



Meeting	SPA Policing Performance Committee
Date	12 March 2024
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	Quarterly Policing Performance Report – Quarter 3 2023/24
Presented By	Tom McMahon, Director of Strategy and Analysis
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	Yes – Appendix A 2023/24 Quarter 3 YTD Performance Report

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Policing Performance Committee with an update in relation to Police Scotland’s Performance at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24.

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Strategic planning arrangements for policing in Scotland are laid out in the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is responsible for developing a Strategic Police Plan for policing that reflects the Scottish Government's national outcomes, strategic police priorities and justice strategy.
- 1.2 Police Scotland is responsible for producing an Annual Police Plan (APP) that sets out the arrangements to deliver against the Strategic Police Plan.
- 1.3 As required by legislation, the SPA hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery against the strategic plan. This is done through scrutiny of Police Scotland's quarterly performance reports.
- 1.4 Police Scotland adopted a refreshed performance framework on 01 April 2023. This is the third report of this reporting cycle in support of this framework.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 The 2023/24 Performance Framework is aligned to Police Scotland's five strategic outcomes, underpinned by 15 strategic objectives as detailed in the Annual Police Plan.
- 2.2 Our outcomes focused Performance Framework is linked to our strategic planning processes and aligns to the five Strategic Outcomes (Public Safety and Wellbeing; Needs of Local Communities; Confidence in Policing; Working Environment; Sustainable and Adaptable Service) as detailed in the 2023/24 Annual Police Plan.
- 2.3 Our Performance Framework also reflects a renewed focus on Policing Together and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Development work is ongoing to progress and align new measures and insights in response to implementing strategies and achieving positive impacts and outcome.
- 2.4 The Measures of Progress form the basis of this quarterly report. We also highlight key exceptions, local insights and proactive/preventative policing examples from this quarter.
- 2.5 The 2023/24 Quarter 3 YTD report is presented with a balance of quantitative and qualitative data which continues to evolve.

- 2.6 A full copy of the 2023/24 Quarter 3 YTD Performance Report is provided at Appendix A.
- 2.7 This 2023/24 Quarter 3 YTD Performance Report is presented for discussion with members of the Policing Performance Committee.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications in this report.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no reputational implications in this report.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no social implications in this report.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no community implications in this report.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Equality data is provided where appropriate and available. Throughout the document we have highlighted any updates that are linked to our new Joint Equality Outcomes.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the content of this report.

Police Scotland Quarter 3 Year to Date Performance

Report April to December 2023



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Contents

Introduction by the Deputy Chief Constable.....	3
Executive Summary.....	4
Performance Framework Outcomes and Objectives	7
Measures of Progress towards Strategic Outcomes - Insights and Exceptions Strategic Outcome 1	8
Strategic Outcome 2.....	24
Strategic Outcome 3.....	41
Strategic Outcome 4.....	47
Strategic Outcome 5.....	53

This is the 2023/24 Q3 performance report covering the period 01 April to 31 December 2023. All data is correct at the published date and was extracted at the start of January 2024. The data is extracted from Police Scotland internal systems which are dynamic and continuously updated as investigations progress.

This report contains the most up to date recorded crime data that was available at the start of January 2024 for Quarter 3 of the reporting year 2023/24.

Further detailed Police Scotland Management Information can be found here: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/>

Introduction by the Deputy Chief Constable



Our 2023/24 Quarter 3 Performance Report illustrates that policing continues to respond to increased levels of community need, driven by vulnerability and increased complexity.

During the reporting period we received more than 1.6 million calls to our control rooms, with the number of 999 calls received increasing by almost 15%. As the public would expect, Police Scotland prioritises 999 emergency calls, meaning callers have experienced longer waiting times for 101 non-emergency calls.

During the reporting period reports of violent crime increased, driven by robberies and common assaults. Overall, reported homicides, attempted murders and serious assaults recorded remained at similar levels to previous years.

The report highlights the important work being carried out by our officers across the country to disrupt the activities of organised criminals by seizing drugs and arresting those involved.

Officers took action during a UK-wide county lines intensification week which saw vulnerable young people safeguarded as well as drugs being seized and a number of arrests being made.

Our commitment to helping those affected by problematic drug use is evidenced by the significant use of Naloxone which has now been administered by our officers 416 times.

Our regular performance reports continue to give meaningful and accessible insight into the depth and breadth of police work undertaken by our committed and professional officers and staff.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AS' with a stylized flourish.

Alan Speirs

Interim Deputy Chief Constable
Professionalism, Strategy and
Engagement

Executive Summary

Introduction

This is the third Quarterly report of the 2023/24 performance cycle, reporting on our [Performance Framework](#) and Measures of Progress. This report takes a more holistic approach on reporting against the five strategic outcomes as much of the activity reported will crossover and inform more than one strategic objective.

Our outcomes focused Performance Framework is set by the Joint Strategy for Policing and linked to our strategic planning processes. It aligns to the Strategic Outcomes as detailed in the [2023/24 Annual Police Plan](#), these being:

- **Public Safety and Wellbeing** – threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service
- **Needs of Local Communities** – the needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery
- **Confidence in Policing** – the public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing
- **Working Environment** – our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public

- **Sustainable and Adaptable Service** – Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges

This approach provides a wider and more detailed picture of traditional policing performance measures, supplemented with additional insight and narrative to the many different aspects of policing and corporate support functions.

As has previously been reported, the demands placed on officers within our increasingly complex operating environment are becoming more challenging. This report aims to be more streamlined with a focus on identifying exceptions, proactive work to improve outcomes and service delivery, and best practice.

A number of key exceptions, local insights and examples of good proactive/preventative policing during this quarter have been identified and highlighted.

These include:

Key Exceptions

- Serious assaults on officers and staff increasing against last year and five-year mean;
- Reported rape exceeding year-to-date statistical limits;
- 999 calls answered in under 10 seconds benchmarked against UK figures;
- Acquisitive crime repeat offenders up on last year for Total Group 3, housebreakings, shoplifting and theft of motor vehicle crimes.

Local Insights

- Decrease in serious assaults in Greater Glasgow Division compared to their five year mean and analysis of their serious assaults per SIMD and per division;
- Increases in drink, drug driving offences across Scotland by region and division;
- Increased hate crimes recorded across 8 of the 13 local policing divisions;
- Acquisitive crime repeat offenders have increased for shoplifting crimes.

Proactive/Preventative Policing

- Rape detections and the proactive work done in Ayrshire Division to tackle their backlog and prioritise sexual crimes;
- The National County Lines Intensification Week where significant arrests were made, drugs/cash seized and a number of vulnerable persons safeguarded;
- Road policing campaigns aimed at proactively preventing fatalities and injuries on our roads with a number of speeding, insurance and drink, drug driving offences detected;
- Engagement with business partners to tackle and prevent acquisitive crime;
- Preventing Fraud in the East of Scotland through the proactive multi-agency financial triage hub project;
- Identifying vulnerable victims of Fraud through the Banking Protocol.

Terminology within this Report

A new style of table has been included in this section which introduces bar chart and line graph sparklines into our reporting template. The period with the highest volume of crimes/incidents is highlighted red in the bar chart sparkline.

The six-month sparklines cover the period July 2023 to December 2023 whilst the five-year sparklines cover Quarter 3 YTD from 2019/20 to 2023/24. Local insights include disaggregated data.

The following is a key to each of the 13 local policing divisions included in these comparisons:

Divisional Identification Key		
North Region	East Region	West Region
A - North East	C - Forth Valley	G - Greater Glasgow
D - Tayside	E - Edinburgh	U - Ayrshire
N - Highland & Islands	J - The Lothians & Scottish Borders	Q - Lanarkshire
	P - Fife	L - Argyll & West Dunbartonshire
		K - Renfrewshire & Inverclyde
		V - Dumfries & Galloway

This document uses the statistical term 'Control Limits' throughout. A Control Limit uses the statistical process of confidence intervals which shows the upper and/or lower boundaries within which the data set is expected to fall. Control limits help to identify when a data set is outwith the expected levels or exhibiting unusual variation that may require investigation and corrective action.

This document uses the terms Previous Year to Date (PYTD) and Year to Date (YTD). Previous Year to Date refers to the period April to December 2022/23, and Year to Date refers to April to December 2023/24.

This enhanced style of reporting will help our stakeholders and communities identify and understand performance trends and variation. This supports our commitment to highlighting the complexities of delivering an effective police service, how we are evolving as a service, how we face the challenges of modern policing and ensure we are delivering performance in line with our organisational values.

Performance Framework Outcomes and Objectives

The following is a summary of the strategic outcomes and objectives contained within the Annual Police Plan 2023/24.

Outcomes	Outcomes Objectives
Threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep people safe in the physical and digital world - Design services jointly to tackle complex public safety and wellbeing challenges - Support policing through proactive prevention
The needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand our communities and deliver the right mix of services to meet their needs - Support our communities through a blend of local and national expertise - Support the changing nature of communities
The public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embed the ethical and privacy considerations that are integral to policing and protection into every aspect of the service - Protect the public and promote wellbeing across Scotland by providing services that are relevant, accessible and effective - Work with local groups and public, third and private sector organisations to support our communities
Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritise wellbeing and keep our people safe, well equipped and protected - Support our people to be confident leaders, innovative, active contributors and influencers - Support our people to identify with and demonstrate Police Scotland values and have a strong sense of belonging
Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use innovative approaches to accelerate our capacity and capability for effective service delivery - Commit to making a positive impact through outstanding environmental sustainability - Support operational policing through the appropriate digital tools and delivery of best value

Evidencing progress towards our outcomes

Gathering our data, narrative and insights together provides us with an evidence base that demonstrates how we are achieving our outcomes

Measures of Progress towards Strategic Outcomes - Insights and Exceptions Strategic Outcome 1

Threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service.

Objectives:

- Keep people safe in the physical and digital world
- Design services jointly to tackle complex public safety and wellbeing challenges
- Support policing through proactive prevention

All data is classed as Management Information and is not considered official statistics. All data is sourced from Police Scotland internal systems.

Violent Crime

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Overall Violent Crime	47,656	49,774	↑ 4.4%	
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Overall Violent Crime	47,560.4	49,774	↑ 4.7%	
Recorded Detection Rate Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Overall Violent Crime	69.1%	69.7%	↑ 0.6%	

Note: Overall violent crime is comprised of murder, culpable homicide (common law), attempted murder, serious assault, robbery, common assault and common assault (of emergency workers).

Overall violent crime recorded during April to December 2023 is at the highest level for this period in recent years – up 4.4% from the same period last year and 4.7% from the period’s five-year mean.

The increases seen on last year have narrowed from the position at the end of Quarter 2 where increases of 6.0% and 6.4% were seen respectively.

Robberies and common assault continue to be the drivers for the increase in violent crime. A comprehensive update was included in the Local Insights section of the [Quarter 2 report](#) (pages 20-23).

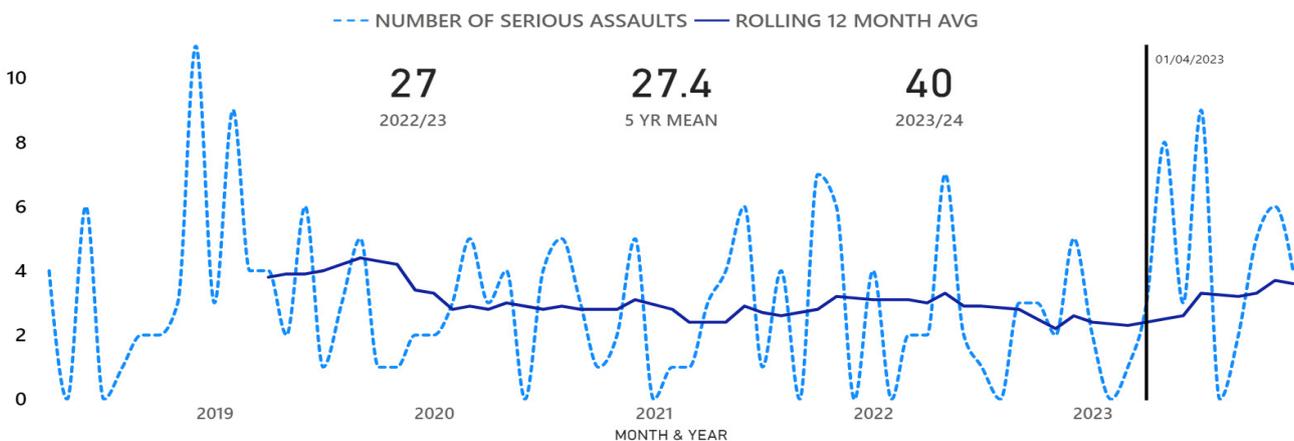
At the end of Quarter 3, 1,507 robberies were recorded, up 29.4% on last year and a 20.4% increase on the five-year mean. This is an improved position from the end of Quarter 2 where the increases were 35.8% and 21.6% respectively.

October saw the highest monthly occurrence of robberies with 183 recorded. Subsequent months have seen drops in levels with 157 recorded in December, the second lowest individual month year to date after April.

At the end of Quarter 3, 45,563 common assaults were recorded, up 4.2% on last year and a 5.4% increase on the five-year mean. This is an improved position from the end of Quarter 2 where the increases were 5.6% and 7.2% respectively.

November saw the lowest monthly total common assault occurrence, with October and December also at the lowest levels this year with the exception of April.

