

Agenda item	4
Report no	CP/1/23

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Highland Communities and Place Committee

**Date:** 23 February 2023

**Report Title:** Police – Area Performance Report

**Report By:** Chief Superintendent Robert Shepherd –  
Divisional Commander (N Division)

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 To provide an update to Committee Board on the progress with reference to the objectives outlined in the Highland Policing Plan 2020-2023.

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are invited to note:

- i. Progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 Year 3, attached as Annex A to this report, for the period covering 01 April 2022 - 31 December 2022.

### 3. Report Format – Police Area Performance Summary Report

3.1 This document will now cover all priorities featured in the local Policing Plan and evidence Prevention and Intervention work corresponding to each of the Policing priorities, provide local narrative in relation to Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism.

### 4. Implications

4.1 Resource – There are no immediate resource applications arising from this noting report.

4.2 Legal – There are no immediate legal implications arising from this noting report.

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Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – There are no immediate community implications arising from this noting report.

Climate Change/Carbon Clever – There are no immediate implications arising from this noting report.

Risk – There are no immediate implications arising from this noting report.

Gaelic – There are no immediate implications arising from this noting report.

Chief Superintendent Robert Shepherd  
Divisional Commander – N Division  
15 February 2023

**OFFICIAL**

**Performance Against  
Local Policing Plan 2020/2023**



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
**POILEAS ALBA**

Highland Communities and Place Committee  
Thursday 23 February 2023

Reporting Period - 01 April 2022 – 31 December 2022



Report by Chief Superintendent Robert Shepherd –  
Divisional Commander (N Division)

Communities, People and Partnerships ... at the Heart of the  
Highlands



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
**POILEAS ALBA**

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## Introduction by the Divisional Commander

I am pleased to present the N Division Scrutiny Report, as the new Divisional Commander for Highland and Islands. This report specifically covers the Highland area for the reporting period 01 April 2022 – 31 December 2022.

The demands placed on the Police have been unique and continue to be challenging. The Police continue to assist and support partners working within communities, whilst at the same time fulfilling traditional Police activity which has had both a personal and organisational strain on Policing.

There is a general feeling that demands on Policing continue to increase and this is likely to be seen in statistics during the coming year.

The interpretation of statistics from the reporting period and comparisons to the previous year and 3 year average can be difficult and one should be wary of drawing hasty conclusions following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officers have been active across all priority areas of our Policing Plan. We have maintained a proactive presence on Highland roads, enforcing road traffic legislation, working with partners to improve road safety and investigating road traffic collisions. We have seen reductions in Anti-Social Behaviour and Culpable and Reckless Conduct offences, however many areas of acquisitive crime against the 5 Year Average and Year on year has significantly increased.

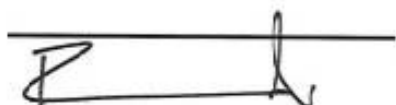
Domestic Crime remains below 5 year average levels as well as there being a reduction from the previous year and there has been an increase Year on Year in relation to Sexual Crime. We have strong partnership relationships, structures and working arrangements for the protection of vulnerable people, which we will continue to develop. Our work tackling serious organised criminals, especially those engaged in County Lines has continued to be disruptive and also identifies vulnerable young people caught up in this awful practice.

Partnership is also a key feature of our approach to countering terrorism, which continues with public sector, private sector, education and third sector partners and our communities.

The implementation of technology through mobile devices, crime and case management systems continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Policing in Highland and allow officers more time to actively patrol their communities.

Finally, assaults against officers continue to be at an unacceptable level. An assault against a Police officer is an assault against society and should not be tolerated by any of us.

This report highlights the positive work and the challenges faced by officers in Highland.



**Chief Superintendent Robert Shepherd**  
**Divisional Commander – N Division**

# Local Policing Priorities

The Local Policing Priorities for the N Division area are decided by data from our Strategic Assessment which details Threats and Risks, and also feedback from Local Authorities, Partners and residents in the Your Police survey.



**ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME**

Collaborate to reduce casualties and crime on our roads



**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, VIOLENCE AND DISORDER**

Engage with the public and communities to reduce and prevent crime



**ACQUISITIVE CRIME**

Reduce crime through preventing offending and reducing re-offending



**PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

Support people considered vulnerable through working with partners



**SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME**

Reduce the harm caused by serious organised crime including cyber related crime



**TERRORISM AND PUBLIC ORDER**

Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare through collaborative preparedness

## N Division (Highland): At a glance

### **Road Safety and Road Crime**

Overall, Road Crime offences have reduced by 16.5% (987.6 fewer offences) against the 5 Year Average and reduced by 2.3% (116 fewer offences) against the Last Year To Date (LYTD).

Offences in relation to Disqualified Driving have increased by 64.3% (18.4 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 42.4% (14 more offences) against the LYTD.

