

# Keeping People Safe in Argyll & Bute

Our Purpose:- To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland

## Road Safety & Road Crime

DRPU activity has focused on the priority routes; A82, A83 and A85 and included visible patrols, static road checks and increased driver engagement.



Compared to Qtr 1 last year, fatal road collisions reduced from 3 to 0. Both serious injuries and slight injuries also decreased from 21 to 5 and 27 to 4, respectively. Overall the total number of road casualties has reduced from 51 to 9.



The number of road traffic offences recorded has also decreased by 14.8% compared to Qtr 1 last year. Most types of RT offences have seen a reduction with the only exception being insurance offences which have risen from 59 to 100 year on year. Both dangerous driving and speeding offences have seen significant reduction from 32 to 15 and 309 to 218

## Violence & Antisocial Behaviour



At the end of Qtr 1, Group 1 crimes of violence had reduced slightly with 15 crimes recorded compared to 19 last year. Despite the overall reduction the number of serious assaults and attempted murder have marginally increased by 1 when compared to last year's position. Crimes relating to the new domestic abuse legislation have reduced slightly from 7 to 5.

Approx. 67% of all crimes of violence occurred in a private space and in the majority the victim knew the offender.

324 stop search have been carried out which equates to 108 per month.

Complaints relating to disorder increased by 116.4% YTD which equates to 875 more incidents being recorded. This is largely due to a substantial increase in public nuisance incidents, most of which related to persons breaching Covid-19 guidelines. YTD ASB crimes reduced by 19% (n=131). Common assaults decreased by 37.7% (n=63). Approximately 64% of common assaults occurred in a private space and approx. 28% were domestic related. Crimes relating to Breach of the Peace and Threatening & Abusive Behaviour also reduced considerably.

The detection rate for violent crime overall has increased marginally to 66.7%. The detection rate for serious assaults has also increased to 116.7% however for common assault it has reduced slightly from 82% to 75%.

## Public Protection



At the end of Qtr 1 Group 2 sexual crimes show an increase of 18.8% compared to last year which equates to 9 more crimes being recorded. Whilst rape crimes have reduced from 16 to 5 year on year, this has been offset by a significant increase in crimes relating to indecent images/communication which have risen from 10 to 25. Thirteen of the 25 crimes involved children, all were aged 12 – 14 years. Indecent / sexual assaults also increased marginally from 18 to 20. Approx. 25% of all sexual crimes were non-recent reports.

92% of sexual crimes occurred in a private space, mainly residential dwelling homes

71% of sexual crimes were committed by persons known to the victim

The detection rate for Group 2 sexual crime has reduced to 33.3% from 41.7% last year. The detection rate for rape crime has increased by 60.7% from 14.3% last year to 75%.



At the end of Qtr1 there were 34 missing person reports recorded within Argyll & Bute which equates to around 11 per month. Around 29.4% these involved children or looked after children. and 29.4% related to 5 repeat missing persons.

The number of incidents where an Adult / Child Concern has been raised has decreased by 23.5% (n=189). Adult concerns (inc. Domestic Abuse) have marginally reduced from 391 to 379 and child concerns have decreased by 31%.

Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr 1 last year, domestic abuse incidents in Argyll and Bute show a marginal increase of 2.5% from 160 to 164, while the number of crimes have reduced by 39.4% from 137 to 83.

At the end of Qtr 1, user satisfaction results show that levels of public confidence in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire remain high at 72%. Furthermore, figures also indicate 86% of persons were satisfied with how police dealt with their incident.

In total 33 complaints about the Police have been received YTD, which equates to 53.9 per 10,000 head of population.

## Argyll & Bute

### Local Policing Plan (2020 – 2023)

### Quarterly Report (Qtr 1 – 2020/21)

## Major Crime & Terrorism



Across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire 22 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested and £33058.54 seized under POCA.

Detections for drugs supply have increased marginally with 11 recorded compared to 9 at the end of Qtr 1 last year. Drug possession charges also increased from 96 last year to 150 this year.



At the end of Qtr 1 there were no potential drugs related deaths recorded in A&B compared to 3 the previous year.



65 cyber-enabled crimes had been recorded within Argyll & Bute at the end of Qtr 1. Thirty related to online fraud, 13 to threatening messages sent via social media, 21 to indecent communication / images and 1 to extortion. In 20 of the 65 crimes the victim knew the offender. To date 14 crimes have been detected.

## Acquisitive Crime



Vehicle crime reduced by 36.4%



Housebreaking decreased by 17.2%

The total number of acquisitive crimes recorded in A&B was 18.7% lower than at the end of Qtr 1 last year. Given the Covid-19 restrictions, most types of acquisitive crimes reduced including housebreaking crimes which reduced by 17.2% (n=5) and vehicle crimes which reduced by 36.4% (n=8). Fraud is the only crime type showing an increase with 47 crimes recorded YTD compared to 19 in the same period last year. The increase is predominately due to a rise in social engineering frauds and fraudulent internet sales/purchases.



