



NCA Performance Report: Scotland

Q3-Q4 (October-March) 2024/25

NCA Strategy – Impact on Scotland

Protecting the Public

Our approach as a national agency to protecting the public in Scotland from Serious Organised Crime (SOC), consistent with the Scottish Government's four D approach, is twofold:

1. To take action outside of Scotland – upstream (of senior criminals and their enablers), overseas (in Europe and wider), and online – to best protect the public from SOC before it impacts and harms Scottish communities. These capabilities – such as major investigations, the NCA International Liaison Officer network, our corporate relationship with Social Media companies and industry, or enhanced cyber capabilities – are system capabilities established to support wider UK law enforcement partners.
2. To work in partnership with the Police Service of Scotland (PSoS) and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (CoPFs) – taking action in Scotland to protect Scottish communities from SOC by deploying niche NCA capabilities to support the system response in Scotland, supporting the Scottish Government's organised crime strategy and work of the Organised Crime Task Force (SOCTF), chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs

NCA Scotland

- The NCA presence in Scotland consists of officers who are involved in Investigations, Intelligence, and enabling operational activity. The current NCA operating model within Scotland is based on the general premise that the NCA will lead its own investigations and provide support to Police Scotland when requested with the NCA's specialised capabilities.
- More specifically the NCA is collaborating with PSoS within the Organised Crime Partnership (Scotland) (OCP). The OCP is comprised of a number of NCA officers and PSoS officers who are co-located and jointly managed. It is founded on the doctrine that its collaborative activities are tasked, co-ordinated and focused to complement mutually agreed objectives relating to the investigation and disruption of SOC, enabled through the exploitation of high-quality confidential intelligence. NCA investigations in Scotland are agreed by Lord Advocate under Schedule 1 of the Crime & Courts Act 2013.

Working Together

- We work closely with PSoS to keep in lock step with the strategic prioritisation against the SOC threat in Scotland, providing support through NCA capabilities wherever possible to ensure a collaborative response.
- In line with the NCAs annual National Strategic Assessment, which provides a baseline of the threat, the NCA regularly engages with a wide range of stakeholders, ensuring there is an understanding of the SOC landscape in Scotland. Members of the Scottish Policing Authority (SPA) visited NCA HQ in early October, hearing about NCAs work and its impact in Scotland.

NCA Strategy 2023-2028

1. Degrading the most harmful organised crime groups by:

- going **upstream** to disrupt those at the top of the criminal chain, those who enable their activities, and those who launder the money they make
- taking action **overseas**, tackling the threat at source and en route to the UK
- increasingly focusing on **online** crime to combat a critical enabler of the organised crime business model, reflecting the fact that more crime takes place online or is enabled by technology

2. Leading the UK's operational response by:

- improving how the threat is understood and used to prioritise across the system
- strengthening multi-agency 4P (Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare) plans to reduce the harm from each threat
- improving performance measurement across the system
- bolstering the national services and capabilities provided by the Agency to system partners
- strengthening the system response to new and emerging threats

3. Transforming the Agency's capabilities by:

- unlocking the value of data to drive operational effect
- delivering a new approach to capability development
- improving the Agency's situational awareness
- strengthening the foundational capabilities as they relate to data technology and estates

4. Growing a highly skilled workforce by:

- better understanding the skills the Agency needs to transform workforce planning
- creating career pathways that improve officer experience
- becoming a more attractive employer through reformed pay and benefits
- improving the Agency's learning offer to meet future challenges
- establishing a more diverse workforce and inclusive culture
- embedding smarter working into the Agency's ethos

Measuring NCA Impact in Scotland through Disruptions

High Impact Disruptions

- As part of the NCA's five-year Strategy (2023-28), the NCA prioritises activity that will **degrade the most harmful organised crime groups**. To track progress against this Strategy, the NCA targets High Impact disruptions which are defined as meeting all of the following conditions:
 1. 'Pursue' disruptions which are typically related to criminal justice outcomes like arrests or to seizures;
 2. A lead disruption. This is where a disruption was led by the NCA, whether at a NCA branch or nationally, and the achieved impact is attributed to the NCA;
 3. Assessed as having a major or moderate impact. This is defined as a 'significant and/or long-term' (major) or 'noticeable and/or medium-term' (moderate) disruptive impact on the capability of the OCG, individual or vulnerability;
 4. Linked to a high priority investigation – graded as P1-2 on a prioritisation framework of four descending levels (1-4).
- These disruptions are, therefore, **a measure of impact** not a measure of activity or effort and are only recorded when **the NCA can clearly articulate the threat, the action taken, and the resulting impact**.