Mobile Telephone offences have increased by 16.9% (18.2 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 32.6% (31 more offences) against the LYTD.

Failure to Insure Against Third Party Risk offences have increased by 2.7% (14.4 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 5.0% (26 more offences) against the LYTD.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence (including Alcohol and Drugs Misuse)**

Overall, Anti-Social Behaviour has reduced by 6.3% (74.2 fewer crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 9.6% (97 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Culpable and Reckless Conduct have reduced by 2.7% (1 fewer crime) against the 5 Year Average and reduced by 25.0% (12 fewer crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Assault have increased by 0.8% (10.4 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 4.0% (53 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Murder have reduced by 44.4% (0.8 fewer crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 100.0% (1 more crime) against the LYTD.

### **Acquisitive Crime**

Overall, Acquisitive Crime has increased by 8.4% (174 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 24.0% (436 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Housebreaking (Dwelling House) have increased by 19.8% (16.2 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 32.4% (24 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Fraud offences have increased by 73.4% (199.8 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 24.9% (94 more crimes) against the LYTD.

### **Protecting Vulnerable People**

Overall, Sexual Crime has increased by 26.4% (110 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 25.2% (106 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Domestic related offences have reduced by 8.9% (66.6 fewer crimes) against the 5 Year Average and reduced by 8.9% (84 fewer crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Hate Crime has increased by 8.2% (8.2 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 11.2% (8.2 more crimes) against the LYTD.

### **Serious and Organised Crime**

Detective Chief Inspector Mark Czerniakiewicz stated:

***“The Highland area continues to be a target for Organised Crime Groups who wish to traffic drugs into our towns and villages. The areas most affected are Inverness and Wester/Easter Ross.***

***The County Lines method of drug supply is now widely understood and mainstream. The effects are profound on individuals within our communities.***

***With over 30 groups identified as operating in Scotland, Highland has the second highest number of groups impacting an area, with 8 groups recorded as active.***

***Significant Police activity has taken place within Highland and large quantities of Heroin, Crack Cocaine and other drugs have been seized along with cash and weapons. This has been possible through the co-operation received from Police forces around the country, most notably Merseyside and Metropolitan Police forces”.***

### **Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism**

Police Constable Lisa Campbell, N Division’s Local Counter Terrorism Officer stated:

***“As the Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer for N Division, I ensure areas have a Local Contest Liaison Officer who is kept up to date on the latest trends in CT and who is also able to assist with enquiries if required.***

***I liaise with CT Intelligence, CT Security Advisors and the Prevent delivery unit on a regular basis so I can update the Divisional on all relevant matters.***

***Work is ongoing with the Head of Safeguarding from Highland Council to put a Radicalisation/Extremism awareness lesson plan into the School curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup> years”.***



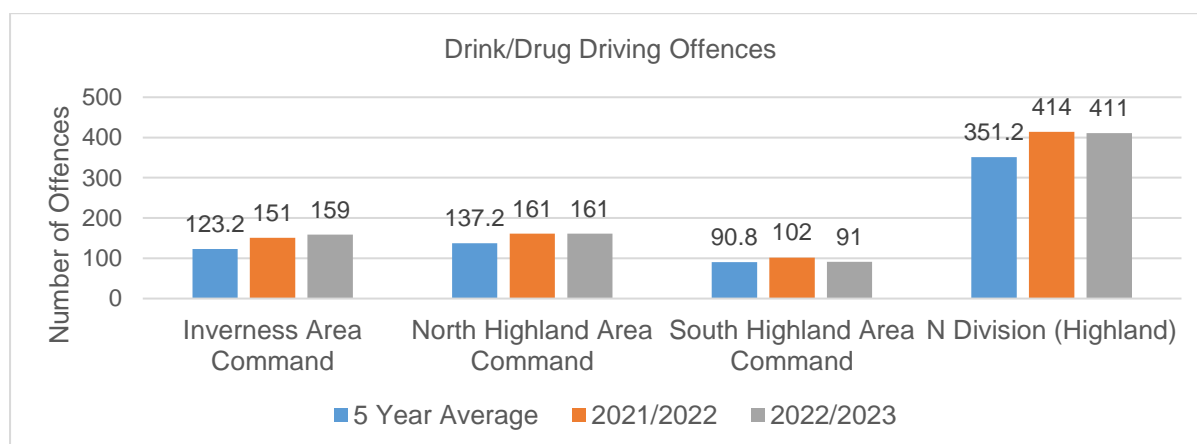
# Road Safety and Road Crime

**Intention - With Partners, enhance Road Safety across the Highland Area.**

**Objective – With Partners, deliver a Road Safety Strategy focusing on: Challenging driver behaviour; Education at the road side and elsewhere; Detection of offences linked to contributing factors of Fatal and Serious Road Traffic Collisions and collectively reducing potential harm.**

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2021/2022	YTD 2022/2023	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Number of Fatalities - Road Traffic Collisions	18.4	18.0	13	30	17	N/A
Drink/Drug Driving Offences (Drug Driving)	351.2	384.3	414	411 (194)	-3	101.7%
Speeding Offences	2252.4	1723.3	1661	1072	-589	107.9%

## **2022/2023 Drink/Drug Driving Offences -**



**Operation CEDAR** - (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce) builds on established practices and will continue to focus on various agencies working in partnership to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured in the Highland area.

