

Police Scotland Update

Fraud Prevention and Awareness

Our popular and educational Scam Savvy Quiz inputs have continued with our vulnerable groups as crimes of fraud are still of concern. Locally there has been a bespoke input provided in partnership with the Macular Society to a group of people with sight loss in Dunoon as they were identified as being particularly vulnerable. This enabled a great discussion using ideas such as code words for people attending at the door to help identify cold callers. These talks continue to be available for any community group or local organisations including community councils.

During this reporting period, we responded to a number of calls on the Isle of Bute regarding bogus workers who had cold called at a number of addresses offering roofing work (and carrying out sub-standard work). In partnership with ACHA, assessments of work completed at each property were carried out by ACHA staff within 48 hours which provided Police Scotland with sufficient evidence to investigate a number of fraud offences with a positive line of enquiry. This was using the partnership agreement designed in 2022 to assist tackle doorstep crime.

One of the most common scams we have seen across Bute and Cowal has been around Sextortion. This almost wholly is targeted to young males (under 30 years of age). Sextortion is sexual extortion. It involves the threat of having sexual information, photos or videos shared. This is done to get money from the victim, to control behaviour or to pressure them for further images. Many sextortions start with seemingly harmless flirting on social media or dating sites. Criminals are experts at creating fake profiles that appear genuine. Flirtatious conversations quickly turn sexual and the victim is actively encouraged to remove clothing, perform a sexual act on camera or share explicit images. These images and videos are often recorded without the victim's knowledge and then can be held to ransom. The criminals will often have already accessed your social media contacts and will threaten to share these images with them unless you comply with their demands. As young males are being told their images will be shared with everyone they know, this is having an impact on their mental health with victims often feeling embarrassed and ashamed they are often keeping themselves isolated rather than reporting to Police and reaching out for support. Police Scotland would encourage everyone to share awareness around this either through social media, newsletters or in conversation with young males you know. If any members have ideas or suggestions on how we can help educate young males on the risk involved with this type of offence.

SEXTORTION

A SELF-HELP GUIDE



POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Sextortion refers to a specific type of cyber-enabled crime in which victims are lured into performing sexual acts in front of their webcam.

Unknown to victims, their actions are recorded by criminals who then use the video footage in an attempt to blackmail them. Generally criminals request money

and if demands are not met, these offenders threaten to upload the recording(s) to the internet and send to the victims' friends and family.

VICTIM REASSURANCE

- Don't panic
- Police Scotland will take your case seriously
- We will not make judgements on your behaviour
- The matter will be dealt with in absolute confidence

VICTIM ADVICE

- Do NOT delete any correspondence
- Do NOT pay
- Do NOT communicate further with the offenders
- DEACTIVATE your accounts
- REPORT online indecent images to the host website

OBTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND PASS ON TO THE POLICE

1. The Skype name, and more importantly;
2. The Skype I.D.; Be aware that the scammer's Skype name is different to their Skype ID, and it's the ID details we need. To get that, right click on their profile, select "View Profile" and then look for the name shown in blue rather than the one above it in black. It will be next to the word "Skype:" and will have no spaces in it.
3. The Facebook URL;
4. The Western Union or MoneyGram Money Transfer Control Number (MTCN);
5. Any photos that were sent

HOW TO REMOVE INDECENT IMAGES

G GOOGLE

You can ask Google to remove a nude or sexually explicit image or video of you that's been shared without your consent. To do this:

1. Click on **Settings** in bottom right-hand corner
2. Select **Search Help**
3. Expand **Troubleshoot & Request Removals** from menu
4. Finally click on **Remove information from Google** and follow the step by step instructions

TWITTER

You do not need an account to remove information about yourself. Fill out a form at the following address:

https://support.twitter.com/forms/private_information

f FACEBOOK

To report a photo or video:

1. Click on the photo or video to expand it
2. Click on the ellipsis (***) or the drop down in the top right
3. Click 'I don't like this photo' or 'report this post'
4. Choose relevant option for example 'I think it shouldn't be on Facebook'

YOUTUBE

How to flag a video:

1. Below the YouTube video player click the **More** button
2. Highlight and click the **Report** button in the drop-down menu
3. Click the reason for flagging that best fits the violation within the video
4. Provide any additional details that may help the review team make their final decision

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Bereavement Support

Local officers meet people affected by bereavement as part of their daily role. Officers are now able to provide family and friends of deceased person with a full support pack which has practice advice and emotional support contacts. Working with Argyll and Bute Registrars, NHS Highland Chaplaincy, Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau, Change Mental Health and Cruse Bereavement, packs provide those suffering from bereavement with advice they can look at when they are ready to and aim to reduce distress.

Road Safety

Following a fatality on the Argyll road network involving a towing vehicle, a series of Safe Towing videos have been produced and shared via our social media channels. This follows a change in legislation around driving licence requirements for those towing trailers, caravans, boat trailers and horseboxes. Police Scotland worked with a DVSA approved assessor in Campbeltown to produce these videos. These aim to help people understand legal towing limits, hitching, unhitching and safety checks. These are available on our local facebook page for anyone to look at, at any time.

A Partnership Approach to Road Safety group is being formed with representation from across West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute. This group will focus on locations of concern and key contributing factors from road traffic collisions where someone has been killed or seriously injured to enable us to prioritise education and enforcement towards key locations or demographics.

Community Intelligence

During this reporting period, officers in Dunoon, targeted proactive policing by our CID team and uniformed officers has resulted in a number of drug detections in Dunoon where 4 persons were charged with being concerned in the supply of, possessing, cultivating and/or producing controlled drugs. Execution of these drugs warrants enabled drugs with an estimated street value of just over £5,000 to be seized along with other drug producing equipment.



Drug warrants were also executed on the Isle of Bute resulting in a number of people being charged with supplying and possessing controlled drugs. Reducing harm caused by drugs in our communities remains a priority. Our local policing teams continue to robustly police those who deal drugs in our community and we work with partners and the public to encourage the capture of information to help us secure these drug search warrants.

Youth Engagement

Our Youth Engagement Officers worked closely with Live Argyll to welcome back the Friday Night Football project which ran throughout the summer holidays. This focussed on deterring youths from ASB and provided them a focus during the weekend.

PSYV Dunoon attended King's Honours event alongside other groups from throughout the country. This provided the young people with a really positive experience and there was excellent feedback received from parents. The Dunoon PSYV have also deployed at the Inveraray Highland Games and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Coastline Safety

At the end of September, a multi-agency security and rescue exercise was held on the Isle of Bute. Police Scotland worked closely with Argyll and Bute Council, Border Command, Ministry of Defence Police Marine Unit, Caledonian MacBrayne and Rothesay Coastguard Rescue Team through a range of scenarios to help keep our coastlines safe.



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