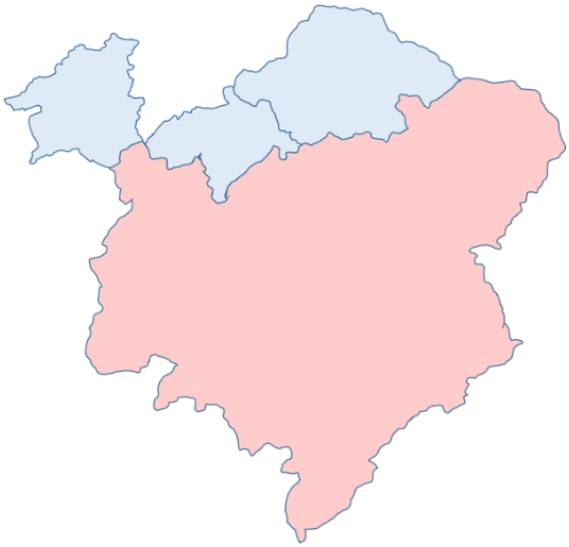
Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Selkirkshire Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for December 2024



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.

North Area Community Policing News – PS Crawford Laing

I would like to start with wishing you all a happy and safe 2025. I hope you have managed to find some time to relax over the festive period.

You will see that there are various parts to this report and I wanted to give a little context around this. The main part of the report is made up of incidents reported under the five local policing priorities. There are limits to what will be reported here. For Galashiels and District MMW, the vast majority of incidents are within Galashiels itself.

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime comes mainly under the remit of the CID Proactive Unit. This is a team of Plain Clothes officers who work across the Borders cultivating and acting upon intelligence regarding drug dealing and other serious crime. The Detective Sergeant for the Unit provides a generic report which is included in all the MMW Reports across the Borders.

The Campaigns section includes any national led campaigns.

The CAT (Community Action Team) are a team of officers funded by Scottish Borders Council who undertake a number of taskings such as ASB patrols, speed detection, parking enforcement and assisting the Proactive Unit with execution of search warrants. PS Andy Hope leads the team and provides a generic report for the Borders which is included in each of the MMW reports.

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 December 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 204 mental health related calls, around 10 missing person enquiries and approximately 84 domestic related incidents.

Selkirkshire had 12 mental health related calls and 2 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 Anti-Social Behaviour

Assaults

On 08/12/2024 report of two males fighting, at High Street, Selkirk. Crime report submitted.

On 14/12/2024 report of male assaulted. Clifton Road, Selkirk. Victim not engaging with Police.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 03/12/2024 report of eggs thrown at property at Bemersyde Crescent. No crime committed, advice given.

On 06/12/2024 report of male spitting on vehicles. Buccleuch Road, Selkirk. Person Charged and reported.

On 10/12/2024 report of noise complaint on Clifton Road, Selkirk. No further complaints.

On 27/12/2024 report of youths within High School Lodge, Selkirk. No criminality.

On 27/12/2024 report of youths in High School Lodge, Selkirk. No youths there on Police attendance. SBC advised.

Vandalism

On 03/12/2024 report of tyres being let down on car. Bridge Street, Selkirk. Crime report submitted. Enquiry complete.

On 04/12/2024 report of rear windscreen smashed by brick. Scotts Place Car Park, Selkirk. Crime report submitted. Suspect identified and to be traced.

On 04/12/2024 report of wing mirror on car being bent back. Dovecot Park, Selkirk. No damage, no crime recorded.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

On 17/12/2024 report of theft by housebreaking at workshop at Market Place, Selkirk. Culprit identified, arrested and held for court.

On 10/12/2024 report of theft by housebreaking from an outbuilding at Mill Court, St Boswells. Crime report submitted. Enquiry complete.

On 18/12/2024 report of theft by housebreaking at Mccuddens, High Street, Selkirk. Two culprits arrested and held for court.

Theft

Four reports of theft shopliftings from Co-Operative Group, 70 High street, Selkirk during the month. Suspect identified and efforts ongoing to trace them.

On 10/12/2024 report of items of scrap metal being stolen. Enquiries ongoing in relation to suspect vehicle.

On 27/12/2024 report of theft of number plates from a parked vehicle at Bleachfield Road, Selkirk. Enquiry ongoing.

Improving Road Safety

On 06/12/2024 – a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for careless/inconsiderate driving in Selkirk

On 02/12/2024 – a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Selkirk

On 20/12/2024 – a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for careless/inconsiderate driving in Selkirk

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – December 2024

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 3 Drug Warrants and 6 other warrants across the command area during December, 6 were positive and 6 persons were reported for drug related offences with a further 3 reported for crimes of dishonesty.