Operation CEDAR involves proactive multi-agency enforcement operations on the roads, which sits alongside education activity aimed at improving driver behaviour of all ages. Partner agencies continue to work together to improve understanding of the factors which could contribute to improving road safety for everyone on the roads and together respond to these issues.

**Driver Engagement North** - A multi-agency initiative makes use of an interactive driving simulator designed to assess and highlight a participant's reactions, hazard awareness and any potential vulnerabilities on the roads. The project, launched in Inverness during October 2019 received funding from Transport Scotland and is led by Police Scotland with support from a number of partners including NHS Highland, Local Authority Community Safety Groups, IAM Roadsmart, Age Concern and RoSPA. The simulator has been specially designed to assess and demonstrate a driver's reactions and abilities in a safe environment under the supervision of specialists who will be able to offer advice and support.

While this initiative is aimed at older drivers, advice will be offered to family members and/or friends who are concerned regarding an individual's fitness to drive.

Any interested parties looking for more information can contact:  
**[highlandandislandsdriverengagement@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:highlandandislandsdriverengagement@scotland.pnn.police.uk)**.

**Operation Close Pass** – Close Pass is a cycle safety initiative which aims to highlight how much room motorists should allow when passing cyclists who are considered to be vulnerable road users. This educational initiative is aimed at changing driver behaviour through engagement and interaction.

**North Coast 500 (NC500) and Visitor Management** - There are Road Policing plans in place for motorcyclists/vulnerable road users and Visitor Management for the year ahead. Analytical work has been carried out to ensure Police Scotland are targeting the right areas and road users at the right time.

Police Scotland are committed to reducing road casualties across the Highland area and patrols will be conducted on priority routes on a daily basis and undertaking specific weekends of action on the NC500 route, utilising car and motorcycle patrols with the aim of influencing driver and road user behaviour, detect and deter criminality on our roads and reassure communities. We will continue to promote our activity through media channels and encourage anyone with road safety concerns to contact Police Scotland.

Inspector Donald MacKinnon of the Road Policing Unit, Operational Support Division stated:

**“For the reporting period, there have been 30 road deaths across Highland, a figure influenced by the highest number of multiple fatality collisions in years (two triple fatality and four double fatality collisions). There have been 12 road deaths on the A9 and 5 road deaths on the A836, both of which have and continue to feature on our priority patrol matrix. Foreign drivers have been involved in 5 collisions resulting in 9 road deaths. Investigating road deaths can be complex and protracted and we have faced competing demands but despite various challenges, we have been committed to patrolling the roads and interacting with road users with the aim of positively influencing driver behaviour across the divisional area in line with.**

**Operation CEDAR - Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce** which builds on existing practices and continues to focus our partnership working to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our Highland and Islands roads. We have met and listened to public and elected members concerns around road safety and have responded accordingly using various analytical products to determine where and when to deploy our resources. Over and above day-to-day business, road policing officers undertook the following enforcement activity;

- 8 dedicated operations on the Isle of Skye (Road Policing officers staying in Skye to maximise patrol time).
- 4 dedicated NC500 operations (Road Policing officers staying on the route to maximise patrol time).

Preventative initiatives have been delivered in relation to;

- **Older drivers – Driver Engagement North – positive engagement with older drivers and their families / friends in relation to honest conversations about fitness to drive.**
- **New drivers – New Driver Early Intervention Scheme – several inputs delivered to apprentices, students and private / public sector employees across the divisional area.**
- **Motorcyclists – Rider Refinement North – 6 sessions aimed at improving rider awareness / skills.**
- **Cycle safety – Close Pass – 7 operations aimed at improving driver awareness / interaction with cyclists”.**

## Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence (including Alcohol and Drug misuse)

**Intention – With Partners, better understand the causes to prevent and reduce instances of Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence to enhance community safety across the Highland Area.**

**Objective – Work with Partners to share information, support Education, Prevention, Diversionary and Enforcement Measures linked to harmful alcohol consumption; maintain robust procedures around licensed premises; support victims of violent crime by working with partners to improve service provision and prevent repeat victimisation.**

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2021/2022	YTD 2022/2023	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	1.8	2.0	0	1	1	100%
Assault	1355.6	1309.3	1313	1366	53	74.5%
Serious Assault	87.4	83.0	81	88	7	81.8%
Drug (Possession) Offences	1065.8	1046.3	990	750	-240	110.7%
Drug Deaths	22.2	22.7	35	28*	-7	N/A

\*The figure provided in relation to Drugs Deaths is an estimated figure at time of publication. This is the total number in the reporting period in which N Division are treating as a suspected Drugs Death, however the figure is subject to change as Post Mortem results and other information are received from NHS Highland.