Direct and Indirect Impact

- The NCA Strategy recognises the critical role of the NCA as a system leader in tackling SOC through providing specialist capabilities, especially within devolved administrations. This ensures that we work collaboratively, supporting partners to tackle the most significant threats facing the public. One way in which the NCA tracks this is through support disruptions which is where the NCA has provided some form of resource or capability to assist another agency in achieving a lead disruption. Therefore, this report covers both NCA 'support' and 'lead' disruptions to show the breadth of NCA impact.
- In line with the NCA's mission to tackle SOC upstream, online, and overseas, the NCA operates across all regions of the UK and overseas. This means the impact on a given devolved administration is both **direct (activity which takes place within the region with an identifiable impact on the region)** and **indirect (activity which takes place outside of the region which has an identifiable impact on the region)**.
- Previous performance reports have not provided a breakdown of these distinctions, but in this report the NCA are **trialling additional analysis** which examines branch-specific activity alongside NCA support to the PSNI as proxies for direct impact. These should be seen as a new baseline rather than the complete picture of direct NCA impact.

NCA Impact in Scotland

This bi-annual NCA performance report documents key trends in operational performance across all threats, identifying the areas of activity with greatest impact on Scotland. The Agency's approach to measuring impact is outlined on slide 4, covering both disruptive activities with a direct or indirect impact on Scotland.

Key Highlights

- National Crime Agency (NCA) high impact disruptions with a direct or indirect impact on Scotland have increased by **1** from **19** to **20 (5%)** compared with the same period last financial year.
- Of all disruptions, **72 (35%)** were related to drugs, **37 (18%)** to illicit finance, **22 (11%)** to fraud, **21 (10%)** to child sexual abuse, and **19 (9%)** to cyber. This reflects significant increases in both drugs and illicit finance as a proportion of all disruptions: in 2023/24 drugs-related disruptions accounted for 23% of all disruptions and illicit finance accounted for only 5%.
- The NCA's Organised Crime Partnership in Scotland - which is a collaboration between NCA investigative teams and regional policing - have led or supported **53** disruptions in this period which is well above the previous three-year Q3-4 average of 26. Notably **48 (91%)** disruptions are drugs-related, whereas nationally drugs-related disruptions make up **46%** of all disruptions over this period.

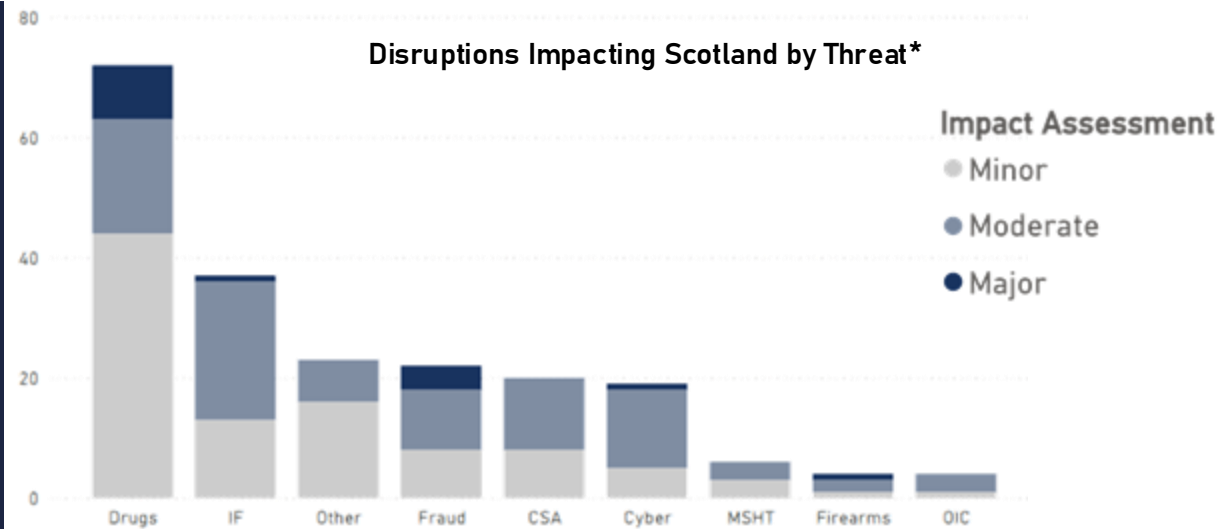
NCA Impact in Scotland: Q3-Q4 (October 2024 – March 2025)

- In the six-month period of October 2024 – March 2025 there were **208** NCA disruptions impacting on Scotland. This consisted of **148** lead and **60** support disruptions.
- There has been an increase of **59** disruptions when comparing Q3-4 of 2024/25 with the previous financial year (FY). This has been mainly driven by an increase (**34**) in disruptions of 'moderate' impact. This reflects a similar trend nationally whereby the NCA has continued to prioritise higher impact disruptive activity.

