

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday 10 August 2023

Police Scotland – Edinburgh City Division Scrutiny Report – April 2022 to March 2023

Executive/routine
Wards

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note the update from the Divisional Commander.

Dr Deborah Smart
Executive Director of Corporate Services

Contact: Lesley Birrell, Committee Officer
Legal and Assurance Division, Corporate Service Directorate
Email: lesley.birrell@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4240

Report

Police Scotland – Edinburgh City Division Scrutiny Report – April 2022 to March 2023

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update from Police Scotland on the Edinburgh City Division for the period April 2022 to March 2023.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 9 February 2023, the Council agreed that police and fire and rescue services' city-wide plans, policies and performance would be transferred from the Policy and Sustainability Committee to the Culture and Communities Committee for consideration with effect from 17 April 2023.
- 2.2 This provides a forum for Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to discuss major cross-cutting issues with the Council as well as fulfilling their duty to engage with the local authority.
- 2.3 The [Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012](#) requires the Divisional Commander to provide the local authority with:
- 2.3.1 reports on the carrying out of police functions in its area (including by reference to any local policing plan in force for the area).
 - 2.3.2 Statistical information on complaints made about the Police Service in, or the policing of, its area.
 - 2.3.3 Other information about the policing of its area.

3. Main report

- 3.1 This report covers the period April 2022 to March 2023 and is part of a regular update from the Divisional Commander to the Council.
- 3.2 The report contains an overview and summary by the Divisional Commander, a summary of local policing priorities, crime statistics and progress made around Police Scotland's strategic outcomes – Public Safety and Wellbeing; Needs of Local Community; Confidence in Policing; and Positive Working Environment.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Under the [Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act](#) the Council can monitor and provide feedback to the Divisional Commander.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 6.1. Not applicable.

7. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 8.1 Police Scotland have discussed the content of the report with the Council and the information can develop as feedback is received.

9. Background reading/external references

- 9.1 Policy and Sustainability Committee 29 March 2022 – [Police Scotland – City of Edinburgh Division Update](#)
- 9.2 Policy and Sustainability Committee 30 August 2022 – [Police Scotland – City of Edinburgh Division Update](#)
- 9.3 Policy and Sustainability Committee 17 January 2023 – [Police Scotland – City of Edinburgh Division Update](#)
- 9.4 The City of Edinburgh Council 9 February 2023 – [Decision Making Framework 2023](#)

10. Appendix

- 10.1 Report by the Divisional Commander.

POLICING FOR A SAFE, PROTECTED AND RESILIENT SCOTLAND



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

EDINBURGH CITY DIVISION
SCRUTINY REPORT
April - March 2022-23

OFFICIAL



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Introduction by the Divisional Commander



It is my pleasure to present the Q4 Edinburgh City Division scrutiny report for April to March 2022/23. Since the last report, we have helped safely deliver a number of events across the Capital, including the Royal Highland Show, a number of large music events, and the recent visit of His Majesty King Charles III.

The ceremonial duties of the King brought the eyes of the world onto Edinburgh and Police Scotland once again, yet the occasion passed with no disruption to proceedings and only a handful of arrests. Engagement with the public was overwhelmingly positive, as officers from Edinburgh and those deployed from across Scotland sought to deliver an event that allowed people to enjoy the occasion, whilst also facilitating safe and lawful protest.

Looking ahead, we will welcome many more people to our city as the world-famous Edinburgh International Festival returns, along with a number of other events. The UCI World Cycling Championships will predominantly take place in Glasgow, however the road race will commence in Edinburgh, bringing large crowds to the city centre. In addition, two of Edinburgh's football clubs will be featuring in Europe this season, necessitating collaboration with overseas police forces. We also welcome Italy, France and Georgia to Murrayfield for this year's summer tests. This will all take place thanks in part to our dedicated events planning team, who will work on these events, as well as dozens of others over the forthcoming period.

This report covers a small cross section of the work carried out by my officers, from tackling serious and organised crime to the incredible work of our city's Special Constables. I am proud of the efforts my colleagues have demonstrated each and every day to keep Edinburgh safe.

This is the final report that covers the strategic outcomes of the Edinburgh City Local Policing Plan 2020-23. We have worked tirelessly over the past 3 years to deliver on these outcomes, during what has been a period of significant change for everyone in our organisation and the wider public, given the impact of the global pandemic. The ways in which both the societal and criminal landscapes have adapted has meant we have adapted too, and new ways of working within the police service and with partner agencies have been expedited as a consequence. What was a priority in 2020 is not necessarily what may be considered a priority now.

The 2023-26 Local Policing Plan has now been launched following a full public consultation. Whilst the plan reflects our strategic outcomes and priorities, there is obvious and direct connectivity to our vision, our purpose and our values. In practical terms, this means that our visible and accessible policing response seeks to ensure a safe and resilient city, with the overarching purpose of improving the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities across Edinburgh.

As we move into this new fiscal year, we will continue to focus on reducing the crimes that cause the greatest harm, and work with partners to support vulnerable persons, as well as tackling drug supply and promoting the safe use of our roads.

Chief Superintendent Sean Scott
Divisional Commander



Summary of Local Policing Priorities

For the reporting period of 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2022/23, a total of 46193 crimes were recorded by Edinburgh Division. This is a reduction of 8.0% (4029 fewer crimes) against the five year average. Solvency has reduced by 2.2% over the same five year period to 53.4%. The following summary provides a breakdown in respect of our Local Policing Priorities against the 5 year average, and against last year to date (LYTD) where the 5 year average is not available. The 5 year average remains the preferred comparator for analysing performance, however it contains and is influenced by the performance data of the 2020/21 Covid-19 pandemic.

Addressing Violence

Overall violent crime has reduced by 6.4% (434 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. There have been 6 recorded murders, which is 2 more than the 5 year average. Attempted murder has increased by 34.3% (7 more crimes) against the 5 year average. Serious assaults have reduced by 19.4% (65 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. Common assault (including emergency workers) has reduced by 5.7% (349 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average.

Reducing Drug Harm and Targeting Supply

Partnership work with the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre continues, with the aim of reducing the opportunities for external Serious and Organised Crime Groups to supply controlled substances in Edinburgh, whilst also providing safeguarding opportunities for those that are exploited. Proactive enforcement has resulted in positive recoveries of illegal drugs, cash, related paraphernalia and the seizure of vehicles. Total drug crime has reduced by 2.8% (65 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average.