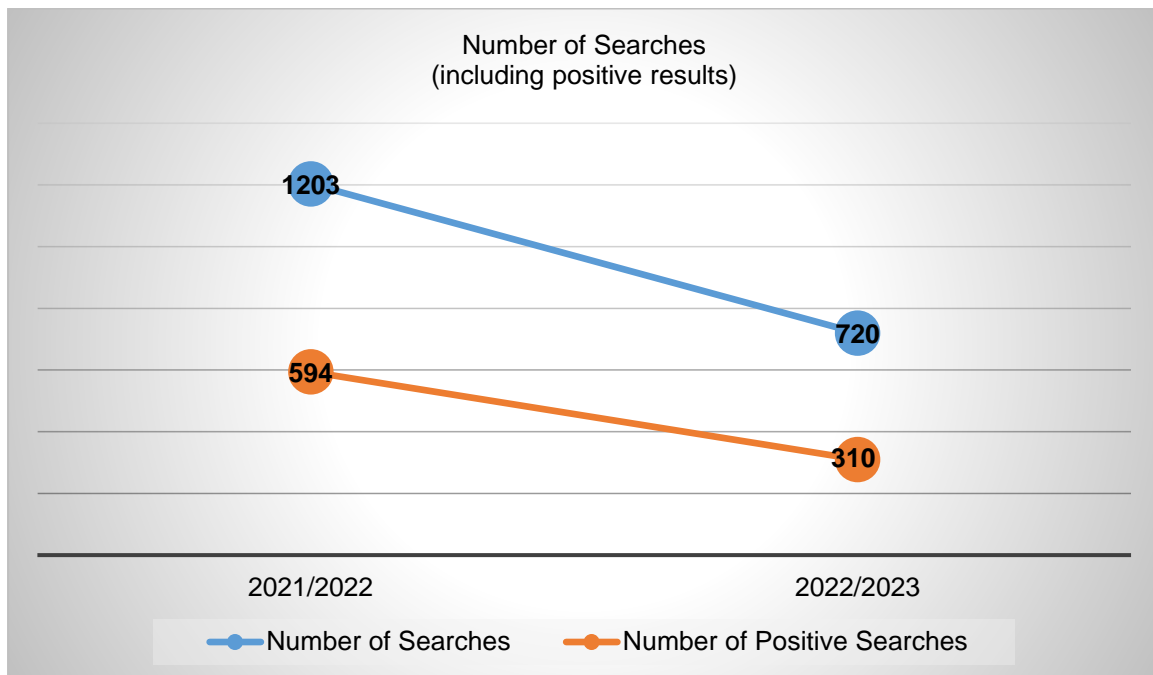
Drugs Deaths – Drug Related Deaths within the N Division area (Highland) is of significant concern. N Division continues to work with Partner Agencies in order to support individuals who find themselves involved with alcohol and controlled substance misuse. Every Drug Related Death within the N Division area is reviewed by the Harm Prevention Officer (HPO).

**Harm Prevention Officer** – An initial 18 month pilot Harm Prevention Officer (HPO) role was introduced within the N Division area in November 2020. This role is filled by a Police Constable who undertakes daily liaison between internal/external stakeholders with a view to reducing the risk posed to certain members of the public through alcohol and controlled substance misuse.

The HPO is fully funded by NHS Highland via the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership (HADP) and was extended in April 2022 for a further 12 months to April 2023 and is anticipated to be continued beyond then.

The HPO works with other partners to target Cuckooing which is a crime whereby crime groups take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for County Lines offences. The HPO works within the nationally recognised Serious and Organised Crime Strategy (Divert, Deter, Disrupt, Detect) targeting the Divert and Deter strands.

## Stop and Search -



Positive Stop Search - A positive stop and search is when an item is recovered where possession of same implies criminality on the part of the individual being searched or any other; or potentially compromises the safety of that individual or another.

**No Knives, Better Lives** - No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL) is a national capacity-building programme that supports primary prevention work related to knife carrying in Scotland. In 2009, the NKBL National Delivery Team at YouthLink Scotland and the Scottish Government began supporting partners in 11 selected Local Authority areas to implement NKBL. The approach to prevention is informed by the principles and values of youth work and a public health approach to violence prevention. The focus is not just on what it is we do not want young people to do and how to stop them doing it, but also what we want young people to be able to do, how we support them to understand and navigate risk and to make positive life choices.

Police Scotland's Prevention and Interventions Officers supported this initiative in the Highland area. This is further complemented by the Joint Education and Police Knives in School Protocol which has been progressed.