Fiscal Year	2023/24			2024/25			
Impact	Lead	Support	Total	Lead	Support	Total	Change
Major	15	3	18	14	2	16	-2
Moderate	47	11	58	66	26	92	+34
Minor	43	30	73	68	32	100	+27
Total	105	44	149	148	60	208	+59

Table of disruption counts either Lead or Supported by NCA described by impact and compared across Q3-Q4 in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years

- Drugs-related disruptions have continued to make up the largest proportion (**35%**) of all disruptions. During the same period last FY drugs-related disruptions represented **23%**. This also reflects a national trend whereby disruptions targeting drugs constitutes **46%** of total NCA disruptions for Q3-4 2024/25.
- High impact disruptions (defined on slide 4) are primarily drugs-related (11), with 4 linked to illicit finance, 2 to fraud, 1 to firearms, 1 to counterfeit currency, and 1 to child sexual abuse.
- Total disruptions relating to illicit finance increased by 29 rising from 8 to 37. This contrasts with the national trend where illicit finance disruptions have remained relatively stable. This is primarily due to improved reporting of disruptions alongside increased disruptions emanating from thematic projects that tackle professional enablers of SOC which have a UK-wide impact.



Stacked bar chart showing the number of disruptions attributed against each threat area described by impact in 2024/25 Q3-Q4

*NB: Only disruptions attributed to an identifiable threat area are included

NCA direct impact in Scotland: Q3-Q4 (October 2024 – March 2025)

NCA Scotland

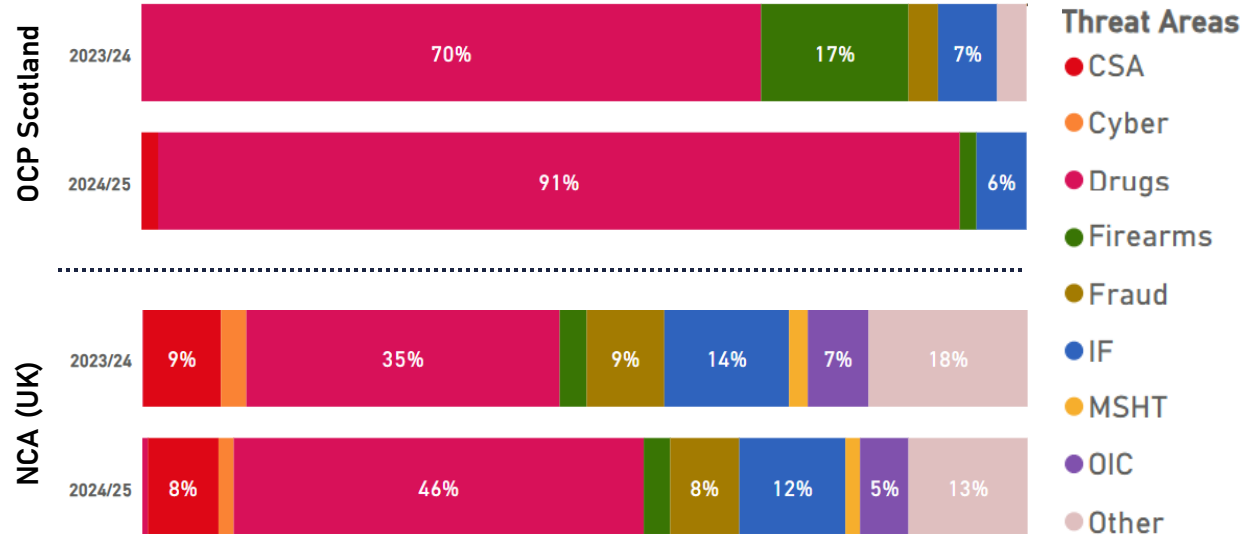
Within Scotland, the NCA has an **Organised Crime Partnership (OCP)** which is a collaboration between NCA investigative teams and regional policing. The below insights cover activity of this partnership which recorded an impact on Scotland. This is not all NCA activity with a direct impact but provides analysis on branch performance from within Scotland.

- OCP Scotland have led or supported **53** disruptions in this period which is well above the previous three-year Q3-4 average of 26, though notably **48 (91%)** are drugs-related. Nationally drugs-related disruptions make up **46%** of all disruptions over this period.
- OCP Scotland have been responsible for **10** high impact disruptions with an impact on Scotland which is the same as the same period of the previous year. **7** of these were drugs-related, 1 firearms, and 2 illicit finance.
- During this period, 22 new investigations were opened by OCP Scotland all for drugs as a result of border referrals (please see slide 8 for more context on this trend). There were also **17** investigations closed, with the major updates noted in the following operational update slides.

NCA Support to Police Scotland

- The NCA nationally has provided support to Police Scotland in **37** disruptions, of which 4 were by OCP Scotland. This is an increase of **10** for the support disruptions by the NCA nationally supporting Police Scotland when compared to the same period last FY.
- Of the **37** supported disruptions nationally by the NCA to Police Scotland, **20** were from the NCA's National Extradition Unit aiding the extradition of suspected criminals from overseas. These disruptions included **Police Scotland** successfully extraditing to Scotland 9 wanted fugitives for serious and organised crime offences including human trafficking, child sexual abuse, drugs offences, sexual offences, and kidnapping. For more context on individual cases, see the operational update on International on slide 12.