Targeting Housebreaking and Acquisitive Crime

Acquisitive crime has reduced by 11.2% (1845 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. Domestic housebreaking has reduced by 34.8% (362 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. Motor vehicle crime has reduced by 8.5% (188 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. Theft shoplifting has reduced by 4.6% (172 fewer crimes), and common theft has reduced by 2.6% (105 fewer crimes). Fraud has increased by 25.2% (400 more crimes), which is reflective of the wider national picture.

Dealing with Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

Antisocial behaviour incidents have reduced by 19.9% (8785 fewer incidents) against the 5 year average. Overall Group 4 crimes (including vandalism, malicious mischief and fire-raising) have reduced by 13.4% (692 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. Vandalism has reduced by 18.6 % (833 fewer crimes) over the same period.

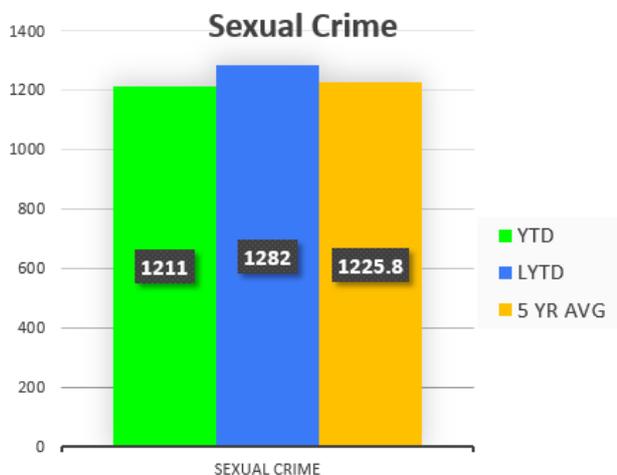
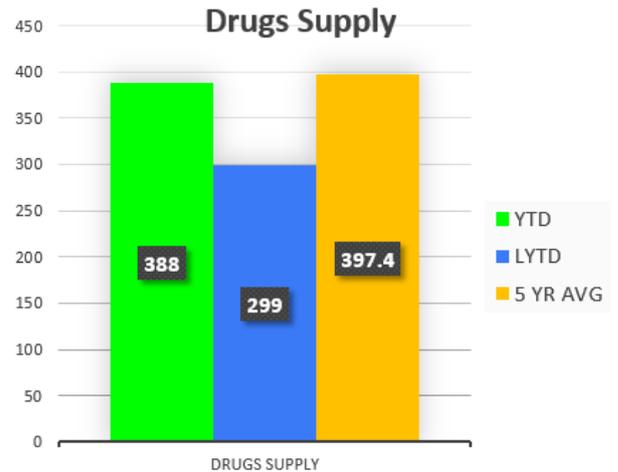
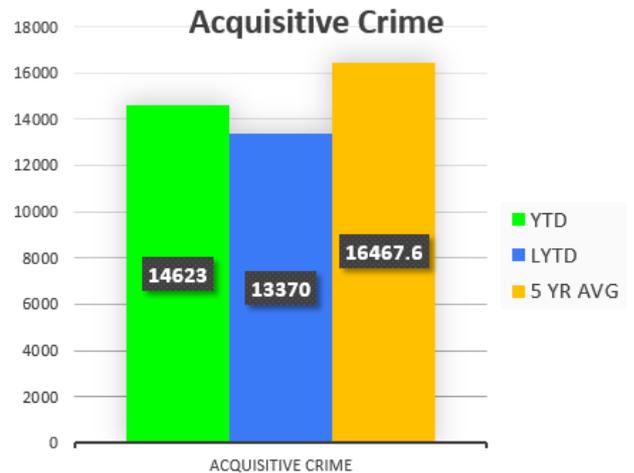
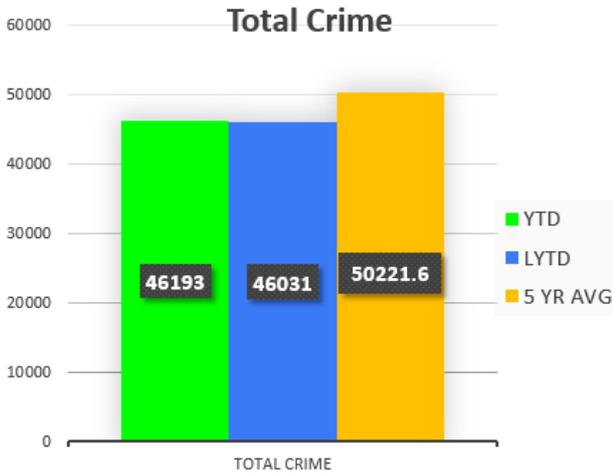
Making Our Roads Safe

Offences in relation to driving and the use of motor vehicles have reduced marginally (3 fewer crimes) compared to the 5 year average. There have been eight fatal collisions this year to date, compared to three LYTD. There has been a reduction of 26.2% (49 fewer collisions) in serious injury collisions and a reduction of 17.5% (80 fewer collisions) in those resulting in slight injury against LYTD.



Edinburgh City Division at a glance

The charts below represent year to date incident and crime demand throughout the division, compared with last year to date and the 5 year average.



Public Safety and Wellbeing

Success means that threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a responsive police service

Addressing Violence

Group 1 crime includes:

- Murder
- Attempted murder
- Serious assault
- Robbery

	Group 1 Recorded Crime	Group 1 Solvency
		
April – March 2022/23	1063	57.9%
April – March 5 year average	934	66.6%
% change from 5 year average	+13.8%	-8.7%

- Group 1 crime has increased by 13.8% (129 more crimes) against the 5 year average. The increase in 'sextortion' and drugging offences has significantly contributed to the increase in Group 1 offences and the reduction in Group 1 solvency. When excluding these offences from the crime statistics, Group 1 crime has reduced by 5.5% (45 fewer crimes) and solvency has increased by 4.6% to 78.2% against the 5 year average.
- S.1 Domestic Abuse Scotland Act (DASA) offences have reduced by 24.4% (42 fewer crimes) against LYTD. DASA offences continue to affect the overall Group 1 picture since its introduction on 1st April 2019.
- 6 murders have been recorded this year, an increase of 2 murders against the 5 year average.
- 29 attempted murders have been recorded this year, which is 7 more than the 5 year average. This increase is a result of targeted acts of violence, with no significant wider risk to members of our communities.
- Serious assaults have reduced by 19.4% (65 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. Solvency has increased by 3.8%.
- Minor assaults have reduced by 5.7% (349 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. Solvency has increased by 1.0%.
- Robbery has reduced against the 5 year average by 12.0% (30 fewer crimes).
- Threats & Extortion has increased by 165.0% (148 more crimes) against the 5 year average. A significant number of these were instances of webcam blackmail or 'sextortion'. These are frequently perpetrated overseas, however the crime remains recorded in Scotland.
- There have been 41 Druggings reported this year to date, compared to a 5 year average of 21. The large rise in reported offences is a result of considerable media and social media attention given to 'spiking' during the last two years.