Further inputs have been undertaken by Prevention and Interventions Officers supported by Special Police Constables.

## Acquisitive Crime

**Intention – With Partners and Communities, prevent instances of acquisitive crime across the Highland area.**

**Objective – With Partners, share information, support education, prevention, diversionary and enforcement activity linked to acquisitive crime; develop work with targets – recidivist offenders to reduce reoffending linked to acquisitive crime e.g. Persistent Offenders programme; enhance the use of all media platforms to raise awareness of local and national preventative initiatives.**

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2021/2022	YTD 2022/2023	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (Dwelling House)	81.8	89.7	74	98	24	17.3%
Fraud	272.2	291.0	378	472	94	15.3%
Theft by Shoplifting	655.4	584.7	503	592	89	67.9%
Motor Vehicle Crime	160.8	140.7	119	143	24	52.4%

Fraud – The increase in Fraud related crimes has not only been experienced by members of the public residing within the N Division area, but across Scotland and the United Kingdom.

### **Fraud** –

#### **Banking Protocol**

Following a number of incidents across the N Division area in respect of Frauds and Banking Protocol, work continues with various Banks within N Division to setup learning sessions between staff members to talk through Banking Protocol. This has allowed for a better understanding of the Police response, management of vulnerabilities and referrals/support available to victims.

This has and will continue to allow Bank staff to be aware as to the point in they feel that they can/should intervene.

#### **Parcel Scam Fraud**

General awareness messaging around parcel/delivery company scams was previously circulated electronically to all housing providers across the N Division area and to the University of the Highlands and Islands for sharing with their staff, clients and students.

**Rural Watch** - The Highland area is renowned for great natural beauty and the rural communities are safe places in which to live, work and visit. However, the nature of the environment and way of life means there are some crime prevention tips particularly relevant to rural life. Watch Schemes work well as a crime prevention and detection tool but are also extremely valuable in terms of enabling Highland

communities to share information, allowing agencies to send out relevant crime alerts, and empower local communities to be more resilient.

To receive local ALERTS about crime and other threats in your area, simply click the green JOIN button on the Rural Watch Website - [www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk)

**City Centre Policing Team, Inverness** – Work continues with all retailers within Inverness City Centre to standardise security approach and ensure the focus is on crime prevention and target hardening with implementation of a dedicated initiative targeting repeat offenders of shopliftings.

Detective Chief Inspector Mark Czerniakiewicz stated:

***“The most prevalent forms of acquisitive crime within Highland are plant/fuel/tool theft. The rural areas such as Lochaber and Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn are the most affected. The area is targeted by Organised Crime Groups from the central belt of Scotland and North of England.***

***The Division is supported by colleagues in the Partnership, Prevention and Community Wellbeing (PPCW) Division which has an officer based in Inverness as part of their Rural and Acquisitive Crime Unit. The officer has been based in the Highland area for approximately 20 years prior to joining PPCW Division. The officer supports our Divisional officers with crime prevention, investigations and partnership working such as educational briefings to rural companies and their workers.***

***In the urban areas such as Inverness, Organised Crime Groups are coming to commit housebreakings with the objective of stealing high value items such as cash and jewellery. We are working with colleagues in Grampian and Tayside to gather sufficient evidence to report a number of suspects whom have targeted all the aforementioned areas. These and other linked crimes have occurred throughout Scotland and nationally are identified and investigated under Operation Virion. Our Detective Inspector based in Fort William is our Divisional lead for Operation Virion and attends regular national meetings”.***

# Protecting Vulnerable People

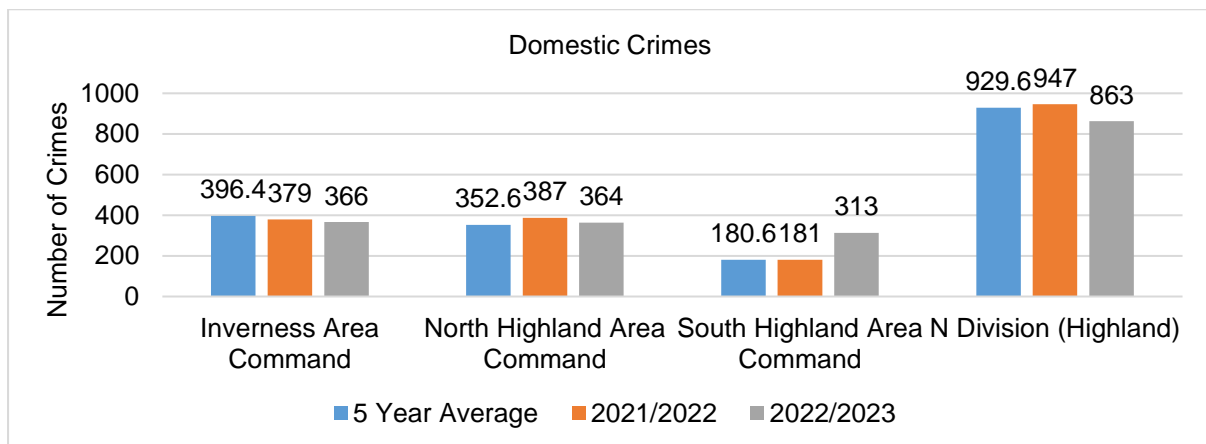
**Intention – Protect people at risk of harm.**

