

Agenda item	3
Report no	LA/19/24

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Lochaber Area Committee

Date: 12 November 2024

Report Title: Police – Area Performance Report

Report By: Chief Inspector Donna Allan - Area Commander (South Highland Area Command)

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 2023–2026.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are invited to note:
- i. Progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2023–2026 Year 1 attached as Annex A to this report, for the period covering 01 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.
 - ii. The change in format necessitate by a reduction in back-office capacity to prepare additional area committee reports.

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.
- 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.

Designation: Chief Inspector

Date: 29/10/2024

Author: Chief Inspector Donna Allan

Performance Against Local Policing Plan 2023-2026



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Lochaber Area Committee Report Tuesday 12 November 2024

Reporting Period - 01 April 2023 – 31 March 2024



Report by
Chief Inspector Donna Allan
Area Commander – South Highland Area Command

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



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

OFFICIAL

Contents

Introduction by the Area Commander	2
Local Policing Priorities	3
Road Safety and Road Crime	4
Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence (including Alcohol and Drug misuse)	5
Acquisitive Crime	6
Protecting Vulnerable People	7
Serious and Organised Crime	8
Counter Terrorism	9
Crime Statistics	10

Introduction by Area Commander

Chief Inspector Donna Allan

I present to you the Lochaber Area Committee Scrutiny Report covering the reporting period 1 April 2023 until the 31 March 2024.

The statistics being reported are now at South Highland Area Command level which incorporates the following Area Committees:-

Badenoch and Strathspey, Nairn, Lochaber and Skye and Raasay.

A verbal update will be provided by the Police Scotland representative in relation to the local context of this Area Committee.

The interpretation of statistics continues to be a key part of what we do, identifying potential crime trends and ensuring I have the right officers in the right place to keep our communities safe. We do compare data on previous years, however it may be some years before we can accurately compare year on year data as a result of the COVID pandemic. I am always happy to discuss the data and provide some context around the statistics provided within the report.

We are now, following the COVID challenges, continuing to face some real cost of living challenges which will impact all of our communities, including those who have not felt such hardship before. My team are continuing to work with Partners to protect the vulnerable people within our communities.

We maintain our presence on our Highland roads, enforcing road traffic legislation, improving road safety and investigating road traffic collisions. I know this has been a particular area of concern, especially with the notable increase in visitors to the Highlands. My team continue to engage with the Visitor Management Plan, working with various Partners to ensure the Highlands continues to be a safe and enjoyable place to visit.

I have to report an increase in Theft by Shoplifting which is part of a national trend. Contrary to what may have been reported elsewhere, these crimes are subject to investigation and I recognise the impact that this has on retailer staff.

I am pleased to report a small reduction in Frauds, however this continues to cause some concern with individuals falling victim to various methods of fraud. We have attempted to increase publicity around these and worked with financial institutions to reinforce messages around keeping money safe.

You will note from the report an increase in missing person enquiries from last year. A proportion of these missing persons enquiries relate to looked after children failing to return home when required to. These can be particularly challenging enquiries due to the age and vulnerability of the individuals. We will continue to work with partners to prevent these incidences taking place, wherever possible as missing person enquiries place significant demands on our resource.

There has been a slight increase on the previous year in relation to Hate Crime related offences. We continue to support victims of crime to engage with us and feel confident in reporting crimes to us.

Our work tackling Serious and Organised Crime continues, we continue to disrupt these individuals and working effectively with Partners is key. We use these relationships to identify individuals that are vulnerable to exploitation, making early interventions and making the Highlands inhospitable to Serious and Organised Crime Groups.

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 public 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

