



**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe

## Argyll & Bute

Local Policing Plan 2013-2014

Quarterly Report / Q4



## **Not Protectively Marked**

# **Local Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan**

A year on from the creation of the new Police Service of Scotland, I am pleased to present the final quarterly report of the year which shows that our performance has been very positive indeed. The transition to a single police service was successfully delivered and feedback from the public suggests that there has been little noticeable difference in the way that our policing services have been delivered within the local communities. This report provides an overview of our performance over the last 12 months and highlights the good work that continues to be undertaken within Argyll & Bute.

## **Introduction**

Argyll & Bute is the second largest local authority area in Scotland and presents unique challenges in service delivery across a largely rural population including 25 inhabited islands. The 6 major population centres of Oban, Campbeltown, Dunoon, Rothesay, Lochgilphead and Helensburgh have their own challenges with varying levels of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour.

The rural environment, tranquillity and natural beauty of the area attracts large numbers of visitors requiring us to manage the road network and ensure safety.

The Argyll & Bute Area Command structure has recently changed and now consists of 2 dedicated Area Commanders with responsibility for day-to-day policing functions. Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie has responsibility for Oban, Lorn and the Isles and Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands and is supported by Community Inspectors Julie McLeish and Tom Harper.

Chief Inspector Gary Stitt is the Area Commander for Cowal & Bute and he is supported by Inspectors Paul Robertson and Claire Miller who have responsibility for Community Policing in Dunoon, Helensburgh and the Isle of Bute.

## **Police Scotland**

Our key focus will remain - **Keeping People Safe** – which encapsulates the policing principles we adhere to and is at the heart of everything we do. Over the last few months revised policing plans have been introduced for each of the Multi Member Ward areas within Argyll & Bute to ensure we are tackling and dealing with the issues which are of greatest concern to our local communities. These locally focused plans were developed through wide ranging community consultation. Public confidence in policing remains high and we want to build on that to encourage more people to come forward and report crime.

As a single service, Police Scotland has over the past 12 months developed as an organisation and I remain very happy with how my officers, staff and special constables continue to go about their duty. Organisational change continues to take place however local service delivery remains at the forefront of what we are doing in Argyll & Bute.

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**Integrity, Fairness and Respect** are our policing values and the touchstones for all our interactions, forming the basis of everything we do and every decision we reach. By applying our values, we continue to receive public consent through improved relevancy, trust and support.

The following sections provide an update on our current performance in relation to our policing priorities.

### Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

Local officers are dedicated to Keeping People Safe through the reduction and prevention of violent crime, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour. As such, we remain committed to achieving the following objectives:

- Reduce the number of victims of violent crime.
- Maximise detections of persons responsible for serious and violent crime, hate crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Sustain the reduction in the reports of antisocial behaviour, youth disorder and public reports of street drinking.

We have implemented local strategies which have had a significant impact on the level of violent crime and disorder within Argyll & Bute and despite fluctuations in the weather we have maintained significant reductions in the level of violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour incidents being reported.

We continue to undertake regular high visibility patrols in the areas which have caused most concern and have used our police powers effectively to detect and deter criminality. By being proactive and intelligence led we have undertaken a significant number of stop searches focusing on the right people in the right places at the right time whereby we have removed weapons, drugs and alcohol from our streets. The following table outlines our achievements:

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour				
	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	Victims	% Change
Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	76	79	3 fewer	-3.8%
Murder	0	1	1 fewer	-100.0%
Attempted Murder	2	7	5 fewer	-71.4%
Culpable Homicide (common law)	0	1	1 fewer	-100.0%
Culpable Homicide (other)	2	1	1 more	100.0%

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Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour (cont'd)				
Serious Assault detection rate	100.0%	106.1%		-6.1%
Serious Assault	24	33	9 fewer	-27.3%
Robbery detection rate	100.0%	116.7%		-16.7%
Robbery	7	6	1 more	16.7%
Petty (Common) assault detection rate	86.1%	83.8%		2.3%
Petty (common ) assault	704	786	82 fewer	-10.4%
Stop and searches conducted	11,341	12,187		-6.9%
Number of positive stop and searches conducted.	1,838	1,501		22.5%
Number of complaints regarding disorder	4,098	5,797	1699 fewer	-29.3%
Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	216	330		-34.5%

Between April and March 2013/14 and the same period in 2012/13 Group 1 crimes fell slightly from 79 to 76, a decrease of 3.8%. There was a reduction in the number of murders, attempted murders, culpable homicides and serious assaults. The detection rate for serious assault and robberies remain high at 100%. YTD data shows the Dunoon area experienced the highest concentration of serious assaults within Argyll and Bute, accounting for around 36% of all crimes however only 3 occurred in public space.

The following data is a guideline only and has been obtained using 'ghost' marker search parameters. Alcohol fuelled crimes could only be accounted for between September and March 2013/14 as prior to this there was no marker to record alcohol involvement. During this time period alcohol was involved in around 49% of violent crimes and common assaults.