OCP Scotland vs National disruption threat area proportion Q3-4 2024/25



Stacked bar chart showing the proportion of disruptions attributed against each threat area, presenting the NCA's OCP Scotland against the NCA as-a-whole, in Q3-4 in 2023/24 and 2024/25

OCP Scotland Spotlight: Drugs disruptions and border referrals compared against the NCA nationally

Strategy

Disrupting and dismantling the organised crime groups and networks that traffic and supply illicit commodities (including drugs and firearms) is one of the NCA's strategic priorities. This slide provides a breakdown of disruptions which have targeted the drugs threat and the relationship with border referrals. Border Force make referrals to the NCA for investigation and the NCA may adopt referrals or pass referrals to another law enforcement agency where more appropriate.

Threat response changes

Drugs constitute the majority (91%) of disruptions performed by OCP Scotland - a growing trend since 2022/23. This trend is largely driven by an increase in "border referrals" which are predominantly drugs-related. When comparing this trend with the NCA's national trend, there are two key differences:

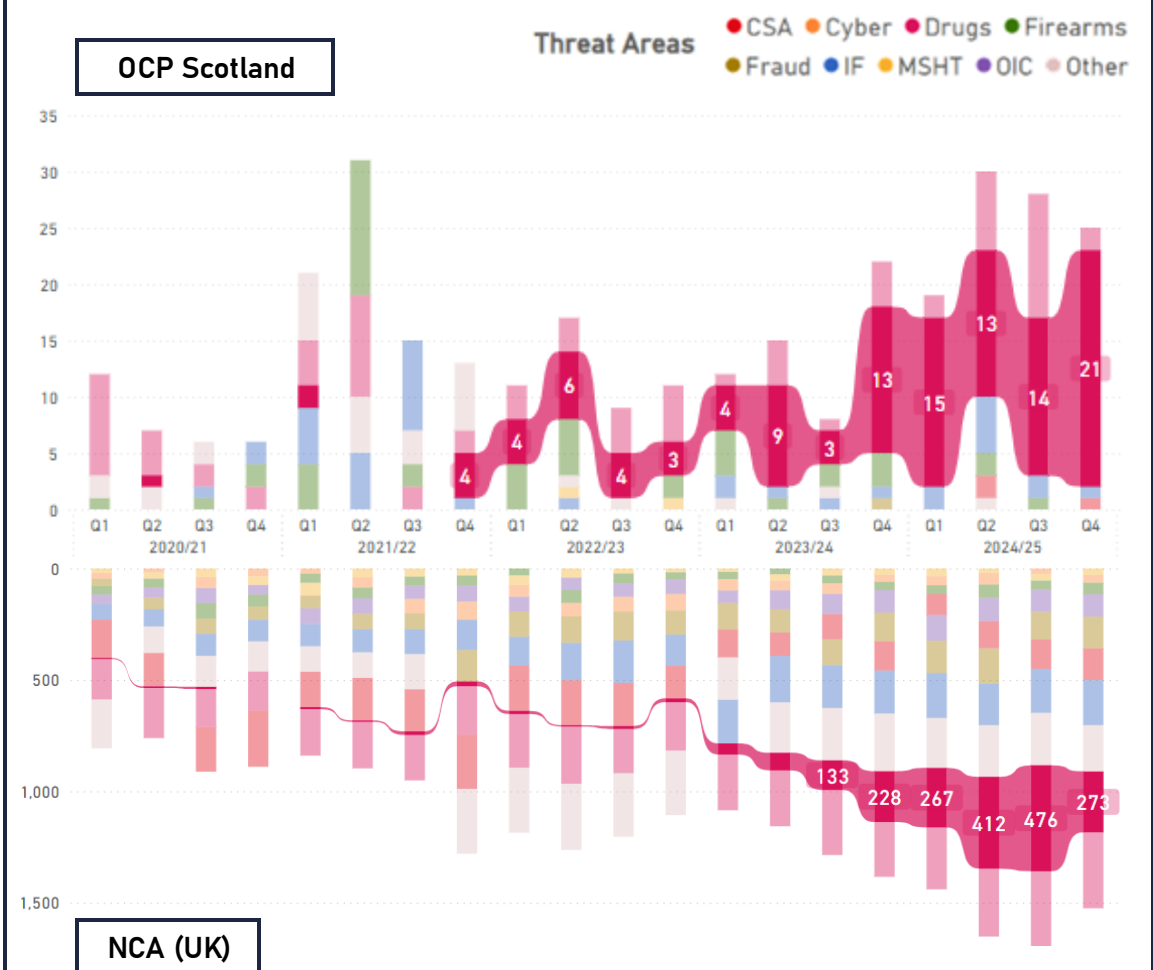
1. It began **developing earlier** as drugs-related border referrals have represented a significant proportion (>15%) of OCP Scotland's disruption count **since Q4 2021** in comparison to two years later for the wider NCA.
2. It forms a **larger proportion** OCP Scotland's total disruptions as drugs-related border referrals now (Q3-Q4 2024/25) constitute **64% (34 of 53)** of all OCP Scotland disruptions and 100% of all border referrals. Of these, the vast majority (30) were attributed to cannabis.

