



## Scotland Railways Committee Performance Report

### Key Points

- *BTP's Policing response has continued to adapt throughout each phase of the pandemic to face emerging challenges, ensure the safety of travelling public*
- *Rail Passenger footfall for the UK is still down due to the impact of COVID-19 however crime is returning to normal levels*
- *Scotland remains a safe place to travel, with a very low level of serious violence, robbery & sexual crime*
- *BTP continue to utilise resources and work with partners to achieve national and local objectives in reducing crime and disruption and protecting the most vulnerable people*

### COVID-19 Policing Response

Footfall remains lower than last year and figures are impacted by the evolving pandemic. Recorded crime for D Division is up to 61% of 2019 levels and increasing every week.

The rules around public transport during the pandemic have not changed during the summer months and officers continue to follow the 4 'Es' when dealing with the public - *Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce*. High visibility patrols have been made across the division to support staff and engage with members of the public. The table below details policing response to the pandemic in Quarter 2.

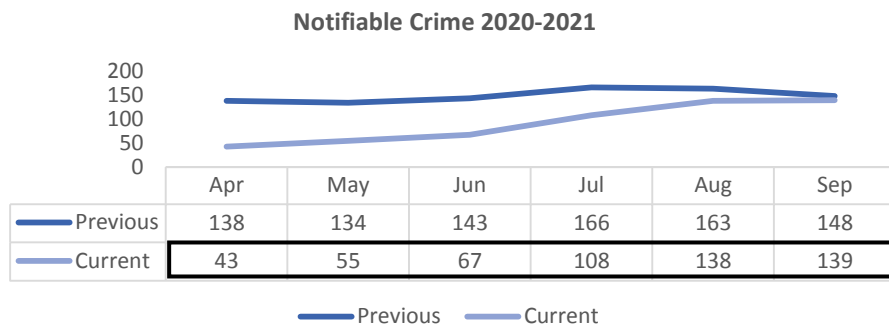
July – August	August – September	September - October
<p><i>In the Summer months, with relaxation of Lockdown measures, the rail network was busier and there were reports of busy services at tourist hotspots such as Balloch and the Oban line.</i></p> <p><i>BTP worked with the industry to try and identify these services and make sure the necessary interventions were put in place as early as possible.</i></p>	<p><i>There have been issues with school children compliance with the face covering legislation.</i></p> <p><i>Officers have been working with the industry to establish hot spot locations and implement strategies to target these areas.</i></p> <p><i>There has also been liaison with local schools to ensure that the message is being passed to pupils in the relevant locations.</i></p>	<p><i>The main challenge currently is supporting the rail industry through a period of renewed restrictions.</i></p> <p><i>Support has been provided to stakeholders across the Division through a daily tasking process where repeat locations of lower compliance is highlighted. To help with the response to the new legislation introduced by the Scottish Government (including amended pub closing times - 22:00 hours, and more recently 18:00), additional officers have been deployed to bolster visibility at mainline stations and other identified locations.</i></p>

BTP Scotland have recorded 51 breaches of the regulations since 01/03/2020. These have all been processed via the use of Fixed Penalty Notices, except one by report and two by custody report.

There have also been 55 crimes that have been directly associated with COVID-19, such as Assault by directed coughing or spitting, the smearing of phlegm on surfaces or suspects claiming to be infected to a victim whilst committing a crime.

### Crime Overview

**Scotland has recorded 550 crimes so far in the Policing Year 2020-2021.** While this is a decrease of 39% (-348 crimes) from the previous year, recorded crime in Quarter 2 has come more in line with 2019 levels.



**The largest increase in crime has been in Drugs.** With 81 crimes, this category is up by 69% (+33) from previous year. The high number of crimes can be attributed to the increase in County Lines days of action that have taken place across the Division. D Division officers work in conjunction with Police Scotland and BTPs dedicated County Lines Task Force on intensification days and this has yielded several positive results. The high amount of crimes is the result of police-generated searches - in the East in particular, where 50% (44) of the recorded crime relates to drug possession. To date drug detections in the East are up by 260% (+37). The overall positive detection rate for drug crime in Scotland is 96% (94).

**There have been 56 Graffiti crimes since April and this is a 107% increase on last year's figure of 27 (+29).** Divisional CID have taken the lead on Graffiti and a problem-solving plan has been created which sees D Division officers working alongside the industry to establish what collaborative steps can be taken to tackle and reduce the issue and to implement these methods. Agreement has been made for NWR to fund improvement of security at repeat hotspot location Yoker Depot - predominantly in the form of an updated and increased CCTV system including remote guard and patrol cameras which automatically flag to CCTV centres when triggered. LED lighting has also been improved and it is anticipated that these measures will assist the division's response to and clearance of graffiti-based crime. There have been positive results and arrests for offenders whose offending scope is cross border, including a DNA match on American suspect and the earlier arrest of a Spanish foreign national (charged with 14 detections). The current detection rate for Graffiti is 26%.

**Hate Crime is currently low on Division, with 4 crimes recorded since April.** These have all been recorded as *racially aggravated* and two of these have had a religious element. Two incidents also mention COVID-19 as the motivating factor for the abuse with the victims / victim's countries stated as being to blame for the virus.