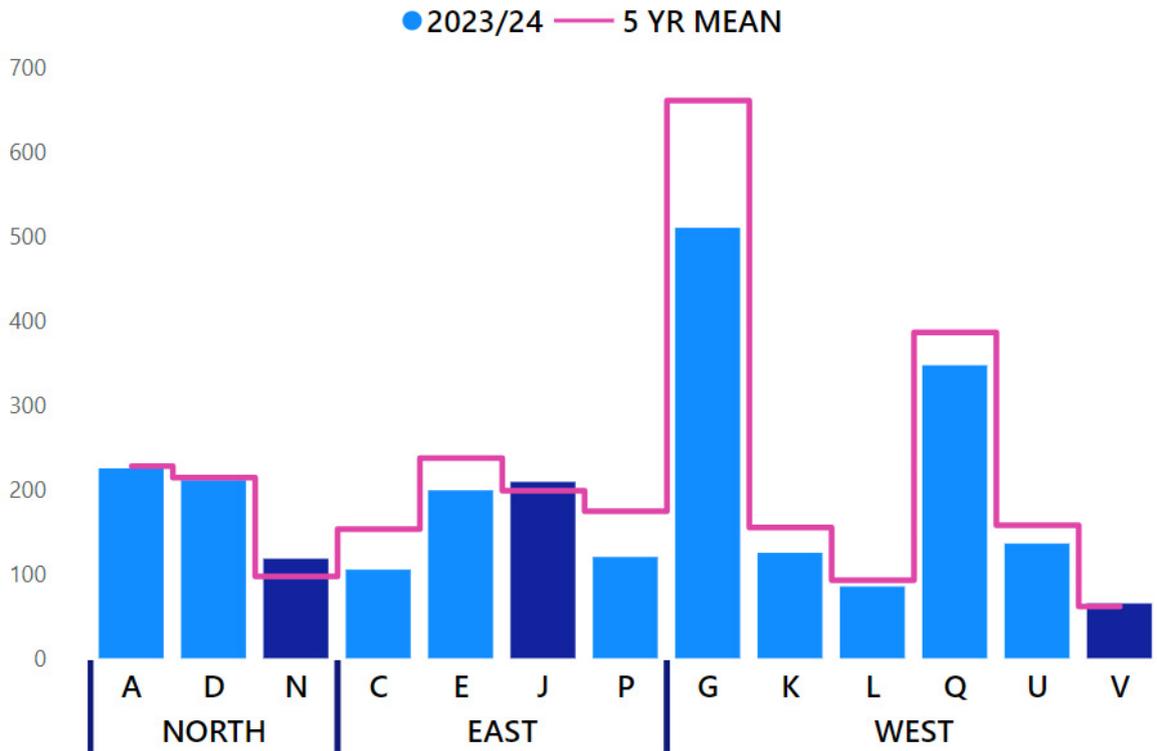
Key Exception: Serious Assaults on Officers and Staff Increase



Serious Assaults on Police Scotland’s officers and staff in 2023/24 (40) have increased by 13 compared to the previous year and also 13 compared to the five-year mean. Additionally, when the data is examined over a 12 month rolling average, 2023/24 ranges between two and four serious assaults per month, providing a more nuanced and continuous view of the data.

Despite the increase in the total number of serious assaults this year, the rolling average aligns closely with the figures observed over the last five years. This approach suggests that while there has been a spike in 2023/24 the ongoing monthly average remains consistent with the broader pattern. The increase seems to be due to spikes in May (eight serious assaults) and July (nine serious assaults).

Local Insight: Decline in Serious Assaults in Greater Glasgow Division



During 2023/24, Greater Glasgow Division have reported 504 serious assaults, the lowest number recorded during the reporting period (previous five years).

Glasgow's reported serious assaults are below:

- the lower control limit (593)
- 2022/23 (534)
- the five-year mean (660.2)

Proactive/Preventative Policing – G Division Serious Assaults Good Practice

Area commanders utilise reports and dashboards to best understand any trends and alongside the local knowledge of officers put plans in place to mitigate any risks. This includes pre-cursors to serious assaults such as disturbances and/or problematic addresses etc.

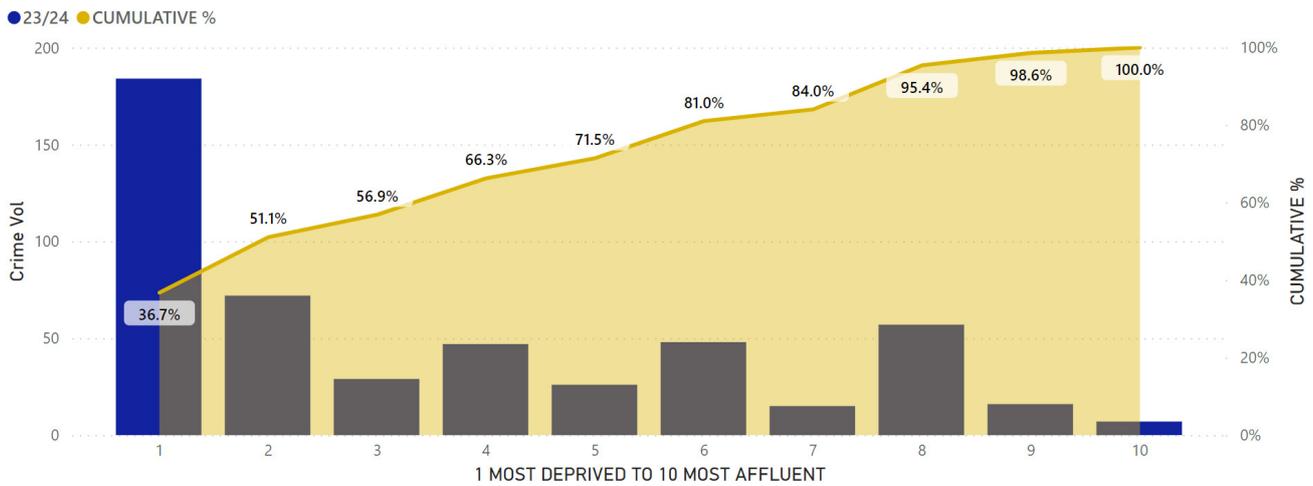
An effective Serious and Organised Crime Disruption Unit is in place which does great work in impacting on the influence of these groups.

Our Licensing department are quickly on top of any premises that are identified as not being run properly.

We have managed to maintain community policing which is critical in helping to impact on the risks in the community.

Detection rates for serious assaults in G Division are at the highest they have been at any time over the last five years. The increased identification of accused has helped us better understand the reasons for committing the crimes and carry out prevention work to disrupt any further escalation.

2023/24 SERIOUS ASSAULTS IN GLASGOW DIVISION BY SIMD



However, despite this overall downward trend in serious assaults in Glasgow, Police Scotland data analytics highlighted that a disproportionate number of these crimes have occurred in Glasgow’s most deprived deciles. For example, as seen from above over one third of these crimes occurred in the most deprived decile in Scotland and

over half of serious assaults occurred in the two most deprived deciles.

It should also be noted that Renfrewshire and Inverclyde share a similar pattern to Glasgow whilst at a Force level, Scotland’s three most deprived areas account for just over half of serious assaults (53.4%).

Non Sexual Crimes of Violence (Group 1)

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Non Sexual Crimes of Violence (Group 1)	7,623	8,738	↑ 14.6%	
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Non Sexual Crimes of Violence (Group 1)	7,041.4	8,738	↑ 24.1%	
Recorded Detection Rate Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Non Sexual Crimes of Violence (Group 1)	62.3%	59.7%	↓ -2.6%	

As has been highlighted in previous reports, the number of non-sexual crimes of violence continues to show an increase from previous years due to factors such as continual increase in threats and extortions and drugging crimes being recorded, although the increase in the number of robbery crimes described above has also had an impact.

Threats and extortions have been on a downwards monthly trajectory since August 2023 with the last two months having recorded fewer crimes than their respective months last year. Year to date figures do however remain up on both last year and the five-year mean, by 43.3% and 178.8% respectively.

Public Protection – Equality Outcome 4

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Group 2 Sexual Crime	10,803	11,142	↑ 3.1%	
Group 2 Sexual Crime - Recent	8,449	8,450	↑ 0.0%	n/a
Group 2 Sexual Crime - Non Recent	2,354	2,692	↑ 14.4%	n/a
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Group 2 Sexual Crime	10,439.8	11,142	↑ 6.7%	
Group 2 Sexual Crime - Recent	7,899.8	8,450	↑ 7.0%	
Group 2 Sexual Crime - Non Recent	2,540.0	2,692	↑ 6.0%	
Recorded Detection Rate/Proportion Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Group 2 Sexual Crime Detection Rate	54.6%	55.7%	↑ 1.1%	
Group 2 Sexual Crime - Proportion Recent	78.2%	75.8%	↓ -2.4%	
Group 2 Sexual Crime - Proportion Non Recent	21.8%	24.2%	↑ 2.4%	

Note: Detection rate comparison used for Group 2 Sexual Crime. Proportion comparison used for Group 2 Sexual Crime - Recent and Group 2 Sexual Crime - Non Recent.

Overall sexual crime increased during the reporting period, up 3.1% (339 crimes) compared to last year and up 6.7% (702 crimes) compared to the five-year mean. A decreasing trend was noticed during May to July 2023, with July 2023 recording the fewest number of sexual crimes over the 12-month period.

The drivers of the increase are sexual exposure, sexual assault by penetration – F (16+), communicating indecently and sexual assault – M (16+).

Recent reporting increased compared to the same period last year and the five-year mean (up 7.0%, 550 crimes). Non-recent reporting also noted an increase against last year (up 14.4%, 338 crimes) and the five-year mean (up 6.0%, 152 crimes).

The proportion of non-recent reporting of sexual crime increased slightly up 2.4 percentage points compared to last year, however, is down 0.1 percentage points against the five-year mean.

Rape

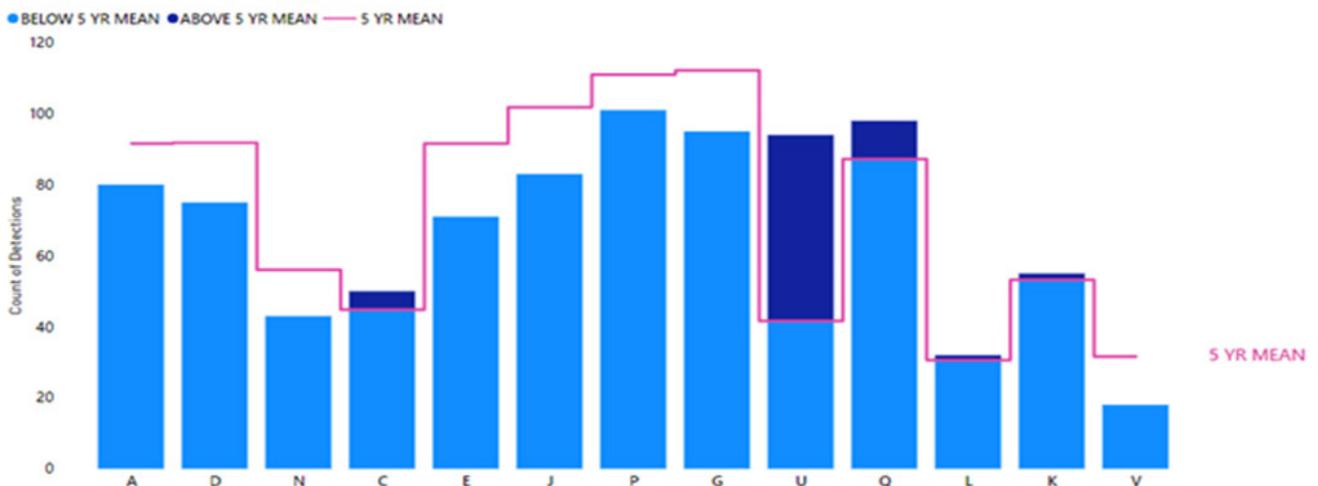
Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Rape Crime	1,807	1,805	↓ -0.1%	
Rape Crime - Recent	1,147	1,054	↓ -8.1%	n/a
Rape Crime - Non Recent	660	751	↑ 13.8%	n/a
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Rape Crime	1,743.8	1,805	↑ 3.5%	
Rape Crime - Recent	1,056.2	1,054	↓ -0.2%	
Rape Crime - Non Recent	687.6	751	↑ 9.2%	
Recorded Detection Rate/Proportion Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Rape Crime Detection Rate	53.0%	49.6%	↓ -3.4%	
Rape Crime - Proportion Recent	63.5%	58.4%	↓ -5.1%	
Rape Crime - Proportion Non Recent	36.5%	41.6%	↑ 5.1%	

Note: Detection rate comparison used for Rape Crime. Proportion comparison used for Rape Crime - Recent and Rape Crime - Non Recent.

Reported crimes of rape decreased during the reporting period, down by 0.1% (two crimes) compared to the same period last year. An increase was noted against the five-year mean, up 3.5% (62 crimes). Similar to Group 2 the number of rapes recorded in the month of July was the lowest during the 12-month period.

During the reporting period the detection rate for rape was 49.6%, a decrease against the same period last year (down 3.4 percentage points) and also compared to the five-year mean (down 4.6 percentage points).

2023/24 Detections (YTD) by Division



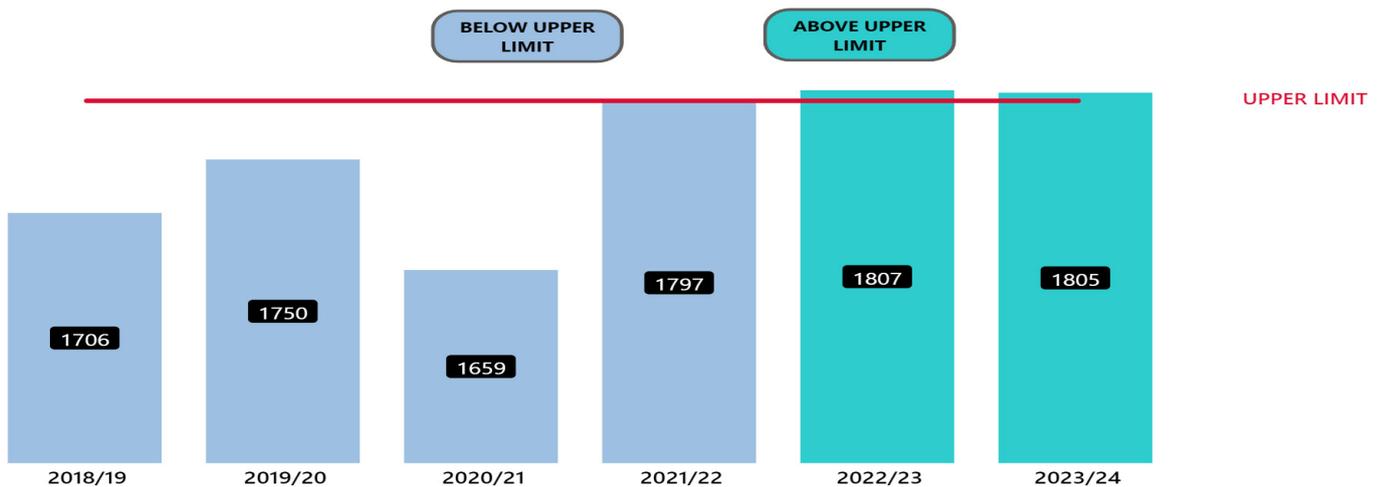
Proactive/Preventative Policing - Ayrshire (U) Division Detections

Due to a backlog in their investigations, U Division set up a Proactive Unit for a six-week initiative. This initiative focused on arrests and interviews to be completed for suspects of rape and sexual crime and may help to explain the spike in figures. A good piece of work by U Division to tackle a backlog and prioritise their sexual crimes.