The number of bogus crimes in A&B have increased from 1 last year to 14 this year. All crimes recorded related to social engineering frauds involving bogus phone calls/emails.

**National Park Crisis Response Group**

Following the easing of the Covid-19 travel restrictions there was an increase in persons visiting A&B for exercise, recreation and leisure which resulted in a number of issues impacting on local communities at these locations; a lack of facilities such as parking and toilets were exasperated by levels of conduct clearly not in keeping with Government Guidance. One area significantly affected was the Lomond & Trossachs National Park and surrounding areas. High volumes of visitors at beauty spots and locations on the loch were not compatible with social distancing regulations. Numerous complaints were received in respect this and general anti-social behaviour, urinating in public, littering. Road traffic complaints also featured with dangerous parking on road verges and reports of vehicles travelling at high speed. These issues all attracted high levels of media attention. While an existing partnership existed with the National Park, it was necessary to escalate this to a Crisis Response Group meeting to include management representation from the Local Authorities, Forestry Commission, Traffic Scotland, Police Scotland across 3 Divisions and the National Park. Extensive work was required to provide a daily response ensuring consistent and key media messaging, local policing plans supported by partners where available and a cross partnership communication product to provide real time management of developing issues.

**Disrupting Serious & Organised Crime**

On 20/04/2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown officers stopped a vehicle A83 near Lochgilphead whereby a search of the vehicle and passengers resulted in the seizure of 160g of herbal cannabis, in addition to £3070 in cash under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Further police pro-activity in Argyll & Bute resulted in an address in Oban being searched under warrant and approximately half a kilo of heroin being seized which has a street value up to £13,000.

**Management of Early Prisoner Releases due to Covid-19**

The Scottish Parliament, through the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, instructed the early release of prisoners from custody from 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020, where it was considered necessary to support the continued operation of the prison service and protect the health of prison staff and prisoners. To date Police Scotland have effectively managed the phased release of 112 offenders across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire. In order to minimise any potential threat / risk to the victims were notified in advance and local officers briefed in relation to special bail conditions, curfews, etc. Approximately one third of all prisoners re-offended and were remanded back into custody.

**Tackling Fraud Crime**

Fraud is the most commonly experienced crime in the UK and costs the UK many billions of pounds every year. The impact of fraud can be devastating and range from unaffordable personal losses suffered by vulnerable victims to impacting the ability of organisations to stay in business.

Due to the significant increase in crime levels across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire, a fraud investigation toolkit has been produced for circulation across the division supplemented by specialist briefings to front line officers to enable a more consistent and productive outcome for victims of this crime type.



**Operation Talla**

To date there has been some major steps forward in the Scottish Government's route map through and out of coronavirus. With much of the hospitality and retail sector re-opening, we can expect to see something of a return to business as usual for policing. Operation Talla continues to work behind the scenes with our partners in local authorities and government to support our efforts engaging with the public in our communities. The mandatory requirement for face coverings to be worn in retail premises came into force on Friday 10 July and will be enforced through the use of Fixed Penalty Notices however our policing tone and style will continue to focus on the first three E's – engage, explain and encourage.

**Child Safety Online**

In line with trends noted across Scotland, the number of crimes being recorded relating to indecent images and communication have seen a notable increase since the start of the Covid-19 lockdown. To combat this increasing trend, significant pro-active work has been undertaken in partnership with the Child Protection Committee and local media to improve public awareness regarding online safety. This includes messages being sent to parents and secondary pupils encouraging them to be ever vigilant and keep safe. Information has also posted on the CPC website offering advice on how to spot the danger signs of harmful online behaviour and where to get information, help and advice.

**Strategic Workforce Plan**

A Strategic Workforce Planning framework has been created to document how Police Scotland is responding to changes within society and how these changes will impact on our people, our most important asset. The framework addresses social and demographic change, adapting our skills to fit a transforming labour market and how we can target our resources to best meet future requirements.

The key aims relate to capability, flexibility and diversity. We will increase our capabilities by making sure we have the right people with the right knowledge and skills mix. Our capacity and flexibility will increase through embracing technology and modern use of data. This will provide a better understanding of demands on our service and allow us to match resources accordingly. Our overall approach to workforce planning, will improve the diversity of our workforce.

**Your Safety Matters Assault Pledge**

Chief Constable Iain Livingstone QPM has outlined his commitment to reduce the impact of violence and to improve the safety of officers and staff in his new Your Safety Matters Assault Pledge. The Chief has made it clear that aggressive or threatening behaviour or verbal abuse against Police Scotland personnel is simply not part of the job and has promised to provide improved safety and welfare support. With over 1,775 reported assaults on officers and staff across the Force between April and June 2020 the Your Safety Matters group, which includes staff associations, unions, experts from across the Service and supported by the Lord Advocate and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, is undertaking an end-to-end strategic review of all violence and abuse towards officers and staff, with the aims of ensuring all personnel feel safe and supported while discharging their duties, are well prepared in terms of procedures, guidance and equipment, have confidence in reporting incidents in a timely manner and can seek additional support when required.

Nurtured (Children & Young People

Empowered Residents