A BTP *National Hate Crime Awareness Week* took place between the 10/10/2020 and 17/10/2020 and this consisted of promotional activity to encourage people to report incidents of hate crime and to highlight and demonstrate the commitment that BTP has made to investigating any incidents of hate-based crime. Due to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the campaign was promoted through various channels of communication such as visual and audio output at stations and use of social

media to engage a wide audience and promote relevant support services. The Twitter hashtag of #WeStandTogether was promoted on the main BTP Twitter account, local neighbourhood policing accounts and the dedicated *BTPDiversity* account to raise awareness and inform on how to report.

**The largest decrease in crime has been in the category of Violence Against Person**, down 47% (-108 crimes) from last year. However, violence is still the highest recording category and this is an issue on which BTP Scotland continue to dedicate attention. Most of the violent crime on the network in Scotland is Common Assault resulting in no injury (68%, 82 crimes). All Violence Against Person crime has a current detection rate of 75% (134) and the specific rate for Common Assault is 62% (61).

**Other crime groups with significant reduction are Theft Passenger Property** (46 compared with 149) **and Serious Line of Route crime** (19 from 39). **Weapons (33) and Motor Vehicle crime (19) are almost up at the same level as last year with small difference in crimes.** The proactive activity around drugs has impacted on weapon crime figures as weapons are often found when the object of the search is drugs. Cash seizures have also increased as a result of searches.

### **Serious Violence and Robbery**

#### *Tackle serious violent crime and robbery on the railway for passengers and staff*

**Serious Violence and Robbery remains low on Division. There have only been 9 cases where violence has resulted in injury.** Current detection rate for this category is 67% (6). Robbery is also low, with only 4 crimes since April. Crime in this category has been sporadic, with no evident pattern of repeated offending and there is no real history of serious violence in the east. However, as with Q1, it is still the case that COVID-19 restrictions have impacted on the 'night time economy' and there has been corresponding reduction of linked violence at busier locations.

### **Staff Violence**

#### *Prevent physical & verbal assaults on staff members to increase positive outcomes, ensuring that there is effective communication with victims*

**To date there have been 61 recorded assaults against staff members.** Out of this total, 16 have been physical (26%) in nature and 45 have been verbal (74%). The detection rate for physical assault is 81% (13) and 44% (20) for verbal crimes. 18% (3) of physical incidents have been spittle assaults and this is particularly of note given the context of COVID. The Glasgow area has been a hotspot location this year, with 3 out of the 4 top locations taking place in Glasgow city centre.

BTP is represented at the Abellio ScotRail Security meeting, (held monthly) and the Joint Safety Committee - an industry and Union forum - (held quarterly). This provides an opportunity to discuss emerging trends, joint working opportunities and to address concerns. Additionally, the divisional superintendent chairs a quarterly strategic stakeholder meeting where, again, areas of concern are discussed and tactical measures and joint problem solving strategies are reviewed.

## **Disruption and Trespass**

***Reduce disruption related incidents through a joint problem-solving approach with industry at key red route locations***

**The Embedded Inspector at the Network Rail West of Scotland Signalling Centre continues to drive partnership activity to tackle trespass issues and disruption.** A dedicated team has been formed which targets police-related disruption on the rail network and this team report directly to the Embedded Inspector. The proposed start date for the Disruption Reduction Unit is now January 2021.

National Disruption Fusion Unit data shows that there has been an overall decrease of 13.4% YTD (408 from 471 incidents). This reduction has become smaller in recent weeks as trespass, like overall crime, shows signs of returning to normal levels.

Category	Previous YTD	Current YTD	Difference	
Cable Theft	451	0	-451	-100%
Disorder/drunks	8,100	3,868	-4,232	-52%
Fatalities/Injuries by being hit by a train	5,056	4,942	-114	-2%
Level Crossing incidents (misuse)	1,916	1,330	-586	-31%
Trespass	19,859	13,277	-6,582	-33%
Vandalism/Theft (inc objects on line)	3,407	1,333	-2,074	-61%
	<b>38,789</b>	<b>24,750</b>	<b>-14,039</b>	<b>-36%</b>

Lost Minutes are down by 36% overall. There have been no minutes lost due to Cable Theft (-100%). The smallest percentage of change has been in fatalities.

***Maintain an average handback time of under 90 minutes for non-suspicious incidents.***

Fatalities and persons struck by trains has increased by 54.5% YTD and incidents of this type have been particularly prominent recently, with three fatalities during the course of one week in mid-October. The average handback time is 113 minutes with an average arrival time has been 29 minutes. The average handback time is higher than 90 minutes and this is due to two incidents with a substantially longer return time – namely a fatality at the Forth Rail Bridge on 13/07/2020 (244 minutes) when there was no relief driver available and an incident in the Newburgh area on 08/09/2020 (174 minutes). The incident at the Forth Rail Bridge was treated as unexplained and required a search of the bridge to look for evidence, resulting in a high number of delay minutes.

