVISION: Western Isles

PERIOD: From: 1 April 2009 To: 30 June 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Western Isles detection rate for Crime Classes 1 to 5 is currently 67.1% against the Force average of 62.2%. Although this figure is down on the same period last year, there has been an almost 30% reduction in the amount of crimes recorded so far this year.

There have been no specific crime trends or issues which have given cause for concern.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

During the early part of the review period the Western Isles saw an increase in crimes against the person; however Divisional analysis showed these to be isolated incidents including domestic abuse and Child protection matters and does not indicate an increase in street violence.

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

- A 55 year old male was apprehended after brandishing a chainsaw in public
- Enquiries are ongoing into a suspicious house fire in Stornoway in June 2009.

3. SAFER ROADS

Drink drivers continue to be targeted and 12 persons have been arrested over the period for drink driving.

High visibility patrols continue throughout the Area Command on a daily basis addressing road safety issues in terms of education and enforcement.

The new traffic management in Stornoway has been successfully implemented.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

In April 2009, a 26 year old male was sentenced to two years imprisonment and placed on the Sex Offender Register for 10 years for possession of indecent images.

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5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

In keeping with the decrease in class 1 to 5 crimes, cases of disturbance and anti social behaviour have also seen a significant decrease aided by high visibility mobile and foot patrols.

Foot patrols are maintained at key times when licensed premises are exiting and during lunch hours while school children populate Stornoway Town Centre.

The Western Isles successfully managed two Royal Visits during the month of June.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross

PERIOD: From: 1 April 2009 To: 30 June 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

In the period 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009, we have improved our detection rate for class 1-5 crimes to 60.7%, with 629 crimes made known and 382 detected. This is a 3.7% increase from 57% in the comparable period last year. This is indicative of our intelligence led policing style and our investment in ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) technology, supported by our Proactive teams.

Vandalism continues to be of concern, in particularly in the Caithness area, with a 25.3% increase in reported crimes. The public have been encouraged to report all vandalisms, as this is an issue that we can only target through having an accurate intelligence picture coupled with robust investigations, to identify perpetrators.

Operation Jacobite, our monthly Anti-Social Behaviour initiative, has allowed us to actively target some of our resident criminals through intelligence, whilst increasing uniformed visibility and dealing with vandalism and alcohol seizures from underage youths.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

The number of reported violent crimes during the period is 19, of which 18 have been detected: 1 attempted murder; 2 culpable homicide; 11 serious assaults; 2 threats and extortion; 3 cruel and unnatural treatment of children. This is a reduction from 22 for the same period last year.

Intelligence led policing and pro-active stop searches, in particular on the road networks within Caithness and Sutherland, has led to a greater recovery of Class A and Class B drugs. Of note: in early June 2009 a 57-year-old man from the North West England area was stopped on the A9 and a substantial quantity of Class A and B drugs seized. Also within the roads network, a 30-year-old female from the Aberdeen area and a 20-year-old male from Caithness were stopped on separate occasions and dealer quantities of Class A and B drugs recovered.

In April 2009, a case of wilful fire-raising at an Indian restaurant in Castletown, Caithness, resulted in four local men being reported to the Procurator Fiscal. This also led to a significant operation for the UK Border Agency in identifying a number of illegal immigrants within our community.

In July 2009, a 27-year-old Tain man was sentenced at Inverness High Court to ten years imprisonment for attempted murder, following an incident in Mansfield Estate, Tain, in September 2008.

Again, in July 2009 a 44-year-old Wick man was sentenced to four years and eight months following a substantial seizure of Class B drugs in the Caithness area.

3. SAFER ROADS

The number of drunk drivers detected during the period of review is 24, showing a continued pro-active stance in relation to this problem.

July 2009 saw the ACPOS Summer of Safety, Drink/Drug Driving Campaign, which focused resources on this particular problem from 6 July 2009 to 20 July 2009.

There were no fatal road accidents during the review period; however four serious injury road accidents resulted.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Safe Highlander – Sutherland: On Wednesday 3 June 2009 at Lairg Community Centre, Safe Highlander – Sutherland was successfully reprised. Approximately 120 Primary 7 children from 12 primary schools in the Sutherland area attended the event, which was organised by Northern Constabulary as a satellite event to the Safe Highlander series of events which had taken place at the Cameron Barracks, Inverness. A “snapshot” evaluation has been done and indicates the event was extremely worthwhile and enjoyable, whilst still affirming the safety message.

