

Scottish Borders Area Commander's



Local Monthly Update – April 2020

(Data from 01/03/2020 - 26/04/2020)

	2019/2020	2020/2021	% Change	Local Area Commanders Comment
Total Crimes and Offences (Group 1-7)	663	416	-37.3	
Total Crimes (Group 1-5)	314	247	-21.3	
Overall Violent Crime	65	49	-24.6	Detection rate for violent crime is at 87%
Group 1: Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	9	8	-11.1	
Group 2: Sexual Crimes	14	15	+7.1	5 of these crimes are non-recent, they relate to offences that took place in the last reporting year.
Group 3: Crimes of Dishonesty	150	79	-47.3	Fraud LYTD was 10 TYTD is 11.
Group 4: Fire-raising, Malicious Mischief, etc	72	78	+8.3	37% (29) of these crimes relate to breach of coronavirus regulations. Without these crimes we would have a 49 crimes and a 32% decrease. 51 Vandalism, 3 Culpable and Reckless Conduct and 2 Fire-raising.
Group 5: Other Pro-Activity Crimes	69	67	-2.9	
Group 6: Miscellaneous offences	173	117	-32.4	
Group 7: Offences relating to Motor Offences	176	52	-70.5	

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data has been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and is correct as at 26.04.2020.

Due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents and the management of crime enquiries, there is likely to be differences between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. It would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in this report as official statistics.

Local Area Commanders Comments

Covid-19 Update:

The vast majority of people in the Scottish Borders are complying with advice. We are asking people to listen to the advice, to stay at home and help us keep you and your loved ones safe.

Officers in the Scottish Borders are adopting the following Policing style as directed by the Chief Constable when dealing with COVID-19 incidents:

Engage – Establish individual circumstances and how quickly someone can comply

Explain – the risks to public health

Encourage – Voluntary compliance

Enforce – If faced with non-compliance and only as a last resort.

To date this Policing style has proved effective but as in other areas of the Country and UK there is a small amount of self-fish people who choose to ignore the guidelines and despite efforts by officers they still refuse to comply and they have either been issued Fixed Penalty Notices or have been arrested.

Wendy Marsden at SBC produces a weekly COVID-19 ASB report which allows us to track and pro-actively target those areas where we are seeing people not complying with guidelines on a regular basis. Given the recent good weather these have been popular walking or sight-seeing spots and we have ensured that we are deploying CAT officers to engage with the public to establish reasons for being in the area.

I would respectfully ask you to continue to support the above message to comply with the guidelines when in contact with your constituents.

Crime figures and Incidents of Note:

Given the current COVID pandemic and lockdown it is of no great surprise to see that crime figures are down in the main and where there is a change to the contrary I have added some context as to why I believe that is.

The following is a list of some of the more notable incidents that we have dealt with in April:

- On 5th April in the Burnfoot area of Hawick, following a foot-chase, a male was arrested in possession of £2500 worth of cannabis. He was subsequently reported to the Fiscal for drug supply charges.
- On 7th April Boots pharmacy in Kelso was broken into and a number of prescription medicine was stolen. Good work by Kelso officers resulted in two men being arrested very quickly afterwards and the medicines recovered.

- On 14th April in Galashiels two men and a woman were arrested and charged for Assault & Robbery and Serious Assault following a disturbance within a common-stair. One of the males was displaying clear signs of COVID-19 and as such officers had to deploy in full PPE to deal with him.
- On 17th April Hawick Royal Albert Football club was broken into and three bottles of alcohol were stolen – Enquiries are continuing.
- On 18th April a 28 year-old male died in Galashiels. The deceased was a drug user and his death is believed to be drug related.
- On 29th April the Borders Community Action Teams searched an address in Peebles under the authority of a drugs warrant and recovered 89gms of Heroin with a street value of £4500.

Since lockdown the number of “Public nuisance” calls has dramatically increased and the vast majority of these are from either members of the public or neighbours reporting possible breaches of COVID related guidance. These incidents are risk-assessed at the control room and when deemed appropriate officers will be deployed to deal, sometimes PPE is required if the household are suffering from COVID-19.

CAT update

I felt it would be important to detail the performance of the CAT over the last year (April 19 - April20) as the current pandemic has meant the cancellation of the Scrutiny Board where I would ordinarily have raised this:

- 117 static road checks were carried out and 47 Road Traffic Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.
- 742 parking tickets were issued
- Over 1500 hours of high-visibility patrols both mobile and on foot.
- 185 persons were searched for drugs worth 69 of these being positive
- 55 premises were searched under a drug warrant with 46 of these being positive
- 108 taskings were taken from the oversight group and carried out.
- Two successful operations tackling ASB in Peebles and Eyemouth were spearheaded by the CAT and saw a significant reduction in ASB youth-related incidents being reported.



Chief Inspector Stuart Reid | Local Area Commander - Scottish Borders
Galashiels Police Station | 3-4 Bridge Street | Galashiels | TD1 1SP

