

Police Scotland (MAKI) – Covid-19 Update

COVID impacts on us daily but not to the same extent possibly in MAKI as in other areas. We do receive a relatively low number of calls from members of the public daily highlighting any Covid concerns around properties or persons they believe to be involved in Covid breaches and each one is looked at separately. This tends to increase at weekends when people seem more likely to be tempted to socialise.

When dealing with these we obviously have to consider any circumstances that would be exempt from the legislation or guidance such as essential maintenance or extended households for example but there are certain individuals in our community who continue to allow others to come into their houses and socialise which is a concern. Strategically it has been outlined that the police response will follow the four-step escalation principles of engagement, explanation, encouragement and finally enforcement but there are instances where officers are justified in moving straight to enforcement with the issue of fixed penalty notices.

Covid also affects the police response to other incidents and Police Scotland has adjusted its operating model and is now adhering to a policy of 'reduced attendance and appropriate contact'. This means we are dealing with more incidents by telephone and other remote models of contact when appropriate but each call is risk assessed and if officers need to attend it goes without saying they will do so. We do adopt a proactive approach depending on current information with extra attention paid to transport hubs such as ferry ports when concerns are raised but we find that most businesses and organisations are extremely vigilant in ensuring anyone using their services are Covid compliant.

Our officers have all been issued with personal PPE with individually fitted masks as well as the standard surgical type masks and hygiene supplies are readily available. There are designated safe systems of working in place and COVID consideration is given to everything we do to ensure the safety of the public and our officers and staff is maintained as best we can. In MAKI we have maintained resourcing levels with low levels of absences through social isolation or illness and we hope this continues.

We continue to work closely with partners to address issues and concerns but on the whole compliance levels are good.

Generally it is a positive picture in MAKI and we are obviously hoping this continues