The number of common assaults has fallen by 10.4% in comparison to last year, whilst the detection rate remains above 86%. Helensburgh Town Centre is the most significant 'hotspot' for common assaults and it accounted for around 12% of all common assaults in the Argyll and Bute area. Over 65% of common assaults in Helensburgh Town Centre occurred within a public environment, mostly around shops, bars and restaurants in this area.

Whilst there has been a slight reduction in stop/search activity within Argyll and Bute the positive rate has increased by 22.5% in comparison to last year. Complaints regarding disorder have also decreased by 29.3%. The most significant 'hotspots' for disorder continue to be Helensburgh Town Centre and Rothesay. Street drinking complaints accounted for just fewer than 2% of reported disorder incidents, 6% of which resulted in a crime report being raised. During the analysed time period there were 846 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) (excluding traffic FPNs) issued within the Argyll and Bute area. Just over 26% of these FPNs were alcohol related.

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### Protecting People

Keeping People Safe is the cornerstone of what we are about in Police Scotland and we are committed to:

- Tackle domestic abuse by prioritising such investigations and increase detections for domestic abuse crimes.
- Increase the detection rate for sexual offences.
- Proactively tackle offenders by increasing the number of bail visits and interventions.
- Protect and support the victims of domestic abuse and sexual crimes to ensure their safety and well-being.

Our partnership working with Advocacy, Support, Safety and Information Services Together (ASSIST) is now well established and continues to build momentum providing victims of domestic abuse with increased support and expertise. This partnership is also encouraging victims to report historical incidents and we are able to see increased levels of trust in victims.

Our monthly MATAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating) meeting with partners continues to focus on our most dangerous domestic abuse perpetrators to reduce the risk they pose to their victims.

Police Scotland also carry out visits to victims following the court appearance of perpetrators to inform them of any bail conditions imposed by the court. During 2013/14 we achieved a very challenging target set to complete 95% of these visits within 24 hours as experience suggests any further incidents are most likely to happen within this critical time period. We also continue to robustly police such bail conditions with regular visits made to perpetrators to ensure they are complying.

The introduction of our dedicated Rape Investigation Unit continues to enhance our approach to investigating and detecting sexual offences. This Unit has a number of highly trained officers with significant experience in respect of the investigation of such sensitive crimes and our detection rate in this area has significantly improved this year. The following table outlines our achievements.

Protecting People				
	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	Victims	% Change
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to the Police	717	701		2.3%
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	592	614		-3.6%
Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	63.6%	66.9%		-3.3%

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Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate	88.0%	83.7%		4.3%
Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	47	38		23.7%
Ensure 95% of domestic abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe (24hrs)	97.6%	-		-
Number of Group 2 - Crimes of Indecency	131	145	14 fewer	-9.7%
Group 2 crimes detection rate	82.4%	74.5%		7.9%
Rape detection rate	71.4%	65.4%		6.0%
Hate Crime and offences detection rate	88.2%	79.1%		9.1%

Between April and March 2013/14 and the same period in 2012/13 domestic abuse incidents increased by 2.3% but domestic related crimes decreased by 3.6%. The areas with the highest density of domestic crimes (YTD) were Rothesay and Campbeltown. The following data is a guideline only and has been obtained using 'ghost' marker search parameters. As already highlighted alcohol fuelled crimes could only be accounted for between September 2013 and March 2014 as prior to this there was no marker to record alcohol involvement. Alcohol is recorded as being involved in around 53% of domestic crimes.

## **Serious Crime and Responding to National Events**

Our commitment to target serious and organised criminals remains and our activity continues to:

- Disrupt serious and Organised Crime Groups through measured and robust interventions focussing on group members.
- Respond to emerging threats from Organised Crime Groups and tackle potential criminal attacks on communities by seizing criminal assets.
- Maximise interventions to deprive Organised Crime Groups of the opportunities to access legitimate contracts.
- Tackle drug misuse by increasing positive partnership interventions against those involved in the supply of drugs.

Within Argyll & Bute we have targeted Organised Crime Groups by focusing on their criminal enterprises and disrupting their activities.

There is still only one serious and organised crime group being monitored within Argyll and Bute. This group is currently assessed as Low Risk and is closely monitored by our strict internal governance group through which resources are deployed accordingly. Current intelligence does indicate however that numerous persons involved in criminality at this level are resident within some of the main towns. The majority of these individuals are documented primarily in relation to their involvement in the supply and distribution of controlled drugs however some have also previously been linked to acts of serious violence. Work is currently ongoing to

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improve the current intelligence picture surrounding these individuals with a view to disrupting drug supply lines into the main towns.

The Argyll & Bute Multi-Agency Serious and Organised Crime Strategic Group is now well established and continues to strengthen our collective ability to disrupt these groups, minimising the risk to our community.

The sale and supply of drugs continues to be a significant concern to us and through our consultations with communities is highlighted as an issue. Our determination to rid communities of those individuals who deal drugs will be a priority in the forthcoming 12 months and through intelligence led policing we will continue to deal robustly with them.