A number of stop and searches were also conducted in identified hotspot area where drugs misuse was prevalent across the Scottish Borders.

A number of serious crime cases have recently been widely reported in national and local media following guilty verdicts and sentencing at High Courts across the country. These sentences reflect the hard work, professionalism and commitment officers in the Scottish Borders in tackling all facets of serious and organised crime.

Serious and organised crime impacts local communities across the Borders and anyone with information on criminal activity are asked to contact Police Scotland on

101, report it at any Police Station or report it anonymously via the Crime Stoppers Charity.

Campaigns

Festive drink and drug driving campaign 2024

Police officers will be working with communities and patrolling roads across Scotland as the festive period brings a focus to preventing drink and drug driving.

This year's festive drink and drug driving campaign is happening from 1 December 2024 until 19 January 2025.

Officers will be using an intelligence-led approach and road safety data to target key areas with patrols, respond to concerns and arrest offenders. Road checks will be organised in towns and cities, and prevention messaging issued in pubs.

Chief Superintendent Hilary Sloan, head of Road Policing, said: "Our officers will be working hard to relentlessly target drivers who choose to drink alcohol or take drugs.

"It doesn't matter how good a driver you think you are, alcohol or drugs will affect your reactions and your judgement.

"It's easy to catch drug drivers because we have drug testing kits that can be used at the roadside. We will be doing everything we can to protect the public and support crucial road safety partnerships to encourage behaviour change, but we also need your help.

"The influence people can have on their family and friends can be lifesaving.

"If you know someone is going to drive after drinking alcohol or taking drugs, please speak to them.

"We all have a responsibility to improve road safety."

CAT Update:

MMW REPORT:

This has been a busy month for the CAT. We have been taking part in Operation Frankincense which primarily involved foot and mobile patrols around shops to prevent and reduce shoplifting. We have also assisted with several high-profile enquiries and carried out arrests.

ROAD SAFETY & PARKING TICKETS – This month, the festive drink / drug drive campaign has been running. We have been targeting our static and mobile vehicle checks to try and find drivers who are intoxicated through drink or drugs.

Officers have been carrying out high visibility enforcement across the Borders and addressing parking concerns there. Advice has been given to drivers and 55 parking tickets have been issued. Extra attention was given to Galashiels, Selkirk High Street, Knowepark Primary School in Selkirk and disabled parking spaces across the Borders following complaints.

RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME –

We carry out high visibility mobile patrols across rural areas at varying times while completing static road checks.

On 18th December the CID were conducting enquiries in Selkirk into a couple of housebreakings that had occurred the previous night. They came across the 2 suspects who were highly uncooperative and called up for urgent assistance. CAT officers attended, assisted with the arrest and conveyed the suspects to the cells. The CAT later executed a stolen property search warrant at their home and recovered power tools stolen from a local business.

VIOLENCE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR –

High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted as per our taskings

On 4th December a serious incident occurred in Lauder. SBCAT assisted with various urgent aspects of the enquiry. In the evening 2 SBCAT officers traced the suspect in his vehicle in an isolated location and arrested him.

On 15th December the SBCAT assisted the CID by executing a search warrant following an assault & robbery in Galashiels. The two males were arrested and various items of evidence were seized.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE –

The SBCAT has assisted with several domestic abuse enquiries during December along with several arrests on non-domestic warrants.

On 4th December a high priority arrest warrant was issued by Jedburgh Sheriff Court for a registered sex offender. SBCAT officers traced him in about an hour and arrested him.

TACKLING SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME –

The CAT have completed 4 drugs search warrants this month in addition to 2 general evidence search warrants.

On the 13th December SBCAT along with response officers executed a drugs warrant in Kelso.

On the 18th of December SBCAT and the Proactive Crime Team executed another drugs warrant in Kelso. Drugs were recovered along with about £13,000 in cash.

On the 19th December SBCAT executed a drugs warrant at a property up the yarrow valley near Selkirk. A personal amount of cannabis was recovered from the property. Enquiries are ongoing into evidence that plants had been growing within.

On the 20th of December SBCAT along with the Proactive Crime Team and Specialist Resources executed a drugs search warrant in Burnfoot, Hawick and recovered drugs (cannabis and Cocaine) and cash with a total value of about £5000.

OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE-

On 14th December SBCAT assisted SB Building Control with executing a warrant in the Melrose area.

Our speed guns had been sent away for their annual calibration but only returned towards the end of the month limiting our ability to do speed checks at schools.

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. 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.