

Performance Against Local Policing Plan 2023-2026



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar Community Safety Board
Wednesday 11 June 2025

Reporting Period - 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025



Report by Chief Inspector Ross McCartney –
Area Commander (Western Isles Area Command)



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Introduction by the Area Commander

Chief Inspector Ross McCartney

I present to you the Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar Community Safety Board Scrutiny Report, covering the reporting period 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. I hope the style of the report is continuing to provide you with the required breakdown of crime statistics for the Western Isles Area Command.

The interpretation of statistics continues to be a key part of what we do, identifying potential crime trends and ensuring I have the right officers in the right place to keep our communities safe. We do compare data on previous years, however it may be some years before we can accurately compare year on year data as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am always happy to discuss the data and provide some context around the statistics provided within the report.

We continue to see the impact of cost of living challenges on our communities, including those who have not felt such hardship before. My team are continuing to work with partners to protect the vulnerable people within our communities.

We continue to have a presence on the Western Isles roads, enforcing road traffic legislation, improving road safety and investigating road traffic collisions.

We are committed to Keeping People Safe. Our priority is protection of those at risk of harm through prevention, early intervention and robust investigation of those who pose such a risk. Tackling the misuse of controlled substances throughout the Western Isles Area Command forms part of this work. My officers will continue to proactively identify and target those offenders using and distributing these substances.

We are committed to working with our Partners in the public, private and third sectors to ensure our approach to Public Protection is focused, meaningful and collaborative. This commitment allows us to continually improve the service and support provided to victims and their families, whilst working towards protecting those at risk of harm.

This reporting period has seen the continued work of the externally funded campus officer, strengthening the partnership approach to getting it right for every child and our commitment to engagement and education with young persons.

We have also seen the inception of the OHADP funded drugs dog PD Viv and handler who are an excellent addition and compliment to the ongoing work of the OHADP and our own work in relation to drugs.

I am pleased to report that in continuation from the previous reporting period we have seen reductions in crimes of violence and anti-social behaviour over this period. We continue to work closely with partners in these areas.

Sexual Crime has decreased over the 5 yr average however increased by 25% against LYTD. We continue to support victims to report offences and work to bring offenders to justice.

We have seen small increases in housebreaking, fraud and theft by shoplifting offences and continue to undertake work in all of these spaces to deter and detect.

You will note a reduction in stop searches carried out however an increase in positive searches.

Our work tackling serious and organised crime continues, we continue to disrupt these individuals and working effectively with partners is key. We use these relationships to identify individuals that are vulnerable to exploitation, ensuring early and effective interventions are progressed and making the Western Isles inhospitable to serious and organised crime groups.

I place a large emphasis on community engagement and since taking up the role in March 2025, have already commenced work to strengthen community links.

Local Policing Priorities

The Local Policing Priorities for the N Division area are decided by data from our Strategic Assessment which details Threats and Risks, and also feedback from Local Authorities, Partners and residents in the Your Police survey.



ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Collaborate to reduce casualties and crime on our roads



ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, VIOLENCE AND DISORDER

Engage with the public and communities to reduce and prevent crime



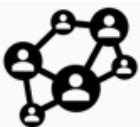
ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Reduce crime through preventing offending and reducing re-offending



PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Support people considered vulnerable through working with partners



SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

Reduce the harm caused by serious organised crime including cyber related crime



TERRORISM AND PUBLIC ORDER

Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare through collaborative preparedness

Western Isles: At a glance

Road Safety and Road Crime

Overall, Road Crime offences have increased by 10.0% (43.6 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and decreased by 9.5% (50 fewer offences) against the Last Year To Date (LYTD).

Offences in relation to Unlawful use of motor vehicles have decreased by 7.8% (12.4 fewer offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 5.8% (8 more offences) against the LYTD.

Mobile Telephone offences have decreased by 66.7% (8 fewer offences) against the 5 Year Average and decreased by 50.0% (4 fewer offences) against the LYTD.

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

Offences in relation to Breach of the Peace have decreased by 75.4% (9.2 fewer crimes) against the 5 Year Average and has decreased by 40.0% (2 fewer crimes) against the LYTD.

Offences in relation to Assault have decreased by 18.1% (22.8 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and decreased by 5.5% (6 fewer crimes) against the LYTD.

