

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Report No</b>	<b>CIA/27/2025</b>

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee:** Inverness City Area Committee

**Date:** 18 August 2025

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

**Report By:** Chief Inspector Jamie Wilson - Area Commander  
(Inverness 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 2025.

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

- 3.1 This document covers priorities featured in the Local Policing Plan and evidences 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.

**OFFICIAL**

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: 24/07/2025

Author: Chief Inspector Jamie Wilson

**OFFICIAL**

# Performance Against Local Policing Plan 2023-2026



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

## Inverness Area Committee Report Monday 18 August 2025

Reporting Period - 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025



Report by  
Chief Inspector Jamie Wilson  
Area Commander – Inverness 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)	6
Acquisitive Crime	7
Protecting Vulnerable People	8
Serious and Organised Crime	9
Counter Terrorism	10
Crime Statistics	11

## Introduction by Area Commander

Chief Inspector Jamie Wilson

This report provides an overview of policing activity within the Inverness area from April 2024 to March 2025.

Our focus remains on threat, risk and harm, with emphasis on prevention, problem-solving, and proactive policing. We support the Chief Constable's priorities and 2030 vision to create safer communities, less crime, supported victims and a thriving workforce.

I am pleased to report a significant decrease in violence in Inverness including a 17% reduction in reported assaults during this reporting period. This positive trend reflects our continued efforts to address community concerns and enhance public safety.

The report also highlights a notable increase in detections for drugs offences, particularly relating to the supply of controlled substances. This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to disrupting the supply of illegal drugs and protecting our communities from the associated harm. Our team is committed to tackling County Lines activity which remains a significant challenge. To combat this issue, we employ a multi-faceted approach, working closely with partners and communities to disrupt criminal networks and safeguard vulnerable individuals.

In terms of road policing, robust enforcement action is being taken to deter people from driving whilst under the influence, however we continue to see an increase in drink and drug driving offences. Not dissimilar to last year, the roll out of enhanced training in drug driving detection is believed to account for the increased detection rate in Inverness.

Protecting vulnerable people in terms of domestic abuse and hate crime is still a priority and our response to these incidents is highly developed in terms of risk and victim focus.

Unfortunately, crimes of dishonesty have increased, however the differences are marginal and it is worthy of note that incidents of theft by shoplifting have declined during the last few weeks. I attribute this to our dedicated city centre policing team working closely with Inverness BID (and partners) in the preventative space and high visibility proactive policing.

In recent months there has been a slight increase in hate incidents. Over the coming months, our team will continue to adapt our policing approach to address emerging challenges and ensure the safety and well-being of our communities. This will involve proactive and intelligence-led policing to prevent and disrupt crime, strengthening partnerships with community groups and other agencies to address local concerns thereby enhancing public trust/confidence through open and transparent communication.

We appreciate the continued support of the Inverness Area Committee in our efforts to make Inverness a safe and thriving community.