Lunchtime Police Surgeries, Balintore: As a result of several incidents of concern in the Balintore area, the local Community Safety Officer instigated a once monthly “Lunchtime Police Surgery” (last Tuesday of the month) at the Seaboard Memorial Hall. This allows members of the public and in particular local residents to approach the police for advice and information exchange. The local authority Community Wardens are also in attendance and can provide further information and advice.

Lairg Police Station Open Day: On 9 May 2009, as part of the Lairg Mayfest celebrations, the newly refurbished Lairg Police Station was open for members of the public. This proved very popular, with in excess of 100 persons visiting the station.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

In May 2009, the new Police station at Lairg, Sutherland, was opened by Convener Mr Norman Macleod in a ceremony attended by the Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and invited guests.

Arrangements are in hand for the August visit of HRH Duke and Duchess of Rothesay to Castle Mey, Caithness. This is a significant event which is managed by the North Division with support from other areas and headquarters.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

CENTRAL DIVISION: Ross & Cromarty and Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh

PERIOD: From: 1 April 2009 To: 30 June 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

The detection rate for Lochaber at the end of June 2009 stood at 54.6%. In terms of crime reduction we can demonstrate a highly credible reduction in crime of 27.8% in comparison with the previous year.

Over the period, Ross and Cromarty saw an increase in Vandalisms and Housebreakings, specifically in the Easter Ross area. One male person was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for a large number of these crimes

The Ross and Cromarty Area Command detection rate for crime Class 1 to 5 is currently 65.7% against the Force average of 62.5%.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

In Ross and Cromarty there have been a number of incidents of note; however, the more serious issues are:

DEATH – An 86 year old female from a local Care Home died in hospital. Enquiries ongoing involving the Care Commission and Crown Office.

ATTEMPTED MURDER – On 3 June 2009, following an investigation of serious assault with a knife in the Alness area, a 40 year old male was arrested.

ATTEMPTED MURDER – On 22 June 2009, a male was arrested having driven at a Police Constable on duty in the Alness area, causing injury to the officer.

FRAUDS – As a result of a fraudulent scheme involving interference with an ATM machine in the Alness area, many local members of the public reported illegal transactions from their bank accounts. Enquiries are ongoing with the Metropolitan Police Major Fraud Unit.

THEFT OF PLANT – As a result of a premises search in the Easter Ross area, £60,000 of stolen plant was recovered and enquiries are continuing.

In Lochaber there has been a significant drop in serious crimes during the first quarter of 2009 and this has been sustained, although on Saturday 4 April a patron of licensed premises in Spean Bridge sustained a serious facial injury as a result of an unprovoked assault. As a result of enquiries into the incident, a 32 year old man was arrested and appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court. He is currently on bail.

On 5 June 2009, two men were involved in a fight within Fort William licensed premises. Weapons were brandished and serious injuries sustained. The licensee and his staff worked effectively with the police and as a result both men were reported to the Procurator Fiscal for serious assault.

3. SAFER ROADS

Regretfully there have been three fatal road traffic collisions in Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh during the review period.

On Saturday 9 May, a collision occurred on the A86 road north of Gleanspean involving one vehicle. The 38 year old male driver sustained fatal injuries

On 30 May a three vehicle collision occurred on the A830 road near Ranochan. Three vehicles were involved, namely 2 cars and a motor cycle. The motorcyclist, who came from the Glasgow area, sustained fatal injuries.

On 4 June a three vehicle collision occurred on the A87 road at the Varrigal Bridge south of Portree. Two cars and a motor cycle were involved and a 23 year old man who was driving the motorcycle sustained fatal injuries.

Several other serious injury collisions have occurred throughout the area during the spring and early summer period.

ACPOS – Summer Drink/Drugs Driving Campaign took place, resulting in a number of Drink Drivers being arrested. Excellent assistance has been received from the public in reporting these individuals.

Emphasis over the period has been placed on Anti-Crime checks throughout the Division in order to disrupt and gain intelligence on criminals using the road network.

During the period under review, Ross and Cromarty saw the deaths of two males as a result of Road Traffic Accidents.

On 7 June 2009 a 26 year old male was electrocuted as a result of an Off Road Activity whilst negotiating forest tracks and colliding with an electricity pylon.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

We continue to enjoy the benefits of working with other agencies, including the Drug & Alcohol Forum in Lochaber and Skye, the Community Safety Local Action Team, Women's Aid, Violence Against Women Forum and Youth groups. The Pubwatch scheme in Lochaber continues to be a key partner in tackling anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and violence in licensed premises.