Acquisitive Crime

Offences in relation to Housebreaking (Dwelling House) have increased by 100.0% (2 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 33.3% (1 more crimes) more offences against the LYTD.

Fraud offences have increased by 9.7% (3 more crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 30.8% (8 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Overall, Sexual Crime has decreased by 0.8% (0.4 fewer crimes) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 25.0% (10 more crimes) against the LYTD.

Serious and Organised Crime

Offences in relation to Production, Manufacture or Cultivation of drugs have increased by 66.7% (0.8 more offences) against the 5 Year Average and increased by 2 more crimes against the LYTD.

Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism

Police Constable Lisa Campbell, N Division's Local Counter Terrorism Officer stated:

'Ongoing work with MP and MSPs in the Highland and Islands area. Operation Ford has been launched which is the Operation name relating to the safety and security of elected members. CTLO continues to act as a link between local Policing and National and Specialist CT units to ensure partners are kept updated on CT matters, including Martyn's Law. Regular work is ongoing with the Prevent Delivery Unit to manage individuals across the N Division area.'

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Exercise Shopboard was recently run in Mainland Highland. This is a multi-agency exercise based on a product created by CT Policing and the Home Office, it focussed on the response to and recovery from a CT incident. We are looking to run this in Western Isles, date TBC.'

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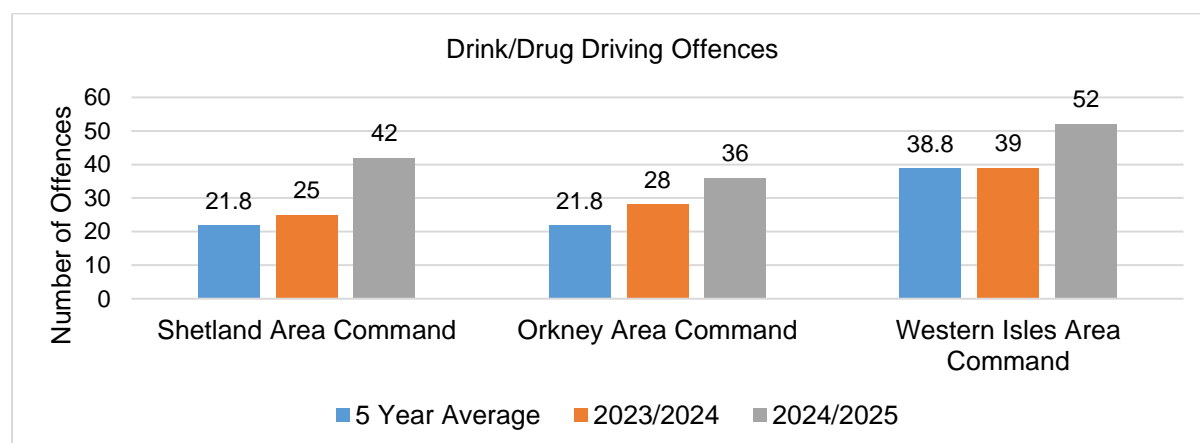
Road Safety and Road Crime

Intention - With Partners, enhance Road Safety across the Western Isles.

Objective – With Partners, deliver a Road Safety Strategy focusing on: Challenging driver behaviour; Education at the road side and elsewhere; Detection of offences linked to contributing factors of Fatal and Serious Road Traffic Collisions and collectively reducing potential harm.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Number of Fatalities - Road Traffic Collisions	1.0	0.7	1	1	-	
Drink/Drug Driving Offences	38.8	40.7	39	52	13	101.9%
Speeding Offences	93.0	95.7	145	120	-20	100.0%

2023/2024 Drink/Drug Driving Offences -



Operation CEDAR - (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce) builds on established practices and will continue to focus on various agencies working in partnership to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured in the Western Isles.

Operation CEDAR involves proactive multi-agency enforcement operations on the roads, which sits alongside education activity aimed at improving driver behaviour of all ages. Partner agencies continue to work together to improve understanding of the factors which could contribute to improving road safety for everyone on the roads and together respond to these issues.

