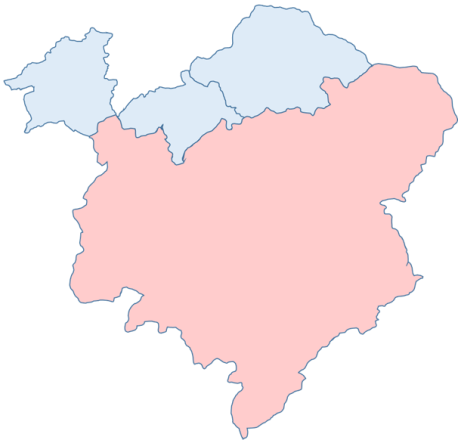
Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Selkirkshire Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for January 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 – 27/01/2021)

	2019 /2020	2020 /2021	% Change	Local Area Commanders Comment
Total Crimes and Offences (Group 1-5)	2964	2830	-4.5	The detection rate for Group 1-5 is 55.2% compared to 56.2% at same time last year.
Group 1: Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	78	108	38.5	The detection rate for Group 1 is 77.8% compared to 76.9% at same time last year.
Serious Assaults	36	43	19.4	The detection rate for Serious Assaults is 90.7% compared to 77.8% at same time last year.
Robberies	15	15	-	The detection rate for Robberies is 66.7% compared to 80.0% at same time last year.
Common Assaults	801	744	-7.1	The detection rate for Common Assaults is 74.1% compared to 72.0% at same time last year.
ASB (Incidents)	4575	6226	36.1 % Weekly change	The 36.1% weekly increase is ASB incidents can be attributed to public nuisance calls related to COVID19.
Hate Crime – All incidents	87	83	-4.6 % weekly change	The detection rate for Hate Crimes is 78.1% compared to 78.8% at the same time last year.
Group 2: Sexual Crimes	189	241	27.5	The detection rate for Group 2 is 73.0% compared to 75.1% at same time last year.
Rape – Recorded Crime	51	36	-29.4	The detection rate for Rape is 61.1% compared to 78.4% at same time last year.
Domestic Abuse – All incidents	967	1071	10.8 % Weekly change	The detection rate for Domestic Abuse Crimes are 78% compared to 73.4% at same time last year.
Group 3: Crimes of Dishonesty	1198	1042	-13.0	The detection rate for Group 3 is 35.3% compared to 42.1% at same time last year.
Housebreakings – Domestic	90	39	-56.7	The detection rate for Domestic Housebreakings is 51.3% compared to 38.9% at same time last year.
Motor Vehicle Thefts	65	44	-32.3	The detection rate for Motor Vehicle Thefts is 61.4% compared to 66.2% at same time last year.

Community Sergeant Update

PS Stephen Granger

We have had a busy start to 2021, with the recent lockdown announcement from the Scottish Government. As you will appreciate with each stage of the pandemic it has affected Policing in different ways.

We remain committed to delivering the Local Policing Priorities and it is evident from the performance table that despite the pandemic and the challenges we are facing, we are doing all we can to keep our communities safe.

I am aware of recent announcements from Peebles, Hawick and Galashiels in relation to their annual events being cancelled and the message from Scottish Borders Council regarding the likelihood of early summer events taking place. I understand the importance of these events to towns and the disappointment people will have felt, however I do believe these difficult decisions have been made with best intentions and also made responsibly.

Whilst dealing with ongoing incidents, supporting our colleagues in NHS, January has also seen amber weather warnings for the Scottish Borders. The Police play a part in the emergency response to such warnings and we have been working in collaboration with our partners to keep every safe during these times. The advice from Police Scotland during the winter and particularly during any adverse weather would be to ensure your car is winter ready. For further tips and advice, please visit https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/road-safety/winter-road-safety/

With the current restrictions, there has been an increase in people exercising outdoors. One of our main messages for the month ahead is outdoor safety and is explained in more detail in our campaign section. Whilst we our own safety is paramount, I would also urge people exercising outdoors, particularly near farms, to please respect the land and local farmers. There is good information available on www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot

The Scottish Borders recently seen a number of incidents across the region where at separate locations, either a vehicle and or persons have been seen acting suspiciously. The first incident was reported near to Cockburnspath and separate incidents later that evening were in Denholm and Hawick area. Whilst there is no definitive link at this stage, this is something we are currently investigating. Please can people remain vigilant, particularly in rural areas. If any vehicles are seen which are thought to be suspicious or people acting suspiciously, please continue to report this. We rely heavily on information provided to us by the public and this is key to us identifying who is responsible. We work together with our colleagues in neighbouring divisions as well as Northumbria Police and Cumbria Constabulary to share this vital information and tackle acquisitive crime.