Case Study – Lewis Spence, Connor Steele, Brad Logan

In April 2023, following trial at the High Court in Edinburgh Lewis Spence, Connor Steele and Brad Logan were each sentenced to 7 years imprisonment following the attempted murder of a 40-year-old man in Lochend Road South, Edinburgh in September 2020.

Detective Inspector Kevin Tait:

"As the Detective Inspector leading our Violence Reduction Unit I am satisfied with the sentence given to these three individuals for what was a targeted, violent attack linked to organised crime. This was an extensive investigation that due to the pandemic took almost three years to resolve at trial. I believe this shows our dedication to bringing the perpetrators involved in serious organised crime to justice and we continue to prioritise our commitments to disrupting harmful activity in our communities."

"We have seen a slight increase in recorded murders and attempted murders this year, however I can confirm that these attempted murder offences have been targeted attacks linked to wider organised criminality. I can also provide a layer of comfort that there is no escalation in violence linked to these attempted murders, and provide an assurance that the murder offences are not linked to this wider criminality and remain isolated incidents."



QUOTE



Sexual Crime

Group 2 crime includes:	Group 2 Recorded Crime	Group 2 Solvency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rape • Sexual assault • Lewd and libidinous practices • Communicating indecently • Disclosing intimate images 	
April – March 2022/23	1211	48.8%
April – March 5 year average	1226	56.3%
% change from 5 year average	-1.2%	-7.5%

- Overall Group 2 crime has reduced by 1.2% (15 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average.
- Solvency has reduced by 7.5% against the 5 year average.
- Rape has increased by 5.3% (12 more crimes) against the 5 year average. Solvency has reduced by 5.3% to 57.7%.
- Sexual assaults have increased by 5.2% (19 more crimes) against the 5 year average, however have reduced by 12.8% (57 fewer crimes) when compared to LYTD. The 5 year average has been impacted by a significant decrease in offences committed in 2020.
- Indecent Communication Offences have reduced by 31.0% (37 fewer crimes) compared to the 5 year average.
- Lewd & Libidinous practices have increased by 33.5% (36 more crimes) against the 5 year average. These are non-recent offences, and the rise can be attributed to a number of investigations relating to historical abuse against children.



SEXUAL OFFENCES

DCI Adam Brown, Public Protection Unit (PPU):

“In recognition of how commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) underpins attitudes of misogyny and sexual entitlement, Edinburgh Division have initiated a revised CSE strategy. The strategy puts public health at the forefront of considerations when engaging with people who sell sex and draws on the breadth of experience from our Public Protection, Community Policing and Preventions teams as well as our partners working in health and the third sector. The welfare of people who sell sex will be prioritised whilst those who benefit from exploitation, including people who buy sex, will be targeted. Whilst the strategy acknowledges that anybody can be affected by CSE, it disproportionately affects women and girls. The strategy encompasses the selling of sex both online and from within the community and is intended to clearly state our position that commercial sexual exploitation of this nature is a form of violence against women.

The notable increase in reports of lewd & libidinous practices is driven by proactive investigations being undertaken by specialist officers from both local and national teams, who are actively working to identify and approach potential victims of historical offences.

Case Against Keith Little:

In June 2023 Keith Little was convicted of significant and sickening sexual offences against women and girls. Following a complex and challenging investigation by the Public Protection Unit, Little was arrested and reported to the Crown Officer and Procurator Fiscal Service. He was subsequently convicted of an assault and rape, assault to severe injury and permanent disfigurement, sexual assault with intent to rape with injury, rape, and indecent behaviour towards a girl aged 12-16yrs. In July 2023 he was sentenced to a 12-year prison sentence with a 2-year extension and a lifelong non-harassment order in respect of the victims.



Reducing Drug Harm and Targeting Supply

Drug Supply crime includes:

- Manufacture or cultivation of drugs
- Supply of drugs to another (including intent)
- Bringing drugs into prison

	Drug Supply Recorded Crime	Drug Supply Solvency
		
April – March 2022/23	2276	96.4%
April – March 5 year average	2341	95.9%
% change from 5 year average	-2.8%	+0.4%

- Total drug crime has reduced by 2.8% (65 fewer crimes) and solvency has increased by 0.4% to 96.4% against the 5 year average.
- Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs has reduced by 33.0% (15 fewer crimes).
- Supply of drugs has reduced by 2.4% (9 fewer crimes) and solvency has reduced by 12.7% to 79.4% against the 5 year average. The reduction in solvency is largely due to the pending forensic analysis of controlled substances and electronic devices.
- Possession of drugs has reduced by 3.3% (63 fewer crimes) and solvency has increased by 3.6% to 100.5% against the 5 year average.
- Bringing drugs into prison has reduced by 54.9% (15 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. This reduction is a consequence of reduced visitor numbers to the prison and improved prevention mechanisms.
- Partnership work with the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre continues, with the aim of reducing the opportunities for external Serious and Organised Crime Groups to supply controlled substances in Edinburgh, whilst also providing safeguards for exploited children.

Targeting Supply



CASE STUDY

Following the identification of a London-based County Line operating in Edinburgh, a dedicated inquiry was launched to identify person(s) responsible. During the course of the inquiry, an address of interest was identified, and on being searched under the authority of a warrant, significant quantities of class A controlled drugs totalling over 2.7kg were recovered as well as just shy of £17,000 cash. The drugs had an approximate street deal value of around £370,000.

Further enquiries identified Shane Richards-Tavernier as a suspect. He was later traced and apprehended after a brief foot chase. A further search of an address linked to Richards-Travernier recovered a further £10,000 in cash as well as controlled drugs. In April 2023 Richards-Travernier pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of diamorphine and cocaine. He was sentenced to 5 years and 219 days.