## 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



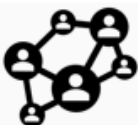
### ACQUISITIVE CRIME

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

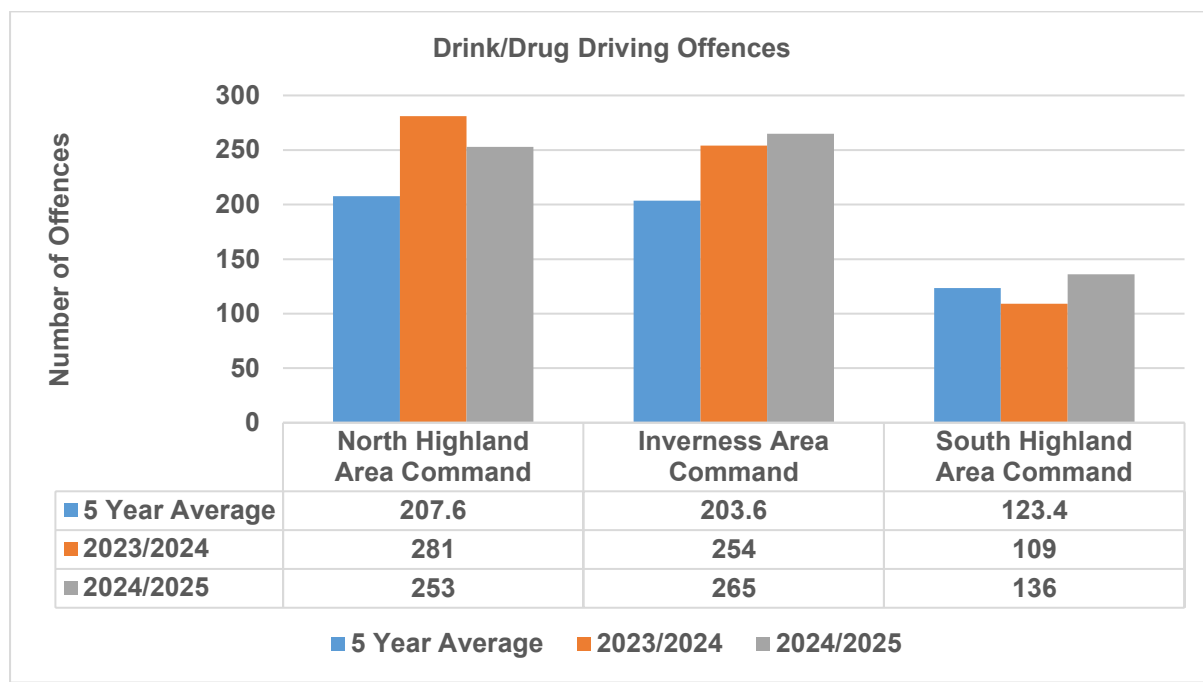
## Road Safety and Road Crime

**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 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Number of Fatalities - Road Traffic Collisions	3.0	3.3	4	1	-3	
Drink/Drug Driving Offences	203.6	216.3	254	265	11	98.9%
Speeding Offences	384.5	232.3	166	185	19	100.0%

### 2024/2025 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 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	1.2	0.3	1	0	-1	-
Assault	808.6	858.7	975	813	-162	63.5%
Serious Assault	51.0	54.7	55	41	14	82.9%
Drug (Possession) Offences	585.8	559.3	559	547	-12	101.5%

**Harm Prevention Officer** – A 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 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).

**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 Intervention 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.



## 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 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (Dwelling house)	55.6	51.3	49	55	6	30.9%
Fraud	211.2	239.7	243	222	-21	17.1%
Theft by Shoplifting	606.2	657.7	899	977	78	65.9%
Theft of a motor vehicle	37.4	37.7	46	31	-15	51.1%

### **Fraud –**

#### **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.

#### **Parcel Scam Fraud**

General awareness messaging around parcel/delivery company scams has been 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)

## 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 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Sexual Crime	230.2	252.3	259	269	10	59.9%
Domestic Crime*				633		64.5%
Hate Crime**				104		67.3%
Missing Persons	443.8	501.3	679	476	-203	

\*Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/ counting rules, comparison of recorded domestic crimes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 with recorded domestic crimes prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 would not be advised.

\*\* Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/ counting rules, comparison of recorded hate crimes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 with recorded hate crimes prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 would not be advised.

### **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	2023/2024	2024/2025	Variation
Adult	167	124	-43
Cared for Adult	54	68	14
Care Experienced Young People	193	165	-28
Child	259	119	-140
Absconder/Wanted	6	0	-6
Total	679	476	-203

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 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Drug (Supply) Offences	91.0	86.0	102	115	13	82.6

**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. The following links can provide more information regarding the program:

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

## Crime Statistics

Crime Bulletin Categories	Inverness Area Command					
	2019 /20	2020 /21	2021 /22	2022 /23	2023 /24	2024 /25
<b>TOTAL CRIME &amp; OFFENCES</b>	<b>7784</b>	<b>7306</b>	<b>6802</b>	<b>7586</b>	<b>8550</b>	<b>8134</b>
<b>Group 1 - Non Sexual Crimes of Violence</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>1031</b>	<b>1220</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>1161</b>
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	2	3	0	0	1	0
Culpable homicide (common law)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Culpable homicide (other)	0	1	1	3	0	0
Attempted murder	3	8	6	9	14	4
Serious Assault (incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	48	43	50	59	55	41
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	121	134	135	170	183	166
Common Assault	748	719	758	843	975	813
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	19	21	29	26	35	46
Stalking	13	13	3	7	12	17
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	5	3	1	5	3	3
Threats and extortion	3	16	15	35	49	20
Other group 1 crimes	7	11	12	27	24	13
<b>Group 2 - Sexual Offences</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>269</b>
Rape	37	58	50	65	59	50
Attempted rape	0	3	1	4	3	2
Sexual assault	71	46	56	91	78	106
Crimes associated with Prostitution	0	0	0	0	1	1
Indecent photos of children	15	8	4	24	26	17
Communicating indecently	21	18	19	23	22	21
Causing to view sexual activity or images	35	19	23	51	28	33
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image*	5	11	10	12	17	12
Other Group 2 crimes	17	30	23	42	25	27
<b>Group 3 - Crimes of Dishonesty</b>	<b>1520</b>	<b>1171</b>	<b>1322</b>	<b>1584</b>	<b>1885</b>	<b>1963</b>
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	72	52	52	53	49	55
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	12	19	14	20	13	9
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	39	37	25	49	40	60
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	24	10	9	11	8	18
Theft of a motor vehicle	48	26	32	35	46	31
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	53	19	18	29	24	46
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	3	0	4	2	8	6
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	24	9	9	15	12	8
Common theft	342	262	328	369	388	400
Theft by shoplifting	617	441	486	588	899	977

**OFFICIAL**

Fraud	158	179	229	247	243	222
Other Group 3 crimes	128	117	116	166	155	131
<b>Group 4 - Damage and Reckless Behaviour</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>605</b>
Fireraising	22	11	19	23	25	27
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	506	495	569	590	622	542
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	0	0	0	0	0	2
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	14	21	29	9	40	34
Other Group 4 crimes	0	0	0	2	1	0
<b>Group 5 - Crimes Against Society</b>	<b>1143</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>1192</b>	<b>1162</b>	<b>1355</b>	<b>1308</b>
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (not used in crime)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	3	0	3	1	1	1
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	4	5
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	56	75	62	91	81	93
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	36	29	27	64	46	32
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	6	5	6	0	4	1
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	107	90	67	89	102	115
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	5	12	5	0	7	4
Possession of drugs	622	679	605	514	559	547
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	11	8	0	1	0	1
Bail offences (other than absconding)	146	241	215	211	308	295
Other crimes against public justice	149	190	199	189	238	212
Other crimes against society	1	2	1	1	2	0
<b>Group 6 - Anti-Social Offences</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>671</b>
Breach of the Peace	110	64	42	45	34	40
Threatening or abusive behaviour	557	556	477	624	575	556
Hate aggravated conduct (incl. stirring up hatred)	14	13	5	15	25	33
Drunk and incapable	1	0	0	0	0	0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	34	23	15	7	2	2
Other alcohol related offences	26	6	26	35	26	25
Urinating	32	15	18	15	8	15
<b>Group 7 - Miscellaneous Offences</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>167</b>
Wildlife offences	6	16	19	7	4	12
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	6	7	9	12	16	17
Community and public order offences	63	96	78	98	123	109
Environmental offences	8	10	11	8	8	5

**OFFICIAL**

Licensing offences	10	9	7	23	16	17
Other misc. offences	5	1	11	7	19	7
<b>Group 8 - Road Traffic Offences</b>	<b>2510</b>	<b>2256</b>	<b>1736</b>	<b>1788</b>	<b>2115</b>	<b>1990</b>
Dangerous driving offences	26	30	30	42	58	54
Driving Carelessly	155	142	159	148	216	198
Driving under the influence	144	225	196	199	254	265
Speeding offences	676	554	391	140	166	185
Seat belt offences	59	55	43	31	39	24
Mobile phone offences	66	48	41	80	75	81
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	916	815	533	663	813	667
Vehicle defect offences	180	133	100	154	125	114
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	98	52	43	30	38	24
Road Traffic Offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	1	2	2	0	3	3
Other Group 8 Offences	189	200	198	301	328	375

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