Finally, please can I make you aware that Police Scotland has made reporting any breaches of the Covid-19 guidelines easier, this can be done using the online form

https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/covid19/ although this is not for reporting emergencies.

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 January 2021 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 149 mental health related calls, around 25 missing person enquiries and approximately 83 Domestic related incidents.

Selkirkshire had 12 mental health related calls and 1 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 26/12/2020 report of ongoing disturbance at an address in Sentry Knowe, Selkirk. Juvenile identified charged with four offences and reported to juvenile services.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 30/12/2020 a report of youths harassing an elderly gentleman in Selkirk. Youths identified and parents made aware of the situation.

On 31/12/2020 a report of a party in Sprouston Road, Newtown St Boswells. Police attended and emptied the party, occupants warned.

On 08/01/2021 a report of threats being made in Selkirk. A crime report for communication offences raised and enquiries ongoing.

On 18/01/2021 a report of a hate crime in the Selkirk area. To be investigated by officers, enquiries ongoing.

On 22/01/2021 a report of a disturbance in Bannerfield, Selkirk. Police attended and forces entry to a house where Covid guidelines were being breached. A male was arrested for breaching his bail conditions and Communication Act offences.

On 27/01/2021 a report of youths ringing the bell and running away at St Joseph's Primary School in Selkirk. Police attended and gave advice to the caller.

On 28/01/2021 a disturbance was reported in Bannerfield, Selkirk. A male was arrested and charged with threatening and abusive behaviour, assault, breach of bail and police assault.

Vandalism

On the 22/01/2021 report of window being smashed at an address in Buccleuch Road, Selkirk. Enquires continuing.

Reducing acquisitive crime

Theft

On the 03/01/2021 report of a vehicle parked in the layby on the A7 Selkirk to Galashiels being broken into and items stolen. Enquires continuing.

On the 12/01/2021 report of items being stolen from an address in Leslie, Place Selkirk. Enquires continuing.

On the 21/01/2021 report of items being stolen from a local supermarket in the High street, Selkirk. Enquires continuing.

On the 21/01/2021 report of a vehicle parked in Muthag Street, Selkirk being entered and items stolen from within. Enquires continuing.

Improving road safety

Within the Selkirk Sheriff Court Jurisdiction there were 6 parking tickets issued in January.

On 01/12/2020 a driver was issued with penalty points and a fine for driving on the A7 near to Synton with no MOT.

On 17/01/2021 a driver was observed in Selkirk with both brake lights not working. He was issued with a vehicle rectification ticket to have lights fixed.

On 19/01/2021 a driver was issued with penalty points and a fine in Ettrick Terrace, Selkirk for driving a vehicle with no MOT.

On 23/01/2021 a driver was issued with penalty point and a fine on the A7 near to Selkirk for driving whilst using a mobile phone.

On 24/01/2021 a driver was observed driving at speed in Selkirk. Police stopped the vehicle, a female was charged with drink driving.

Tackling serious and organised crime

Highlighted Campaigns - Take 5 National Police Scotland Online Scams and Frauds

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. Stop and think. It could protect you and your money.

Stop

Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

Challenge

Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Protect

Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Police Scotland.

To help everyone stay safe from fraud we have some helpful advice for both individuals and businesses:

•Personal

•Business

Coronavirus

Some criminals are using the pandemic as an opportunity to trick people into parting with their money or information.

In some cases people are urged to "take advantage of the financial downturn", using emails and social media platforms to advertise fake investment opportunities in cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin. Others include criminals offering their assistance with Universal Credit applications, while taking some of the payment as a fee for their "services".

It's important to remember that criminals are experts at impersonation, using official branding and language used by trusted organisations and government departments to convince you their emails are genuine. These may include offering you or your business a government grant or a reduction in your council tax with links contained leading to fake websites designed to obtain your personal and financial information.

