

Agenda Item	3
Report No	BSAC/01/26

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee**

Date: **19/01/2026**

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

Report By: **Chief Inspector Donna Allan – South Highland Area Commander**

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 2025 – 31 December 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.

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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: 09/01/2026

Author: Chief Inspector Donna Allan

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Performance Against Local Policing Plan 2023-2026



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Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee Report Monday 19th January 2026

Reporting Period - 01 April 2025 – 31 December 2025



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

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



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Introduction by Area Commander

Chief Inspector Donna Allan

I present to you the Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee Scrutiny Report covering the reporting period 1 April to 31 December 2025.

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

Badenoch & Strathspey, Nairnshire, Lochaber and Skye & 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, we are not yet at a point where we can accurately compare year on year data as a result of the COVID pandemic which does impact our 5-year data. I am always happy to discuss the data and provide some context around the statistics provided within the report.

We continue to see real challenges within our communities in terms of cost of living, rural living may seem the ideal to some but for others there is significant impact, including those who have not felt such hardship before. My team are continuing to work, wherever we can, with Partners to protect the vulnerable people within our communities.

Along with our colleagues in Roads Policing, 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.

Our focus on road safety is reflected in the continuing increase in drink/drug driving offences detected by officers. We will continue to highlight the harm this creates and target our resources accordingly. This proactive effort will be reflected in the statistics.

You will be aware of the wider impact of fraud, which includes various fraudulent schemes involving cybercurrency etc. There is a continuing effort to highlight how these crimes are being perpetrated to allow everyone to best protect themselves against the risks. The international nature of many of these crimes presents unique challenges to bringing perpetrators to justice.

We have an active link in to the National Retail crime Task force and the Rural and Acquisitive Crime unit which I expect to impact positively on our area.

Missing person reports continue to be prioritised and resourced to meet the risk which they present. It does place significant demands on our resources. N Division has a dedicated Missing Person Co-ordinator who advises on operational and preventative approaches. This officer also engages with missing people charities and regularly provides support in this regard.

Our work tackling Serious and Organised Crime continues, we seek to disrupt these individuals and work effectively with our Partners, particularly around county lines. 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



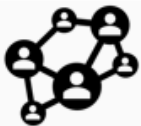
ACQUISITIVE CRIME

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

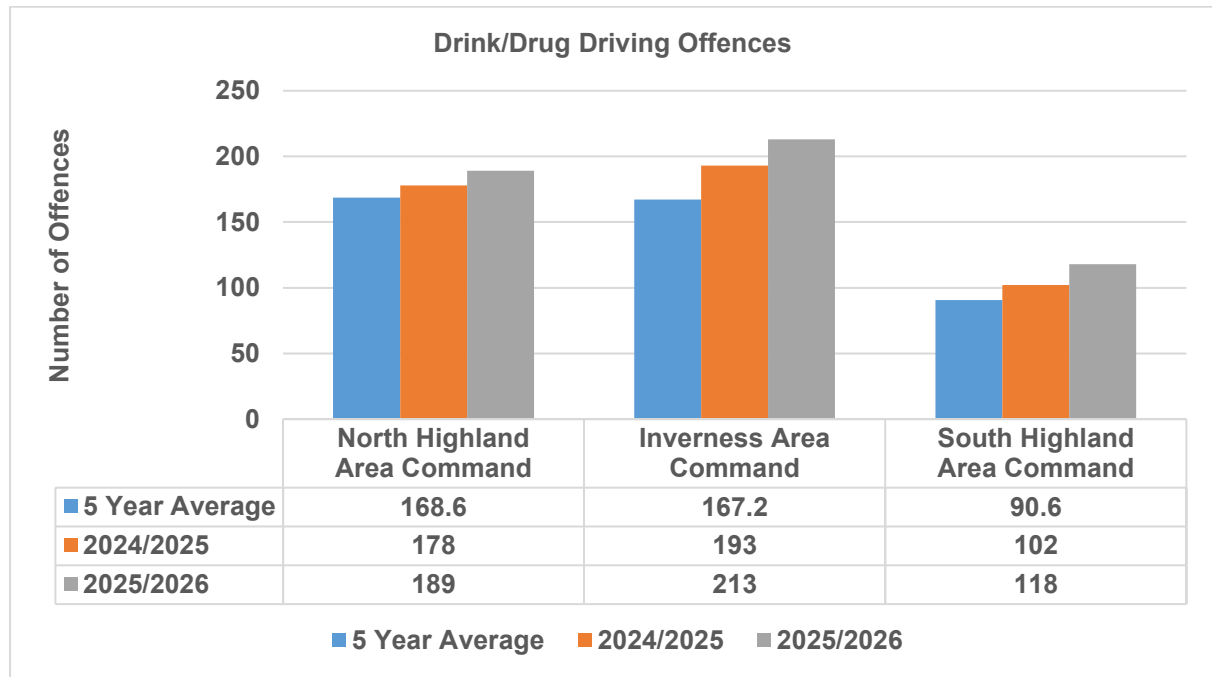
Intention - With Partners, enhance Road Safety across the Highland Area.