Within Ross and Cromarty considerable commitment has been made in relation to ensuring the continued safety of our communities, with the following of particular note:

BLUELIGHT DISCO – During the period the Police, in conjunction with the other emergency services and Health and local authority staff, held another Blue Light Disco for secondary school youngsters at the Resolis Hall, Resolis, Black Isle. The numbers attending were in excess of that anticipated and the event was seen as a success.

MARAC – This is a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing meeting held between the Police and Social Work Department to agree on actions to promote the wellbeing and safety of victims and families at Very High/High risk of Domestic Abuse. This MARAC currently meets on a monthly basis and can discuss up to 30 families.

SAFE ROSS-SHIRE INITIATIVE – Work continues to set up the first SHOP-SAFE type initiative in Dingwall, in association with the Inverness Co-ordinator. A significant number of retail premises have expressed interest and work is underway to provide Radio coverage in the area.

OPEN GOALS – A Multi-Agency project with the Ross County Skills Through Sport Team, NCH and Police. This is an initiative involving young persons with behavioural issues to encourage more positive personal developmental skills.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM – There has been significant success with the introduction of the Community Response Team and it has received favourable comments. The team address issues specifically affecting the local communities and this localised approach has resulted in a significant reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour. This will continue and a number of operations are planned for the forthcoming months.

TEST PURCHASE OPERATIONS – Following the success of the initial Test Purchase Operations for Under-Age Drinking in Dingwall, Muir of Ord and Conon Bridge, further operations are planned in the near future for Alness and Invergordon. It is also hoped that in-house training will be carried out within the Division in the coming months, in order that best practice can be spread across all Area Commands.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

On 7 April 2009 His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent visited Fort William where he performed official duties. HRH returned to the area between the 17 and 18 June where he performed official duties in Skye, Lochalsh and Mallaig.

A number of high profile events, including the Mountain Bike World Cup, have taken place and passed without incident. We have worked successfully with colleagues from across the Division in resourcing these events and mounted a joint initiative with Strathclyde Police on the A82 designed to highlight road safety initiatives and detect travelling criminals.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

EAST DIVISION: Inverness and Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey

PERIOD: From: 1 April 2009 To: 30 June 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

The overall performance in the Division has seen the detection rate for class 1 – 5 crimes decrease slightly to 60.7%. However there has been a significant reduction in reported crimes, with 171 fewer reports, a decrease of 7.9%

Class 1 crimes (serious violent crimes against the person) in the Division have reduced from the corresponding period last year from 73 to 50 incidents. The detection rate for this stands at 88%. Class 2 crimes (sexual offences) have fallen from 71 to 57 for the same period. The detection rate is 80.7%. Class 3 crimes (dishonesties) have fallen from 962 to 784 incidents. The detection rate is 48.9%. Class 4 crimes (vandalisms) have fallen slightly from 526 to 515. The detection rate for this is 31.7%

In respect of each Area Command, overall headline performance is as follows;
Inverness – Detection rate 59% - down 2.2%. 110 fewer crimes or 6.3% reduction.
B, S & N – Detection rate 68.7% - down 0.5%. 61 fewer crimes or 15.1% reduction.

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 proper risk assessments are carried out for this type of incident and the necessary support provided to victims. Work also continues on Getting it Right for Every Child, with over 646 Child concern forms being submitted during the period. This resulted in 158 referrals to the Reporter to the Children's Panel and 93 Child protection enquiries.

Work has also been undertaken by our Community Safety Officers to provide some environmental design advice in respect premises in Hilton and Hilton Village. Over 24 crime prevention surveys were also carried out throughout the Division, on both commercial and domestic premises. 6 projects which have been ongoing for some time received the "Secured by Design" award.

With the continued development of our Variable Shift Arrangement we ensure that extra officer numbers during peak periods is translated into increased visibility in our communities. This is particularly apparent at weekends when demands for service are higher. Dedicated Community Beat officers within Inverness also focus on increased visibility in the community, with particular emphasis given to problem solving around alcohol related issues, anti social behaviour and youth issues.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

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

41 people have been detected during the period for offences related to the supply of drugs. 14 of these incidents were detected at the Rockness Music festival at Dores. It should be noted that considerable resources were deployed at this event, including dedicated plain clothes and uniform officers as well as drugs detection dogs from Strathclyde Police, our Headquarters and Central Division. The operation overall resulted in 161 positive drugs searches, an increase from 65 last year. It should be emphasised however that this enforcement operation was part of an overall "safety" package promoted by Northern Constabulary, NHS Highland and the event promoters, which resulted in overall enhanced public safety at a type of event which would typically be expected to have drug and alcohol related incidents. Unlike last year, there were no drugs or alcohol related deaths.

