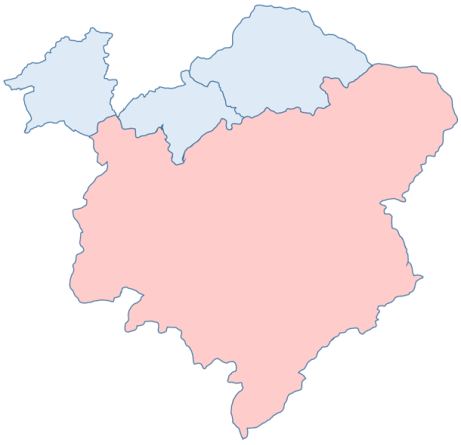
Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Selkirkshire Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for February 2021



The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Selkirkshire Multi Member Ward Policing Plan and the areas you have identified as priorities.

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. 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.

Figures for the whole Scottish Borders Area

(Data from 01/04/2020 – 23/02/2021)

	2019 /2020	2020 /2021	% Change	Local Area Commanders Comment
Total Crimes and Offences (Group 1-5)	3217	3091	-3.9	The detection rate for Group 1-5 is 55.5% compared to 56.3% at same time last year.
Group 1: Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	87	128	47.1	The detection rate for Group 1 is 75.8% compared to 75.9% at same time last year.
Serious Assaults	41	46	12.2	The detection rate for Serious Assaults is 91.3% compared to 73.2% at same time last year.
Robberies	16	17	6.3	The detection rate for Robberies is 64.7% compared to 75.0% at same time last year.
Common Assaults	853	789	-7.5	The detection rate for Common Assaults is 74.3% compared to 72.5% at same time last year.
ASB (Incidents)	4843	6595	36.2 % Weekly change	The 36.2% weekly increase is ASB incidents can be attributed to public nuisance calls related to COVID19.
Hate Crime – All incidents	92	92	0 % weekly change	The detection rate for Hate Crimes is 79.7% compared to 79.2% at the same time last year.
Group 2: Sexual Crimes	201	261	29.9	The detection rate for Group 2 is 69.0% compared to 75.1% at same time last year.
Rape – Recorded Crime	52	45	-13.5	The detection rate for Rape is 51.1% compared to 76.9% at same time last year.
Domestic Abuse – All incidents	1033	1151	11.4 % Weekly change	The detection rate for Domestic Abuse Crimes are 76.2% compared to 74.8% at same time last year.
Group 3: Crimes of Dishonesty	1302	1132	-13.1	The detection rate for Group 3 is 34.7% compared to 42.0% at same time last year.
Housebreakings – Domestic	94	43	-54.3	The detection rate for Domestic Housebreakings is 48.8% compared to 39.4% at same time last year.
Motor Vehicle Thefts	68	52	-23.5	The detection rate for Motor Vehicle Thefts is 55.8% compared to 63.2% at same time last year.

Community Sergeant Update

PS Stephen Granger

As the national lockdown has continued through the month of February there has been a continued demand on local policing in respect of ensuring compliance with COVID-19 Regulations. Local officers will continue with the good judgement and a courteous approach to dealing with such incidents to maximise compliance of the public and communities. Once again I would encourage persons to report suspected breaches of the guidelines promptly to police. This can be done in a number of ways:

- Online COVID-19 form on the Police Scotland website
- Calling 101
- Completing Contact Us form on the Police Scotland website
- Deaf/hard of hearing/speech impaired callers can also contact police via TextRelay on 1 800 1 101

The issue of rural locations being targets for thefts, particularly quad bikes, unfortunately continues throughout the Borders despite Police continuing to patrol and conduct checks. On several occasions the security measures at these locations has been very minimal to non-existent making the theft easier for the culprits. As I have referred to in previous reports information packs have been compiled specifically for Farmers which contains a wide range of information on measures to help deter and prevent theft. These can be requested via emailing the community mailbox at the end of this report.

Retail staff within our communities have been on the frontline throughout the coronavirus crisis, helping to keep support our communities with supplies. Despite the risks of contracting the virus. Abuse should never be part of their job and should not be tolerated. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a joint campaign launched by Crimestoppers to highlight the impact of abuse, threats and violence on Scotland retail staff. Violence and aggression towards shop staff can often leave people traumatised with vital, local shops at risk of closing. I would encourage communities to speak up and report such incidents or information to police if they know or suspect who is responsible.