Non-recent reporting of rape increased by 13.8% (91 crimes) compared to last year and by 9.2% against the five-year mean. The proportion of non-recent rape also increased, up 5.1 percentage points compared to last year and 2.1 percentage points on the five-year mean.

Recent rapes decreased by 8.1% (93 crimes) against last year and by 0.2% against the five-year mean.

Key Exception: Reported Rape Exceeds Year-To-Date Statistical Limit



In Quarter 3 2023/24 (1,805) the number of reported rapes has decreased by two compared to the previous year (1,807). However, by examining crime types through performance outliers we can determine that despite this decrease rape is still above the upper statistical limit. Out of the seven sub crime types of rape, three of these are considered above their statistical limits:

- Rape – Female 16+ (23/24: 1,212, 67.4% of total rapes)
- Rape – Male 16+ (23/24: 67, 3.7% of total rapes)

- Rape – Male < 13 (23/24: 29, 2.2% of total rapes)

The three sub crime types listed above have increased against the previous year and each have recorded the highest number of crimes over the previous six years.

Data analytics into reported rapes in 2023/24 (Quarter 1 to Quarter 3) from data entered into Police Scotland’s new National Crime Reporting System, highlighted that the location type of ‘residential’ accounted for 81.5% of reported rapes.

Child Sexual Abuse (online)

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Online Child Sexual Abuse Crime	1,397	1,472	↑ 5.4%	
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Online Child Sexual Abuse Crime	1,381.2	1,472	↑ 6.6%	
Recorded Detection Rate Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Online Child Sexual Abuse Crime	68.4%	70.2%	↑ 1.8%	

Online child sexual abuse crimes recorded in Scotland increased during the reporting period against the same period last year and the five-year mean. Overall, the number of online child sexual abuse crimes increased by 5.4% (75 crimes) compared to last year and by 6.6% (91 crimes) against the five-year mean.

The month on month recording level remains highest during March 2023 however July 2023 noted the lowest monthly reporting during the 12-month period.

The number of detections increased compared to last year (up 8.2%, 78 detections) and the five-year mean (up 12.1%, 111 detections). Overall, the detection rate increased compared to the previous year, up 1.8 percentage points to 70.2% and increased against the five-year mean, up 3.5 percentage points.

Child Sexual Abuse (online) – Crime Types

All classifications of online child sexual abuse noted an increase during Quarter 2 compared to last year, with the exception of grooming, and taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children (from Apr 2011). Grooming of children for the purposes of sexual offences decreased 11.9% against the previous year and 25.9% against the five-year mean.

Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children (from Apr 2011) decreased 2.3% against the previous year however increased 13.4% against the five-year mean.

Cause to be Present Sex Act/Look at Sex Image - M&F (13-15) noted the greatest percentage increase (up 23.8%, 31 crimes) compared to last year.

Domestic Abuse

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Domestic Abuse Incidents	45,303	46,195	↑ 2.0%	
Domestic Abuse Crime	27,699	26,300	↓ -5.1%	
Domestic Abuse of Female (DASA)	1,262	1,400	↑ 10.9%	
Domestic Abuse of Male (DASA)	68	105	↑ 54.4%	
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Domestic Abuse Incidents	46,599.4	46,195	↓ -0.9%	
Domestic Abuse Crime	28,811.0	26,300	↓ -8.7%	
Domestic Abuse of Female (DASA)	1,300.7	1,400	↑ 7.6%	
Domestic Abuse of Male (DASA)	85.7	105	↑ 22.5%	
Recorded Detection Rate/Proportion Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Domestic Abuse Incidents - Proportion Crimes	43.1%	42.3%	↓ -0.8%	
Domestic Abuse Crime Detection Rate	64.4%	61.2%	↓ -3.2%	
Domestic Abuse of Female (DASA) Detection Rate	72.6%	75.0%	↑ 2.4%	
Domestic Abuse of Male (DASA) Detection Rate	57.4%	60.0%	↑ 2.6%	

Note: DASA comparisons based on the three-year mean and three-year sparkline.

Domestic crimes are the lowest recorded over the last five years, down 5.1% (1,399 crimes) compared to last year and down 8.7% (2,511 crimes) compared to the five-year mean. Domestic incidents noted an increase compared to last year, up 2.0% (892 incidents).

Overall DASA crimes increased by 13.2% (175 crimes) with DASA of a female increasing by 138 crimes and DASA of a male increasing by 37 crimes compared to last year.

Three domestic homicides have been recorded since April 2023 compared to four during the same period last year. One of the domestic homicides recorded was committed in 2022. This was not recorded as a domestic homicide initially and only identified as such following a full investigation. In Quarter 2 we reported four domestic homicides – one of which has since been reclassified on our crime system following post-mortem.

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS)

During the reporting period DSDAS applications have increased by 23.5% overall with a 26.1% increase in Power to Tell (PTT) applications and a 17.6% increase in Right to Ask (RTA) applications compared to the same period last year.

Drugs Harm/Supply

Naloxone Administrations

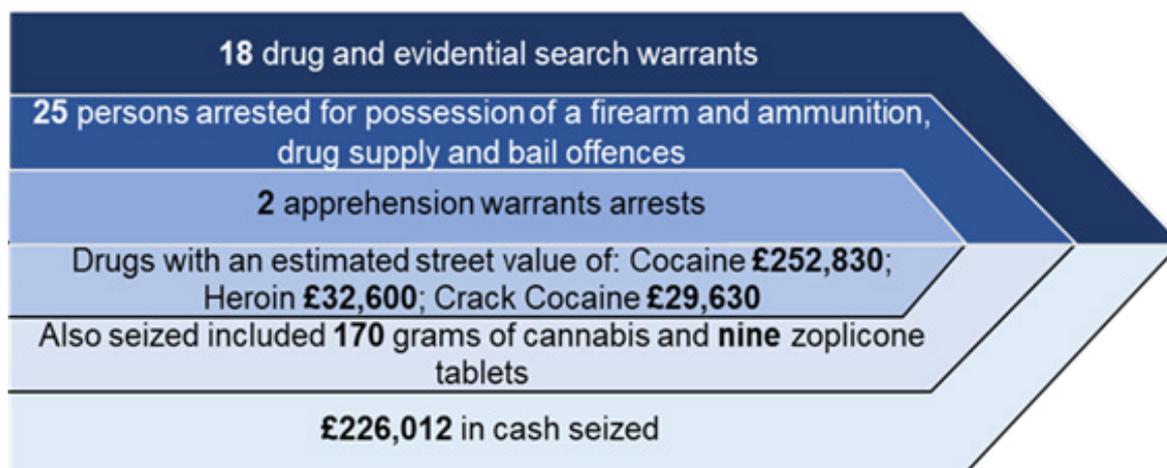
The national rollout of Naloxone to all operational officers, up to and including the rank of Inspector, concluded on 31 August 2023. The project remains fully funded by the Scottish Government as part of their commitment to reduce Drug Related Deaths.

Administrations of Naloxone have continued to significantly rise, with the total figure at this stage being 416. There have been 408 persons sufficiently recovered to either receive further medical attention by medical professionals or to leave the scene of their own volition. Eight people, who showed potential signs of overdose and were administered Naloxone in an effort to protect life, unfortunately died.

Proactive/Preventative Policing - National County Lines Intensification Week

The national County Lines Intensification Week took place between 09 and 16 October. Over the course of the week 17 vulnerable persons were safeguarded and a total of 373 cuckooed addresses visited. A missing juvenile from the West Midlands was also traced and repatriated.

Additional results achieved during the intensification week are outlined below, highlighting the proactivity of our officers and partner agencies in keeping people safe:



Serious Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs)

Serious Organised Crime Group Mapping (SOCGM) is a tool used by law enforcement in Scotland to map the characteristics of the individuals and groups that are known through intelligence and operational activity.

To date there have been 33 (31%) mapped operations seeing a reduction in their score, 22 with an increase in risk score as well as 32 having no change in risk score. During this time, eight (8%) mapped operations were archived at the SOCG Management Board (SOCGMB) as a result of successful operational activity.

Operation STARSHINE

As a result of proactive policing an address in Cambuslang was the subject of a search warrant at the end of the last quarter, resulting in two firearms and ammunition being seized, as well as a hydraulic press. One male was arrested as part of the investigation. Following this, in October 2023, further executive action was taken at an address in Glasgow where 13 firearms and additional ammunition was recovered, with a further male arrested.

Operation SILHOUETTE

During October 2023 proactive policing identified and led to executive action being taken on two vehicles and their occupants in the Glasgow area. Officers recovered 42.6 kilograms of cocaine, worth an estimated £1.8 million. Two males were arrested as part of this operation.

Proceeds of Crime

Mechanism	Amount
Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) – Year to date figures for POCA represent those provided to COPFS and CRU for consideration and forfeiture	£19,428,880
Confiscations Orders	£2,787,364
Civil Recoveries Unit	£2,312,933

Disruption Activity

October 2023

- Three men were sentenced in relation to drugs offences committed in Aberdeen and Glasgow. One of the males also pled guilty to Firearms offences. This related to recovery of cocaine with a street value of over £300,000 and heroin worth around £21,000 from properties in Aberdeen and Glasgow. A sawn-off shotgun was recovered from the Glasgow property. The three males were sentenced to over 17 year's imprisonment.
- Two males were sentenced to over eight years at the High Court in Glasgow as a result of the recovery of a quantity of cannabis with an estimated street value of £940,000 and a five-figure sum of cash following the search of a premises in Aberdeen.

November 2023

- Police officers in the Scottish Borders recovered cannabis plants with an estimated street value of around £1.2 million following a drugs search warrant executed at a disused premises in Selkirk.
- Cocaine with an estimated potential value of £1 million was recovered after a search of a property in Aberdeen. A 31-year-old man was arrested in connection with the recovery.

December 2023

- Heroin and cocaine, valued in excess of £1 million, was recovered from a property in Clydebank in July 2023. Following investigation a 37-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman have now been arrested and charged.
- Officers stopped a car on the M74 northbound, near to Lesmahagow, and recovered a quantity of cocaine, with an estimated street value of £195,000. Two men aged 35 and 39 years were arrested and charged in connection with the recovery.

Missing Persons

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Missing Persons Investigations	13,419	12,700	↓ -5.4%	
Missing Persons Investigations - Missing Previously	3,122	2,639	↓ -15.5%	
Missing Persons Investigations - Missing from NHS	1,359	1,080	↓ -20.5%	
Missing Persons Investigations - Missing from YPU	2,327	2,454	↑ 5.5%	
Missing Persons Investigations - Missing from Foster Care	349	331	↓ -5.2%	
Missing Persons Investigations - Mental Health Marker	4,217	3,974	↓ -5.8%	
Proportion YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Missing Persons Investigations - Missing Previously	39.4%	36.3%	↓ -3.1%	n/a
Missing Persons Investigations - Missing from NHS	10.1%	8.5%	↓ -1.6%	n/a
Missing Persons Investigations - Missing from YPU	17.3%	19.3%	↑ 2.0%	n/a
Missing Persons Investigations - Missing from Foster Care	2.6%	2.6%	→ 0.0%	n/a
Missing Persons Investigations - Mental Health Marker	31.4%	31.3%	↓ -0.1%	n/a

The number of missing person investigations has significantly decreased by 719 compared to the same period last year. The number of repeat missing persons, the average length of time missing and the number of investigations

with a mental health (MH) marker have all decreased compared to the same period last year. This Quarter recorded the lowest number of missing persons in the last two years with overall figures gradually decreasing over the last eight months.

Children and young people make up 62% of all missing persons, the number of care experienced children being reported missing has increased by 2.8%. Figures are taken from the National Missing Persons Application which is a live system with figures changing daily as people are reported missing or traced.

Anecdotal evidence from our territorial divisions finds that in the last year, those children and young people who have been reported as missing have been reported missing more often and are younger teenagers than previous years,

This along with the turnover in care house staff will contribute to the increase in the Not at Home policy not being used as its either not applicable or staff have been unaware or unsure of its use. This is an area of partnership working that continues to be addressed and led by police.

When considering where people go missing from, it remains that the majority of people go missing from their home address. This has decreased in the past year along with missing from NHS and missing from Foster Care. Increases can be seen in those that go missing from a Young Persons Unit.

During this Quarter the National Missing Person Unit conducted health checks with all territorial divisions. This provided benchmarking and the sharing of best practice during feedback sessions including establishing and the re-establishing of protocols with local NHS boards whilst refreshing the knowledge of the use of the Philomena Protocol and the Not at Home policy with care providers.

Road Safety

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Road Safety - People Killed	137	121	↓ -11.7%	
Road Safety - People Seriously Injured	1,406	1,389	↓ -1.2%	
Road Safety - People Slightly Injured	2,864	2,658	↓ -7.2%	
Road Safety - Children Killed	2	4	↑ 100.0%	
Road Safety - Children Seriously Injured	141	131	↓ -7.1%	
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Road Safety - People Killed	118.8	121	↑ 1.9%	
Road Safety - People Seriously Injured	1,365.2	1,389	↑ 1.7%	
Road Safety - People Slightly Injured	2,969.6	2,658	↓ -10.5%	
Road Safety - Children Killed	2.6	4	↑ 53.8%	
Road Safety - Children Seriously Injured	125.4	131	↑ 4.5%	

The total number of people killed on Scotland's roads has decreased year to date, with 16 fewer deaths. There has also been a reduction in the number of serious injuries, with a decrease of 17 compared to the same period last year.