Detective Inspector Alison MacDonald

“This is a prime example of the exemplary work undertaken by the County Lines team, who are dedicated to protecting our local communities from drug supply emanating from other parts of the UK. Through well established relationships with other forces and specialist departments, nominals from other parts of the country operating in this city can be identified, targeted and pursued effectively.”



Targeting Housebreaking and Acquisitive Crime

Group 3 crime includes:

- Housebreaking
- Theft of / from motor vehicles
- Shoplifting
- Common theft
- Fraud

	Group 3 Recorded Crime	Group 3 Solvency
		
April – March 2022/23	14623	19.8%
April – March 5 year average	16468	25.3%
% change from 5 year average	-11.2%	-5.5%

- Acquisitive crime has reduced by 11.2% (1845 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average.
- Housebreaking, which includes domestic premises, businesses, sheds and garages, has reduced by 34.7% (771 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average.
- Domestic housebreaking has reduced by 34.8% (362 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. Solvency has reduced by 6.0% to 22.1%.
- Motor vehicle crime has reduced by 8.5% (188 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average.
- Shoplifting has reduced by 4.6% (172 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average, whilst common theft has reduced by 2.6% (105 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average.
- Fraud has increased by 25.2% (400 more crimes) against the 5 year average, which is reflective of a wider national trend. A significant proportion of this is perpetrated via electronic means. Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority’s joint strategy for the future of policing in Scotland, includes the commitment to develop a specific cyber strategy to transform Police Scotland’s internal cyber capability and response. This enables the delivery of proactive support to individuals, communities and partners that embeds resilience and aligns to our wider preventative model.

Detective Inspector Gordon Couper



QUOTE

“I am pleased to report the reduction in acquisitive crime across Edinburgh Division, with recorded crime in this sector well below the 5 year average. Crime types such as housebreaking, theft of and from motor vehicles, shoplifting, theft and frauds are seen by some to be career choices, and in many cases it is the same nominals that commit a large proportion of these crimes. As technology progresses, so do the methods used, but Police Scotland and partners react and lead to disrupt emerging trends.

The Community Investigation Unit work in a reactive manner to identify and bring to justice those who are identified as responsible for committing acquisitive crime. Since January 2023, Operation Versatile has targeted key individuals from Edinburgh who commit crime across the East region, resulting in a number of arrests and reports to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

The Preventions, Interventions and Partnerships department continue to work in tandem with our investigatory teams in an effort to provide support and direction following crimes, but also to deter and prevent crimes before they take place. Through this continued joint working by teams across Police Scotland and with partner agencies, I believe that we can continue to see a decrease in Group 3 crimes going forward.”



Dealing with Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

Group 4 crime includes:	ASB Group Recorded Incidents	Group 4 Crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culpable and reckless conduct • Vandalism • Fireraising 		
April – March 2022/23	31517	4,461
April – March 5 year average	40302	5,153
% change from 5 year average	-21.8%	-13.4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents have reduced by 21.8% (8785 fewer incidents). The 5 year average has been heavily influenced by a substantial increase in Covid-19 related calls recorded in 2020 and 2021. • Group 4 crime has reduced by 13.4% (692 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. • Fireraising has increased by 13.4% (31 more crimes) against the 5 year average. This increase is the consequence of a significant reduction in recorded offences during the Covid-19 pandemic. • Vandalism has reduced by 18.6% (833 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average. • Public nuisance incidents have reduced by 27.8% (2738 fewer incidents) against LYTD, whilst noise complaints have reduced by 23.2% (1850 fewer incidents) against LYTD. 		

Antisocial Behaviour in the South East



FOCUS ON SOUTH-EAST

Operation Taupe

Hunter Square and surrounding areas have been known to experience an increase in Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) and violent crime in the spring period. To combat this, dedicated patrols at key times took place under Operation Taupe, with the City Centre Community Policing Team (CPT) and Central Initiative Team (CIT) targeting this area and known offenders.

More than 100 persons were engaged and 11 persons arrested for various offences, including being wanted for numerous warrants, breach of bail, possession of an offensive weapon and housebreaking. Retrospective work has also been carried out, with individuals responsible for violent crimes arrested and issued with bail conditions not to enter the Old Town area.

Engagement with local businesses, who are appreciative of police activity, and discussions with City of Edinburgh Council remains ongoing with regards to future use and design of the square.



CPT Officers patrol the Southside, focusing on ASB hotspots.



Group 7 crime includes:

- Dangerous Driving
- Drink / Drug Driving
- Speeding
- Driving without a Licence
- Mobile phone offences
- Using a vehicle without an MOT certificate

	Group 7 Recorded Crime	Group 7 Solvency
		
April – March 2022/23	9082	81.0%
April – March 5 year average	9085	83.0%
% change from 5 year average	-0.0%	-2.0%

- Group 7 crime has reduced marginally (3 fewer crimes) and solvency has reduced by 2.0% to 81.0% against the 5 year average.
- Dangerous driving offences have increased by 11.5% (29 more crimes) against the 5 year average.
- Driving without a licence offences have increased by 15.3% (84 more crimes) against the 5 year average.
- Driving without insurance offences have increased by 8.2% (122 more crimes) against the 5 year average. Increases in licence and insurance offences have been apparent in the last 3 years, since the distribution of mobile devices to officers, allowing them to check vehicles in higher numbers and without the need for radio transmissions.
- There have been 8 fatal collisions, which is an increase of 5 collisions against LYTD. These collisions continue to be investigated, with no single factor linking all of them. The Edinburgh Road Safety Partnership continues to work collaboratively in an effort to identify at an early stage opportunities to improve safety for all road users.
- There has been a decrease of 26.2% (49 fewer collisions) in serious injury collisions and a decrease of 17.5% (80 fewer collisions) in those resulting in slight injury.

Road Policing in Edinburgh

Inspector Kosmas Papakyriakou, Road Policing:

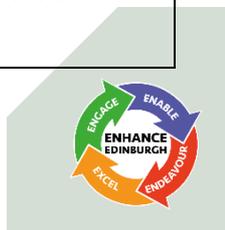
“Edinburgh Road Policing have been involved in a series of local, regional and national Road Safety initiatives since January, mostly in respect of Vulnerable Road Users. These have ranged from School Safety checks, Cycle Safety, Speeding and other core enforcement, often combining officers from Road Policing with the Motorcycle Section and local officers, which helps sharing and cascading specialist and local knowledge.