Alternatively these matters can be reported completely anonymously to Crimestoppers by calling their UK Contact Centre which is open 24/7 on freephone 0800 555 111 or via and online form at crimestoppers-uk.org.

February has also been challenging with the recent Amber Weather Warnings and the impact the flooding caused on our local communities. Particularly Newcastleton, which seen people having to leave their homes when the The Liddle Water burst its banks. Our thoughts are with those effected, particularly after Storm Dennis in 2020. Hawick also seen high river levels and at one stage we had over 10 flood warnings for the Scottish Borders. We worked together with Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Fire & Rescue, SEPA and others to assist where possible in the emergency response.

Local Policing Priorities

1. Protecting most vulnerable
2. Reducing violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing acquisitive crime
4. Improving road safety
5. Tackling serious and organised crime

Protecting most vulnerable

In February 2021 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 128 mental health related calls, around 23 missing person enquiries and approximately 74 Domestic related incidents.

Selkirkshire had 5 mental health related calls and 4 missing person enquiries. Due to GDPR and protection of victims/subjects involved, we are unable to share any more specific information in relation to these type of call within this report.

Police Scotland work in collaboration with key partners to assist the most vulnerable within the communities and to provide support.

Reducing violence and ASB

Assault

On the 24/02/2021 report of member of staff being assaulted by a customer within the cooperative store at Newtown St Boswells. Enquires continuing.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 30/01/2021 a report of breach of Covid Guidelines in Selkirk. Police attended and warned two males.

On 30/01/2021 a report of persons camping near to St Marys Loch and breaching Covid guidelines. Police attended, having previously warned both persons issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice for breach of Covid regulations.

On 30/01/2021 a report of a quad being driven in Selkirk nearly hitting cars. No further calls.

On 02/02/2021 a report of youths causing anti-social behaviour at St Joseph's Primary School, Selkirk. Scottish Borders Community Action Team attended and were made aware this was an ongoing issue by staff. Youths warned in presence of parents.

On 04/02/2021 a report of a disturbance in Back Row, Selkirk. A female charged with threatening and abusive behaviour.

On 06/02/2021 a report of youth kicking cars near to Mill Street, Selkirk. Police attended, no damage reported and no trace of youths.

On 09/02/2021 a report of a disturbance in Newtown St Boswells. Enquiries continue in regards to threatening and abusive behaviour with homophobic aggravators.

On 11/02/2021 a report of youths running through gardens. Community Officers aware of the issues and a visit has been arranged to discuss security advice.

On 11/02/2021 a report of a disturbance in Park Crescent, Newtown. A male was charged with threatening and abusive behaviour and possession of an air weapon.

On 13/02/2021 a report of youths breaking snow shovels in Back Row, Selkirk. Local community officers made aware on callers request.

On 17/02/2021 a report of youths playing chap door run in Selkirk. Police searched the area but unable to trace youths.

On 19/02/2021 a report of a disturbance in a property in Selkirk. Police attended and there were no issues, advised regarding Covid guidelines. On departure Police observed a group heading towards to the property. Police re attended and issued a Covid breach ticket.

On 25/02/2021 a report of a dirt bike being driven in Selkirk, no helmet being worn. Police attended but unable to trace bike.

Vandalism

On the 05/02/2021 report of vehicle being damaged at Whitefield Drive, Newtown St Boswells. Enquires continuing.

Reducing acquisitive crime

Theft

On 01/02/2021 a report of a van being stolen from Newtown Mill House, Newtown St Boswells, enquiries continuing.

On the 15/02/2021 report of items being stolen from a local supermarket in Selkirk. Enquires continuing.

On 19/02/2021 a report of theft in Selkirk, enquiries ongoing.

Improving road safety

Within the Selkirk Sheriff Court Jurisdiction there were 17 parking tickets issued in February.

Roads Policing Campaigns – 16th Feb was the national seat belt day of action.

On 05/02/2021 a driver was issued penalty points and a fine on the A7 near to Selkirk for having no MOT.