During Quarter 3, in December there were ten recorded fatalities in the West region of the country, mostly within Lanarkshire and Ayrshire. Compared to the previous year, this was an increase of six fatalities. In terms of serious injuries, both the North and East regions are showing a decrease in the number of people injured compared to the previous year, with the West showing a slight increase of 7%.

Proactive/Preventative Policing – Road Policing Campaign Updates

During this quarter a number of campaigns have been resulted, all of which are aimed at proactively preventing fatalities and injuries on Scotland's roads.

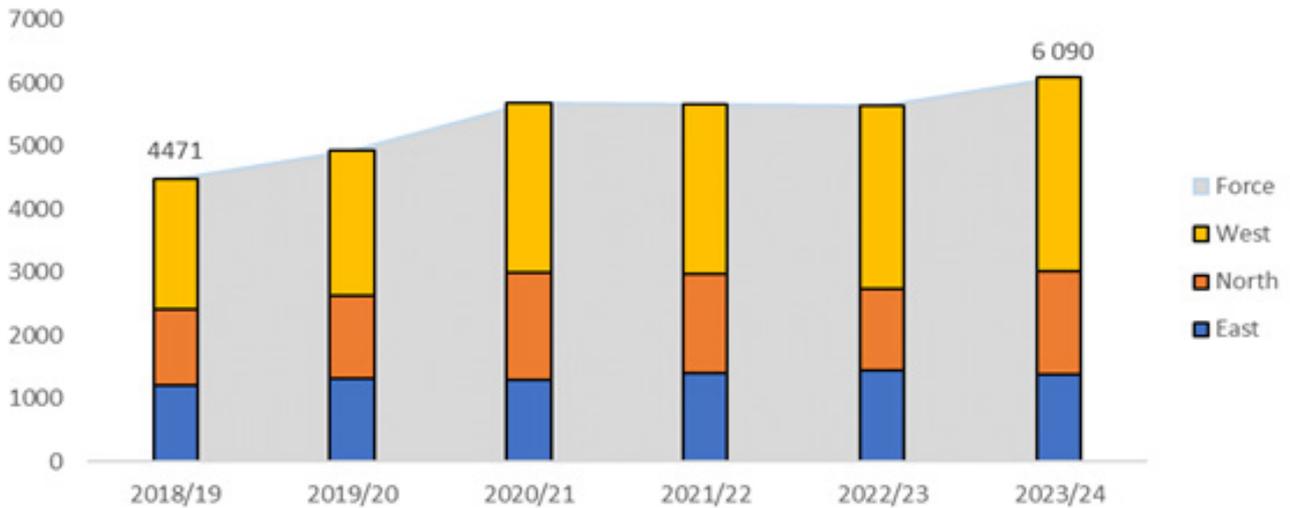
The National Speed Campaign ran during October 2023 in partnership with safety Camera Units focusing on speeding hotspots, community complaint loci and areas identified with high volumes of vulnerable road users resulting in 2,742 speeding offences being detected.

Operation Drive Insured is a UK-wide education, engagement and enforcement campaign and was run in partnership with NPCC and Motor Insurers Bureau. It commenced in November 2023 detecting 357 offences of failing to insure against third party risks in Scotland.

The Festive Drink/Drug Drive Campaign was in operation during December 2023 until early January 2024 and received publication through Corporate Communications support and a social media drive. Police Officers conducted a total of 3,700 roadside tests (3,219 breath tests and 481 drug wipes) resulting in the detection of 831 drivers for drink or drug driving related offences, indicating an increase of 109 (15.1%) from last year's campaign results.

Local Insight: Drink Drug Driving Offences

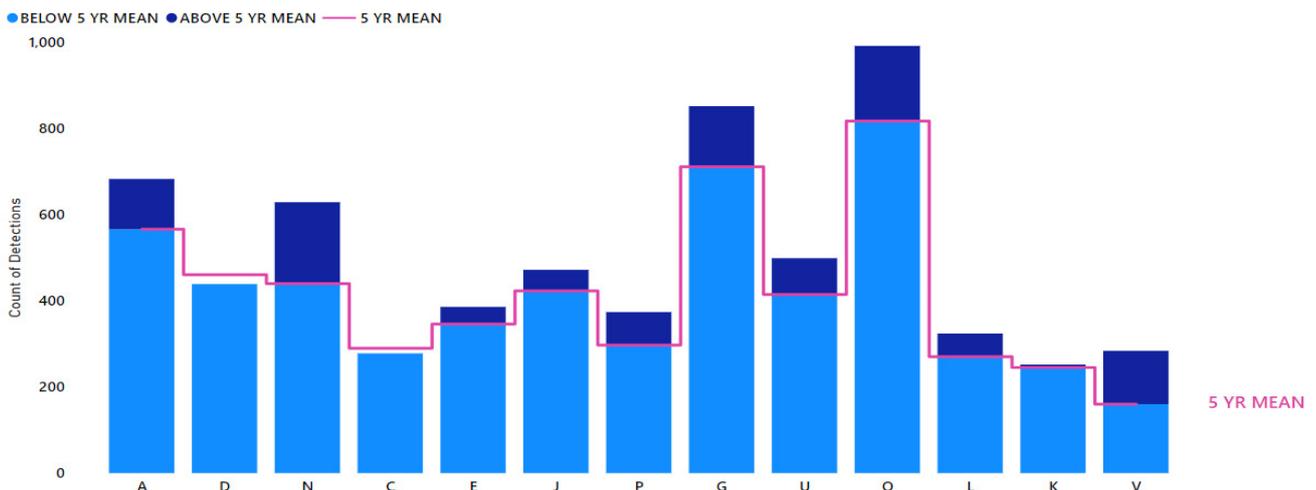
Drink, Drug Driving Offences



The number of drink, drug driving offences (including those for failing to provide a specimen) across the Force have increased by 441 (7.8%) YTD compared to the previous year. Compared to the same period last year within the different regions of Scotland, the North has increased by

343 (26.5%), the West by 152 (5.2%), whilst the East has observed a small decrease of 54 (-3.8%). The increase in this crime type is a result of proactive policing through campaigns such as our Festive Drink/Drug Drive Campaign noted above.

2023/24 Detections (YTD) by Division



The above shows the number of detections for Drink, Drug Driving compared to the five-year mean by Division. Most divisions have shown increases compared to the five-year mean,

although it should be remembered that due to the COVID-19 lockdown periods the five-year mean has been reduced due to the lack of traffic on the roads during this period.

Stop and Search

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Stop and Search Compliance Rate	98.9%	99.2%	↑ 0.3%	n/a

More information about stop and search statistics as well as stop and search data files can be found on the Police Scotland website ([Stop Search Data](#)).

Strategic Outcome 2

The needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery.

Objectives:

- Understand our communities and deliver the right mix of services to meet their needs
- Support our communities through a blend of local and national expertise
- Support the changing nature of communities

Call Handling Challenge

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Call Handling - Total number of 999 Calls	560,838	641,905	↑ 14.5%
Call Handling - Total number of 101 Calls	1,104,573	1,050,025	↓ -4.9%
Call Handling - Total number of 999/101 Calls	1,665,411	1,691,930	↑ 1.6%
Call Handling - 999/101 Calls resulting in no incident/crime	535,857	477,158	↓ -11.0%
Recorded YTD % Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change
Call Handling - % of calls resulting in no incident/crime	33.2%	28.2%	↓ -5.0%

During the reporting period, Police Scotland received a total of 1,691,930 calls which is an increase of 1.6% compared to last year. 999 calls increased by 14.5% when compared to the same period last year (up from 560,838 to 641,905). However, the volume of 101 calls received decreased by 4.9% (down from 1,104,573 to 1,050,025).

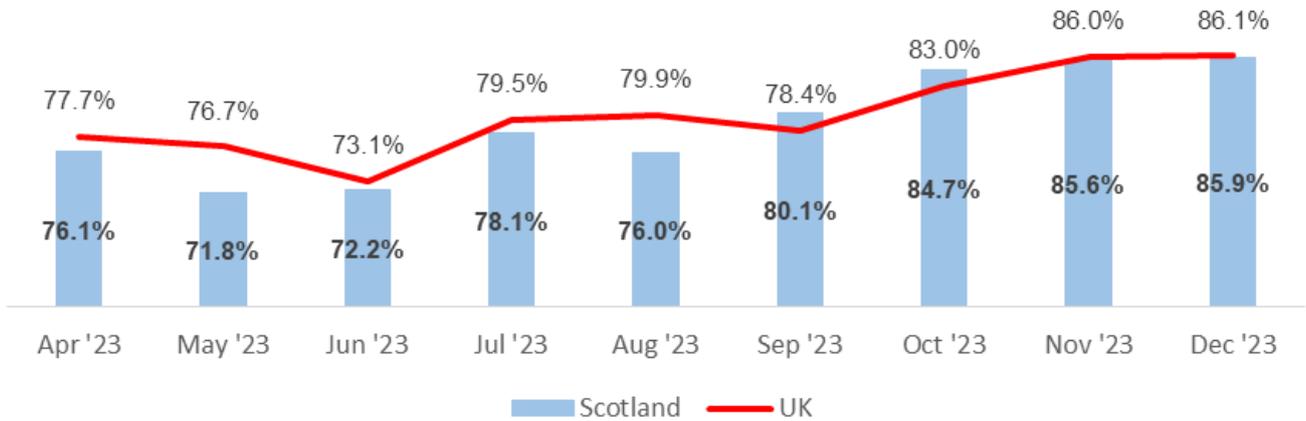
The average answer time for 101 calls increased by 1 minute 47 seconds to 6 minutes 4 seconds.

Partner demand includes calls received from other forces and Emergency Service Partners via dedicated numbers from Scottish Fire and Rescue, Scottish Ambulance Service, Mountain Rescue, Coast Guard, Mental Health Pathway (NHS 24), OmniCrash and Oil Industry Agency.

Partner demand calls increased by 24.7% compared to last year with 2,836 external force requests made compared to 2,274 last year. The reason for such calls vary and each are dealt with by a service advisor in the most appropriate manner.

Key Exception: 999 Calls Answered in under 10 seconds - Benchmarking

999 Calls Answered in under 10 seconds



The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) noted record high 999 call volumes experienced by emergency services across the UK.

Police Scotland aim to achieve an average speed of answer for 999 calls within 10 seconds, a target also required by all 44 UK Police Forces. During the reporting period, Police Scotland achieved an average answer time of 10 seconds, which is the same as that achieved last year. The percentage of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds by Police Scotland has shown a gradual increase since May 2023 with a year-to-date high of 85.9% recorded in December 2023. This trend is similar to the monthly performance noted throughout the UK where a high of 86.1% was recorded in December 2023.

Due to the increase in 999 call volumes this remains a challenge to sustain and has been achieved by prioritising emergency calls over non-emergency 101 calls. Consequently, the performance of 101 average speed of answer has been affected as the same advisors answer all call types including "Contact Us" emails.

Efforts continue to signpost callers to more appropriate methods of contact, including via "Contact Us" and the online reporting facilities via the force website. The use of "Contact Us" emails continues to grow with a 13.6% increase compared to the same period last year.

Service Demand – Additional Contact Methods

In addition to the call numbers, there have been over 247,000 additional public contacts dealt with by Contact, Command and Control (C3) Division during the reporting period. C3 Division does not only deal with incoming calls from the public. Service advisors also deal with incoming calls from other partner agencies and alarm calls. There have been over 69,000 of these types of calls for this reporting period, an increase of around 16% in emergency service partner calls and a small decrease of around 2.9% in total alarms.

Emergency service partner calls are received via dedicated numbers from Scottish Fire and Rescue, Scottish Ambulance Service, Mountain Rescue, Coast Guard, Mental Health Pathway (NHS 24), OmniCrash and Oil Industry Agency. The reason for such calls varies and each are dealt with by a service advisor in the most appropriate manner.

“Contact Us” emails and online reports, for some crime types, can be completed online. Each one of these reports is assessed by a service advisor using the Threat Harm Risk Investigation Vulnerability and Engagement (THRIVE) model. Over 147,000 “Contact Us” emails and over 8,200 online reports have been submitted since 01 April 2023.

Overall, additional public contacts are up by around 12.2% when compared to 2022/23.

Service Demand - Weather Related Incidents

C3 Division played a vital role in the management of Police Scotland’s response to severe weather related incidents across the country over the autumn and winter periods. These events require efficient command and communication on a multi-agency level. Between 01 November 2023 and 09 January 2024, Police Scotland worked with key partners to facilitate the rapid deployment of conventional and specialist resources to a total of 348 weather related incidents. 206 of these related to serious flooding which significantly impacted our communities.

With the ability to stand up and resource Multi Agency Co-ordination Centres and Police Only Control Centres supported by a dedicated Airwave Network cell, we were able to ensure responders reached those in the greatest need quickly.

C3 Complaints and Allegations

In total, 70.1% of complaint cases received year-to-date for C3 Division were Frontline Resolved by the PSD National Complaints Assessment and Resolution Unit (NCARU). This rate increases to 71.9% when early and subsequent resolution by PSD or Specialist officers are included. These figures demonstrate that most complaints against C3 Division during this period have been non-criminal and non-serious in nature, with a majority resolved through simple explanation, apology or assurance.

The volume of complaints against C3 Division has increased by 7.7% YTD, with a total of 224 complaints received compared to 208 in the PYTD. This is driven by an increase in the North region (38 cases, up 123.5%). Low volume decreases were however registered in the East region (67 cases, down 4.3%) and the West region (119 cases, down 1.7%).

