



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Item: 4

Police and Fire Sub-committee: 24 February 2026.

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 April to 31 December 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, for the period covering 1 April to 31 December 2025, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, in order to obtain assurance that progress is being made against the objectives.

For Further Information please contact:

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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 24th February 2026**

Reporting Period - 01 April 2025 – 31 December 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

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Introduction by the Area Commander

Chief Inspector Scott Robertson

I present to you the Orkney Police and Fire Subcommittee Scrutiny Report, covering the reporting period 01 April 2025 to 31 December 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, particularly speeding offences which can be attributed to proactive policing initiatives in response to us listening to communities. 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.

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. 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 comparisons to last year are now possible.

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



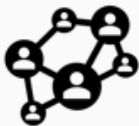
ACQUISITIVE CRIME

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 Traffic offences have increased by 46.4% (118.2 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 28.62% (83 more offences) against the Last Year To Date (LYTD).

Offences in relation to Unlawful use of motor vehicles have increased by 42% (38 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 28% (28 more offences) against the LYTD.

Mobile Telephone offences have decreased by 50% (1 less offence) against the 5 Year Average and decreased by 83.33% (5 less offences) against the LYTD.

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

Offences in relation to Threatening or Abusive Behaviour have increased by 19.6% (7.2 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and have increased by 33.3% (11 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Assault have increased by 24.3% (16.2 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 15.28% (11 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Acquisitive Crime

Offences in relation to Housebreaking (Dwelling House) have increased by 288.9% (5.2 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and have increased by 133.3 (4 crimes) against the LYTD.

Fraud offences have increased by 57.9% (10 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 50% (10 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Overall, Sexual Crime has decreased by 22.2% (9.2 fewer crimes) against the 5 Year Average and decreased by 13.6% (5 less crimes) against the LYTD.

Serious and Organised Crime

Offences in relation to Supply of drugs have decreased by 72.2% (2.6 less crimes) against the 5 Year Average and decreased by 90% (9 less crimes) against the LYTD.

Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism

Police Constable Andrew Hardwick, N Division's Local Counter Terrorism Officer stated:

"Ongoing work under Operation Bridger, Ford and Sandbed with MPs, MSPs and councillors in the Highland & Islands area. Continued liaison with CT Intelligence, CT Security Advisors and the Prevent Delivery Unit to address CT matters in the Highland and Islands area. Work is ongoing with the

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CONTEST group to raise awareness of the strategy and with the planned introduction of Martyn's Law. Planning for the next Exercise Shopboard workshop is underway which is being planned in the Western Isles in May 2026. Liaison work is ongoing between Prevention & Interventions and CT security advisors for the planning of the upcoming demand at Cameron Barracks."

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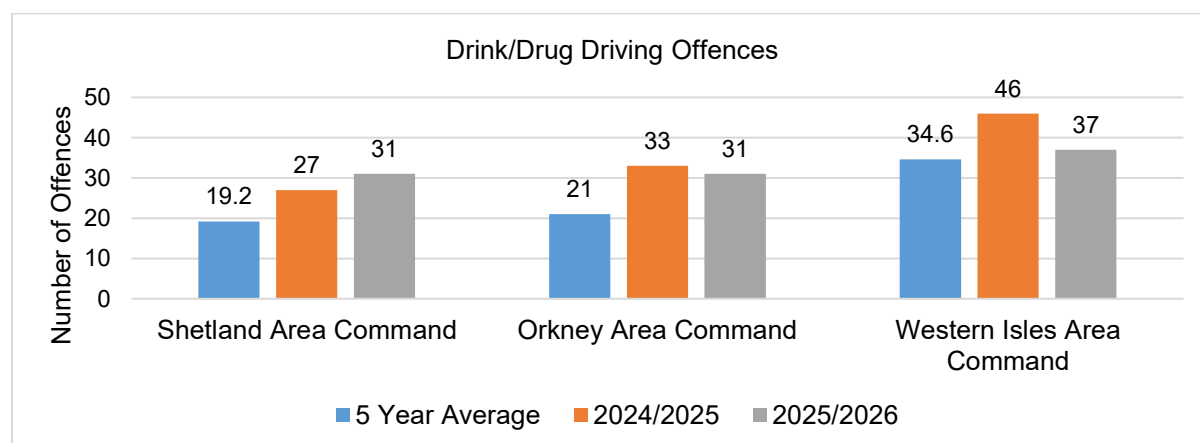
Road Safety and Road Crime

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 2024/2025	YTD 2025/2026	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Number of Fatalities - Road Traffic Collisions	1.6	0.67	0	1	1	-
Drink/Drug Driving Offences (Drug Driving)	21	29.33	33	31	-2	106.5%
Speeding Offences	29	46.67	22	106	84	100.0%

2025/2026 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 2024/2025	YTD 2025/2026	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	0.2	0	0	0	-	-
Assault	66.8	72.3	72	83	11	80.7%
Serious Assault	2.4	2.67	2	1	-2	100%

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 2024/2025	YTD 2025/2026	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (dwelling house)	1.8	4	3	7	4	28.6%
Fraud	19	26	20	30	10	10%
Theft by Shoplifting	16.6	22.3	21	24	3	87.5%
Theft of a motor vehicle	5.4	8.3	3	8	5	50%

Detective Inspector Andy Bilton stated:

Fraud: - The Highland and Islands continue to see an increase in Fraud offences with a continued increase visible across the year. We Continue to see several banking frauds, and more recently seen several frauds which have occurred due to e-mail interceptions/hacking. It would also appear that cryptocurrency related frauds are becoming more frequent. We are working nationally to review our approach to dealing with fraud type offences and continuing to engage with community groups particularly the elderly as a demographic particularly vulnerable to fraud type offences.