The notable seizures of drugs over the period including the following incidents:

A man was arrested following a vehicle check at Aviemore for the alleged possession of £75,000 of cannabis resin.

A man was arrested for the alleged possession of approx £8000 of class B and C drugs in Inverness.

An Inverness man was arrested for the possession of cannabis resin. He was also found in possession of an amount of money. The man subsequently received 2 years imprisonment for this matter.

A man was arrested in Inverness for the alleged possession of a quantity of class A and B drugs with an estimated value of £19,500.

Reports on each of these incidents have been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Regrettably there were 5 deaths during the period which were suspected to be drugs and alcohol related. Thorough investigations were carried out into each of these incidents and in each case reports were submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

It is also worthy of note that, following the death of a man in Inverness during September 2007, on April 2009 following a trial at the High Court in Inverness a man was convicted of murder for deliberately injecting the victim with heroin. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. This is the first conviction for murder in these circumstances in Scotland.

In respect of serious violent crime, there was a reduction in the number of incidents from 73 to 50. Our detection rate for this class of crime over the period was 88%. There will be continued focus on this type of crime with work being initiated to form a

working group within the Community Planning framework, which will endeavour to bring about a partnership problem solving approach within Inverness.

3. SAFER ROADS

The Divisional targets to reduce casualties are currently being met. For the period under review, there were 9 people killed or seriously injured.

To date there have been no children seriously injured or killed on our roads. There have been 40 people slightly injured which, if the trend continues, will allow us to meet our target of 290 for this category.

During the period enforcement continued targeting drink and drug drivers. There were 74 people detected driving over the prescribed alcohol limit and 5 people arrested for driving under the influence of drugs.

Targeted patrols continued with particular emphasis being placed on the A9, A96 and A82 trunk roads. Considerable efforts were expended by officers in Badenoch and Nairn on the trunk roads in their areas. Deployment of speed detection equipment by the Northern Safety Camera Partnership took place on the trunk roads. Over 553 hours of dedicated officer patrol time from Inverness officers also took place.

Education of school children in road safety was focussed upon, with officers participating in the Safe Highlanders event in partnership with Highland Council and other public sector organisations. Over 1700 Primary 7 pupils experienced a practical demonstration of the potential impact of a 30mph collision between a vehicle and pedestrian. Hopefully this learning event will have a lasting affect on the children's safety awareness.

Lastly it is worthy of note that, following a fatal road traffic accident on the A9 at Tomatin during November 2007, a man was convicted at the High Court in Inverness in connection with this. He received 30 months imprisonment and disqualified for four years at Glasgow Sheriff High.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Our work in respect of crimes of indecency has seen the number of incidents fall from 71 to 57. Our detection rate for this class is 80.7%, which is above our target.

Our detection rate for non sexual crimes of violence against the person is only slightly below target at 88%; however, work is ongoing to improve this area of work.

The detection rate for crimes of dishonesty currently stands at 48.9%. This has seen a slight drop from 49.4%; however, it is worthy of note that there have been 178 fewer crimes of dishonesty over the corresponding period last year.

The detection rate for vandalisms has also disappointingly dropped from 43.9% to 31.7%; however, there has been a slight reduction in the number of incidents, with 11 fewer incidents compared to last year. This area of our work will have renewed focus during the next period.

Of note during the period: some exceptional work was carried out by officers in detecting incidents. Worthy of highlighting is the following instance of dishonesty:

On 22 May 2009 a lorry trailer was recovered which had been identified as having been stolen from outwith this area. A quantity of stolen scaffolding was also recovered. The total estimated value is £53,500. Enquiries continue into this matter.

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

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

The number of hate crimes reported during the period was 24. This equates to 0.14 crimes per 1000 of population, which is below our target of 0.4 crimes per 1000 of population. Our detection rate disappointingly stands at 69.2%, which is below our target of 90%. Further work will be targeted at this aspect of our work during the forthcoming period. In support of this work, it is intended to proceed with a Divisional Community Advisory Group to assist us reach those "hard to reach" diverse communities within our Area.

An extremely successful operation was completed during June 2009 in respect of the Rockness music festival at Dores. This year's operation saw a substantial reduction in the number of dishonesties reported, as well as reduced levels of disturbance and violence. Positive feedback has been received from the public as a result of this operation. Planning will begin later this year for Rockness 2010.

Work is underway for the Belladrum festival on 7 and 8 August 2009, with a planning team committed to the event. Work is also progressing with planning for the 2009/10 football season both in the SFL and the Highland League. It is anticipated that a reduced police commitment will be required for Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC matches; however, discussions between the club and ourselves have still to take place.