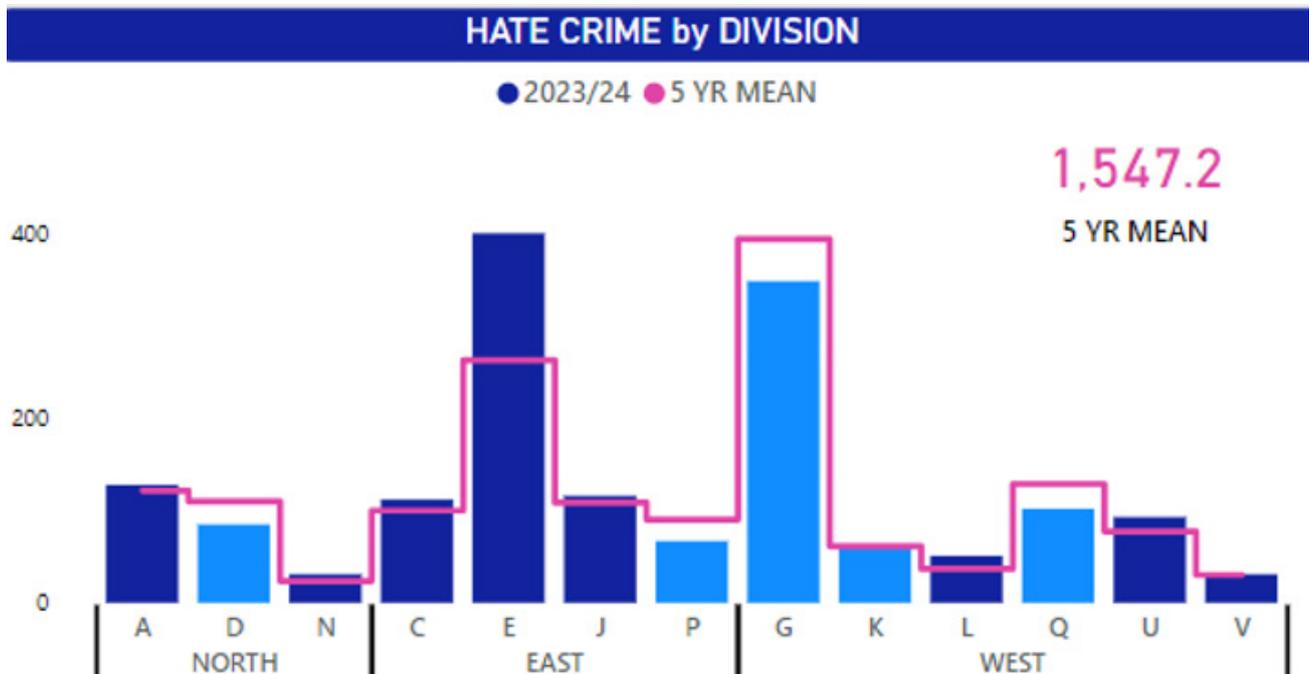
Incivility (127) and Service Delivery (95) remain the most common allegation types, together accounting for 72.1% of all allegations received during this period. Allegations of Incivility have increased by 27.0% since last year with an increase of 16 allegations noted in the North region. This is assessed as being a key factor in the North’s overall increase.

Hate Crime

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Hate Incidents	5,601	5,587	↓ -0.2%	
Hate Crimes	4,907	4,931	↑ 0.5%	
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Hate Incidents	5,327.2	5,587	↑ 4.9%	
Hate Crimes	5,081.8	4,931	↓ -3.0%	
Recorded Detection Rate Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Hate Crimes	64.0%	57.4%	↓ -6.6%	

Hate crimes have increased marginally compared to the previous year but remain below the five-year mean. Crimes were 10.4% higher (154 more) in Quarter 3 compared to the same period last year. This is largely attributable to a high volume

of crimes in December in relation to Operation SANDBED (Safety and Security of MSPs). These crimes contributed to 403 hate crimes being recorded in Edinburgh Division in Quarter 3 compared to a five-year mean of 263.2.



The detection rate stands at 57.4% and is 6.6% below the same period last year and 10.1% below the five-year mean. Hate crimes can often take longer to detect so the previous years' data reflect the

detections made further down the line. Over the course of the reporting year this should see the detection rate improve as more crimes are detected.

Hate crime is being focused through regional delivery boards to ensure high level scrutiny continues as standard.

The aggravator types recording notable increases compared to the five-year mean are Race & Religion, Disability and Transgender hate crimes. This coincides with Police Scotland's drive to improve reporting of this type of crime with a number of media campaigns and enhanced partnership working.

Hate Crime Legislation

Mandatory training will soon get under way to help prepare for implementation of the new Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act.

The Act goes live on 01 April 2024 and will provide equal protections for all social groups. Crucially, it will send an important message to victims, offenders and wider society that hate crime will absolutely not be tolerated.

The key changes in the legislation are:

- Consolidation of existing legislation into a single Act which will make identifying appropriate legislation simpler when dealing with hate crimes.
- Addition of two new Characteristics: Age and Variations in Sex Characteristics.
- A new crime of stirring up hatred against any of the Protected Characteristics covered by the Act.
- Abolition of the crime of Blasphemy.

It is anticipated that the number of hate crimes will increase due to the introduction of new legislation. Training begins on Monday 05 February 2024 and is mandatory for all officers up to and including the rank of Chief Inspector. To support the roll-out of the Act there are a number of workshops being made available to officers and staff. These workshops have begun and will continue through February, March and April.

Hate Crime Champions and Advisors are still available to offer additional support throughout the training period and following its conclusion.

A new dedicated intranet area has also been designed to host key information about the Act, including FAQs, links to helpful resources and a short video explaining some of the changes to protected characteristics.

Anti-social Behaviour and Disorder

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Antisocial Behaviour Incidents	214,378	210,781	↓ -1.7%	
Complaints Regarding Disorder	150,583	148,692	↓ -1.3%	
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Antisocial Behaviour Incidents	260,172.2	210,781	↓ -19.0%	
Complaints Regarding Disorder	188,345.8	148,692	↓ -21.1%	

Both anti-social Behaviour incidents and complaints regarding disorder continue to be down significantly on the five-year mean due to the impact of COVID-19 related lockdowns in 2020/21 and 2021/22. Compared to last year there has only been a slight decrease for both ASB and disorder. ASB related fixed penalty notices have also decreased compared to last year as per the update ([Police Direct Measures](#)).

Partnership, Prevention and Community Wellbeing are currently conducting a review of Police Scotland’s approach to Anti-Social Behaviour, a subject which is consistently prevalent in the media. The Scottish Government plan to set up an Advisory Group to progress a partnership approach to Anti-social behaviour which Police Scotland will take part in.

The evaluation report for the “It’ll cost you” Proxy Purchase campaign has been completed and is due to be published during Quarter 4. There were 18 reports submitted to COPFS relating to the supply of alcohol to youths.

The Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 continues to be introduced in stages throughout 2022-24. PPCW attend the SLWG, chaired by SG, to consider the specific implementation of firework control zones. Legislation around the Fireworks Control Zones has been enacted. Discussions continue to ensure the necessary processes for Firework Control Zones are in place by November 2024.

Acquisitive Crime

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Group 3 Acquisitive Crime	76,334	85,671	↑ 12.2%	
Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total	6,424	6,962	↑ 8.4%	
Motor Vehicle Crime - Total	8,608	9,092	↑ 5.6%	
Theft by Shoplifting	20,675	28,863	↑ 39.6%	
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Group 3 Acquisitive Crime	76,485.8	85,671	↑ 12.0%	
Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total	8,078.2	6,962	↓ -13.8%	
Motor Vehicle Crime - Total	9,182.6	9,092	↓ -1.0%	
Theft by Shoplifting	20,492.0	28,863	↑ 40.9%	
Recorded Detection Rate Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Group 3 Acquisitive Crime	31.4%	32.1%	↑ 0.7%	
Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total	25.9%	27.2%	↑ 1.3%	
Motor Vehicle Crime - Total	26.8%	29.3%	↑ 2.5%	
Theft by Shoplifting	55.1%	50.3%	↓ -4.8%	

Acquisitive crime has continued to increase compared to the same period last year and is now 12.0% higher than the five-year mean, it should be noted however that the five-year mean has been affected significantly by decreases in acquisitive crime during the COVID-19 pandemic. Between April and December 2023 there have been 9,337 more crimes compared to the same period the previous year, and 9,185 more than the five-year mean.

If fraud is excluded, Group 3 crimes have still risen by 13.8% (8,802 more crimes).

Shoplifting crimes continues to be the main contributor to this increase from the previous year, increasing by 8,188 crimes. Increases have also been seen in domestic housebreaking (up 298 crimes) and motor vehicle thefts (up 227 crimes).

Despite the overall increase, some aspects of acquisitive crimes have continued to fall compared to the same period last year. Common theft crimes have reduced from 21,604 to 21,261 (343 fewer crimes), and theft of pedal cycles have reduced from 3,146 to 2,852 (294 fewer crimes).

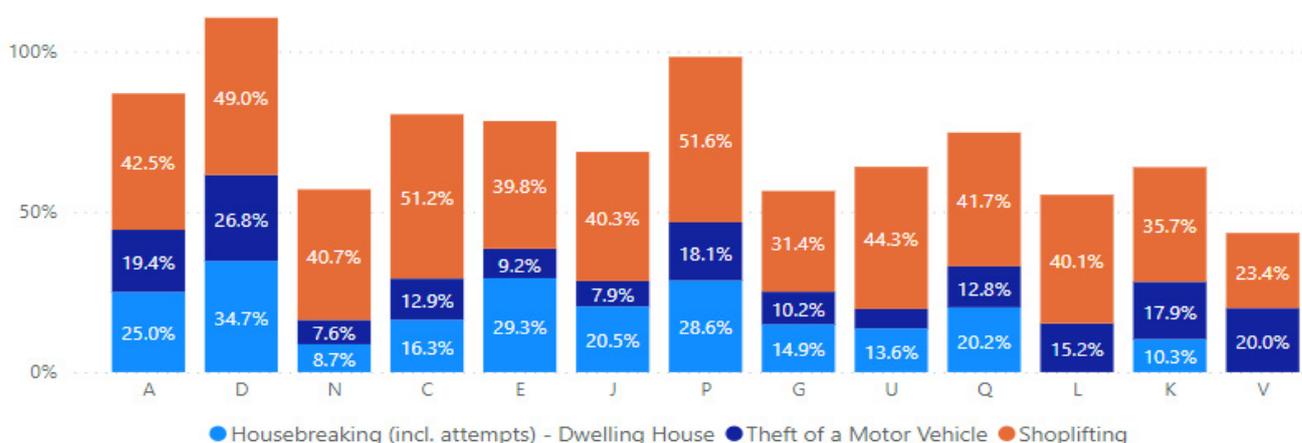
Key Exception: Acquisitive Crime Repeat Offenders



In total 34.9% of offenders have committed more than one Group 3 Acquisitive crime in the current FYTD, which is an increase of 1.9 percentage points compared to the same period last year. Housebreaking repeat offenders (those who have committed more than one housebreaking crime) has seen a small decrease of 0.6 percentage points compared to the previous year, whilst

motor vehicle repeat offenders have decreased by 2.2 percentage points. Theft by shoplifting, which accounts for the highest volume of crimes in the acquisitive crime group, shows that 38.5% of offenders have committed more than one crime of shoplifting in the current FYTD period, an increase of 1.5 percentage points compared to the last year.

2023/24 Percentage of Repeat Offenders by Division



The above graph shows the percentage of repeat offenders for select acquisitive crimes in the 2023/24 period to date. It should be noted that in some divisions a high percentage can relate

to a small number of repeat offenders. Those divisions where there are no repeat offenders for a crime are not represented on the graph.

Shoplifting

Shoplifting crimes have continued rising and are now at higher levels than those seen pre-pandemic and are higher than the five-year mean. Between April and December 2023 there have been 28,863 crimes, 39.6% (8,188 crimes) more than the same period last year and 40.9% (8,371 crimes) higher than the five-year mean. This increase has seen shoplifting crimes rise to above those seen pre-pandemic, with 5,174 more crimes than during the same period in 2019.

Housebreaking

Housebreaking has experienced an increase year-to-date of 8.9% (298 crimes) compared to last year. Over the period there has been a total of 6,962 housebreaking crimes. Despite this year-to-date increase, housebreaking is 13.8% lower than the five-year mean and 26.9% lower than levels seen pre-pandemic (2019/20).

Increases can be seen in each area of housebreaking with domestic housebreakings rising by 298 crimes, non-dwelling domestic housebreakings rising by 186 crimes and commercial housebreakings rising by 54 crimes compared to 2022/23.

Domestic housebreakings are now 8.9% higher than the same period last year. Between April and December 2023, 3,665 domestic housebreaking crimes were recorded, compared to 3,367 crimes last year and the five-year mean of 4,090 crimes.

Domestic housebreaking remains at a much lower level than pre-pandemic, there has been 1,256 fewer crimes in 2023/24 than over the same period in 2019/20.

Non-dwelling domestic housebreakings are 14.0% higher than last year, increasing from 1,324 in 2022/23 to 1,510 in 2023/24.

Commercial housebreakings have also experienced an increase, rising 3.1% YTD, with 1,787 crimes recorded between April and December 2023, up 54 crimes on the same period this year.

Vehicle Crime

Between April and December 2023 there has been 9,092 crimes, 5.6% (484 crimes) more than the same period last year and 1.0% (91 crimes) less than the five-year mean. This year-to-date increase has been due to rises in thefts of motor vehicles (227 more crimes), opening lock fast place – motor vehicle (207 more crimes) and attempted theft of a motor vehicle (51 more crimes).

Detections over the period have increased from 2,311 to 2,644 compared to the same period last year which has had an impact in the detection rate. The rate is 29.3%, 2.5 percentage points higher than the same period last year and 0.4 percentage points above the five-year mean.

Fraud

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Fraud	12,371	12,906	↑ 4.3%	
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Fraud	9,629.8	12,906	↑ 34.0%	
Recorded Detection Rate Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Fraud	16.5%	15.6%	↓ -0.9%	

Fraud crimes have continued to rise, increasing 4.3% compared to the same period last year and 34.0% from the five-year mean. Fraud remains a significant global issue which is recognised as the most prominent crime type within the UK. Within Police Scotland we continue to see increases in reported fraud and, coupled with limited resource locally to investigative fraud, our detection rate is falling.