During the performance year in 2013/14:-

- **143** individuals linked to SOC have been arrested
- Through the use of POCA legislation SOC criminals have been deprived of **£ 2,315,008**
- SOCG have been denied legitimate enterprise estimated to be worth **£ 2,823,871**
- YTD there have been **206** drug supply detections.

Argyll & Bute has a number of strategic locations which require an appropriate counter-terrorist response with the ever present threat that exists from internationally inspired terrorism. Moreover, in some parts of the area there remains close affiliation with terrorist groups based in Northern Ireland which needs careful management and intervention to prevent those associations from developing into a threat to the local community.

To successfully challenge this threat we have fully embraced the National "Contest" Strategy and have implemented a Multi Agency CONTEST Group which meets regularly and in partnership progresses all aspects of the '4P' strategy, Prevent, Prepare, Pursue and Protect.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games are now at an advanced stage of planning and we will be supporting our colleagues in Glasgow in their preparations for the delivery of a safe, secure and peaceful games for all. We will also see the Queens Baton Relay pass through Argyll & Bute and partnership planning is well underway to ensure it is an event that is enjoyable and safe for all.

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### Acquisitive and Road Crime

Acquisitive Crime is constantly an area that requires our full attention with doorstep criminals targeting our most vulnerable people. We fully recognise the significant consequences victims of Housebreaking experience and this is a priority for us and is also being addressed nationally.

Keeping People Safe on our Roads has been a significant focus for this year, and through our proactive approach we remain committed to influencing and improving driver behaviour.

Our objectives include a commitment to:

- Prioritise the investigation of bogus crimes and housebreakings
- Effectively police the road network to influence driver behaviour, increase safety and disrupt criminals using our roads
- Reduce Casualties and road deaths
- Tackle dangerous driving by increasing detections
- Target speeding offences by increasing detections

High profile operations have been a regular feature this year which has resulted in a number of arrests for bogus crimes. This activity will continue and we will relentlessly pursue these individuals.

The following table outlines our achievements :-

Acquisitive Crime				
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	32.5%	28.7%		3.8%
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	169	181	12 fewer	-6.6%
Theft by shoplifting detection rate	71.4%	77.3%		-5.9%
Theft by shoplifting	168	154	14 more	9.1%

There has been a 6.6% reduction in the number of housebreakings recorded in Argyll and Bute. The detection rate has improved slightly and is currently 3.8%. Oban and Dunoon had a small hotspot for housebreakings where commercial property was targeted.

Shoplifting has increased by 9.1%. Helensburgh Town Centre was the most common location for shoplifting offences with a particularly high volume occurring on Sinclair Street.

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Our Road Safety campaign has seen the deployment of officers in line with complaints from the community to address irresponsible driver behaviour.

The tables below outline our achievements:

Road Traffic Casualty Statistics				
	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	Victims	% Change
People Killed/Seriously Injured	68	62	6 more	9.7%
People Slightly Injured	206	242	36 fewer	-14.9%
Children (aged<16) Killed/Seriously Injured	2	5	3 fewer	-60.0%

The number of persons killed / seriously injured increased by 9.7% which equates to 6 more casualties. The trunk roads A83 and A85 are the primary locations for such incidents and we continue to target these with high visibility patrols. We also continue to move towards the implementation of a full time dedicated Divisional Road Policing Unit within Argyll & Bute. Road Safety is an area will continue to provide real focus to going forward to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured.

Road Safety & Road Crime				
	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	Victims	% Change
Dangerous driving	78	71		9.9%
Speeding	2,125	1,779		19.4%
Disqualified driving	11	15		-26.7%
Driving Licence	178	155		14.8%
Insurance	206	251		-17.9%
Seat Belts	631	541		16.6%
Mobile Phone	301	369		-18.4%

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## **Increase Public Confidence and Local Engagement**

It is of great importance to us that the service we provide receives the consent of our community and through our organisational values based approach, **Integrity, Fairness** and **Respect** we hope to increase public confidence in us. We continue to listen to the views and concerns of our community through consultations, listening events or Police and Community (PAC) meetings. This way we know what local people want us to deal with and that will remain our focus at Divisional and Ward area levels.

Our Consultation Survey completed in October 2013 provided the local community the opportunity to tell us what our priorities should be and to tell us what they think about the service we are providing. The results of that survey have shaped our plans going forward into year 2 and provided positive reassurance that we are addressing the needs of the local community.

In addition to outlining what the community wanted our priorities to be in Argyll & Bute the survey also captured that;

- 31% of people thought crime had decreased
- 53% stated they had not been affected by antisocial behaviour
- 80% had regularly seen uniformed officers patrolling their area
- 78% were aware they had a dedicated Community Policing Team

We are encouraged by this but our determination to increase public confidence will continue.

## **Conclusion**

As Local Police Commander, I am delighted to present this year end update on our Local Policing Plan for Argyll & Bute. I am happy with our achievements this year and thank our partners from across Argyll & Bute for their support.

Keeping People Safe is and will remain our focus as we continue to deliver the highest possible level of service.

Barry McEwan  
Chief Superintendent  
Local Police Commander