Into the warmer months, May saw the commencement of the national Motorcycle Campaign. Whilst the main areas of concern lie outwith Edinburgh, support has been provided where motorcyclists congregate, such as in South Queensferry.

In June, Road Policing participated in a high impact Road Safety stand in the Gyle centre along with our partners from RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) and Road Safety Scotland. There was inputs on fitness to drive, with shoppers able to try a hazard perception simulator and eye tests. Child Safety week followed and was highlighted in the media and supported in Edinburgh through patrolling with a ‘Good Egg’ child safety seat specialist who identified 11 car seat faults.

July saw our focus turn to the Summer Drink Drive campaign and Commercial Vehicle Week, both featuring intelligence led road checks at key locations in the city.

In addition to the above, Edinburgh Road Policing officers have played a key part in the planning and execution of a number of high profile summer events in and around Edinburgh, from the Royal Highland Show, Royal Week and Coronation Events, Murrayfield Concerts and the Manchester United v Lyon football fixture.”



	All Domestic Abuse Incidents	Domestic Crimes	Domestic Abuse Solvency
			
April – March 2022/23	5365	2678	68.6%
April – March 5 year average	5675	3523	67.9%
% change from 5 year average	-5.5%	-24.0%	+1.0%

- Domestic abuse incidents have reduced by 5.5% (410 fewer incidents) against the 5 year average.
- Domestic crimes have reduced by 24.0% (845 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average.
- Solvency has increased by 1.0% to 68.6% against the 5 year average.
- Domestic Bail offences have reduced by 26.0% (89 fewer crimes) against the 5 year average.
- Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) referrals have continued to increase on last year. The scheme provides means of sharing information about an abusive partner's past. Increased numbers of applications are being received by partner agencies demonstrating a greater awareness of the scheme and its key role in the provision of protection to those who may be at risk of domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse

DI Mhairi Cooper, Edinburgh Public Protection Unit (PPU):

During the past three years E Division has experienced a decline in recorded crime relating to domestic abuse, however during the same period there has been an exponential increase in domestic abuse preventative and safeguarding work. As previously highlighted, DSDAS disclosures have increased 160.0% since the inception of the scheme. This combined with MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference), MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking & Coordination), interventions, divert and deter strategies, safeguarding visits, partnership work, case conferences and many other functions, means that the DAIU (Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit) safeguarding team have an ever-increasing demand placed upon them.

To address this changing landscape, PPU Management have put in place a number of resourcing moves which will look to support the demands faced in relation to the investigation and management of risk carried by the department.

There has been a slight decrease (5.5%) in domestic abuse incidents against the five year average, and domestic crimes remain 24.0% lower than the five year average which has been consistent over the past year. Although it is difficult to provide a definitive reason for this, undoubtedly the extensive preventative activity ongoing will be a factor. On another positive note, solvency has also increased by 1.0% against the 5 year average.

Despite the overall decrease in domestic crime, DAIU level enquiries have increased significantly in the last period with 49 investigations ongoing, including 30 domestic rapes.

There continues to be a focus on training, both internally and externally to highlight crucial domestic abuse safeguarding tools and processes. Domestic abuse inputs are being given to all new recruits arriving within Division to drive the awareness of both the DSDAS process and advocacy support that our partners EDDACS can offer. The DAIU Action team are also looking to link in with the local response teams to provide guidance and support surrounding DASA offences (Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018).

Officers from the DAIU recently attended an input by EDDACS (Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Support Service), which was not only informative but allowed further dialogue in terms of streamlining processes to maximise opportunities to support those victims going through court processes. Further inputs are planned over the coming months to all supervisors to highlight the work and support EDDACS offers along with some practical advice and guidance, which can be disseminated onwards.



	Hate Incidents	Hate Crimes	Hate Crime Solvency
			
April – March 2022/23	1276	943	58.1%
April – March 5 year average	1238	1182	59.8%
% change from 5 year average	+3.1%	-20.2%	-1.7%

- Hate crimes have reduced by 20.2% (239 fewer crimes), while hate incidents have increased by 3.1% (38 more incidents) compared to the 5 year average.
- Solvency for hate crime has reduced by 1.7% against the 5 year average to 58.1%.
- Racially aggravated crimes have reduced by 15.4% (115 fewer crimes) compared to LYTD, and crimes aggravated by sexual orientation have increased by 1.5% (3 more crimes) compared to LYTD.

Keep Safe



QUOTE

Our Equality and Diversity team are part of our Prevention, Intervention and Partnerships (PIP) Department, based at the West End Police Station in Edinburgh. The team monitor all reported hate crimes and incidents within the city and offer specialist support to victims of hate crime, either in person or by referring to partners if appropriate. The team undertake a range of activities to raise awareness of hate crime and the various ways in which it can be reported.

PC Lynsay Claxton, PIP:

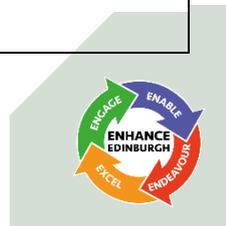
“Our team of specialist equality and Diversity officers regularly engage with our diverse communities across Edinburgh. This can either be through partners or attending at specific events.

Recently we were delighted to attend at the West Pilton Community Day, alongside community officers from Drylaw Police Station. This gave me the opportunity to provide information on hate crime to a broad range of people from the area, across a wide age range and from various minority backgrounds and groups. I sought to provide an understanding of how to identify hate crime, how it can be reported and to ensure people are aware of how seriously Police Scotland treat hate crime. I am the lead officer for the promotion of the Keep Safe scheme in Edinburgh; this is a joint initiative in partnership with the charity I Am Me. This event allowed me to raise awareness of the support that Keep Safe offers to people with disabilities to live independently in the community.

I am very grateful to the organisers of the event to promote engagement and allow us to attend and to speak to so many people about hate crime, as we sought to emphasise the support that is available to victims, whether it be individuals, families or the wider community.”



PC Lynsay Claxton at the West Pilton Community Day



Needs of Local Community

Success means the needs of the local communities are addressed through effective service delivery

Preventative Approaches and Local Partnerships

Summer at Portobello

Throughout the coming months, the North-East Community Policing Team (CPT) shall pro-actively work alongside partners including City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), housing teams, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, youth services and other voluntary sector groups in order to reduce crime & ASB within hot spot areas and the wider community, particularly over the school holiday period. In appropriate circumstances, internal partners will be deployed, including Road Policing, dogs, mounted officers, and our off-road motorbike officers (Operation Orbit). Summer at Portobello (2nd year), shall operate as follows:



North East Support Team & Community Officers carry out Close Pass Operation at Portobello.

