

Item: 4

Police and Fire Sub-committee: 26 August 2025.

Performance against Local Policing Plan.

Report by Chief Inspector Scott Robertson – Area Commander (Orkney Area Command).

1. Overview

- 1.1. The Performance Against Local Policing Plan 2023 - 2026, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, covers all priorities featured in the Local Policing Plan and gives evidence of Prevention and Intervention work corresponding to each of the Policing Priorities. It also provides a local narrative in relation to Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism.
- 1.2. Appendix 1 also includes progress made against the objectives set within the Orkney Islands Local Policing Plan 2023 - 2026 Year 3, for the reporting period 1 March 2024 to 31 March 2025.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Sub-committee:
 - i. Scrutinise progress made against the objectives set within the Orkney Islands Local Policing Plan 2023 - 2026 Year 3, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, for the period covering 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, in order to obtain assurance that progress is being made against the objectives.

For Further Information please contact:

Chief Inspector Scott Robertson - Area Commander (Orkney Area Command), telephone: 01856 884 540. Email: Scott.Robertson2@scotland.police.uk.

Implications of Report

1. **Financial:** None arising directly from this report.
2. **Legal:** None arising directly from this report.
3. **Corporate Governance:** Not applicable.
4. **Human Resources:** Not applicable.
5. **Equalities:** An Equality Impact Assessment is not required in respect of performance monitoring.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required in respect of performance monitoring.
7. **Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
 - ☐ Growing our economy.
 - ☐ Strengthening our Communities.
 - ☐ Developing our Infrastructure.
 - ☐ Transforming our Council.
8. **Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
 - ☐ Cost of Living.
 - ☐ Sustainable Development.
 - ☐ Local Equality.
 - ☐ Improving Population Health.
9. **Environmental and Climate Risk:** Not applicable.
10. **Risk:** Not applicable.
11. **Procurement:** Not applicable.
12. **Health and Safety:** Not applicable.
13. **Property and Assets:** Not applicable.
14. **Information Technology:** Not applicable.
15. **Cost of Living:** Not applicable.

List of Background Papers

Orkney Islands Local Policing Plan 2023 - 2026

Appendix

Appendix 1: Performance Against Local Policing Plan 2023 – 2026.

**Performance Against
Local Policing Plan 2023-2026**



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Orkney Police and Fire Sub-Committee
Tuesday 26th August 2025

Reporting Period - 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025



Report by Chief Inspector Scott Robertson –
Area Commander (Orkney Area Command)

Working together to ensure Orkney remains a safe and vibrant
place to live and work



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

OFFICIAL

Contents

Introduction by the Area Commander	2
Local Policing Priorities	3
Orkney: At a glance	4
Road Safety and Road Crime	6
Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence (including Alcohol and Drug misuse)	7
Acquisitive Crime	9
Protecting Vulnerable People	10
Serious and Organised Crime	12
Counter Terrorism	13
Crime Statistics	14

Introduction by the Area Commander

Chief Inspector Scott Robertson

I present to you the Orkney Police and Fire Sub-Committee Scrutiny Report, covering the reporting period 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. I hope the style of the report is continuing to provide you with the required breakdown of crime statistics for Orkney Area Command.

The Orkney islands, characterised by its rural landscape and dispersed population, presents unique challenges for policing. Despite these challenges, your local policing team has worked diligently to keep communities safe, support victims, reduce crime, and increase community engagement.

This report provides you with a picture of the demand and activity which has been ongoing in Orkney over the last fiscal year.

One of the main focuses for this time period continues to be Road Safety. Road crime numbers have generally increased, which can be attributed to proactive policing initiatives. We maintain a strong presence on the roads, collaborating with partners through initiatives like Operation CEDAR to promote safe driving practices via both education and enforcement to reduce serious traffic incidents. Orkney are to be included in the next incremental national roll out of drugs wipes training later this year which is welcomed.

While Orkney has seen positive outcomes, challenges remain, including anti-social behaviour which continue to be of concern to our communities. To address these challenges, future priorities include working with partners to address underlying issues and Strengthening relationships with the community and responding to their concerns.

A significant focus during this period has been on tackling drug-related offences. Proactive operations and increased intelligence-led policing have led to an increase in the Supply of drug offences and possession of drugs offences compared to the same period in the previous year and also to the 5 year and 3 year averages. This proactive approach has help disrupt drug supply chains and reduce drug-related harm within the community.

Building strong relationships with the community is essential for effective policing. The team has actively engaged with local residents, businesses, and community groups through various initiatives. Strong partnerships have been forged with other agencies and voluntary organisations. These relationships assist in tackling local issues and improve community safety.

Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/ counting rules, comparison of recorded Domestic crimes and Hate crimes from 1st April 2024 with recorded Domestic crimes and Hate crimes prior to 1st April 2024 would not be advised. We have not provided these comparisons in this report, however we will be able to start providing past year comparisons from 1st April this year.

The Orkney Islands continue to be a safe and resilient place for residents and visitors alike. The team's dedication to proactive policing, community engagement, and partnership working has been instrumental in achieving these results. By addressing emerging challenges and maintaining a focus on safer communities, the policing team will continue to make a positive impact within the community.

Local Policing Priorities

The Local Policing Priorities for the N Division area are decided by data from our Strategic Assessment which details Threats and Risks, and also feedback from Local Authorities, Partners and residents in the Your Police survey.



ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Collaborate to reduce casualties and crime on our roads



ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, VIOLENCE AND DISORDER

Engage with the public and communities to reduce and prevent crime



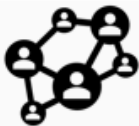
ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Reduce crime through preventing offending and reducing re-offending



PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Support people considered vulnerable through working with partners



SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

Reduce the harm caused by serious organised crime including cyber related crime



TERRORISM AND PUBLIC ORDER

Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare through collaborative preparedness

Orkney: At a glance

Road Safety and Road Crime

Overall, Road Crime offences have increased by 16.1% (61.6 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 7.8% (32 more offence) against the Last Year To Date (LYTD).

Offences in relation to Unlawful use of motor vehicles have increased by 20.7% (26.2 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 29.7% (35 more offence) against the LYTD.

Mobile Telephone offences have increased by 281.0% (11.8 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 166.7% (10 more offences) offences against the LYTD.

Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence (including Alcohol and Drugs Misuse)

Offences in relation to Threatening or Abusive Behaviour have decreased by 2.2% (1.2 fewer crimes) against the 5 Year Average and have stayed the same (54 crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Assault have increased by 17.7% (14.6 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 3.19% (3 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Acquisitive Crime

Offences in relation to Housebreaking (Dwelling House) have increased by 50.0% (1 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and have decreased by 25.0% (1 fewer crime) against the LYTD.

Fraud offences have increased by 30.4% (7.0 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and decreased by 11.8% (4 fewer crimes) against the LYTD.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Overall, Sexual Crime has increased by 1.3% (0.8 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 9.0% (5 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Serious and Organised Crime

Offences in relation to Supply of drugs have increased by 300.0% (9.0 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 300.0% (9 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism

Police Constable Lisa Campbell, N Division's Local Counter Terrorism Officer stated:

***“Ongoing work with MP and MSPs in the Highland and Islands area. Operation Ford has been launched which is the Operation name relating to the safety and security of elected members. CTLO continues to act as a link between local Policing and National and Specialist CT units to ensure partners are kept updated on CT matters, including Martyn's Law. Regular work is ongoing with the Prevent Delivery Unit to manage individuals across the N Division area.*”**

OFFICIAL

Exercise Shopboard was recently run in Mainland Highland. This is a multi-agency exercise based on a product created by CT Policing and the Home Office, it focussed on the response to and recovery from a CT incident. We will be running this in Orkney in October 2025.”

OFFICIAL

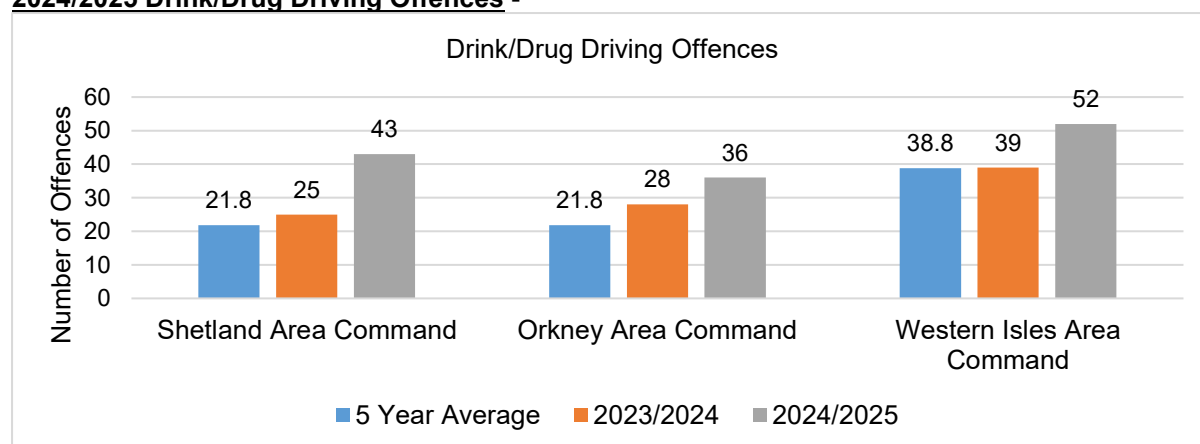
Road Safety and Road Crime

Intention - With Partners, enhance Road Safety across Orkney.