Theft by Shoplifting: - This year saw the launch of the National Retail Crime Task Force and operation LAMBIE within the Highland and Islands. This is a proactive, intelligence-led policing initiative designed to combat shoplifting across key retail areas in the Highlands. This operation deployed plain clothes police officers alongside uniform colleagues to conduct targeted patrols within identified problem premises.

Common Theft: The Highland and Islands has seen an increase in Common Theft in recent months, and we are also experiencing a rise in reported cooking oil thefts (Operation MITRIFORM). Another trend contributing to the increase in common thefts is Petrol Drive Offs, Scottish Crime Recording Standards are such that these are always raised as a crime until enquiry proves any genuine errors.

Detective Inspector Andy Bilton – North Acquisitive Crime Lead.

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 2024/2025	YTD 2025/2026	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Sexual Crime	42.4	35	38	33	-5	75.8%
Domestic Crime*			41	75	34	90.67%
Hate Crime**			13	7	-6	71.5%
Missing Persons	25	25.67	22	23	1	

*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	2024/2025	2025/2026	Variation
Adult	9	8	-1
Cared for Adult	0	1	1
Care Experienced Young People	0	4	4
Child	13	10	-3
Absconder/Wanted	0	0	-
Total	22	23	1

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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 2024/2025	YTD 2025/2026	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Drug (Supply) Offences	3.6	4.3	10	1	-9	200%
Drug (Possession) Offences	38.4	42.67	45	46	1	104.3%

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 Early is a program delivered to schools across the Highland area. The ACT Early session is a vehicle for debate around the sensitive issue of violent extremism within communities. As such, it is an enabler for community participants to air grievances, debate matters of interest to them and work through a group problem solving experience. The following links can provide more information regarding the program:-

<https://act.campaign.gov.uk/>
<https://actearly.uk/>

Crime Statistics

Crime Bulletin Categories	Orkney Area Command					
	2020 /21	2021 /22	2022 /23	2023 /24	2024 /25	2025 /26
TOTAL CRIME & OFFENCES	601	606	702	712	726	863
Group 1 - Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	89	70	104	98	99	103
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0	0	1	0	0	0
Culpable homicide (common law)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Culpable homicide (other)	0	0	0	1	0	1
Attempted murder	0	0	0	0	3	1
Serious Assault (incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	1	1	3	5	2	1
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	7	12	13	15	11	7
Common Assault	78	51	71	62	72	83
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	0	0	1	1	0	0
Stalking	1	1	6	3	3	1
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	0	2	1	0	0	1
Threats and extortion	2	3	8	7	7	6
Other group 1 crimes	0	0	0	4	1	2
Group 2 - Sexual Offences	32	36	72	34	38	33
Rape	6	5	11	8	11	9
Attempted rape	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual assault	6	17	23	16	15	13
Crimes associated with Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent photos of children	3	2	1	1	0	0
Communicating indecently	2	4	7	4	3	5
Causing to view sexual activity or images	6	3	12	1	6	3
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image*	4	2	4	2	1	2
Other Group 2 crimes	5	3	14	2	2	1
Group 3 - Crimes of Dishonesty	45	57	87	108	79	120
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	0	3	1	2	3	7
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	0	0	1	2	0	2
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	2	1	1	3	2	3
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	1
Theft of a motor vehicle	3	2	5	14	3	8
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	1	2	6	1	2	0
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	0	0	0	0	1	2
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	1	1	1	4	1	2
Common theft	17	18	23	21	16	34

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Theft by shoplifting	9	11	20	22	21	24
Fraud	6	18	23	28	20	30
Other Group 3 crimes	6	1	6	11	10	8
Group 4 - Damage and Reckless Behaviour	40	74	57	63	55	69
Fireraising	2	3	8	1	4	5
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	34	68	45	54	49	61
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	0	0	0	1	0	0
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	3	3	4	7	2	3
Other Group 4 crimes	1	0	0	0	0	0
Group 5 - Crimes Against Society	97	40	67	75	83	93
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)	1	0	0	0	1	0
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)	0	3	1	6	4	6
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 in a private place (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	4	1	2	3	2	10
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	1	2	1	1	0	1
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	3	2	1	2	10	1
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	10	1	0	0	0	0
Possession of drugs	56	13	41	37	45	46
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	3	0	6	11	14	9
Other crimes against public justice	19	18	15	15	7	20
Other crimes against society	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group 6 - Anti-Social Offences	59	54	57	48	51	56
Breach of the Peace	4	1	4	1	3	3
Threatening or abusive behaviour	35	41	36	39	33	44
Hate aggravated conduct (incl. stirring up hatred)	0	3	0	1	9	2
Drunk and incapable	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other alcohol related offences	0	0	2	0	4	2
Urinating	20	8	15	7	2	5
Group 7 - Miscellaneous Offences	21	13	16	24	31	16
Wildlife offences	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	6	0	2	5	4	3

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Community and public order offences	7	8	7	12	11	10
Environmental offences	5	2	3	1	3	0
Licensing offences	3	1	4	6	13	3
Other misc. offences	0	2	0	0	0	0
Group 8 - Road Traffic Offences	218	262	242	262	290	373
Dangerous driving offences	5	8	4	11	14	6
Driving Carelessly	12	18	23	27	24	20
Driving under the influence	9	21	18	24	33	31
Speeding offences	55	38	18	12	22	106
Seat belt offences	11	19	12	8	13	10
Mobile phone offences	0	1	0	3	6	1
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	81	98	94	77	100	128
Vehicle defect offences	24	27	16	24	37	38
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	8	11	14	26	0	1
Road Traffic Offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	0	0	1	0	0	0
Other Group 8 Offences	13	21	42	50	41	32