Ports of Origin in 2024/25

- In Q3-Q4 2024/25, of the **34** total border referrals affecting Scotland, **32** cases arrived directly to Scottish ports.
- The majority, **20** (62.5%), of all arrivals within border referrals to Scotland originated in Thailand. To address this, a multi-agency intensification at Bangkok Airport Thailand, developed by Home Office International Operations (HOIO) and Thai Customs, with operational deployment of NCA and BF officers took place 16th February to 16th March 2025.
- This represents a significant growth in the number of detections and referrals; the 3-year-previous average for Q3-Q4 was just 11.

Ports of origin	# of Border Referrals (arriving to Scotland)
Thailand	20
Europe	4
Gulf Coast	4
US & Canada	2
Other	2
Total	32

Threat Disruptions and Drugs-related Border Referrals comparison



Ribbon chart showing the number of disruptions attributed against each threat area, presenting the NCA's OCP Scotland against the NCA as-a-whole, since FY 2020/21. Highlighted in the ribbon are border referral disruptions against the Drugs threat.

NCA Operational Updates: Cases of Note (October 2024 – March 2025)

Drugs

- In March 2025, a drug smuggler was sentenced to **10 years imprisonment** having pleaded guilty to the importation and being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs. This followed an OCP Scotland investigation (joint between NCA and Police Scotland) into a suspect who attempted to smuggle almost **£6m worth of cocaine** into Scotland from Mexico.
- In October 2024, as part of a NCA investigation into the production of **millions of illegal pills** to be distributed in Scotland, 3 subjects were sentenced at court receiving sentences of 7 years, 6 years, and 6 years respectively.
- In October 2024, as part of a NCA investigation into the importation of Class A Drugs into Scotland from Brazil, the main suspect was sentenced at Glasgow High Court to 20 years imprisonment subsequently reduced to 16 years on appeal. Also sentenced were 2 other suspects who received 6-year sentences each.

Firearms

- The NCA continues to target the threat of diversion from the lawful to the unlawful supply of firearms and firearms components in the UK (under Project BROMHYDRIC). **Six referrals were made to Police Scotland** relating to firearm parts/materials that are not illegal themselves but are indicative of possession of, or interest in, firearms that the named individual did not have authority to hold.

Illicit Finance

- The NCA's National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) provided Police Scotland with funding to facilitate their participation a four-week fraud intensification campaign. Police Scotland activity resulted in **eight arrests**. Police Scotland received further funding from the NECC to facilitate their participation in a money mule intensification campaign. Police Scotland **achieved 11 arrests**, a cash seizure of sterling and foreign currency to the value of **£150,000**, and one **account freezing order totalling £311,000**.
- In November 2024, as part of a NCA money laundering investigation in Scotland a subject was served with a confiscation order totalling **£98,170** and was ordered to pay a further **£37,000**.

MSHT

- A subject of interest was identified and disseminated to Police Scotland for safeguarding checks and further research following analysis and subject development conducted by the intelligence capability of the Tackling Organised Exploitation (TOEX) programme. This was achieved after Police Scotland, along with other UK forces, provided data in support of an analytical exercise as part of the NCA-coordinated Op AIDANT 38. This covered activity relating to the sexual exploitation of victims from Eastern Europe. The exercise was designed to identify high level targets and professional enablers that touched on multiple parts of the UK for further investigation.

Child Sexual Abuse

- A NCA social media campaign to raise awareness of Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion (FMSE) ran for a month in March 2025 aimed at 15-17 year-old males. All nations disseminated the campaign via their own channels. Work has been conducted with **Police Scotland** to develop a tailored version and ensure dissemination through relevant channels. In the UK and internationally there has been significant increases in the reporting of FMSE, often referred to as 'sextortion', over the last few years.

Border Referrals

- During this period (October 2024 and March 2025) there were 30 arrests and 6 convictions as a result of NCA investigations into border referrals. This is an increase of 8 arrests and 4 convictions relating to border referrals when compared to the same period last financial year.
- Total border referral seizures for this period amounted to 174.3kg of drugs (all cannabis) which is a decrease of 7.2% since the same period last financial year.