Proactive/Preventative Policing - Preventing Fraud in the East of Scotland

The multi-agency financial triage hub project was proactively set up to tackle the upward trajectory of fraud reporting, predominantly across the cyber enabled/dependent landscape. Specialised officers work daily to link fraud crimes and associate these to existing or emerging crime groups, allowing for proactive and preventative work to be carried out. The hub is resourced from policing divisions in the East of Scotland, with plans to expand this in the future to the rest of Scotland. It will improve the victim experience and satisfaction, as well as reducing demand on policing and partner resources.

With proactive fraud capability in line with Police Scotland's Cyber strategy and acknowledgement that prevention will play a pivotal role, we have developed a partnership approach to fraud that will deliver successful outcomes to our communities and enhance Scotland's resilience.

Proactive/Preventative Policing - Identifying Vulnerable Victims of Fraud: The Banking Protocol

The Banking Protocol is a multi-agency initiative between law enforcement, banking institutions and Trading Standards. Its aim is to identify vulnerable victims at the earliest opportunity, who are in the process of being defrauded of funds from their bank accounts by unscrupulous criminals and to intervene to prevent these crimes. In terms of Quarter 3 of the reporting year 2023/24, the Banking Protocol recorded 294 incidents accounting for £1,065,297 of fraud being prevented. To date this financial year has recorded 884 incidents, amounting to £3,215,948 of fraud being prevented.

This initiative continues to succeed in protecting the vulnerable victims of fraud and its success demonstrates the value of the public/private partnership model.

Cybercrime

Digital Evidence Detection Dogs and Digital Forensic Vans Projects have progressed through governance and are in delivery with the aim of operational deployments in Quarter 1 of 2024. Both elements will enhance Police Scotland's search and triage capabilities.

The Scottish Cyber Coordination Centre (SC3), which Police Scotland is a part of, is now publishing threat intelligence daily via a number of forums, highlighting key vulnerabilities and mitigation steps.

The Cyber Incident Response support was utilised a total of three times in Quarter 3, and a new director has been appointed who will drive development of the centre and lead on the strategic plan and direction moving forward.

Detection Rates

The fraud detection rate currently stands at 15.6%, down 1.0 percentage points on last year and 8.5 percentage points on the five-year mean. This decrease has been driven by a decrease in detected crimes and also the continued increase in recorded frauds. Between April and September 2023, 2,043 frauds were detected, which is 1.7% (35 detections) less than the same period last year and 13.3% (308 detections) less than the five-year mean.

Criminal Justice

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Volume of cases submitted into Criminal Justice System	92,488	97,308	↑ 5.2%

It should be noted that the process of collating this data has changed during the Quarter 3 period as a result of the Core Operation System (COS) rollout across the country. Figures may therefore not be comparable to those reported in Quarters 1 and 2.

After a yearly decrease of 6.2% in the number of cases submitted at the end of Quarter 2, this quarter shows a 5.2% year-to-date increase from last year.

Some of this increase can be attributed to efforts made to reduce the Standard Prosecution Report (SPR) backlog, where the number fell from 8,083 at the start of October 2023 to 3,589 by the end of December 2023. As per the above caveat, the impact of the improved systems will impact positively on the recording of this data going forward.

Police Custody

Arrested Persons

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Number of times arrested persons brought into custody	73,127	75,870	↑ 3.8%

It is important to note that the number of arrested persons includes individuals who have appeared in custody on more than one occasion within the reporting period. This excludes voluntary attendance, S.23 MDA 1971 detentions and those in transit.

Custody throughput continues to rise with this being the seventh consecutive quarter where it has done so. Part of the increase has taken the form of arrests on warrant however this in itself does not account solely for the continued rise. The rate does appear to be slowing with Quarter 2 having a 5.1% increase from the previous year.

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Number of times arrested persons held for court	29,615	32,087	↑ 8.3%
Number of arrested persons held for court new case	19,830	21,312	↑ 7.5%
Recorded YTD % Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change
Proportion of arrested persons held for court	40.5%	42.3%	↑ 1.8%
Proportion of arrested persons held for court new case	67.0%	66.4%	↓ -0.6%

The figures for Quarter 3 continue to show an increase in the number of individuals arrested being held for court in comparison to the same period last year, however the rate has slowed from

the Quarter 2 figures. The proportion of arrested persons held for court has remained relatively static around the 42% mark over the last three quarters.

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Number of arrested persons released on an undertaking	17,636	17,708	↑ 0.4%
Number of persons re-arrested	453	479	↑ 5.7%
Recorded YTD % Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change
Proportion of arrested persons released on an undertaking	24.1%	23.3%	↓ -0.8%
Proportion of persons released on investigative liberation	0.6%	0.9%	↑ 0.3%

The term 're-arrested' is defined as any occasion whereby a person, previously released without charge as a 'Not-Officially Accused' person, is subsequently re-arrested for the same offence due to the presence of further evidence. This is not to be confused with a person arrested more than once within a specified period on separate charges as defined by recidivism.

Police Scotland is no longer in a position to provide figures related to electronic bail as this is managed on behalf of the Scottish Government by G4S. Police Scotland are only notified of relevant breaches.

Use of investigative liberation continues to be better used across the organisation with work ongoing with COPFS colleagues to increase the use of investigative liberation and reduce the number of arrested persons held for Court.

CJSD will continue to engage with divisions in 2024 to further embed its use and make supervisors aware of its benefits.

The number of individuals released on undertaking has slowed compared to the previous quarter with figures now almost identical to those reported last year.

Children brought into Police Custody / Held for Court

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Number of younger children arrested not held overnight	1,089	1,196	↑ 9.8%
Number of younger children arrested and held overnight	115	82	↓ -28.7%
Number of younger children held over 24 hours	21	29	↑ 38.1%
Number of older children arrested not held overnight	1,278	1,198	↓ -6.3%
Number of older children arrested and held overnight	338	347	↑ 2.7%
Number of older children held over 24 hours	184	136	↓ -26.1%

Definitions for clarity: Adult being defined as 18 or over; Older Child being defined as 16/17 and Not under Supervision; Younger Child being defined as Under 16 or 16/17 but subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order. The number listed as held over 24 hours are those who were held in a police cell and had a relevant certificate in terms of S.22 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 issued indicating why they were so held and not at a place of safety. **Overnight is determined as the period of time spent in custody which exceeds four hours and includes the period between 0000 and 0400 hours.

Whilst the number of younger children arrested and brought into custody has increased by 9.8% in comparison to the previous year reporting, this is an 8.6% point fall on the difference seen in the previous quarter.

The number of younger children held overnight continues to fall which has been an encouraging trend over the last two quarters.

There has been an increase in the number of younger children held in custody over 24 hours, however an increase of eight instances in comparison to the previous reporting year is a very small proportion of our custody throughput and can be linked to a larger number of younger children being accepted into police custody.

In contrast the number of older children accepted into custody has fallen, with the number held over 24 hours falling even further.

Police Direct Measures

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Number of ASB Fixed Penalty Notices Issued	3,903	3,456	↓ -11.5%
Number of recorded police warnings issued	15,434	14,425	↓ -6.5%

Use of alternatives to prosecution are on the decline. After a positive 7.5% increase in the use of RPWs at Quarter 2 year to date, Quarter 3 shows a 6.4% reduction in the number issued compared to last year. This equates to 1,009 less warnings than the previous year.

Fixed Penalty Notices are down 447 at the same stage the previous year, which has decreased a further 2.7% from last year when compared to the Quarter 2 year to date figure. Work is ongoing with local

policing divisions to raise awareness and encourage the use of direct measures in the future, along with work through the Criminal Justice Mobile Working Group to continually improve the technology used for issuing them. The introduction of the National Crime and Case Management system will provide improved management information in relation to Direct Measures which will inform further action.

Vulnerability

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Number of persons arrested with alcohol addiction issues	8,727	9,778	↑ 12.0%
Number of persons arrested with drug addiction issues	11,136	12,500	↑ 12.2%
Number of persons arrested with Mental Health issues	30,939	32,585	↑ 5.3%
Recorded YTD % Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change
Proportion of persons arrested with alcohol addiction issues	11.9%	12.9%	↑ 1.0%
Proportion of persons arrested with drug addiction issues	15.2%	16.5%	↑ 1.3%
Proportion of persons arrested with Mental Health issues	42.3%	42.9%	↑ 0.6%

Please note, each custody may have reported "yes" to each of the above categories.

This is the third consecutive quarter that has seen a rise across all vulnerability measures however the percentage change from the previous year has remained relatively static.

The proportion of persons declaring one or multiple vulnerabilities is rising however this could be linked to more individuals being arrested and brought into custody.

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Number of people in custody seen by NHS partners	5,221	5,511	↑ 5.6%

Figures provided represent the numbers marked out of cell for medical assessment (excluding those to hospital). They do not include those individuals who are subject to several medical assessments as is often the case during longer periods in custody.

As individuals with certain vulnerabilities rises, the number of healthcare referrals whilst in custody continues to increase in conjunction.

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Number of arrested persons referred to partners	1,174	844	↓ -28.1%

The figures at the end of Quarter 3 indicate an overall fall in Third Sector Organisation (TSO) forms received in this reporting period. The decrease is across all services areas and not limited to a particular area.

It is anticipated that the new pathway will be finalised in the short term, following which there will be a formal relaunch of the arrest referral programme, including recruiting additional Custody Support and Intervention Champions. A number of discussions have taken place with TSOs and a working group is being formed to encourage 'no closed door' and whole person approaches to support.

At the beginning of 2023, CJSD received instruction to amend the arrest referral pathway, moving away from consent based referrals to a process of seeking views under Public Task. Work has been ongoing to develop a new referral pathway, however in the interim period we have been unable to complete Information Sharing Agreements with any new Third Sector Organisations (TSOs).

Productions

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Total number of productions received	446,948	378,992	↓ -15.2%
Total number of productions disposed	230,320	216,842	↓ -5.9%
Total number of productions accumulated	286,777	284,892	↓ -0.7%
Recorded YTD % Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change
% of productions accumulated in terms of total received	64.2%	75.2%	↑ 11.0%

After a promising Quarter 1 where the number of productions disposed of had increased by 5.5% points on the previous year, the preceding two quarters have seen this fall. A current shortfall in production staff due to the recruitment freeze is having a direct impact on the reduction in disposal rates.

Strategic Outcome 3

The public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing.

Objectives:

- Embed the ethical and privacy considerations that are integral to policing and protection into every aspect of the service
- Protect the public and promote wellbeing across Scotland by providing services that are relevant, accessible and effective
- Work with local groups and public, third and private sector organisations to support our communities

Public Confidence and Experience of Policing

Police Scotland continues to measure and enhance understanding of public confidence, trust and user experience within local and specialist policing – delivering engagement and insights for performance, scrutiny, local police planning and service improvement across portfolios.

This work includes keeping public, colleagues and communities engaged and involved with financial and proposed service changes so that the service can continue to police by consent and ensure our policing model meets the needs of communities. Our focus is on high risk, threat and harm in adapting how we do things to connect with communities for enhancing safety and protection.

The areas we know impact public confidence, trust and user experience can be addressed by focusing on:

- Police culture, values and behaviours particularly how we show up for and support victims and communities.
- Ease of contact, accessibility and availability of local and specialist police services.
- Community safety and resilience through crime prevention and protection.
- Keeping communities informed about what policing is doing to manage crime and concerns within local communities.

Research and Engagement Activities

Our continuous national surveys, community engagement and research enable the service to understand what we do well, what is influencing confidence, and where we need to focus efforts for enhancing the user experience.

Your Police 2023-24 survey – our local police survey is open to anyone who lives in Scotland at any time to share their views and feedback on policing in their area, including feelings of safety. The survey is one of the largest of its kind in the UK and continues to receive a robust and representative response (10,943 responses this financial year, with 2,598 in Quarter 3).

User Experience Survey – our independent survey to measure and enhance people’s experience of contacting Police Scotland. The survey is sent via text message to 14,000 people who have contacted the police each month, 3,935 responses were received in Quarter 3. The methodology for capturing user experience feedback now includes victim-survivors of sexual crime and hate crime (approximately 300 responses in previous two quarters).

Last year we introduced a public Trust Index survey to a broadly representative sample of around 1,000 adults in Scotland each quarter. Respondents are asked about the service to understand their sentiment towards policing and what may be impacting trust in Police Scotland as an institution/brand.

Estates engagement – an open and inclusive national conversation on our estates transformation programme and engagement with proposed changes to local estates was launched on our engagement hub in December 2023 and will continue to support all proposals within local areas.

Our **engagement hub** provides visibility and transparency of national and local engagement activities including ‘you said, we listened, we did/doing’ feedback. The engagement hub also shows **case studies of community engagement** within local policing, including police-academic research collaborations, aligned to the drivers of public confidence.

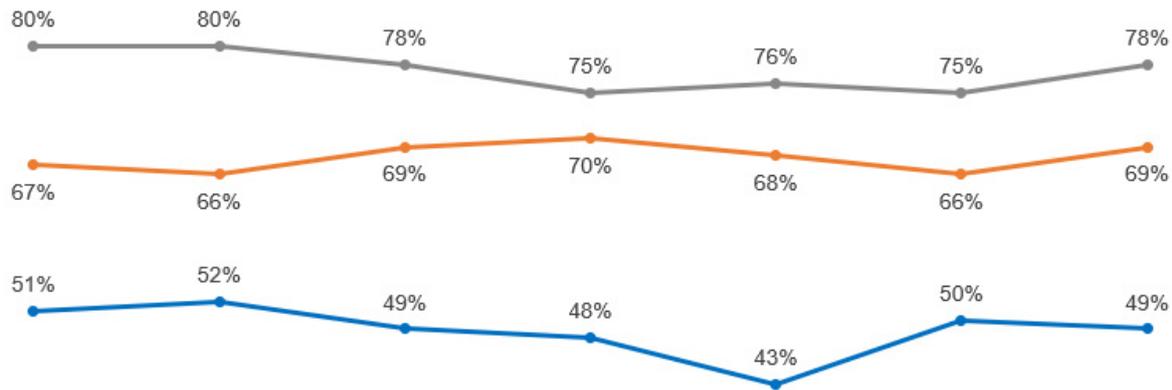
Key Findings

There are differences between confidence, trust and user experience, which considered together, provide a rich story about how policing is perceived and experienced. Public confidence is about our legitimacy and enables us to continue to police by consent, while trust is about our brand and reputation, associated with organisational competence i.e. professionalism, responsiveness, reliability and knowledge. User experience measures satisfaction with contacting the police across critical elements in the end-to-end journey.