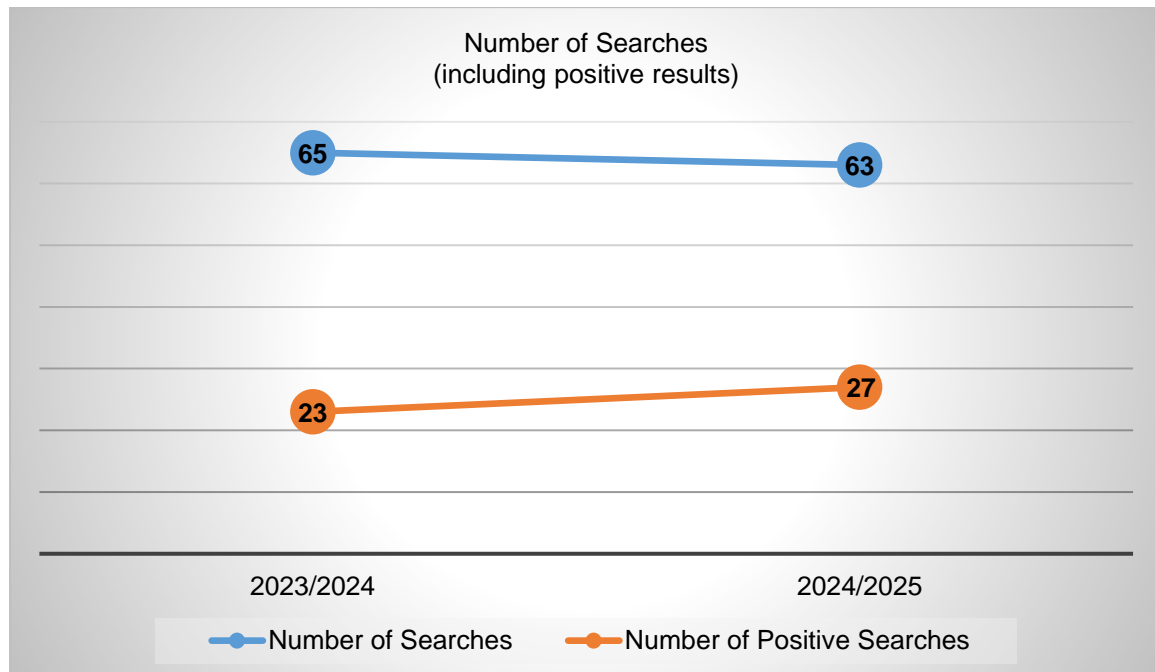
Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence (including Alcohol and Drug misuse)

Intention – With Partners, better understand the causes to prevent and reduce instances of Anti-Social Behaviour, Disorder and Violence to enhance community safety across the Western Isles.

Objective – Work with Partners to share information, support Education, Prevention, Diversionary and Enforcement Measures linked to harmful alcohol consumption; maintain robust procedures around licensed premises; support victims of violent crime by working with partners to improve service provision and prevent repeat victimisation.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Murder	-	-	0	0	0	-
Assault	125.8	135.0	109	103	-6	77.7%
Serious Assault	6.0	6.7	109	103	-6	63.6%
Drug (Possession) Offences	91.2	88.7	71	68	-3	97.1%

Stop and Search -



Positive Stop Search - A positive stop and search is when an item is recovered where possession of same implies criminality on the part of the individual being searched or any other; or potentially compromises the safety of that individual or another.

No Knives, Better Lives - No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL) is a national capacity-building programme that supports primary prevention work related to knife carrying in Scotland. In 2009, the NKBL National Delivery Team at YouthLink Scotland and the Scottish Government began supporting partners in 11 selected Local Authority areas to implement NKBL. The approach to prevention is informed by the principles and values of youth work and a public health approach to violence prevention. The focus is not just on what it is we do not want young people to do and how to stop them doing it, but also what we want young people to be able to do, how we support them to understand and navigate risk and to make positive life choices.

Acquisitive Crime

Intention – With Partners and Communities, prevent instances of acquisitive crime across the Western Isles.