Objective – With Partners, deliver a Road Safety Strategy focusing on: Challenging driver behaviour; Education at the road side and elsewhere; Detection of offences linked to contributing factors of Fatal and Serious Road Traffic Collisions and collectively reducing potential harm.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Number of Fatalities - Road Traffic Collisions	0.6	0.7	1	1	-	N/A
Drink/Drug Driving Offences (Drug Driving)	21.8	25.0	28	36	8	108.3%
Speeding Offences	74.6	61.3	54	50	-4	100.0%

2024/2025 Drink/Drug Driving Offences -



Operation CEDAR - (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce) builds on established practices and will continue to focus on various agencies working in partnership to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured in Orkney.

Operation CEDAR involves proactive multi-agency enforcement operations on the roads, which sits alongside education activity aimed at improving driver behaviour of all ages. Partner agencies continue to work together to improve understanding of the factors which could contribute to improving road safety for everyone on the roads and together respond to these issues.

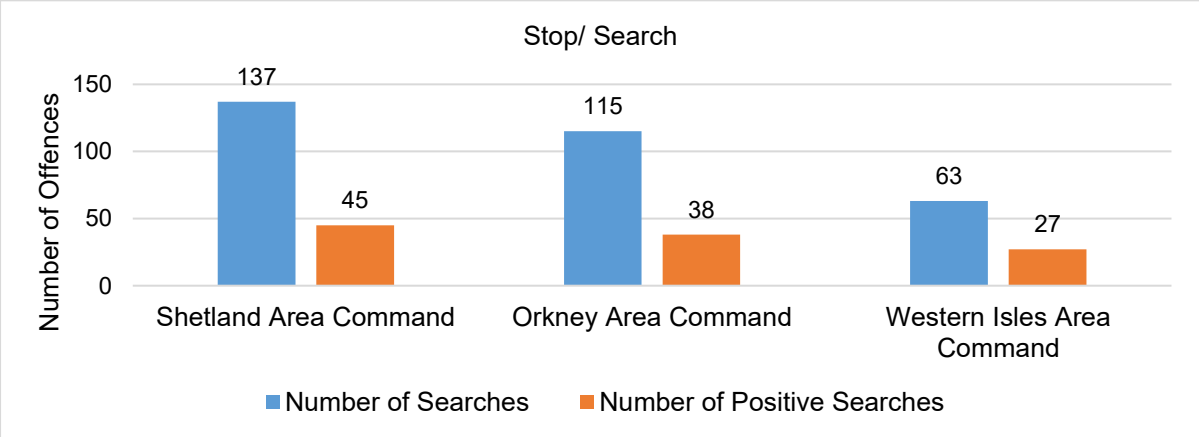
Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence (including Alcohol and Drug misuse)

Intention – With Partners, better understand the causes to prevent and reduce instances of Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence to enhance community safety across Orkney.

Objective – Work with Partners to share information, support Education, Prevention, Diversionary and Enforcement Measures linked to harmful alcohol consumption; maintain robust procedures around licensed premises; support victims of violent crime by working with partners to improve service provision and prevent repeat victimisation.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	0.2	0.3	0	0	-	N/A
Assault	82.4	81.7	94	97	3	91.8%
Serious Assault	4.0	4.7	7	4	-3	100.0%
Drug (Possession) Offences	53.4	40.3	43	64	21	84.4%

Stop and Search -



Positive Stop Search - A positive stop and search is when an item is recovered where possession of same implies criminality on the part of the individual being searched or any other; or potentially compromises the safety of that individual or another.

No Knives, Better Lives - No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL) is a national capacity-building programme that supports primary prevention work related to knife carrying in Scotland. In 2009, the NKBL National Delivery Team at YouthLink Scotland and the Scottish Government began supporting partners in 11 selected Local Authority areas to implement NKBL. The approach to prevention is informed by the principles and values of youth work and a public health approach to violence prevention. The focus is not just on what it is we do not want young people to do and how to stop them doing it, but also what we want young people to be able to do, how we support them to understand and navigate risk and to make positive life choices.

Acquisitive Crime

Intention – With Partners and Communities, prevent instances of acquisitive crime across Orkney.