**Objective – With Partners and as corporate parents we will deliver the Highland CHAMPS (Highland Champion Board) strategy; with Partners we will focus on safeguarding communities; with Partners we will address emerging issues through Prevention and Intervention.**

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2021/2022	YTD 2022/2023	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Sexual Crime	417.0	400.0	421	527	106	55.4%
Domestic Crime	929.6	986.6	947	863	-84	69.5%
Hate Crime	64.8	53.3	47	73	26	76.2%
Missing Persons*	See below	522	536	652	116	N/A

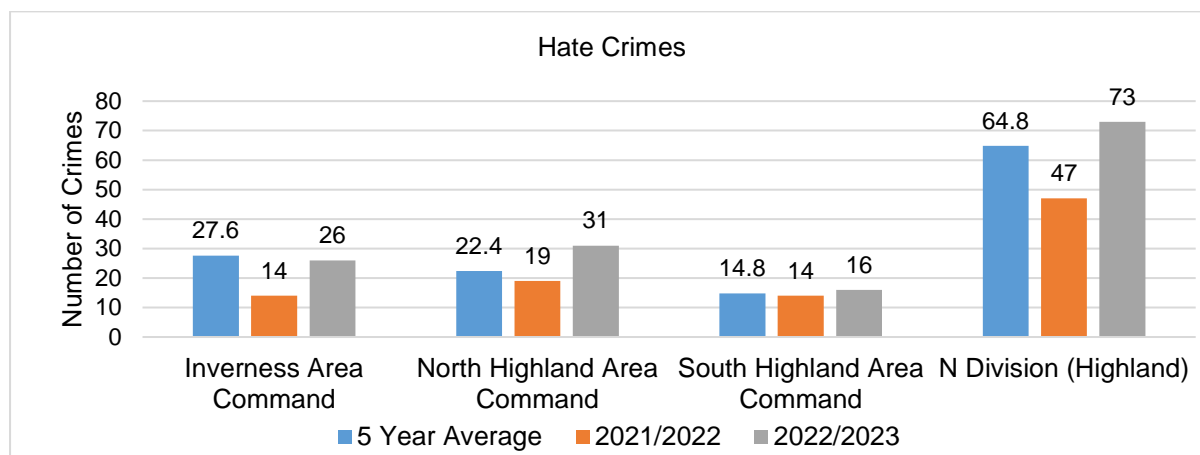
\* (Due to system configurations these figures are not available at multi-member ward level. Due to the implementation of the National Missing Persons Application in 2019, the 5 Year Average is not available).

## **Domestic Crime within N Division (Highland) –**





### Hate Crime within N Division (Highland) -



### Missing Persons –

Police Scotland treats every report of a missing person seriously and investigates appropriately with access to local, regional and national specialist resources. Missing persons investigations are a core part of local Policing and it is local officers who undertake all investigations, supported by specialist colleagues where necessary. Further, each Division including, N Division has a dedicated Missing Person Co-ordinator who advises on operational and preventative approaches.

Missing Person Category	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation
Adult	185	224	39
Cared for Adult	29	32	3
Looked After Child	196	230	34
Child	119	162	43
Absconder/Wanted	7	4	-3
Total	536	652	116

Area Commands have an appointed local Police liaison officer who maintains contact and liaison with the residential units in their respective area. This role has developed and regular contact has built a good relationship with residential unit(s). Where required, this officer also works in conjunction with the Missing Person Co-ordinator who similarly enjoys a good working relationship with residential units.

**Highland CHAMPS** - The Highland CHAMPS (Children have Amazing Minds, Potential and Stories) are a group based in Clachnaharry, Inverness. Highland CHAMPS welcome any young person from the Highland area who identifies as care-experienced whether they are a care-leaver, looked after at home, fostered, adopted, in residential care or other. Highland CHAMPS provide a safe space for activities, opportunities, socialising and fun. Further information regarding Highland CHAMPS can be found at:- <https://www.highland.gov.uk/highlandchamps>

Detective Chief Inspector Calum Smith stated:

***“Throughout the course of the reporting period, the number of recorded incidents of domestic crime has remained similar to that of previous years across most committee areas. There are some local variances, with certain committee areas showing a slight decline and some a slight increase when measured against the 3 and 5 year averages. Detection rates of domestic crime have in the large remained similar to the 3 and 5 year averages. The Policing and investigation of domestic crime remains an absolute priority, with the risk that domestic crime presents to***