Remember to Take Five to Stop Fraud.

Campaigns

Mountain, Outdoor and Water Safety

With its dramatic and often challenging peaks, Scotland is an extremely popular area for climbers and walkers alike. However, at any time of the year the weather can change rapidly, turning what started out as a sunny day's hillwalking or climbing into a dangerous expedition.

If you are planning a trip it is sensible to take simple precautions before heading into the wilderness, to ensure that you do not require an emergency search and rescue.

Here are some simple - yet potentially lifesaving - rules to follow before setting out.

What should I bring?

•Waterproof jacket and trousers.

•Warm trousers and a fleece.

•Gloves and a hat.

•Gaiters.

•Good, sturdy walking boots.

•Rucksack.

•Head torch.

•Map (ensure it is the correct one, and protect it from the weather).

•Compass.

•Whistle.

•Bivvy Bag.

•Spare food.

•Small First Aid kit.

•Mobile phone.

What else should I think about before setting out?

It is also vital that you ensure all in your party is fit for the walk, and at least one person has the ability to use a map and compass accurately in mist, darkness and severe weather.

Always notify someone of your intended route and expected return time. You can do this by either leaving details with a family member or by filling out a Climbers Location and Identity Verification form. You can also access further information here, and at the Scottish Mountain Rescue Website.

What should I not do?

DO NOT:

•Go without being able to navigate

•Rely on rescue (take full responsibility for your own safety)

•Assume the route is over once you get to the top (half of all accidents happen in descent)

•Be inflexible about objectives

•Be complacent about the weather

•Rely on mobile phones

•Leave your mobile switched on (you may require all of its battery power if rescued)

•Dial 999 at the first hint of trouble (always think is 999 really necessary? If not, use the dial the police non-emergency number 101)

•Rely on Global Positioning Satellite devices (they are only an aid)

Further Advice

For an up-to-date mountain weather forecast and snow condition for Scotland, please visit the following websites:

•Mountain Weather Information Service (https://www.mwis.org.uk/)

•Wind Finder (https://www.windfinder.com)

•Met Office (https://www.metoffice.gov.uk)

•Sport Scotland Avalanche Information Service (https://www.sais.gov.uk)

Water and Coastline Safety

Everyone wants to see our countryside and enjoy our waterways and coastline. However any area of water, including reservoirs and canals, can hold hidden dangers. Scotland has more than 37,000 separate stretches of inland water and over 11,500 miles of coastline when including both mainland and island coast. With many stretches located in remote areas, help will often be some considerable time away.

Take responsibility for your own actions and make sensible decisions to stay safe around waterways. The best advice is to be aware of the dangers, think about the risks and plan to minimise them.

Find out more about inland water safety from our partners Scottish Water at www.scottishwater.co.uk/takecare

To get more information about how to enjoy sea sports and Scotland's coastline safely, get advice from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) at www.rnli.org/safety/respect-the-water

General advice about water safety is also available from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) at https://www.rospa.com/leisuresafety/watersafety

In the event of any inland water emergency, contact the police by dialling 999. In the event of a coastline emergency, contact the Maritime and Coastguard Agency by dialling 999.

HOME AND PERSONAL PROPERTY SAFETY

"Prevention is at the heart of everything Police Scotland does to keep people safe".

You work hard for your property – protect it from criminals and improve your chances of your property being recovered if it gets lost or stolen. Here is some advice on how to keep your home and personal property secure:

https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/

CAT Update:

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - During January the CAT have completed mobile and foot patrols of youth hotspot areas including Peebles, Kelso and Eyemouth, with a total of 7 alcohol seizures and other offences detected, including possession of class B drugs. Several ASB warning letters have been sent to parents of youths involved. Officers have attended a variety of calls in relation to ASB and possible breaches of Covid regulations.

DRUGS - CAT have executed drugs warrants in Duns and Hawick, with Class B drugs being recovered with a total street value of approximately £7040. Several persons have been stopped and searched and both Class A and B drugs recovered, plus a locking knife from one individual.

ROAD SAFETY – CAT have issued 17 traffic tickets to drivers for a variety of offences. IN relation to ongoing issues of Antisocial Driving in the Hawick area, 4 drivers were given ASB warnings on their vehicles for driving in an antisocial manner.

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.