Public confidence, trust and user experience is summarised in the following graph. There are improvements on user experience and public trust on the previous quarter, with public confidence staying the same.

While overall user experience and trust has remained consistent over time, public confidence in local policing has fluctuated. In comparison, the YouGov monthly tracker shows improvements in perceptions of Scottish policing with

confidence at 45% in Quarter 3 (up 4% points on previous quarter) and agreement that police are doing a good job at 49% (up 2% points), compared to the UK averages of 40% and 49% respectively which have stayed the same.



Q1 2022/23	Q2 2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24
Trust n= 1001	1005	1012	1004	1006	1001	1,002
UE n= 3752	3783	3933	3908	3885	3826	3,935
YP n= 945	10,243	3,781	1,929	275	8,071	2,598

- Trust index (Source: Progressive Ltd) Base= 7,031
- User Experience (Source: Progressive Ltd) Base= 27,022
- Public Confidence (Your Police) Base= 27,842

Experience of contact and determinants of user satisfaction

Findings show high and stable levels of satisfaction with contact. Figures for Quarter 3 are summarised below and where there have been changes on previous quarter:

- Ease of contact – 72% (up 3% points)
- Treatment by staff member during initial contact – 84%
- Staff understanding what they needed – 86%
- Police providing the appropriate response – 62%
- Treatment by officers who attended the incident - 81%

- Being adequately informed about progress – 47% (up 2% points)

Positive experiences are correlated most strongly with receiving an appropriate response, satisfaction with attending officers and feeling adequately informed about case progress. Callers tell us their experience was positive because contact was 'easy' with quick answer times on 101/999; and service advisors and attending officers took the time to listen and understand their needs, bringing empathy to interactions.

Factors influencing confidence in local policing

We know that confidence is closely affected by how policing is experienced and perceived locally. In Quarter 3, 78% of survey respondents reported feeling very safe or fairly safe in their area; 60% agreed that local police are friendly and approachable; and 27% agree local police listen to local concerns.

Analysis shows confidence in local policing and feeling safe in local areas is influenced by police visibility, community policing and engagement, and being kept informed about how crime is being managed and prevented in their areas.

People who self-reported as having recently (in the past six months) been a victim/witness of crime (n=828) and those living in areas most affected by poverty (n=449) reported the least confidence in local police. When asked what the police could do to support the community more, the key themes for these groups were related to **visibility** and **policing response to tackling crime**.

Public trust score and predictors

Results have remained relatively stable, between 75%-80% since the public trust survey was introduced in June 2022.

The Trust Index score in January 2024 was 78%, increasing from 75% on the previous quarter. The Trust Index score combines data from eight organisational characteristics (professionalism, compassion, responsiveness, reliability, knowledge, experience, trustworthiness, and modernity).

Most people continue to feel Police Scotland upholds its core values, with the proportion of respondents who felt police uphold the values of Respect (71%), Human Rights (70%), Fairness (69%) and Integrity (70%) increasing from last Quarter. This will continue to be monitored throughout the reporting year to identify and understand contributing factors.

Complaints about the Police

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	6 Month Sparkline
Number of complaints from members of the public	4,980	5,512	↑ 10.7%	
Number of allegations from members of the public	8,883	8,235	↓ -7.3%	
Number of PIRC Complaint Handling Reviews (CHRs)	144	112	↓ -22.2%	n/a
Number of allegations considered by PIRC (CHRs)	693	608	↓ -12.3%	n/a
Number of On Duty Assault allegations referred to PIRC	282	266	↓ -5.7%	n/a
Recorded Five-year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Number of complaints from members of the public	4,939	5,513	↑ 11.6%	n/a
Number of allegations from members of the public	8,886	8,235	↓ -7.3%	n/a
Recorded YTD % Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	6 Month Sparkline
% of closed allegations which were upheld	16.2%	15.6%	↓ -0.6%	n/a
% of reviewed allegations handled to a reasonable standard	73.2%	58.2%	↓ -15.0%	n/a
% of these cases subject to PIRC investigations	20.9%	19.5%	↓ -1.4%	n/a

Professional Standards Department

The Professional Standards Department (PSD) has resolved 2,739 complaints (49.7%) by Frontline Resolution (FLR) compared with 49.2% in the same period in 2022/23. This includes early resolution and subsequent resolution by PSD/ specialist officers.

There were 3,263 allegations attached to completed complaint investigations (criminal and non-criminal) with 15.6% of these being upheld.

Allegations of On Duty Assault (breaches of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights), plus any associated criminal allegations, are now referred to the Police Investigations & Review Commissioner (PIRC). In total, 270 allegations of On Duty Assault referrals

were made to the PIRC during this period. Of those, 55 are subject to the PIRC investigation (20.4%). However, as of 01 January 2024, 39 of these referrals are awaiting a decision from PIRC regarding possible investigation. The remaining 176 cases have been marked as no investigation by PIRC.

PIRC submitted 112 Complaint Handling Reviews (CHRs) to Police Scotland for consideration during this period. This notionally equates to 2.0% of all complaints. The 112 CHRs received from PIRC considered 608 allegations, with 354 (58.2%) assessed to have been handled to a reasonable standard. This is a decrease of 15.0% points from the same period in 2022/23. These CHRs included 181 recommendations.

Statutory referrals to PIRC facilitate independent and transparent scrutiny in relation to serious incidents involving the police. Police Scotland made 220 referrals to PIRC resulting in 30 investigations (13.6%) at the end of Quarter 3 2023/24. This is a decrease of 5.4% points compared to the same period last year.

There were 368 preliminary conduct assessments undertaken YTD which is up 28.7% (82 more assessments) on the same period last year. 52 assessments have required a misconduct/gross misconduct investigation with the remaining assessments either misconduct – no investigation or no misconduct.

PSD Disseminated Learning during this Quarter

- The North East Division Body Worn Video Guidance Document has been reviewed and amended. This has been circulated to all North East officers in response to a PIRC investigation.
- A recent PIRC investigation report highlighted the value of officers carrying Naloxone, where it can be utilised to potentially save lives.
- Upheld Quality of Service allegations regarding persons in custody not receiving drinking water led to a review and engagement with Criminal Justice to consider current practices, identify learning and make improvements. A short life working group has been set up to discuss options with staff engagement forums planned in February.
- Work is underway with C3 to review current guidance and identify improvements that can be made. In consultation with PIRC, work is being undertaken to produce accurate guidance in relation to PSD/Complaints against the Police and PIRC provisions in order to support C3 staff and provide the best possible service to the public at an early stage.

Strategic Outcome 4

Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public.

Objectives:

- Prioritise wellbeing and keep our people safe, well equipped and protected
- Support our people to be confident leaders, innovative, active contributors and influencers
- Support our people to identify with and demonstrate Police Scotland values and have a strong sense of belonging

Assaults on Police Officers and Police Staff

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Assault of emergency workers (police officer/staff) offences	5,016	5,164	↑ 3.0%	
Number of assault RIDDORS	25	26	↑ 4.0%	n/a
Number of assault RIDDORS per 1k employment	1.0	1.1	↑ 10.0%	n/a
Recorded Five-Year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Five-Year Sparkline
Assault of emergency workers (police officer/staff) offences	5,219.2	5,164	↓ -1.1%	
Recorded Three-Year Comparison	Three-Year Mean	YTD	% Change	Three-Year Sparkline
Number of assault RIDDORS	28.0	26	↓ -7.1%	n/a
Recorded YTD % Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Point Change	Six-Month Sparkline
Percentage of assaults leading to injury	26.8%	25.8%	↓ -1.0%	n/a
Recorded Three-Year % Comparison	Three-Year Mean	YTD	% Point Change	Three-Year Sparkline
Percentage of assaults leading to injury	30.2%	25.8%	↓ -4.4%	n/a

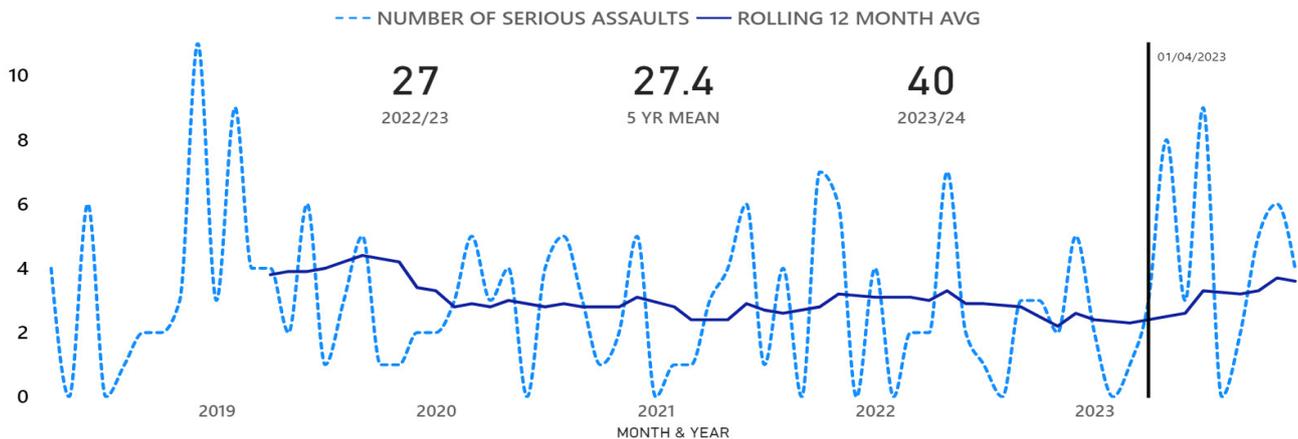
In 2023/24, there have been 5,164 reported assaults against officers and staff, averaging to about 19 assaults per day. While this represents an increase of 148 assaults (up 3.0%) compared to the

previous year, it marks a decrease of 55.2 (down 1.1%) from the five-year mean. Furthermore, the number of assaults per 1,000 incidents attended has risen from eight in 2022/23 to nine in 2023/24.

Despite these overall increases in assaults, the injury rate has seen a consistent decline, dropping to 25.8% compared to the previous year (down 1.0 percentage points) and the three-year average (down 4.4 percentage points). Notably, Police Scotland reported a decrease of 28 officers/staff (down 14.7%) requiring hospital treatment after assaults in 2023/24 compared to the previous year.

Police Scotland, through the Your Safety Matters group, has maintained efforts to encourage the reporting of assaults to both Health and Safety and Use of Force departments. This proactive approach further enriches Police Scotland’s datasets for performance reporting and advanced analytics. In 2023/24, Police Scotland’s reporting rate of assaults to Health and Safety has increased to 79.7% (up 8.1 percentage points), with no division reporting below 57%.

Key Exception: Serious Assaults on Officers and Staff Increase



Serious Assaults on Police Scotland’s officers and staff in 2023/24 (40) have increased by 13 compared to the previous year and also 13 compared to the five-year mean.

Additionally, when the data is examined over a 12 month rolling average, 2023/24 ranges between two and four serious assaults per month, providing a more nuanced and continuous view of the data.

Despite the increase in the total number of serious assaults this year, the rolling average aligns closely with the figures observed over the last five years.

This approach suggests that while there has been a spike in 2023/24 the ongoing monthly average remains consistent with the broader pattern. The increase seems to be due to spikes in May (eight serious assaults) and July (nine serious assaults).

Health and Wellbeing

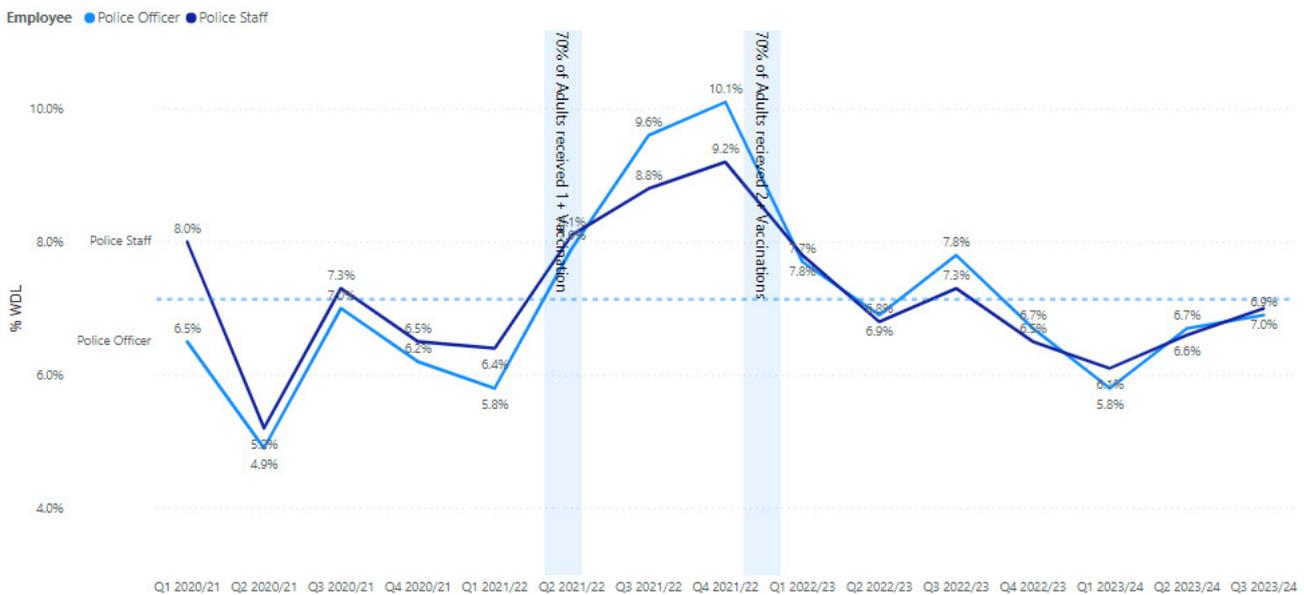
The Health and Wellbeing of our officers and staff is fundamental to the delivery of policing in Scotland and the organisation remains committed to supporting our workforce as they work tirelessly in challenging environments to meet the policing needs of Scotland’s communities.