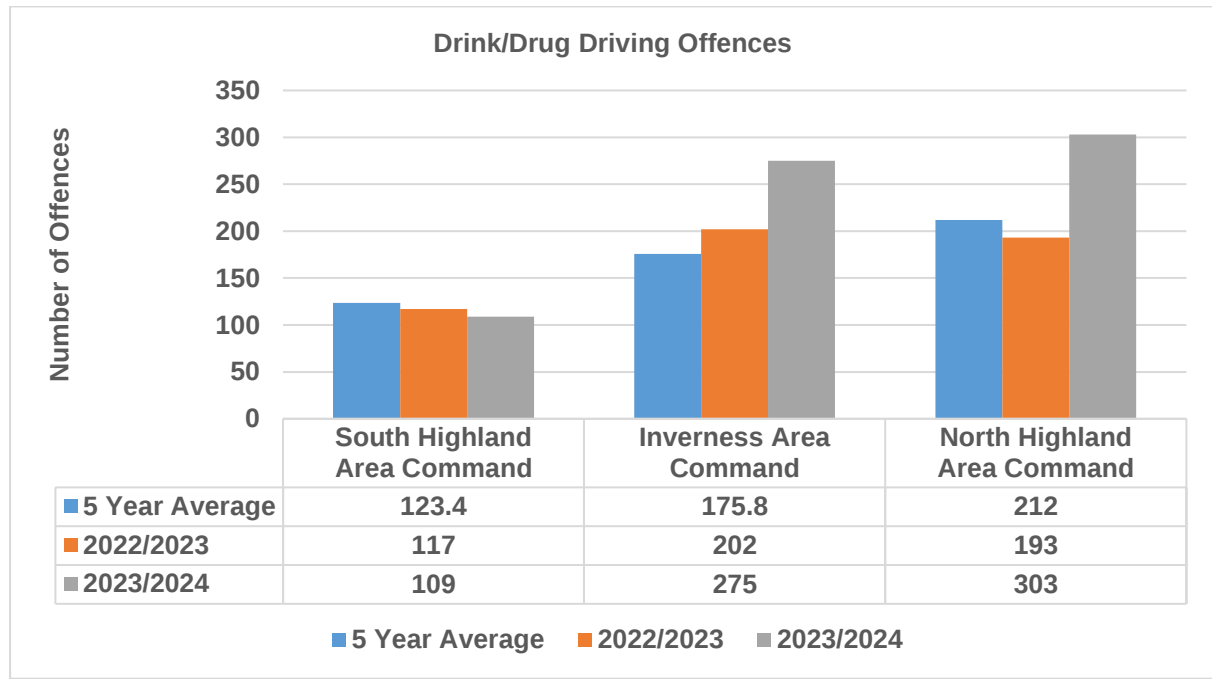
Road Safety and Road Crime

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 2022/2023	YTD 2023/2024	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Number of Fatalities - Road Traffic Collisions	7.6	8.0	15	6	-9	N/A
Drink/Drug Driving Offences	123.4	130.3	117	109	-8	109.2%
Speeding Offences	900.8	750.7	634	775	141	99.9%

2023/2024 Drink/Drug Driving Offences -



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 2022/2023	YTD 2023/2024	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	0.4	0.67	1	1	-	100.0%
Assault	326.0	341.0	356	377	21	69.0%
Serious Assault	26.4	30.3	31	33	2	87.9%
Drug (Possession) Offences	199.6	154.7	136	117	-19	99.1%

Harm Prevention Officer – A Harm Prevention Officer (HPO) role has been operating for some time within the N Division. 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 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.

The HPO is fully funded by NHS Highland via the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership (HADP).

Prevention and Intervention Officers - Police Scotland's Prevention and Intervention Officers play a full part in early intervention work throughout South Highland Area Command, supporting colleagues and partners in their efforts to address anti social behaviour.

This is further complemented by the Joint Education and Police Knives in School Protocol which has been progressed.

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 2022/2023	YTD 2023/2024	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (Dwelling)	27.8	28.3	33	36	3	8.3%
Fraud	99.8	123.0	134	124	-10	4.8%
Theft by Shoplifting	122.8	140.3	91	234	143	63.7%
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	21.0	21.3	21	24	3	66.7%

Banking Protocol

Following a number of incidents across the N Division area in respect of Frauds and Banking Protocol, work has been ongoing with various Banks within N Division with a view to setting up 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.

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.

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 2022/2023	YTD 2023/2024	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Rape	21.2	28.3	30	23	-7	43.5%
Domestic Crime	209.6	206.3	178	219	41	72.9%
Hate Crime	19.6	20.3	22	24	2	58.3%
Missing Persons			105	118	13	

Hate Crime – Police Scotland underwent a national inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) in relation to Hate Crime with N Division (Highland and Islands) being identified as one of three focussed Divisions.

Missing Persons – Police Scotland takes 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	2022/2023	2023/2024	Variation
Adult	57	71	14
Cared for Adult	6	3	-3
Looked After Child	8	16	8
Child	33	28	-5
Absconder/Wanted	1	0	-1
Total	105	118	13

Each Area Command has appointed a 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.