- Preventative measures - School presentations, with letters circulated to parents outlining responsible behaviours.
- Intervention visits with young offenders, selectively identified to reduce offending.
- Partnership Engagement – Engaging with partners and public to gather concerns surrounding local disorder and issues not reported to Police Scotland, ensuring Joint Warnings are progressed, and sharing updates at the local CIPs (Community Improvement Partnerships) and the dedicated Portobello Working Group.
- Youth group engagement and diversionary work.
- Dedicated community patrols.
- Local business visits.
- Proxy purchasing activity with the Community Alcohol Partnership.
- CPT presence and active engagement in events such as Party Pride.

Beat the Cycle

Living in poverty is a concern within our diverse communities, often resulting in individuals and groups contacting Police, Social Work and other partners, who are often not best placed to deal with their issues. This impacting on services whilst exacerbating individual or group experiences.

This initiative has been developed to help members of our communities deliver themselves out of poverty; providing them with the tools, guidance and support to improve their lives and the lives they influence, such as their families and dependants.

7 out of 8 sessions have been delivered to date thus far. We have seen many people attending for the hot meal, food parcels and free items such as clothes, toiletries and sanitary items. It has been a real success with varied audiences for session dependent upon the subject matter, the details of which are below:

- Confidence, Pathways and Inspiration.
- What are you entitled to?
- Wellbeing for children and young people (Mental Health, nutrition & exercise).
- Wellbeing for adults (Mental Health, nutrition & exercise).
- Employability & confidence.
- How to feed a family on a budget, where are local food banks, how to grow own vegetables.
- Education and inspiration for teens and adults.
- Beat the burnout fitness session and silent disco.



FOCUS ON
NORTH-EAST



Focus on the North-East – MS Victoria

MS Victoria

MS Victoria housed Ukrainian refugees for over a year, before finally departing the Port of Leith on 11th July. Whilst docked in Edinburgh, our officers have sought to engage with the individuals on board, as well as the wider community and local businesses, in order to support their integration in Edinburgh. This required collaboration with the Captain, crew, and other agencies, such as Forth Ports and City of Edinburgh Council.

Our Community Policing Team (CPT) conducted Beat Hate campaigns focusing on addressing hate crimes and sharing Ukrainian culture with communities and perpetrators of hate offences.

The CPT also worked on Beat the Boredom, aimed at helping Ukrainian children suffering significant trauma to meet other children and participate in sports.



A painting of MS Victoria, created by the children on board the ship, presented to Police as a thank you.

Additional police action included:

- An Emergency Services day took place on board the ship. It was evident from the overall response that close interaction with emergency services, particularly the police, was unfamiliar.
- Equality & Diversity input and Local Area Commander visits with the Consul General.
- Scots Law inputs and amnesties, aimed at gaining trust and confidence, as well as awareness.
- Many Police Service of Scotland events held on board and in the community, run by the CPT, NEST (North East Support Team), and supported by Response.
- Regular drops-ins and involvement with on-board groups and specific persons requiring additional support or signposting.

Mr Kussli – Ukrainian Consul General

"I am writing to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the Consulate for your outstanding support and assistance in ensuring the safety of our nationals.

Your professionalism demonstrated in providing help was paramount. I understand that your exceptional efforts have contributed significantly to the overall security of our nationals all over Scotland.

In our line of work, nothing is more critical than the safety of the people we serve. So, your willingness to go above and beyond to make sure that our nationals are safe is remarkable.

Once again, thank you very much for your momentous assistance and the highest level of professionalism. Trust in our common mission - to keep our people safe."

Joe Fitzgerald – Chief Security Officer

"I could not leave here without expressing my sincere gratitude for the support Police Scotland have afforded both the Ukrainian Refugee Assistance Program and me personally. I particularly want to single out your Community Liaison Officers, Callum (PC Clark) and Dariusz (PC Sadlik), who for the past ten months have provided me with a single point of contact and their subtle expertise when assisting with challenging on-board issues. Both are the epitome of professionalism and a credit to the local Police in Leith

I still have fabulous memories of the Emergency Service Engagement Day on board and the amazing feedback that we received from our guests (both young and old). This type of engagement did wonders to break down any perceived barriers and demonstrate that Police Scotland are a Police Service for all the communities"

Confidence in Policing

Success means public and communities are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing

Police Scotland is committed to a monthly User Satisfaction Survey. A change in process in January 2020 now sees a minimum of 123 surveys being conducted by an external consultancy every month within Edinburgh, to provide feedback on the public's interactions with the police. Participants are sent SMS messages containing a link to a survey, which they then complete.

Results from April - March 2022/23 are provided below:

	Appropriate Response	Adequately Updated	Overall Satisfaction
E Division	62.0%	47.5%	69.0%
Force	63.0%	49.1%	68.1%

Engagement and involvement are key aspects of policing, identifying local priorities, problem solving and ensuring our communities have confidence in policing. We work hard to use the findings of these surveys to identify areas for service delivery improvement.

Community Engagement



SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIAL CONSTABLES

Special Constables in Edinburgh

Special Constables are ordinary citizens who voluntarily give up their time to police their community recognising that policing in Scotland is carried out with the consent and support of the Scottish people.

Our dedicated team of Special Constables here in Edinburgh were recently trained in the use of the "UNIPAR" device. This allows them to address concerns over speeding motorists, and they have already been deploying across the city to help improve road safety.

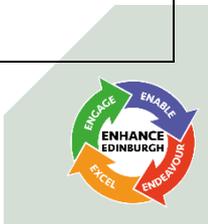
They have also been delivering citations, patrolling on foot and bikes, working with partners and other departments & divisions, as well as supporting colleagues in busy response teams.

NEST (North East Support Team) is a proactive group of Special Constables based within Community Policing that are mentored and trained to become an independent resource that can arrange and conduct their own initiatives.

NEST tackle a range of issues including street prostitution, drug-dealing and anti-social behaviour. Recent initiatives resourced and led entirely by NEST include a warrant initiative with enquiries and arrests, and a significant number of road traffic initiatives undertaken in the Edinburgh North East area.