Objective – With Partners, share information, support education, prevention, diversionary and enforcement activity linked to acquisitive crime; develop work with targets – recidivist offenders to reduce reoffending linked to acquisitive crime e.g. Persistent Offenders programme; enhance the use of all media platforms to raise awareness of local and national preventative initiatives.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (dwelling house)	2.0	2.7	4	3	-1	100.0%
Fraud	23.0	28.3	34	30	-4	23.3%
Theft by Shoplifting	23.2	26.0	36	32	-4	78.1%
Theft of a motor vehicle	6.8	7.0	14	4	-10	50.0%

Fraud –

Banking Protocol

Following a number of incidents across the N Division area in respect of Frauds and Banking Protocol, work continues with various Banks within N Division to setup learning sessions between staff members to talk through Banking Protocol. This has allowed for a better understanding of the Police response, management of vulnerabilities and referrals/support available to victims.

This has and will continue to allow Bank staff to be aware as to the point in they feel that they can/should intervene.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Intention – Protect people at risk of harm.

Objective – With Partners we will focus on safeguarding communities; with Partners we will address emerging issues through Prevention and Intervention.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Sexual Crime	60.2	68.3	56	61	5	82.0%
Domestic Crime*				77		68.8%
Hate Crime**				16		81.3%
Missing Persons	40.6	34.3	36	26	-10	

*Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/ counting rules, comparison of recorded domestic crimes from 1st April 2024 with recorded domestic crimes prior to 1st April 2024 would not be advised.

** Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/ counting rules, comparison of recorded hate crimes from 1st April 2024 with recorded hate crimes prior to 1st April 2024 would not be advised.

Hate Crime –

Hate Crime incidents are reviewed on a daily basis by officers within N Division's Partnerships Department with the victim being contacted and provided with contact details for Partner Agencies such as Victim Support Scotland. Every victim of a Hate Crime continue to be sent a Satisfaction Survey as to how they felt they were supported by N Division.

Missing Persons –

Police Scotland takes every report of a missing person seriously and investigates appropriately with access to local, regional and national specialist resources. Missing persons investigations are a core part of local Policing and it is local officers who undertake all investigations, supported by specialist colleagues where necessary. Further, each Division including, N Division has a dedicated Missing Person Co-ordinator who advises on operational and preventative approaches.

Missing Person Category	2023/2024	2024/2025	Variation
Adult	13	11	-2
Cared for Adult	1	0	-1
Care Experienced Young People	8	0	-8
Child	14	15	1
Absconder/Wanted	0	0	-
Total	36	26	-10

OFFICIAL

Each Area Command has appointed a local Police liaison officer who maintains contact and liaison with the residential units in their respective area. This role has developed and regular contact has built a good relationship with residential unit(s). Where required, this officer also works in conjunction with the Missing Person Co-ordinator who similarly enjoys a good working relationship with residential units.

Serious and Organised Crime

Intention – With Partners, reduce the threat, risk and harm caused by Serious Organised Crime.

Objective – With Partners work to safeguard the Orkney area by taking all opportunities to prevent crime and make the Orkney area a hostile environment for Serious & Organised Crime Groups; to improve outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce offending through prevention, early intervention and diversion; in support of our Partners in the Local Authority and NHS via the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy we will direct those who are substance dependant towards recovery through prevention, treatment and support services; with Partners work to reduce the instances of substance misuse in our communities.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Drug (Supply) Offences	3.0	2.3	3	12	9	58.3%
Drug (Possession) Offences	53.4	40.3	43	64	21	84.4%

Counter Terrorism

Intention – Support the delivery of the CONTEST strategy to reduce the threat posed by terrorism and domestic extremism.

Objective – Strengthen PREVENT work with Partners and institutions; with Partners, support individuals who are vulnerable to terrorism and violent extremism; strengthen PREVENT work in relation to the internet and Social Media; Effective Multi-agency planning in respect of Counter Terrorism is taking place; Develop our ability to response effectively to any terrorist attack (with a specific focus on emerging high-risk threats, and specialist capabilities).

WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) - The workshop covers issues such as crime, normal social processes that are used to influence and manipulate, case studies that cut across the spectrum of extremism, terrorist ideologies and factors which may contribute to an individual's susceptibility to a terrorist ideology.

In particular, it seeks to support them to recognise that using their existing expertise and professional judgement, they may be able to recognise potentially vulnerable individuals who may be susceptible to being persuaded by an extremist or terrorist ideology. Workshops delivered to partners across Orkney.

ACT Now delivered to schools across Orkney.