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

South Highland

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2024/2025	YTD 2025/2026	YTD Variation	Detection Rate 2025/2026
Number of Fatalities - Road Traffic Collisions	7.6	7	7	6	-1	
Drink/Drug Driving Offences	90.6	87.3	102	118	16	82.2%
Speeding Offences	355.2	192.33	166	264	98	100.0%

Drink/Drug Driving Offences -



The North Road Policing Action Plan is forward facing and focusses on:

- Road patrol
- Influencing driver and road user behaviour
- Deterring and detecting criminality on our roads
- Combat the threat of terrorism.

Priority patrol locations are identified from collision analysis, speed / traffic survey data and intelligence products. We listen carefully to public / elected member concerns and process all information to shape our deployments. We aim to patrol the areas of greatest risk at the right time and undertake robust enforcement of road traffic legislation. This is reflected in the increased drink / drug driving and speeding detections highlighted above which evidences effective targeting of those who demonstrate risk taking behaviour. We have undertaken innovative patrols utilising an unmarked police HGV to target those who drive whilst using mobile phones.

We have worked alongside road safety partners such as DVLA, SEPA and Trading Standards during specific days of action aimed at interacting with those in the haulage / works industry.

We detected several county lines related drugs offences during targeted patrols aimed at disrupting those who use the road network to engage in criminal activity.

We carry out several preventative road safety initiatives aimed at engaging with vulnerable road users.

- Close Pass (cycle safety)
- Driver Engagement North (older driver engagement)
- New Driver Early Intervention (young driver inputs)
- Rider Refinement North (motorcycle safety)

Insp Donnie Mackinnon, Highland and Islands Road Policing.

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 2024/2025	YTD 2025/2026	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	0.6	0.6	1	0	-1	-
Assault	264.2	323.6	306	369	63	61.5%
Serious Assault	16.6	14	17	9	-6	88.9%
Drug (Possession) Offences	128.4	100	93	119	26	82.4%

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 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).

School Liaison- Local officers continue to engage with schools and other relevant agencies, supported by preventions and interventions officers, to support various initiatives intended to deter anti-social behaviour and help keep our young people keep themselves safe.

Preventions & Interventions – External funding was secured to augment home security of community members particularly vulnerable to criminal exploitation due to mental health, domestic abuse and drug and alcohol addiction. Support is provided based on need and can include door locks, ring doorbells, door wedges and alarms etc.

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 2024/2025	YTD 2025/2026	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (Dwelling)	20.4	20	20	17	-3	29.4%
Fraud	80.4	95.3	77	116	39	12.1%
Theft by Shoplifting	97.2	130.7	112	110	-2	70.9%
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	14.8	14.6	10	16	6	50%

Housebreaking: -

Fraud: - The Highland and Islands continue to see an increase in Fraud offences with a continued increase visible across the year. We Continue to see several banking frauds, and more recently seen several frauds which have occurred due to e-mail interceptions/hacking. It would also appear that cryptocurrency related frauds are becoming more frequent. We are working nationally to review our approach to dealing with fraud type offences and continuing to engage with community groups particularly the elderly as a demographic particularly vulnerable to fraud type offences.

Theft by Shoplifting: - This year saw the launch of the National Retail Crime Task Force and operation LAMBIE within the Highland and Islands. This is a proactive, intelligence-led policing initiative designed to combat shoplifting across key retail areas in the Highlands. This operation deployed plain clothes police officers alongside uniform colleagues to conduct targeted patrols within identified problem premises.

Common Theft: The Highland and Islands has seen an increase in Common Theft in recent months, and we are also experiencing a rise in reported cooking oil thefts (Operation MITRIFORM). Another trend contributing to the increase in common thefts is Petrol Drive Offs, Scottish Crime Recording Standards are such that these are always raised as a crime until enquiry proves any genuine errors.

Detective Inspector Andy Bilton – North Acquisitive Crime Lead.

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 2024/2025	YTD 2025/2026	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Rape	17.2	21.7	25	25	-	44.0%
Domestic Crime*			240	313	73	62%
Hate Crime*			32	66	34	27.27%
Missing Persons	95	98.3	91	112	21	

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

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. This officer also engages with missing people charities and regularly provides support in this regard.