NCA wider support to Scotland: October 2024 – March 2025

Drugs

- As noted in the NCA's National Strategic Assessment 2025, OCGs continue to innovate and evolve their smuggling methodologies to evade detection, diversifying methods such as through at-sea drop offs. As a result, the NCA is working with law enforcement partners, including Police Scotland to tackle these increasingly popular methodologies in order to prevent drugs reaching the streets of Scotland.
- There remains a significant threat from synthetic opioids across the UK. Between the beginning of June 2023 to the end of March 2025, there were at least 494 nitazene-related deaths in the UK with 119 of these in Scotland. This reflects how the global synthetic drugs market is rapidly evolving and is a growing concern in the UK. The NCA coordinates the UK-wide operational response to the threat from nitazenes, fentanyl, carfentanyl, and xylazine, and has had good engagement from Senior Investigating Officers (SIOs) from Police Scotland. The NCA has developed guidance to keep officers and the public safe from these highly potent drugs and worked closely with Police Scotland and other law enforcement partners to focus enforcement on stemming the supply of these drugs through the exchange of intelligence and best practice. As a result of joint working, an exponential rise in synthetic opioid-related deaths, as has been seen in some other countries globally, has so far been prevented.
- Results from the 2023/24 wastewater testing programme were recently published by the Home Office showing an increase in cocaine consumption and a significant increase in ketamine consumption in England. It is likely that Scotland is experiencing broadly similar trends.
- The NCA contributed to the seizure of a total of 140 tonnes of drugs internationally in Q3/Q4 2024/25 which compares to a 3-year average (Q3/Q4) of 212 tonnes.

Borders

- The NCA has been working with several partners, including Police Scotland, to identify opportunities to mitigate exploitation of the Common Travel Area (CTA). This strategic response is being coordinated through the National Borders Strategic Governance Group. CTA abuse continues as seen in the recent the detection of 14 migrants in December 2024 at Loch Ryan, who arrived in a livestock trailer from Belfast Seaport.
- There have been 27 border referrals relating to detections at the Scottish ports/airports, 22 of which met the criteria for adoption by the NCA (5 referrals being rejected). Of these 22 referrals, 19 related to class B seizures with 18 in the air passenger mode and 1 in the Air Freight mode; 2 referrals related to class A seizures in the air passenger mode and 1 referral related to a stun device in the Fast Parcel mode.
- There were also 7 referrals made at other UK ports/airports with links to Scotland, 3 of which meeting the criteria for adoption by the NCA (4 being rejected). Of the adopted referrals, all 3 related to various class A seizures with 2 in the fast parcel mode and 1 related to the General Maritime mode.

NCA wider support to Scotland: October 2024 – March 2025

Illicit Finance

- The NCA's Operation DESTABLISE disrupted two Russian-speaking global money laundering networks, who laundered billions annually and posed a substantial threat to the UK and international partners. The networks took cash from drugs gangs and other OCGs, as well as crypto-currency from ransomware groups, providing it to Russian sanctioned entities and other threat actors in return. Through doing this, they provided a service that was truly local to global. The networks operated in over 30 jurisdictions, providing services to transnational crime groups.

Firearms

- The 2025 NCA National Strategic Assessment (NSA) assessed that there is a 'realistic possibility' (40-50% likelihood) that 3D-printed firearms will become more popular as technology improves. The NCA (as part of Project INTERKNOW) accordingly issued an alert to Higher Education institutions across England, Wales and Scotland providing an overview of the threat of 3D-printed firearms and the misuse of 3D printing technology, circulated to 426 accountable officers within universities. This was done via the Department for Education who were to then distribute the alert to Scottish universities via the Scottish Government Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Skills.
- With converted blank-firing copies of well-known firearms now being used more than original lethal purpose firearms, an amnesty in England and Wales was issued relating to four Turkish brands in February 2025. Under the NCA's Project SERGEANCY (targeting readily convertible top-venting blank firing weapons) a representative from Scotland Police Authority Forensic Services has been actively involved and engaged with multiple workshops and meetings relating to the forensic testing and classification of Turkish manufactured top-venting blank firearms that have been prohibited in England and Wales under existing firearms legislation. The Scottish Crown Office has been involved in workshops and engagement regarding the potential prohibition and considerations of running a concurrent amnesty. Whilst there are no plans for an amnesty in Scotland at this time, we have been engaged through the Firearms Strategic Governance Group to ensure that the results of further testing, application of existing legislation, and court results, are understood so that the position can be monitored.
- The NCA has advised Border Force on four separate occasions in relation to imported firearms for individuals based in Scotland. In relation to these checks, the NCA continues to engage with Police Scotland firearms licensing to gain access to SHOGUN (licensing database). This will increase efficiency of officers when carrying out checks against import data and mitigate the requirement of Police Scotland resource.
- The 'Know your Certificates' poster (under Project RUTIC) was shared with Police Scotland firearms licensing contacts with a view to distributing to licence holders to raise awareness, and highlight fraudulent firearms documents when engaging in the private transfer of firearms.