The two graphs below show the absence rate for both police officers and staff over the past three years as well as this financial year-to-date. For context, the pillars on both graphs indicate key vaccination milestones during the COVID-19 pandemic which, following 70% uptake of the second vaccination, began moving absence rates towards a general downward trend.

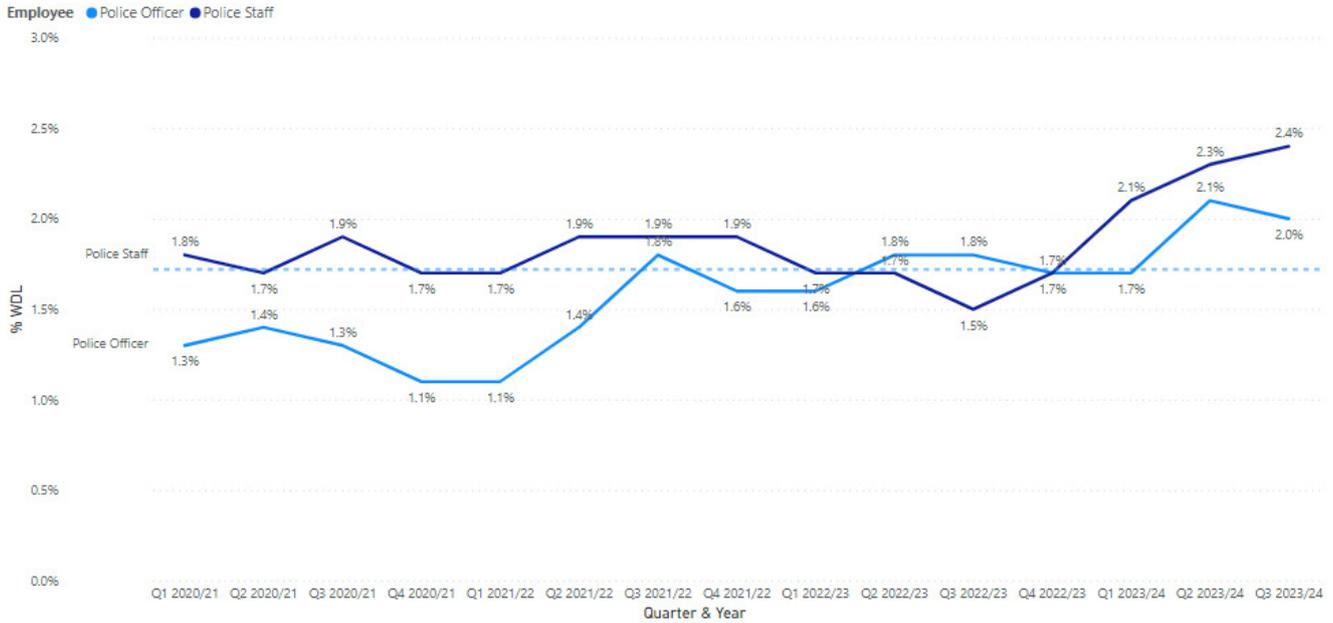
Psychological disorders remain the highest cause of sickness absence for officers and staff this quarter, with 2% of workdays lost being attributed to psychological disorders for officers and 2.4% for staff.

This represents a slight decrease 0.1% for officers and 0.1% increase for staff when compared with the previous quarter. When compared with Quarter 3 in the previous financial year, it shows an increase of 0.2% for officers and 0.9% for staff.

% Working Days Lost - Overall Sickness Absence



% Working Days Lost - Psychological Disorder



Recognising the prevalence of psychological ill-health, our Health & Wellbeing (HWB) programme continues to place focus on prevention and supporting psychological resilience. Over the last quarter, the following activity has been progressed in support of our people’s Health and Wellbeing:

Independent Health and Wellbeing Evaluation and Review

An independent health and wellbeing evaluation and review is currently ongoing by specialists in organisational health and wellbeing. It is anticipated this will be completed by the end of February 2024 with the key objectives of the review including, but not limited to:

- Undertake a full review of the current health and wellbeing approaches within PS/SPA.
- Report on the current health and wellbeing approaches and whether they are deemed to be appropriate and effective.
- Provide recommendations for any adaptations to current health and wellbeing approaches.
- Provide expert insight and guidance on developing outcomes and evidencing the impact that the wellbeing approach is having.

Wellbeing Champions Network

The relaunch of our Wellbeing Champions Network continues to progress and it is expected to complete by early February with a total of 246 champions in place. Features of the network now include a MS Teams channel for the network to communicate, initial continuous professional development in the form of Lifelines Scotland training delivered by our own facilitators, a new monthly online check in for Champions and a Wellbeing Champions SharePoint site where Champions can access information and track their proactive activity.

Lifelines Scotland Facilitator Programme

The Lifelines Facilitator programme, enabling officers and staff to facilitate crucial Lifelines resilience, self-care and post trauma support training through a Police Scotland and peer support lens, continues to gather pace with significant engagement from all areas within the organisation.

Following feedback collated during the evaluation; Health and Wellbeing are developing a mental health action plan which is scheduled to come to the Wellbeing Governance Board in Quarter 1 2024/25 with the Lifelines Scotland Facilitator Programme at the core of this. In the meantime, work continues to get facilitators trained and signed off and Health and Wellbeing will be looking to undertake a further evaluation of the programme as work progresses.

A total of 72 officers and staff have now completed the Lifelines facilitator training, with another 35 booked onto courses during Quarter 4. It is projected that facilitator capacity will have expanded to circa 110 by the end of the financial year.

Occupational Health and Employee Assistance Programme

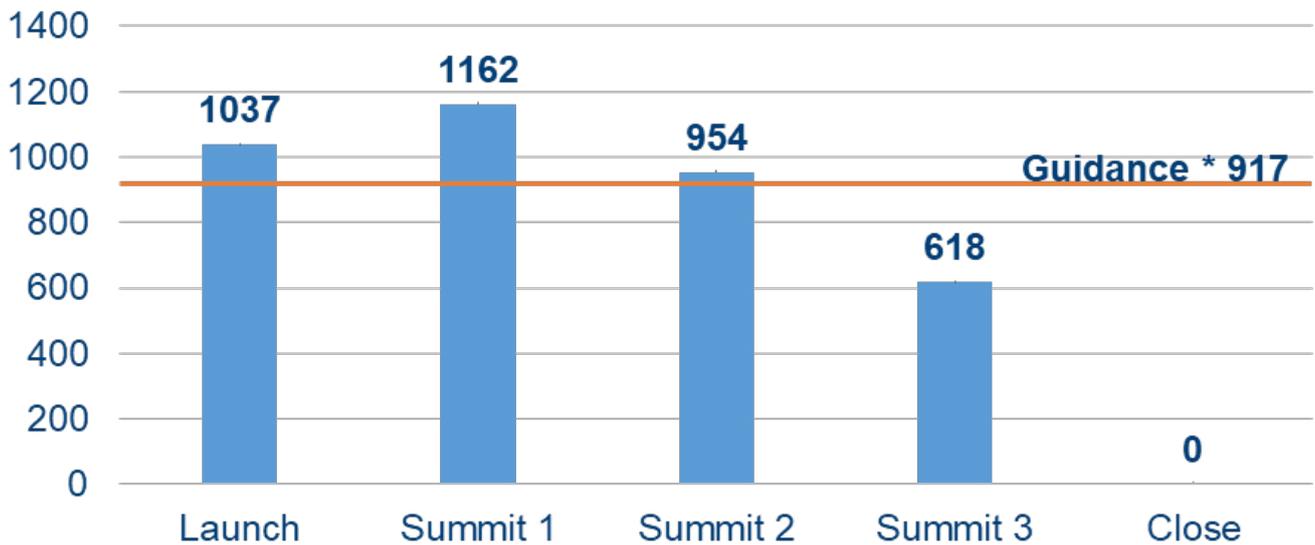
The preferred supplier for both the Occupational Health and Employee Assistance Programme contracts have now been approved. A communication strategy is under development at present with the contracts due to commence from 01 April 2024 and implementation plans in the following months.

Your Leadership Matters (YLM) Phase 2

Phase 2, for our mid-level leaders (MLL), launched in April 2023 and in September 2023 the programme reached the milestone of completing the senior-level leaders (SLL) refresh and the MLL programme. Focus in Quarter 3 has been on commencing delivery of the programme to our 3,800 first-level leaders (FLL) (police sergeant and police inspecting ranks, and staff grades 4-7) which will be completed in four separate rotations over the next 15 months.

Rotation One first level leaders' attendance levels to date are as follows:

FLL Rotation 1 Attendees



*Guidance line is total headcount of FLL officers and staff divided over the four rotations.

Summit three (Collaborate for Growth) sessions were not as favourably received by participants as the first two summits, with only 53% rating it as good or better and a lower number of participants advising they would advocate or recommend the summit to a colleague.

A priority action in December 2023 was to review the reasons for this, through individual feedback and three participant focus groups. This summit has now been re-designed and will recommence with the last four sessions for rotation one in February 2024. Analysis of this summit's content will be evaluated following the remaining sessions.

Finally, work has been undertaken on scoping the options for delivery with a greater element of in-person participation, with recommendations presented to our internal Strategic Reference Group.

A key recommendation being progressed is to combine consolidation sessions for the three summits into one 90-minute closing event. This will be delivered locally by a senior leader and will provide the option for participants to attend in person. Work is taking place to incorporate this in-person element from rotation two onwards which begins on 05 February 2024.

Strategic Outcome 5

Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges.

Objectives:

- Use innovative approaches to accelerate our capacity and capability for effective service delivery
- Commit to making a positive impact through outstanding environmental sustainability
- Support operational policing through the appropriate digital tools and delivery of best value

Finance

Maintaining a Balanced Budget Challenge

Revenue

The 2023/24 revenue budget was approved by the Board at the Authority meeting held on 23 March 2023.

A number of financial risks were highlighted as part of the budget approval process, some of which materialised in the first half of the financial year causing significant pressure on the 2023/24 revenue position. At the end of Quarter 3 we are reporting a £12.1m year-to-date overspend against budget.

The Quarter 3 forecast position of £1,357.8m shows an overspend of £5.0m against full year revised budget of £1,352.8m. This overspend requires additional funding, as requested by the Chief Executive Officer and Accountable Officer (CEO) of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) to the Scottish Government (SG), to ensure a balanced position.

As outlined previously, Quarter 1 forecast originally highlighted net unfunded pressures of £18.9m, mainly due to overspends relating to pay; police staff costs, police officer overtime and police officer pensions.

Mitigating actions and savings are being managed and delivered through our Policing Our Communities programme to bring spend back in line with the funded position.

At the end of November 2023, the CEO of the SPA wrote to the SG requesting £5.0m of contingency funding due to significant risk around the delivery of the forecast.

Capital

The capital forecast at Quarter 3 is £54.9m, £1.9m (fully funded) over the budget position of £53.0m. The forecast position requires £1.1m slippage to be slowed for the remaining part of the year, reduced from £17.3m at Quarter 2 forecast.

Over 88% of funding has been spent to date. Capital expenditure has required to be slowed for the remaining part of the year. As a result, no further commitments to be made in the current financial year, with £1.1m slippage still required within the committed spend or agreed exceptions category. Any slippage identified must be notified to Finance and should not be reallocated to other areas of spend.

Any remaining capital expenditure will continue to progress through governance and procurement to create a pipeline of activity ready for delivery from 01 April 2024.

Reform

The Quarter 3 forecast of £20.3m is in line with revised funding. As previously shown at Quarter 2 forecast, the Quarter 3 forecast continues to show that the reform funding has reduced to £20.0m. This was due to the decisions and mitigating actions agreed to help with the 2023/24 revenue position.

Environmental Challenge

Recorded YTD Comparison	PYTD	YTD	% Change
Consumption Data - Gas (per kWh)	36,737,533	37,038,380	↑ 0.8%
Consumption Data - Electricity (per kWh)	32,759,333	31,314,279	↓ -4.4%
Consumption Data - Water (per m3)	218,041	191,634	↓ -12.1%
Recorded Five-Year Comparison	Five-Year Mean	YTD	% Change
Consumption Data - Gas (per kWh)	40,140,629	37,038,380	↓ -7.7%
Consumption Data - Electricity (per kWh)	33,331,441	31,314,279	↓ -6.1%
Consumption Data - Water (per m3)	211,860	191,634	↓ -9.5%

At the end of November 2023/24, Police Scotland increased gas consumption by 0.8% compared to the same period last year. However, were down 7.7% compared to the five-year mean.

We have reduced our electricity consumption by 4.4% and 6.1% whilst our water consumption has decreased by 12.1% and 9.5% respectively.

Police Scotland is working towards implementing the move to an Ultra-Low Emission Fleet as part of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) approved Fleet Strategy. At the end of Quarter 3 2023/24, ULEV vehicles currently make up 30% of Police Scotland's overall fleet (no change from the previous quarter). 45% of the ULEV vehicles represent the unmarked fleet (up 1% point from the previous quarter).

The total mileage of electric vehicles (green miles) during Quarter 3 2023/24 was 1,501,571 miles. This compares to 1,499,099 miles in Quarter 2 2023/24 and represents an increase of 204,653 miles (up 0.16%) compared to the previous quarter. Overall, the total mileage of green miles by our electric vehicles was 4,245,116 miles in the year to date.

The average age of the Police Scotland fleet in Quarter 3 2023/24 is 3.75 years. This is up 0.11 years from the figure reported last quarter. This will reduce as new vehicles are introduced to the fleet and if the level of capital investment on the fleet is maintained in future years.