*victims being clear. Whilst it is key to ensure that the detection of domestic crime remains at a high level, it is also vital that work is undertaken to seek to halt domestic abuse before it occurs. Aware of this, officers of the Public Protection Unit in Highland represent Police Scotland on the Highland Violence against Women Partnership, where alongside partners proactive work is driven forward to seek to stop persons becoming victims of domestic abuse.*

*Recorded sexual crime over the reporting period has shown an increase when reviewed against the 3 and 5 year average. The detection rate for sexual crime also shows an increase. The higher reporting of sexual crime is in keeping with recent trends across the country and on one level reflects a greater preparedness and confidence by victims to come forward and report. Recent feedback provided by third sector partners reflects positively on Highland officers when it comes to ensuring that victims of sexual abuse are treated according to their needs. This feedback importantly highlighted the awareness officers now have around how trauma affects victims of abuse, with this in turn positively impacting how officers provide a policing service to such victims”.*

## Serious and Organised Crime

**Intention – With Partners, reduce the threat, risk and harm caused by Serious Organised Crime.**

**Objective – With Partners work to safeguard the Highland area by taking all opportunities to prevent crime and make the Highland area a hostile environment for Serious & Organised Crime Groups; to improve outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce offending through prevention, early intervention and diversion; in support of our Partners in the Local Authority and NHS via the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy we will direct those who are substance dependant towards recovery through prevention, treatment and support services; with Partners work to reduce the instances of substance misuse in our communities.**

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2021/2022	YTD 2022/2023	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Drug (Supply) Offences	117.4	121.3	83	98	15	82.7%

**County Lines** - When Organised Crime Groups from major cities such as Birmingham, Derby, Liverpool and London are expanding their drug networks to other areas, bringing with it serious criminal behaviour such as violence, exploitation and abuse. The term County Lines refers to the use of a single telephone number to order drugs, operated from outside the local area. They often set up a base in a rural town for a short time, taking over the home of a vulnerable person by 'cuckooing' and use adults and children to act as drug runners. Preventions and Interventions delivered advisory presentations to Partner agencies including Highland Council (Housing/Social Work) and NHS Highland.

Police Scotland has relaunched an awareness-raising initiative aimed at preventing young people from falling into a life of crime. Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, Police have devised an educational pack for young people that shows the devastating effects of Serious Organised Crime.

N Division has also recently expanded its team of dedicated officers with the sole purpose of targeting County Line offenders, working in partnership with partner agencies and protecting vulnerable persons.

Detective Chief Inspector Mark Czerniakiewicz stated:

***“The Highland area continues to be a target for Organised Crime Groups who wish to traffic drugs into our towns and villages. The areas most affected are Inverness and Wester/Easter Ross.***

***The County Lines method of drug supply is now widely understood and mainstream. The effects are profound on individuals within our communities.***

***With over 30 groups identified as operating in Scotland, Highland has the second highest number of groups impacting an area, with 8 groups recorded as active.***

***Significant Police activity has taken place within Highland and large quantities of Heroin, Crack Cocaine and other drugs have been seized along with cash and weapons. This has been possible through the co-operation received from Police forces around the country, most notably Merseyside and Metropolitan Police forces.***

***SOC related violence has featured during the review period with some significant cases including attempted murder and serious assault due to go to trial in the next few months.***

***Regular intensification weeks take place where Highland Police work closely with British Transport Police and neighbouring divisions. A "Fearless" Crimestoppers County Lines campaign will run during future campaigns.***

***The exploitation aspect of County Lines continues to be at the fore. We have found young people in possession of dealing amounts of drugs within local addresses placing them at great risk. In recent months we have arrested children and young adults, missing persons from the London area, who were returned to authorities in their home area.***

***In response to the increased exploitation we will re-structure some of our operations. Officers that work in the area of child exploitation, youth offending and missing persons will form a Child and Adult Safeguarding Team that co-ordinates the Police resources and works more closely with our partner agencies to identify those in need of support and diversion".***

# Counter Terrorism

**Intention – Support the delivery of the CONTEST strategy to reduce the threat posed by terrorism and domestic extremism.**

**Objective – Strengthen PREVENT work with Partners and institutions; with Partners, support individuals who are vulnerable to terrorism and violent extremism; strengthen PREVENT work in relation to the internet and Social Media; Effective Multi-agency planning in respect of Counter Terrorism is taking place; Develop our ability to respond effectively to any terrorist attack (with a specific focus on emerging high-risk threats, and specialist capabilities).**

WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) - The workshop covers issues such as crime, normal social processes that are used to influence and manipulate, case studies that cut across the spectrum of extremism, terrorist ideologies and factors which may contribute to an individual's susceptibility to a terrorist ideology.