Objective – With Partners, share information, support education, prevention, diversionary and enforcement activity linked to acquisitive crime; develop work with targets – recidivist offenders to reduce reoffending linked to acquisitive crime e.g. Persistent Offenders programme; enhance the use of all media platforms to raise awareness of local and national preventative initiatives.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Housebreaking (Dwelling House)	2.0	1.3	3	4	1	25.0%
Fraud	31.0	31.7	26	34	8	12.5%
Theft by Shoplifting	27.6	35.0	45	47	2	95.7%
Theft of a motor vehicle	8.8	9.0	12	8	-4	100.0%

Fraud –

Banking Protocol

Following a number of incidents across the N Division area in respect of Frauds and Banking Protocol, work continues with various Banks within N Division to setup learning sessions between staff members to talk through Banking Protocol. This has allowed for a better understanding of the Police response, management of vulnerabilities and referrals/support available to victims.

This has and will continue to allow Bank staff to be aware as to the point in they feel that they can/should intervene.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Intention – Protect people at risk of harm.

Objective – With Partners we will focus on safeguarding communities; with Partners we will address emerging issues through Prevention and Intervention.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Sexual Crime	50.4	51.7	40	50	10	48.0%
Domestic Crime*				75		80.0%
Hate Crime**				7		85.7%
Missing Persons***		28.7	26	14	-12	

*Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/ counting rules, comparison of recorded domestic crimes from 1st April 2024 with recorded domestic crimes prior to 1st April 2024 would not be advised.

** Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/ counting rules, comparison of recorded hate crimes from 1st April 2024 with recorded hate crimes prior to 1st April 2024 would not be advised.

*** Figures for Western Isles Area Command - Due to system configurations these figures are not available at multi-member ward level. Due to the implementation of the National Missing Persons Application in 2019, the 5 Year Average is not available.

Hate Crime –

Hate Crime incidents are reviewed on a daily basis by officers within N Division's Partnerships Department with the victim being contacted and provided with contact details for Partner Agencies such as Victim Support Scotland. Every victim of a Hate Crime continue to be sent a Satisfaction Survey as to how they felt they were supported by N Division.

Missing Persons –

Police Scotland takes every report of a missing person seriously and investigates appropriately with access to local, regional and national specialist resources. Missing persons investigations are a core part of local Policing and it is local officers who undertake all investigations, supported by specialist colleagues where necessary. Further, each Division including, N Division has a dedicated Missing Person Co-ordinator who advises on operational and preventative approaches.

Missing Person Category	2023/2024	2024/2025	Variation
Adult	11	9	-2
Cared for Adult	6	0	-6
Care Experienced Young People	4	3	-1
Child	5	2	-3
Absconder/Wanted	0	0	0
Total	26	14	-12

Each Area Command has appointed a local Police liaison officer who maintains contact and liaison with the residential units in their respective area. This role has developed and regular contact has built a good relationship with residential unit(s). Where required, this officer also works in conjunction with the Missing Person Co-ordinator who similarly enjoys a good working relationship with residential units.

Serious and Organised Crime

Intention – With Partners, reduce the threat, risk and harm caused by Serious Organised Crime.

Objective – With Partners work to safeguard the Western Isles by taking all opportunities to prevent crime and make the Western Isles a hostile environment for Serious & Organised Crime Groups; to improve outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce offending through prevention, early intervention and diversion; in support of our Partners in the Local Authority and NHS via the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy we will direct those who are substance dependant towards recovery through prevention, treatment and support services; with Partners work to reduce the instances of substance misuse in our communities.

	5 Year Average	3 Year Average	YTD 2023/2024	YTD 2024/2025	YTD Variation	Detection Rate
Drug (Supply) Offences	3.0	3.0	3	5	2	80.0%
Drug (Possession) Offences	91.2	88.7	71	68	-3	97.1%

Counter Terrorism

Intention – Support the delivery of the CONTEST strategy to reduce the threat posed by terrorism and domestic extremism.

Objective – Strengthen PREVENT work with Partners and institutions; with Partners, support individuals who are vulnerable to terrorism and violent extremism; strengthen PREVENT work in relation to the internet and Social Media; Effective Multi-agency planning in respect of Counter Terrorism is taking place; Develop our ability to response effectively to any terrorist attack (with a specific focus on emerging high-risk threats, and specialist capabilities).

WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) - The workshop covers issues such as crime, normal social processes that are used to influence and manipulate, case studies that cut across the spectrum of extremism, terrorist ideologies and factors which may contribute to an individual's susceptibility to a terrorist ideology.