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 2022/2023	YTD 2023/2024	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Drug (Supply) Offences	17.0	9.3	11	5	-6	80.0

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.

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 response 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 participants 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.

Crime Statistics

Crime Bulletin Categories	South Highland Area Command					
	2018 /19	2019 /20	2020 /21	2021 /22	2022 /23	2023 /24
TOTAL CRIME & OFFENCES	5 491	4 738	4 470	4 272	4 405	4 719
Group 1 - Non Sexual Crimes of Violence						
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0	0	0	0	1	1
Culpable homicide (common law)	1	0	0	1	0	0
Culpable homicide (other)	0	2	1	2	2	1
Attempted murder	1	1	0	2	4	5
Serious Assault (incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	23	22	19	27	31	33
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	62	66	27	31	40	47
Common Assault	359	347	260	290	356	377
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	3	3	2	3	0	4
Domestic Abuse (of male)	0	1	1	0	0	2
Domestic Abuse (of female)	0	8	13	5	14	15
Stalking	10	16	4	2	12	11
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	3	6	1	7	1	1
Threats and extortion	3	6	10	7	23	19
Other group 1 crimes	2	3	0	1	4	7
Group 2 - Sexual Offences						
Rape	43	17	19	17	30	23
Attempted rape	0	0	5	0	1	0
Sexual assault	40	48	39	56	67	57
Crimes associated with Prostitution	0	0	0	0	1	0
Indecent photos of children	5	6	6	9	10	14
Communicating indecently	9	16	20	13	29	20
Causing to view sexual activity or images	23	21	22	20	21	21
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image*	9	6	7	3	10	11
Other Group 2 crimes	29	8	14	19	20	22
Group 3 - Crimes of Dishonesty						
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	14	29	25	16	33	36
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	4	7	6	7	7	4
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	24	25	22	19	18	23
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	6	9	6	1	7	4
Theft of a motor vehicle	11	21	20	19	21	24
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	23	23	16	10	12	15
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	3	1	1	0	0	0
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	15	10	9	8	8	9

OFFICIAL

Common theft	180	182	105	118	151	149
Theft by shoplifting	144	109	84	96	91	234
Fraud	35	49	81	111	134	124
Other Group 3 crimes	51	33	27	47	27	39
Group 4 - Damage and Reckless Behaviour						
Fireraising	22	9	7	12	15	13
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	262	220	237	267	227	260
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1	0	1	1	0	1
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	8	11	13	9	11	8
Other Group 4 crimes	0	0	1	1	0	3
Group 5 - Crimes Against Society						
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	2	3
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	30	25	20	16	17	8
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (used in criminal activity)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	5	11	10	7	24	18
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	3	2	6	6	2	4
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	24	23	34	12	11	5
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	2	2	5	0	0	0
Possession of drugs	290	266	268	211	136	117
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bail offences (other than absconding)	40	57	58	74	63	79
Other crimes against public justice	109	76	69	63	56	78
Other crimes against society	1	2	0	0	0	1
Group 6 - Anti-Social Offences						
Breach of the Peace	64	54	28	15	19	7
Threatening or abusive behaviour	298	236	162	245	242	228
Hate aggravated conduct (incl. stirring up hatred)	9	6	4	5	9	7
Drunk and incapable	6	0	2	1	0	0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	11	6	5	6	1	0
Other alcohol related offences	26	18	8	8	10	6
Urinating	51	19	12	12	6	10
Group 7 - Miscellaneous Offences						
Wildlife offences	12	11	14	10	7	6
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	14	7	21	6	19	8

OFFICIAL

Community and public order offences	87	33	39	40	46	65
Environmental offences	8	7	2	7	2	4
Licensing offences	22	20	18	9	13	5
Other misc. offences	3	0	0	1	1	0
Group 8 - Road Traffic Offences						
Dangerous driving offences	67	45	52	58	46	53
Driving Carelessly	109	148	110	186	246	280
Driving under the influence	102	134	122	135	117	109
Speeding offences	1548	1123	1129	843	634	775
Seat belt offences	25	24	23	29	32	31
Mobile phone offences	18	22	14	18	62	102
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	590	612	732	670	700	601
Vehicle defect offences	207	184	198	120	185	231
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	37	35	19	28	49	36
Road Traffic Offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	1	1	2	1	0	1
Other Group 8 Offences	243	188	152	173	209	201

For additional detail, published crime data can also be accessed online via the following link:-
[Crime data - Police Scotland](#)