The variety of deployments available is unparalleled, with Special Constables often deploying in plain clothes and unmarked vehicles. Specialist departments and partner agencies have deployed alongside NEST, from Roads Policing and the Dog Section, to council parking attendants and the DVLA.

NEST are highly regarded and supported by all within E Division, with the provision of equipment, vehicles and training to maximise the efficacy of the team. Training includes mobile device usage, pedal cycle patrol, UNIPAR and ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition). Community Policing officers aid the development of NEST, providing training events and one-to-one mentoring to enhance their operational skills.



Positive Working Environment

Success means our people are supported through a positive working environment enabling them to serve the public

Local Recognition Awards 2023

Edinburgh recently held its Local Recognition Awards, aimed at celebrating excellence in our Division's policing. Below are some of those who were recognised:

PC John Smith – Probationary Officer of the Year – Response, Howdenhall

PC John Smith's nomination reflects his excellent performance during his time as a probationary officer, excelling in both his personal and professional development. His work ethic has delivered outstanding results and his drive to learn and develop has exceeded all expectations placed upon him.

John has received multiple letters of thanks from members of the public and has worked pro-actively to lead a number of high visibility patrols in the local area, performing research and liaising with partner agencies. His results were highlighted on both social media and by the command team.



PC John Smith receiving his award

In addition to working for the police, John is an amateur rugby referee, and perfectly balances the demands of the two roles whilst working to qualify as a professional with the Scottish Rugby Union.

John takes great pride in his profession and truly represents the future of the organisation.

PC Ryan Bunting and PC Kevin Ross – Above & Beyond – Response, Drylaw

In January 2023, Ryan and Kevin were asked to attend at Pennywell Road, Edinburgh following reports of a male, Derek Archer, in possession of a baseball bat threatening members of the public. As Ryan and Kevin walked towards Archer, he immediately pulled out two previously unseen knives, turning his attention to the officers and issuing threats towards them.



PCs Bunting & Ross receiving their awards

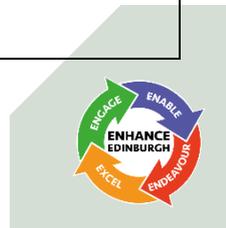
Ryan discharged his Taser, but despite making contact, this had no effect and Archer attempted to escape by running into a residential street. Pursued by the officers Archer ducked and weaved between cars, throwing one of the knives at Ryan, causing a minor injury to his shoulder. Undeterred by his injury, Ryan continued to try and subdue Archer with his Taser. Additional response and armed officers attended the area, commenced negotiations and effected his safe arrest.

Derek Archer was recently sentenced to 20 months imprisonment for his actions.

It is clear from the circumstances of this incident that Ryan and Kevin put themselves at great risk. They remained calm and in control of the situation and went above and beyond to protect the public.



RECENT EVENTS



Crime Statistics

During 2020/21 there were a variety of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and lockdowns. It is recommended that the primary comparator to use as a baseline is a five-year average, however this continues to be impacted by the adverse trends seen during 2020-21.

Overall Recorded Crime					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Group 1-5	25,038	26,299	5.0	28,734.8	-8.5
Group 1-7	46,031	46,193	0.4	50,221.6	-8.0
Group 1	1,062	1,063	0.1	934.2	13.8
Group 2	1,282	1,211	-5.5	1,225.8	-1.2
Group 3	13,370	14,623	9.4	16,467.6	-11.2
Group 4	4,744	4,461	-6.0	5,152.8	-13.4
Group 5	4,580	4,941	7.9	4,954.4	-0.3
Group 6	11,745	10,812	-7.9	12,401.6	-12.8
Group 7	9,248	9,082	-1.8	9,085.2	0.0

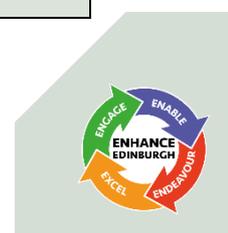
Overall Solvency Rates					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Group 1-5	38.9	36.3	-2.5	39.1	-2.8
Group 1-7	54.1	51.2	-2.9	53.4	-2.2
Group 1	57.9	57.9	0.0	66.6	-8.7
Group 2	58.3	48.8	-9.5	56.3	-7.5
Group 3	21.6	19.8	-1.8	25.3	-5.5
Group 4	21.6	19.9	-1.7	20.0	-0.1
Group 5	97.4	92.5	-4.9	95.4	-2.9
Group 6	63.3	62.4	-0.9	64.9	-2.5
Group 7	83.6	81.0	-2.7	83.0	-2.0



OFFICIAL

Group 1 – Non Sexual Crimes of Violence - Recorded					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Group 1 Total	1,062	1,063	0.1	934.2	13.8
Murder	2	6	200.0	4.4	36.4
Culpable Homicide	1	0	-100.0	3.0	-100.0
S1 Domestic Abuse	173	131	-24.3	x	x
Att Murder	15	29	93.3	21.6	34.3
Serious Assault	287	268	-6.6	332.6	-19.4
Robbery	228	220	-3.5	250.0	-12.0

Group 1 – Non Sexual Crimes of Violence – Solvency					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Grp 1 Total	57.9	57.9	0.0	66.6	-8.7
Murder	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	-
Culpable Homicide	100.0	x	x	80.0	x
S1 Domestic Abuse	75.1	77.9	2.7	x	x
Att Murder	120.0	93.1	-26.9	94.4	-1.3
Serious Assault	72.5	77.6	5.1	73.8	3.8
Robbery	67.1	70.0	2.9	69.1	0.9



OFFICIAL

Group 2 – Sexual Crimes – Recorded					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Group 2	1,282	1,211	-5.5	1,225.8	-1.2
Rape	231	233	0.9	221.2	5.3
Sexual Assault	444	387	-12.8	367.8	5.2
Lewd & Libidinous	108	145	34.3	108.6	33.5
Indecent Communications	93	82	-11.8	118.8	-31.0
Threat/Disclose Intimate Image	69	54	-21.7	55.0	-1.8

Group 2 – Sexual Crimes – Solvency					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Group 2	58.3	48.8	-9.5	56.3	-7.5
Rape	65.4	52.4	-13.0	57.7	-5.3
Sexual Assault	54.3	43.2	-11.1	44.3	-1.2
Lewd & Libidinous	73.1	41.4	-31.8	68.0	-26.6
Indecent Communications	49.5	54.9	5.4	58.8	-3.9
Threat/Disclose Intimate Image	39.1	37.0	-2.1	40.7	-3.7