NCA wider support to Scotland: October 2024 – March 2025

- PSoS are key and active members of CSA Governance Mechanisms providing regular submission of management information to the Online CSA Pursue Board as well as regular attendance at this board and the Strategic Governance Group (SGG). The data provided supports insights and understanding into the scale and prevalence of CSA across Scotland and in comparison to the UK. PSoS are also engaged with the NCA chaired working group to develop an agreed prioritisation mechanism and the Online CSA Intelligence & Investigations Group (OCSAIG) – to ensure serious and complex CSA investigations can access the appropriate level of support.
- The NCA's CSE Referrals Bureau (CSERB) is the central point within the NCA for receipt of referrals from industry of information relating to online child sexual abuse with a UK nexus, predominantly received via the US National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The detection of CSA through industry reports has doubled roughly every 5 years. This trend is likely to continue. In 2025, the NCA expects to send an average of 800 total referrals per week to police forces across the UK.
- The NCA continues to investigate high value targets involved as moderators and administrators of platforms that share child sexual abuse material (CSAM). There has been continued engagement with Police Scotland on these operations – particularly as the provision of data from one of Police Scotland's reactive investigations to support an NCA proactive investigation. This collaboration continues to support the operational objectives of high priority investigations. The engagement with PSoS across the CSA governance forums, has fostered significant operational collaboration. An example of this is through the NCA's work targeting high value subjects involved as moderators and administrators of platforms that share child sexual abuse material. There has been continued engagement with Police Scotland on these operations – particularly as the provision of data from one of Police Scotland's reactive investigations continues to support these proactive investigations.
- The NCA continues to coordinate and drive the national response to Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion (FMSE), Livestreaming and 'Com' groups ('Com networks'). 'Com' networks have been identified grooming, blackmailing, and threatening victims into carrying out extreme acts, including sharing sexual material and self-harming. Vulnerable young victims are targeted and groomed online, and controlled through fear and manipulation to extort imagery and cause harm. These networks typically attract young males promoting nihilistic and misogynistic views, who attempt to gain status with other users by committing or encouraging harmful acts across a broad spectrum of offending. 'Com' groups continue to attract significant interest from government, media and the general public, and is an area under increasing scrutiny. The NCA issued an alert for law enforcement in March 2025, ahead of the release of the NSA, to inform and raise awareness of the emerging threat in addition to signposting to further guidance and operational advice. This alert was issued to all Chief Constables, including Police Scotland. Police Scotland are key members of the working group looking at the strategic and operational response to this threat, helping to inform the national picture. As a result, a meeting between Police Scotland and NCA has been scheduled, covering the cyber, terrorism and CSA aspects of the Com to collaboratively focus on specific operational cases. Police Scotland are regularly involved and updated on this work through the various governance mechanisms in place. Investigations relating the COM are ongoing within forces across every region of the UK – this includes Police Scotland.

NCA wider support to Scotland: October 2024 – March 2025

UKFIU

- The NCA's UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) continues to conduct work that directly impacts Scotland and assists Police Scotland by disseminating high-risk Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and requests for Defence Against Money Laundering (DAMLs), alongside making all other SARs relating to Scotland available to accredited financial investigators and intelligence officers.
- SARs are reports from financial institutions and other professionals alerting law enforcement to potential instances of money laundering or terrorist financing. During this period, the UKFIU disseminated 89 SARs to Police Scotland. The UKFIU also actioned 12 international requests on behalf of Police Scotland relating to fraud, money laundering, drugs, and embezzlement.
- A Defence Against Money Laundering (DAML) can be requested from the NCA where a reporter has a suspicion that property they intend to deal with is in some way criminal, and that by dealing with it they risk committing one of the principal money laundering offences under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). During this period, **685 requests for a Defence Against Money Laundering (DAML)** were received under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002 and were allocated to Police Scotland for advice (based on the location of the suspect, victim or other geographical factors). This is a decrease of 149 (down from 834) during the same period last financial year. In 2024/25, **132 DAMLs were granted** and 35 DAMLs were refused leading to **£162,945 assets being restrained and £ 24,241 assets being denied**. The above DAML figures are out of a total 28,411 DAML requests handled by the UKFIU during this period. Of the remaining DAML requests, some will have been closed due to not meeting DAML criteria, be within the 7-day notice period, or not been expressly granted.
- Providing system leadership in financial intelligence, UKFIU regularly attends and facilitates key industry and professional events to raise awareness and drive innovation. During this period, the SARs Exploitation team attended the Scotland Intelligence Sharing Expert Working Group (ISEWG) at the Law Society of Scotland in Edinburgh, whilst the Reporter Engagement Team (RET) attended the Banking SARs Working Group in Edinburgh, met with the Scottish Law Society and had an introductory meeting with the Scottish Building Society. Additionally, the RET delivered Best Practice Workshops to the Law Society of Scotland and to representatives from six Scottish Building Societies. Representatives from the RET also attended the Anti Money Laundering Supervisors forum and the Banking SARs Working Group which includes Scottish Banks.