In particular, it seeks to support them to recognise that using their existing expertise and professional judgement, they may be able to recognise potentially vulnerable individuals who may be susceptible to being persuaded by an extremist or terrorist ideology. Workshops delivered to partners across the Highland area.

ACT Early is a program delivered to schools across the Highland area. The ACT Early session is a vehicle for debate around the sensitive issue of violent extremism within communities. As such, it is an enabler for community participants to air grievances, debate matters of interest to them and work through a group problem solving experience. The following links can provide more information regarding the program:-

<https://act.campaign.gov.uk/>

<https://actearly.uk/>

Police Constable Lisa Campbell, N Division's Local Counter Terrorism Officer stated:

***“As the Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer for N Division, I ensure areas have a Local Contest Liaison Officer who is kept up to date on the latest trends in CT and who is also able to assist with enquiries if required.***

***I liaise with CT Intelligence, CT Security Advisors and the Prevent delivery unit on a regular basis so I can update the Division on all relevant matters.***

***Work is ongoing with the Head of Safeguarding from Highland Council to put a Radicalisation/Extremism awareness lesson plan into the School curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup> years.***

***Exercise Safe Steeple 2 is a table top exercise on the multi-agency response and recovery from a Marauding Terrorist Attack. This was run in Inverness in September 2022 and will be run in Shetland June 2023 and is still to be confirmed in Orkney and the Western Isles.***

***Presentations on Contest can be delivered to all partners as well as Act NOW”.***

## Crime Statistics

Group 1 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	1.8	2.0	0	1	1	100.0%
Culpable Homicide	0.4	0.3	0	0	-	N/A
Attempted Murder	8.6	6.3	5	13	8	107.7%
Serious Assault	87.4	83.0	81	88	7	81.8%
Robbery	22.4	23.3	24	24	-	66.7%
Cruel & Unnatural Treatment of Children	10.2	11.3	12	5	-7	80.0%
Threats & Extortion	15.2	18.7	26	63	37	6.3%

Group 2 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Rape	83.4	81.0	77	96	19	53.1%
Sexual Assault (Sexual Offences Scotland Act 2009)	104.2	93.7	97	138	41	42.8%
Lewd & Libidinous Practices	23.8	20.7	25	21	-4	61.9%
Public Indecency	6.0	4.3	5	6	1	33.3%
Threatening/ Disclosure of Intimate Image(s)	18.2	20.3	21	20	-1	55.0%

Group 3 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (Dwelling House)	81.8	89.7	74	98	24	17.3%
Housebreaking (Non-Dwelling House)	32.2	26.3	19	26	7	42.3%
Housebreaking	75.4	65.3	50	79	29	57.0%

(Other)						
Housebreaking (Total)	189.4	181.3	143	203	60	36.0%
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	73.0	72.0	69	68	-1	77.9%
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	59.2	47.7	33	56	23	35.7%
Opening a Lockfast Place	33.2	30.3	25	30	5	36.7%
Theft	592.8	505.3	496	608	112	27.1%
Theft by Shoplifting	655.4	584.7	503	592	89	67.9%
Fraud	272.2	291.0	378	472	94	15.3%

Group 4 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Fireraising	43.0	41.0	38	55	17	58.2%
Vandalism	1084.0	1005.3	1045	1126	81	41.9%
Culpable & Reckless Conduct	37.0	48.3	48	36	-12	50.0%

Group 5 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Offensive Weapon & Bladed/Pointed Instrument	154.8	160.7	143	215	72	91.2%
Drugs (Supply)	117.4	121.3	83	98	15	82.7%
Drugs (Possession)	1065.8	1046.3	990	750	-240	110.7%
Bail Offence(s)	267.6	298.3	315	319	4	91.2%

Group 6 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Assault	1355.6	1309.3	1313	1366	53	74.5%
Assault (Emergency Workers)	219.4	231.7	226	231	5	99.1%
Breach of the Peace/ Threatening & Abusive Behaviour	1153.2	1032	993	1084	-91	94.7%
Stalking	24.0	18.7	13	19	6	73.7%

Group 7 Crimes (Recorded)						
	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation	Detection Rate
Dangerous Driving	136.0	132.7	165	121	-44	84.3%

Drink/Drug Driving	351.2	384.3	414	411	-3	101.7%
Speeding Offence(s)	2252.4	1723.3	1661	1072	-589	107.9%
Disqualified Driving	28.6	26.7	33	47	14	102.1%
Drive without Licence	218.4	210.0	208	225	17	96.9%
Fail to Insure Against Third Party Risks	535.6	555.0	524	550	26	100.5%
Seat Belt Offence(s)	144.8	100.3	99	75	-24	114.7%
Mobile Telephone Offence(s)	107.8	87.7	95	126	31	109.5%
Careless Driving	373.4	385.7	450	564	114	94.1%