OFFICIAL

Group 3 – Acquisitive Crime - Recorded					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Group 3	13,370	14,623	9.4	16,467.6	-11.2
Housebreaking Dwelling	700	678	-3.1	1,040.4	-34.8
Housebreaking Non-Dwelling	436	458	5.0	691.0	-33.7
Housebreaking other	327	313	-4.3	488.2	-35.9
Total Housebreaking	1,463	1,449	-1.0	2,219.6	-34.7
OLP Motor Vehicle	379	525	38.5	663.8	-20.9
Theft of Motor Vehicle	559	679	21.5	648.0	4.8
Theft from Motor Vehicle	609	664	9.0	765.0	-13.2
Total Motor Vehicle	1,653	2,013	21.8	2,200.8	-8.5
Theft Shoplifting	3,080	3,557	15.5	3,729.2	-4.6
Common Theft	3,167	3,997	26.2	4,102.4	-2.6



OFFICIAL

Group 3 – Acquisitive Crime – Solvency					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Group 3	21.6	19.8	-1.8	25.3	-5.5
Housebreaking Dwelling	28.1	22.1	-6.0	28.2	-6.0
Housebreaking Non-Dwelling	7.6	3.5	-4.1	8.9	-5.4
Housebreaking other	39.4	38.0	-1.4	36.3	1.7
Total Housebreaking	24.5	19.7	-4.9	24.0	-4.3
OLP Motor Vehicle	18.5	8.8	-9.7	9.1	-0.3
Theft of Motor Vehicle	26.7	19.9	-6.8	29.3	-9.4
Theft from Motor Vehicle	9.7	9.3	-0.4	8.5	0.8
Total Motor Vehicle	17.8	12.8	-5.1	15.0	-2.3
Theft Shoplifting	37.5	37.6	0.0	49.1	-11.6
Common Theft	15.1	13.1	-2.0	15.2	-2.2



OFFICIAL

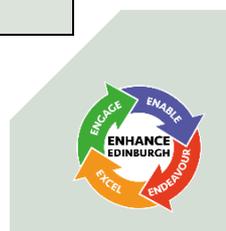
Group 4 – Fire-raising, Vandalism etc. - Recorded					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Group 4	4,744	4,461	-6.0	5,152.8	-13.4
Fire-raising	225	263	16.9	232.0	13.4
Vandalism	3,974	3,635	-8.5	4,468.0	-18.6
Culpable & Reckless	526	549	4.4	436.6	25.7

Group 4 – Fire-raising, Vandalism etc. – Solvency					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Group 4	21.6	19.9	-1.7	20.0	-0.1
Fire-raising	28.0	25.1	-2.9	22.6	2.5
Vandalism	19.8	18.8	-1.0	18.2	0.6
Culpable & Reckless	33.1	25.0	-8.1	37.1	-12.1



Group 5 – Other Crimes – Recorded					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Group 5	4,580	4,941	7.9	4,954.4	-0.3
Carry offensive weapon	126	130	3.2	127.6	1.9
Handling bladed/pointed weapon	251	296	17.9	235.8	25.5
Bladed/pointed used in other criminality	178	179	0.6	152.2	17.6
Total offensive weapon	761	877	15.2	710.8	23.4
Supply of drugs	299	388	29.8	397.4	-2.4
Possession of drugs	1,467	1,869	27.4	1,932.2	-3.3

Group 5 – Other Crimes – Solvency					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Group 5	97.4	92.5	-4.9	95.4	-2.9
Carry offensive weapon	80.2	81.5	1.4	89.8	-8.3
Handling bladed/pointed weapon	89.2	88.5	-0.7	91.6	-3.1
Bladed/pointed used in other criminality	75.8	68.2	-7.7	74.2	-6.1
Total offensive weapon	80.3	77.1	-3.2	83.6	-6.5
Supply of drugs	89.3	79.4	-9.9	92.1	-12.7
Possession of drugs	104.4	100.5	-3.8	96.9	3.6



OFFICIAL

Group 6 Recorded Crime					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Grp 6	11,745	10,812	-7.9	12,401.6	-12.8
Common assault	5,548	5,192	-6.4	5,558.6	-6.6
Common assault - emergency workers	638	618	-3.1	600.0	3.0
Total Common assault	6,186	5,810	-6.1	6,158.6	-5.7

Group 6 Solvency Rates					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Grp 6	63.3	62.4	-0.9	64.9	-2.5
Common assault	53.9	54.6	0.7	53.8	0.8
Common assault - emergency workers	98.3	96.8	-1.5	98.2	-1.5
Total Common assault	58.5	59.1	0.6	58.1	1.0



OFFICIAL

Group 7 – Offences Related to motor Vehicles					
	21/22	22/23	% change from 21/22	5 year mean	% change from 5 year mean
Total Group 7	9,248	9,082	-1.8	9,085.2	0.0
Dangerous Driving	304	284	-6.6	254.8	11.5
Drink / Drug Driving	473	499	5.5	418.6	19.2
Speeding Offences	559	398	-28.8	598.0	-33.4
Driving whilst Disqualified	128	110	-14.1	146.6	-25.0
Driving without a Licence	645	629	-2.5	545.4	15.3
Insurance Offences	1,492	1,606	7.6	1,483.8	8.2
Seat Belt Offences	186	178	-4.3	215.0	-17.2
Mobile Phone Offences	163	354	117.2	290.8	21.7
Driving Carelessly	956	733	-23.3	730.4	0.4
Using a MV without MOT	1,337	1,041	-22.1	1,240.4	-16.1



Police Scotland's Quarter 4 Performance Report for the Scottish Police Authority can be found [here](#).

Police Scotland quarterly performance statistics by council and policing division are available [here](#). If reviewing Divisional figures, Edinburgh's performance data can be found on the 'Data Div6' tabs. If reviewing Council figures, Edinburgh's performance data can be found on the 'Data CA (12)' tabs.

Recorded and detected crime data at MMW level, Road Traffic Collision (RTC) data (casualties and circumstances), and Stop/Search data can be found at the links below:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/road-traffic-collision-data/>

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/>

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/stop-and-search/data-publication/>

The data found via these links is the raw data covering RTCs, Crime and Stop/Search across Scotland. This raw data does not provide easily read statistics, but can be filtered accordingly in order to provide said information.

Should you desire any information that is not detailed on our website, you may submit an access to information request by following the instructions provided [here](#)