NCA wider support to Scotland: October 2024 – March 2025

NIC

- The NCA's National Investigative Capabilities (NIC) deliver niche capabilities and specialist resources to UK law enforcement partners including Police Scotland through the provision of strategic, operational, and tactical advice, guidance, and support in relation to major crime investigations. The NIC includes several specialist units which are generally not replicated within Police Forces and include Major Crime Investigative Support (MCIS) (incorporating the Research Team, Crime Team, and Forensic Medical Advice Team), Serious Crime Analysis Section (SCAS), UK Missing Person Unit, Expert Evidence Team, Specialist Witness Team, and Witness Intermediary Team.
- Between October 2024 – March 2025, MCIS have provided support to Police Scotland in **39 investigations, in which NCA specialists have engaged 202 times** with members of Police Scotland. NIC's specialists provide support, guidance and advice to Senior Investigating Officers and their investigation teams to develop investigative strategies. They also provide tactical and practical support through specialist advice in relation to behavioural science in respect of unknown offender and forensic psychology in relation to known offenders, identification of external expertise across a range of disciplines, and sharing of learning and best practice that exists across the UK. This is delivered through in-person deployments, online meetings, telephone calls, and the provision of verbal and written specialist advice and reports and guidance documents focussed on investigative strategies and active/key lines of enquiry. These investigations cover murder, rape, child protection, missing persons, and acquisitive crime. They have involved the deployment of a range of specialist resources including National SIO Advisers, Crime Investigation Specialist Officers, Behavioural Investigative Advisers, Forensic Clinical Psychologist, Interview, Family Liaison, Digital, Search and Forensic Medical Advisers.
- The NCA's Serious Crime Analysis Section (SCAS) received **34 actionable submissions** from Police Scotland during this period. 10 cases were indexed onto the SCAS database, detailing the victim accounts and the associated SCAS criteria offence against them and offender/suspect details. 17 reports (covering 17 cases) were provided, with 4 cases being proactively analysed. 2 of these included a line of enquiry providing details of potentially linked cases and/or potential suspect details. During this period, SCAS received positive feedback in relation to 5 investigations supported through the provision of external database searches. The support was deemed useful with regards to providing a line of enquiry, as well as closing a line of enquiry.
- The NCA's UK Missing Persons Unit (UKMPU) is the UK national and international point of contract for all missing persons and unidentified bodies. It is public-facing and advises both police and families of missing persons. During this period, the UKMPU received **66 new missing persons reports and 7 unidentified remains cases** relating to Scotland.

UKPPS

- The NCA Central Services Unit provides, as a part of the UK Protected Persons Service (UKPPS), operational support to the Police Scotland Protected Persons Unit which is aligned to the UKPPS. During this period, the UKPPS provided 1 new instance of support to Police Scotland, and 3 days of training to 2 officers.

NCA wider support to Scotland: October 2024 – March 2025

International

- The NCA's Joint International Crime Centre (JICC) includes a specialist biometrics team who manage international intelligence exchanges following verified biometric hits via the Prüm channel. The biometrics are either DNA or Fingerprints. The connection via Prüm assists in the notification of hits and subsequent sharing of intelligence. During this period, JICC Biometrics have assisted Police Scotland with obtaining intelligence on DNA in 20 relevant cases.
- The NCA's International Liaison Officer for Nigeria provided support to Police Scotland with a crypto-fraud investigation where a victim had £36,000 fraudulently taken from their crypto-wallet whilst engaging with a fake crypto help desk. Details of the person of interest were shared with the Nigeria Police Force – National Cyber Crime Centre (NPF-NCCC) who developed the intelligence to the point of arrest. Nigeria suffers significant fraud activity, thus securing their support to assist UK fraud investigations is challenging due to their own domestic fraud threat. This collaboration is a significant step forward in tackling Nigerian based fraud targeting the UK, with the NPF-NCCC demonstrating their capabilities and commitment to supporting the NCA.
- As noted on slide 7, the NCA's National Extradition Unit provided support to Police Scotland to facilitate the successful extradition to the UK of 9 wanted fugitives for serious and organised crime during this period.

AKEU

- The Anti Kidnap & Extortion Unit (AKEU) provides strategic and tactical advice to police forces, law enforcement, government agencies and commercial enterprises across the world in live kidnap matters. The AKEU is responsible for deploying incremental, operational support and coordinating NCA assets to aid the investigation of crimes in action. Over this period (Q3-Q4) there have been **6 referrals** for **kidnapping** to the **NCA's AKEU** from Police Scotland. There were no referrals for Blackmail or Product Contamination during this period.

UKNCO

- The NCA's UK National Central Office (UKNCO) for Counterfeit Currency have provided support to Police Scotland on 58 submissions they made to the UKNCO relating to counterfeit currency seizures during this period. Of these, there were 11 witness statement requests submitted by Police Scotland to the UKNCO.