On 16/02/2021 a driver was charged in Selkirk for having no licence, no insurance and careless driving, the passenger was charged with road traffic offences.

On 20/02/2021 a driver was issued penalty points and a fine on the A7 near to Ashkirk for having no MOT.

Tackling serious and organised crime

Monday 1st February Officers on mobile patrol on the A1 near to Eyemouth stopped a vehicle and 2.5kg of Cannabis with a street value of £16,000 were found within the vehicle. Both occupants were arrested and charged.

Monday 8th February officers on mobile patrol on the A7 Galashiels stopped a motor vehicle. Cannabis recovered with estimated street value of £4700. The female driver was charged with Supplying Controlled Drugs and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Thursday 11th February officers from Scottish Borders Community Action Team executed a Misuse of Drugs Act Search warrant in Jedburgh, An Air Rifle and £6500 of cash were found within. A male occupant was arrested and charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Friday 12th February officers from Scottish Borders Community Action Team executed a Search warrant at an address in Hawick following receipt of intelligence. Cannabis was recovered with an approx. value of £100, the occupant was charged with possession of these drugs and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Saturday 13th February officers from Scottish Borders Community Action Team observed a motor vehicle in suspicious circumstances. The occupant was detained a quantity of Cannabis was recovered with a street value of £300.

Monday 15th February officers from Scottish Borders Community Action Team stopped and a group on Lawyers Brae, Galashiels. A member of the group was found to be in possession of Diamorphine with an estimated street value of £850. A search warrant was thereafter executed at an address in Galashiels. The male was charged with concerned in the supply of drugs and appeared in court.

Monday 22nd February following a reported disturbance at and address in Kelso a Drugs warrant was executed and Cannabis was recovered along with signs of drug dealing. The male occupier will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Wednesday 24th February a Search Warrant was executed at an address in Hawick. An amount of Diamorphine with a street value of £240 was recovered and a female occupant was charged with supplying drugs and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Campaigns

Internet Safety
Police Scotland supported Safer Internet day on 09/02/21 with a range of Social Media messaging
https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2021

Rural Acquisitive Crime
Quad bike theft from Farms continues to be an issue across the region. Prevention advice has been distributed via social media and SB Alert.
https://www.facebook.com/scottishborderspolice/photos/a.738989702823729/3973617162694284/?type=3

Forensic DNA marking kits and signage are being offered free to farms along with Crime Prevention visits.

No Cold Calling Zones
New Zones are being set up in Hawick (Wellington Court and Fisher Avenue) in partnership with Future Hawick.

Partnership funding has been used to purchase more road signs and a program of refreshing existing zones and implementing new ones are ongoing.

CAT Update:

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – During February the CAT have completed targeted and foot patrols, paying attention to youth hotspot areas including Peebles, Kelso and Eyemouth. In general, youth ASB calls have declined during lockdown, however officers have attended a variety of calls in relation to general ASB and possible breaches of COVID regulations as these calls are currently on the increase.

DRUGS - CAT have executed drugs warrants in Hawick and Kelso, with Class A and B drugs being recovered with a total street value of approximately £1.655. Cash, linked to the sale of drugs, has been seized to the value of £6240. Several persons have been stopped and searched and both Class A and B drugs recovered. The CAT teams continue to have a 100% positive search rate for properties. Of note, one individual was found in public in possession of 16 wraps of class A drugs. He appeared at court on charges of being Concerned in the Supply of Class A drugs, and is currently held on remand. His house was searched with three hunting knives and a samurai sword being seized for destruction.

ROAD SAFETY – CAT have issued 11 traffic tickets to drivers for a variety of offences. Patrols have been carried out of hotspot areas in relation to ASB driving, including Hawick, Duns and Galashiels. 15 high visibility road checks have been carried out.
MONYNUT – Officers attended for a day of action in the Moneynut Forrest area. This work is ongoing.

Feedback from a meeting/contacting your Community policing Team

Anyone with information relating to any criminal activity can contact Police Scotland by dialling 101 or alternatively anonymously by calling **CRIMESTOPPERS** on **0800 555111**.

Should the Community Council wish to discuss any matters highlighted in the report, please contact:

SelkirkshireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

We will endeavour to provide you with this information, however some information is sensitive and as an organisation we have to ensure compliance with GDPR.