Police Constable Lisa Campbell, N Division's Local Counter Terrorism Officer stated:

“Ongoing work with MP and MSPs in the Highland and Islands area. Operation Ford has been launched which is the Operation name relating to the safety and security of elected members. CTLO continues to act as a link between local Policing and National and Specialist CT units to ensure partners are kept updated on CT matters, including Martyn's Law. Regular work is ongoing with the Prevent Delivery Unit to manage individuals across the N Division area.

Exercise Shopboard was recently run in Mainland Highland. This is a multi-agency exercise based on a product created by CT Policing and the Home Office, it focussed on the response to and recovery from a CT incident. We will be running this in Orkney in October 2025.”

Crime Statistics

Crime Bulletin Categories	Orkney Area Command					
	2019 /20	2020 /21	2021 /22	2022 /23	2023 /24	2024 /25
TOTAL CRIME & OFFENCES	1112	780	805	1034	1028	1076
Group 1 - Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	118	104	97	137	149	142
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0	0	0	1	0	0
Culpable homicide (common law)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Culpable homicide (other)	1	0	0	0	1	0
Attempted murder	0	0	0	0	1	3
Serious Assault (incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	4	2	2	5	7	4
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	22	9	13	13	16	13
Common Assault	79	88	65	86	94	97
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	1	0	0	1	1	0
Stalking	5	1	1	8	3	4
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	1	0	3	1	0	0
Threats and extortion	0	3	5	11	11	7
Other group 1 crimes	1	0	0	2	4	1
Group 2 - Sexual Offences	50	46	61	88	56	61
Rape	7	9	8	14	13	18
Attempted rape	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual assault	16	10	21	29	28	18
Crimes associated with Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent photos of children	4	4	6	3	1	4
Communicating indecently	4	3	6	7	4	6
Causing to view sexual activity or images	6	8	8	14	4	8
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image*	0	5	3	4	3	1
Other Group 2 crimes	12	7	9	17	3	6
Group 3 - Crimes of Dishonesty	105	64	73	112	138	112
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	2	0	3	1	4	3
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	0	0	0	2	2	0
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	0	3	1	2	5	5
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	0	0	4	0	0	0
Theft of a motor vehicle	6	7	2	5	14	4
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	3	1	3	6	2	4
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	1
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	0	1	1	1	4	1
Common theft	44	22	25	27	26	21
Theft by shoplifting	27	11	12	30	36	32

OFFICIAL

Fraud	18	12	21	30	34	30
Other Group 3 crimes	5	7	1	8	11	11
Group 4 - Damage and Reckless Behaviour	52	63	79	79	83	85
Fireraising	0	2	3	10	1	8
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	49	56	73	65	73	75
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	0	0	0	0	1	0
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	3	4	3	4	8	2
Other Group 4 crimes	0	1	0	0	0	0
Group 5 - Crimes Against Society	125	109	60	86	90	115
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	0	1	1	0	0	1
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	3	0	5	2	7	4
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	2	6	2	2	5	3
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	1	1	2	1	1	0
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	4	4	3	1	3	12
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	2	10	1	0	0	0
Possession of drugs	87	59	24	54	43	64
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	6	3	1	10	11	17
Other crimes against public justice	20	25	20	16	20	14
Other crimes against society	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group 6 - Anti-Social Offences	168	73	20	16	20	14
Breach of the Peace	19	6	3	6	2	3
Threatening or abusive behaviour	77	47	53	45	54	54
Hate aggravated conduct (incl. stirring up hatred)	0	0	3	0	2	9
Drunk and incapable	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	0	0	1	0	0	0
Other alcohol related offences	13	0	1	2	1	4
Urinating	59	20	13	15	9	4
Group 7 - Miscellaneous Offences	54	31	24	31	32	43
Wildlife offences	3	0	0	0	0	0
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	2	8	2	7	7	8
Community and public order offences	17	14	13	14	16	17
Environmental offences	6	5	4	3	1	3

OFFICIAL

Licensing offences	22	4	3	7	8	15
Other misc. offences	4	0	2	0	0	0
Group 8 - Road Traffic Offences	440	290	337	433	412	444
Dangerous driving offences	10	8	13	6	12	15
Driving Carelessly	34	15	22	32	45	31
Driving under the influence	23	11	26	21	28	36
Speeding offences	117	72	43	87	54	50
Seat belt offences	21	11	19	22	14	22
Mobile phone offences	9	0	1	5	6	16
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	121	114	127	154	118	153
Vehicle defect offences	55	28	35	24	37	59
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	14	8	19	25	30	2
Road Traffic Offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	1	0	0	1	0	0
Other Group 8 Offences	35	23	32	56	68	60