Missing Person Category	2024/2025	2025/2026	Variation
Adult	51	56	5
Cared for Adult	1	3	2
Care Experienced Young People	18	7	-11
Child	21	46	25
Absconder/Wanted	0	0	-
Total	91	112	21

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 2024/2025	YTD 2025/2026	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Drug (Supply) Offences	11.4	7.6	8	11	3	118.2%

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					
	2020 /21	2021 /22	2022 /23	2023 /24	2024 /25	2025 /26
TOTAL CRIME & OFFENCES	3,265	3,149	2,501	2,635	2,995	3,422
Group 1 - Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	262	291	358	389	444	489
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0	0	1	1	1	0
Culpable homicide (common law)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Culpable homicide (other)	1	2	2	1	2	0
Attempted murder	0	1	4	2	2	1
Serious Assault (incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	16	15	19	16	17	9
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	25	26	31	33	64	54
Common Assault	209	232	278	296	306	369
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	2	3	0	4	5	8
Stalking	3	2	8	3	7	9
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	1	5	0	1	6	4
Threats and extortion	5	5	12	14	18	19
Other group 1 crimes	0	0	3	18	16	16
Group 2 - Sexual Offences	103	98	132	127	115	123
Rape	14	11	21	15	25	25
Attempted rape	5	0	1	0	0	2
Sexual assault	24	42	48	52	47	41
Crimes associated with Prostitution	0	0	1	0	0	0
Indecent photos of children	5	5	7	5	8	13
Communicating indecently	19	9	18	12	6	11
Causing to view sexual activity or images	18	17	16	17	11	15
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image*	7	2	5	8	8	3
Other Group 2 crimes	11	12	15	18	10	13
Group 3 - Crimes of Dishonesty	300	356	436	489	386	432
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	23	11	25	23	20	17
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	3	1	7	2	5	4
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	15	15	12	20	8	10
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	4	0	5	3	3	4
Theft of a motor vehicle	13	17	16	18	10	16
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	13	9	11	13	13	9
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	1	0	0	0	1	1
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	9	8	4	8	5	7
Common theft	80	96	103	105	112	120
Theft by shoplifting	63	76	65	170	112	110

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Fraud	53	81	98	93	77	116
Other Group 3 crimes	23	42	25	34	20	18
Group 4 - Damage and Reckless Behaviour	170	215	199	214	215	214
Fireraising	4	10	10	10	13	12
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	156	197	178	195	194	193
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	9	7	11	7	8	9
Other Group 4 crimes	0	1	0	2	0	0
Group 5 - Crimes Against Society	356	307	225	239	246	304
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	1	3	3	1
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	15	11	11	6	15	20
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	1	1
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	8	5	20	11	10	14
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	6	5	2	4	1	0
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	29	6	10	4	8	11
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	4	0	0	0	0	0
Possession of drugs	199	169	93	88	93	119
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	1	0	0	1	0	0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	42	57	47	59	63	77
Other crimes against public justice	52	54	41	63	50	54
Other crimes against society	0	0	0	0	1	4
Group 6 - Anti-Social Offences	175	241	226	199	225	230
Breach of the Peace	23	14	15	6	3	15
Threatening or abusive behaviour	123	200	190	172	207	201
Hate aggravated conduct (incl. stirring up hatred)	3	4	8	6	4	7
Drunk and incapable	2	1	0	0	0	0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	5	6	1	0	0	1
Other alcohol related offences	8	7	7	6	7	3
Urinating	11	9	5	9	4	3
Group 7 - Miscellaneous Offences	63	53	61	60	68	80
Wildlife offences	13	7	5	5	3	9
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	11	3	13	7	12	14
Community and public order offences	24	27	31	41	38	42

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Environmental offences	1	7	2	2	6	1
Licensing offences	14	9	9	5	9	14
Other misc. offences	0	0	1	0	0	0
Group 8 - Road Traffic Offences	1836	1588	864	918	1296	1550
Dangerous driving offences	42	49	33	41	50	44
Driving Carelessly	87	112	86	79	135	164
Driving under the influence	90	101	78	82	102	118
Speeding offences	840	539	84	147	166	264
Seat belt offences	22	27	15	17	36	67
Mobile phone offences	12	9	13	16	39	55
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	476	522	307	302	364	432
Vehicle defect offences	142	78	60	79	165	146
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	12	15	16	5	21	26
Road Traffic Offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	2	1	0	2	0	1
Other Group 8 Offences	111	135	154	148	218	233

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