***Reduce trespass through joint problem solving with the industry at agreed high impact locations***

**Lost minutes due to trespass have reduced by 33% YTD.** Due to reduced services and use of the railways because of COVID disruption, the number of recorded trespass incidents is still reduced. However, this reduction has become smaller in recent weeks as trespass, like overall crime, shows signs of returning to normal levels.

National Disruption Fusion Unit analytical team identified Shettleston as a problematic location for trespass by children and young people. BTP resources were deployed at the location and negotiations took place between Scotland Route EI and NR to secure boundary fencing improvements. Further activity included work with NR Community Engagement Manager and the Scottish Football Association to deliver safety message to youth football clubs, high-visibility BTP patrols and increased Network Rail MOM patrols. As a result of this approach, there has been a significant reduction in Children and Young Person trespass at the location.

### **Safeguarding**

#### ***Protect, support and safeguard vulnerable people and those at risk of harm on the railway***

With fatalities being prominent in recent weeks, the Samaritans have entered partnership with Network Rail and have introduced a new Suicide Prevention Meeting which is attended by D Division's NWR Embedded Inspector. Activity will focus on locations and areas of concern.

A focus for BTP in D Division Operations is to target serious criminal activity that directly impacts on the rail network and vulnerable groups, such as County Lines. Intelligence Development Officers (IDOs) remain in place working in close contact with the Police Scotland multi-agency desks at Gartcosh Scottish Crime Campus to develop intelligence operations in this respect.

In 2020/2021 there has been an increase in County Lines disruptions in Edinburgh and officers have worked alongside the dedicated County Lines Taskforce and Police Scotland during coordinated days of action and targeting County Lines activity is now very much business as usual.

### **Football**

#### ***Prevent football related crime & increase passenger and rail staff confidence through successful outcomes***

As with Q1, liaison with the industry continues to ensure they have adequate plans in place for safe socially distance queueing of passengers when events can welcome back fans. These plans have been replicated at main line stations to ensure segregation and staffing levels will also be increased to monitor queues.

### **Use of Operational Powers in Respect of Minority Communities**

Stop and Search data for the last year indicates that there were 306 Stop and Searches conducted in Scotland. Out of this total, 87% (265) were recorded as White ethnicity and 13% (39) were of BME background (an additional 7 had no ethnicity information).

The most common legal power used to conduct stop and searches was **Section 23 of Misuse of Drugs Act**, with 75% (231) of the overall total. This legislation has been mainly utilised to tackle County Lines and other drug related offences and 65% (28) searches conducted took place at Edinburgh Waverley Station. 87% (201) of individuals stopped under the power of S.23 Misuse of Drugs in Scotland were of White recorded ethnicity and 12% (28) of Individuals were from BAME background.

Work is currently ongoing at force level to identify and better understand disproportionality data in respect of stop and search activity and will be overseen by the new Chief Superintendent lead for legitimacy.

### **BTP Diversity**

There are currently 250 staff members based in BTP Scotland; 183 Police Officers, 27 Police Staff and 40 Special Officers. Of these employees 198 (79%) are male and 52 (29%) female with 238 (95%) recording their ethnicity as white, 8 (3%) as an ethnic minority and 4 (2%) have not stated.

BTP have a 'Positive Action Recruitment Team' (PACT) embedded within the recruitment team which aims to ensure diversity in recruitment. Methods employed by the team include the delivery of interview workshops and mock interviews and the provision of coaching through the application process. Moreover, the PACT advertises at career fairs and across various social media platforms to encourage underrepresented groups to consider a career with BTP.

Sickness levels in Scotland are at 4.23 sickness days per person up to the end of quarter 3, 8% lower than this time last year with Officers recording 3.88 days lost and Staff at 1.44 days. As in previous years Officers long-term sickness is the main area; although this is mainly due to a small number on long-term sick for reasons including operation & heart condition. Top reasons across all employee types are stress, depression/anxiety and injury on duty albeit from a small number of absences (43 in total).

## Appendix

	PYTD	YTD	Difference	% Difference
01A Violence	228	<b>120</b>	-108	-47%
01B Weapons	35	<b>33</b>	-2	-6%
02A Sex	37	<b>7</b>	-30	-81%
03A Criminal Damage	119	<b>58</b>	-61	-51%
03B Graffiti	27	<b>56</b>	29	107%
04A Line of Route (Serious)	39	<b>19</b>	-20	-51%
05A Theft of Passenger Property	149	<b>46</b>	-103	-69%
06A Motor Vehicle	24	<b>19</b>	-5	-21%
06B Pedal Cycle	57	<b>24</b>	-33	-58%
07A Robbery	8	<b>3</b>	-5	-63%
08A Burglary & Theft Railway	62	<b>27</b>	-35	-56%
08B Theft Cable & Plant	21	<b>17</b>	-4	-19%
09A Public Order (Serious)	7	<b>4</b>	-3	-43%
10A Fraud (Serious)	7	<b>5</b>	-2	-29%
11A Drugs	48	<b>81</b>	33	69%
12A Other (Serious)	30	<b>31</b>	1	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>-348</b>	<b>-39%</b>