In particular, it seeks to support them to recognise that using their existing expertise and professional judgement, they may be able to recognise potentially vulnerable individuals who may be susceptible to being persuaded by an extremist or terrorist ideology. Workshops delivered to partners across the Western Isles.

ACT Now delivered to schools across the Western Isles.

Statistics

Crime Bulletin Categories	Western Isles Area Command					
	2019 /20	2020 /21	2021 /22	2022 /23	2023 /24	2024 /25
TOTAL CRIME & OFFENCES	1179	1252	1202	1297	1235	1196
Group 1 - Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	159	183	195	242	167	152
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Culpable homicide (common law)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Culpable homicide (other)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Attempted murder	0	1	0	0	0	1
Serious Assault (incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	7	3	3	12	5	11
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	26	60	42	54	33	20
Common Assault	120	104	134	162	109	103
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	1	2	1	1	4	2
Stalking	1	2	2	1	0	3
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	0	3	2	0	1	0
Threats and extortion	1	5	4	5	6	7
Other group 1 crimes	0	1	1	0	4	1
Group 2 - Sexual Offences	37	60	60	55	40	50
Rape	5	4	8	15	7	15
Attempted rape	1	1	2			
Sexual assault	12	19	19	16	16	18
Crimes associated with Prostitution						
Indecent photos of children	4	9	7	6	2	3
Communicating indecently	2	14	3	5	4	4
Causing to view sexual activity or images	7	9	10	4	7	4
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image*		1		2	3	5
Other Group 2 crimes	6	3	11	7	1	1
Group 3 - Crimes of Dishonesty	94	123	95	148	139	134
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	3	3	1	0	3	4
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	3	1	2	0	0	2
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	4	3	0	4	3	1
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	0	1	0	0	0	0
Theft of a motor vehicle	8	9	9	6	12	8
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	2	3	2	1	2	0
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	0	1	0	1	0	0
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	3	2	2	2	4	3
Common theft	30	31	30	46	38	27
Theft by shoplifting	21	12	9	51	45	47

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Fraud	17	43	38	31	26	34
Other Group 3 crimes	3	14	2	6	6	8
Group 4 - Damage and Reckless Behaviour	96	121	89	109	105	101
Fireraising	1	6	4	7	6	4
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	92	105	83	99	91	95
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	0	1	0	0	1	0
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	2	3	2	3	6	2
Other Group 4 crimes	1	6	0	0	1	0
Group 5 - Crimes Against Society	157	206	171	233	141	135
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	1	0	0	0	1	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	2	6	5	7	2	5
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	0	6	3	10	1	3
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	1	3	2	0	0	2
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	3	3	4	2	3	5
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Possession of drugs	87	103	75	120	71	68
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	20	29	34	46	31	20
Other crimes against public justice	38	55	48	48	32	29
Other crimes against society	4	1	0	0	0	2
Group 6 - Anti-Social Offences	144	114	138	113	94	193
Breach of the Peace	34	9	7	6	5	3
Threatening or abusive behaviour	96	98	105	92	81	91
Hate aggravated conduct (incl. stirring up hatred)	0	1	5	1	1	1
Drunk and incapable	0	0	0	0	1	0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	6	1	4	2	0	0
Other alcohol related offences	5	3	8	6	2	4
Urinating	3	2	9	6	4	4
Group 7 - Miscellaneous Offences	23	34	44	43	21	43
Wildlife offences	1	1	3	1	4	5
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	3	4	6	10	2	6
Community and public order offences	9	18	29	25	14	22
Environmental offences	1	4	0	3	0	4

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Licensing offences	8	6	6	2	1	5
Other misc. offences	1	1	0	2	0	1
Group 8 - Road Traffic Offences	469	411	410	354	528	478
Dangerous driving offences	12	13	12	8	10	13
Driving Carelessly	40	38	36	52	61	40
Driving under the influence	44	28	48	35	39	52
Speeding offences	106	72	98	44	145	120
Seat belt offences	12	2	8	7	22	23
Mobile phone offences	23	15	5	9	8	4
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	161	194	148	155	139	147
Vehicle defect offences	17	12	15	4	11	17
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	26	2	4	1	29	9
Road Traffic Offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	1	0	0	2	0	0
Other Group 8 Offences	27	35	36	37	64	53

For additional detail, published crime data can also be accessed online via the following link:-
[Crime data - Police Scotland](#)