

[19 September 2025] Agenda Pack / Scottish Railways Policing Committee

MEETING
19 September 2025 11:00 BST

PUBLISHED
12 September 2025

Agenda

Location
Hybrid / St Rollox and Turnbull Meeting Rooms / Scottish Police
Authority, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Glasgow, G40 4EH

Date
19 Sep 2025

Time
11:00 BST

	Item	Owner	Time	Page
1	Apologies	Chair	11:00	-
2	Declarations	All		-
3	Minutes	Chair		3
4	Actions	Chair		10
5	Assistant Chief Constable's Report / Operational Performance	Assistant Chief Constable	11:15	11
6	Policing Plan Performance Q1 2025/26	Assistant Chief Constable / Chief Superintendent	11:30	14
7	British Transport Police / Police Scotland Joint Working Q1 2025/26	Police Scotland Chief Superintendent	11:45	21
8	Use of Drones in Scotland	Assistant Chief Constable	11:50	-
9	British Transport Police All People Survey 2025	Head of Marketing & Internal Communications / Chief Superintendent	12:05	23
10	Thematic / Legitimacy - Use of Policing Powers	Assistant Chief Constable	12:20	25
11	British Transport Police External Affairs in Scotland	Head of External Affairs & Media	12:35	-
12	Audit and Inspections Update Q1 2025/26	Assistant Chief Constable	12:50	29
13	Biannual Strategic Risk Update	Head of Audit and Assurance / Risk and Assurance Manager	13:05	36
14	Any Other Business in Public Session	All		-
15	Exclusion of the Public	SRPC Members	13:20	-
16	Non-Public Minutes	Chair	13:25	52
17	British Transport Police D Division Resourcing	Assistant Chief Constable	13:30	-
18	Any Other Business in Non-Public Session	All		-

Minutes

Scottish Railways Policing Committee

Wednesday 4 June 2025 at 11.00am in the Scott meeting room,
 COSLA Conference Centre, Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards,
 Edinburgh, EH12 5BH and via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Iain Whyte (Chair)
 Kenna Kintrea
 Tom Halpin (SPA Co-Opted Member)
 Mary Pitcaithly (SPA Co-Opted Member)

Apologies:

None

In attendance:

British Transport Police Authority Executive

Hugh Ind (Chief Executive)
 Kate Carr (Head of Legitimacy and Performance)
 Lynsey Luthra (Risk and Assurance Manager)
 Jon Newton (Analyst)
 Alistair MacLellan (Board Secretary)

British Transport Police

Ian Drummond-Smith (Assistant Chief Constable)
 Lorna McEwan (Chief Superintendent)
 Russell Beattie (Staff Officer)
 Paul Edmond (Staff Officer)
 Rebecca MacMillan (Insight Analyst)
 Mel Morton (Head of Deputy Chief Constable's Portfolio)

Scottish Police Authority Corporate

Amanda Coulthard (Head of Strategy and Performance)
 Lesley Carnegie (Performance and Impact Lead)

Police Scotland

Hilary Sloan (Chief Superintendent)
 Neil McDonald (Detective Superintendent) (Item 8)
 Jackie Knight (Detective Inspector) (Item 8)

External

Ryan Griffiths (BTP Federation)
 Brian MacInulty (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland)
 Kirstin McPhee (Scottish Government)

Apologies

Agenda Item 1

1. There were no apologies.

Declarations

Agenda Item 2

2. Iain Whyte noted he was an elected City of Edinburgh councillor. He made that declaration given there were references at Item 7 (Police Scotland / BTP Joint Working) to operations in Edinburgh.
3. There were no other declarations.

Minutes

Agenda Item 3

4. **RESOLVED**, that the public minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2025 be approved.

Actions

Agenda Item 4

5. Members considered actions arising from previous meetings and the following points were made.
 - a. An SPA Member welcomed the update at Action 1/2025 and noted he welcomed discussing the issue of drones further later on the agenda.
 - b. The SPA Corporate Head of Strategy and Performance noted she had a briefing note for the Committee to satisfy Action 2/2025.
 - c. Members agreed that Action 6/2024, Action 1/2025, Action 2/2025 and Action 3/2025 could be closed.
6. **RESOLVED**, that the paper regarding actions arising from previous meetings be noted.

Operational Update / British Transport Police in Scotland

Agenda Item 5

7. Members considered a paper providing an operational update on British Transport Police in Scotland and the following points were made.
 - a. The Assistant Chief Constable introduced the paper, noting his pleasure at attending his first meeting of the Committee since his appointment to British Transport Police, and took the opportunity to praise the performance of D Division.
 - b. In light of Action 1/2025, the Assistant Chief Constable affirmed BTPs ambition to deploy drones across the UK, and to work in partnership with Police Scotland

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with regards the use of drones in Scotland. One emerging issue was how drones in Scotland would be funded.

- c. The Assistant Chief Constable continued, noting BTPs focus on developing beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operation of drones through the so-called 'drone in a box' (DIAB) – a relevant video explaining the concept could be shared with the Committee, alongside a standing offer for Committee Members to visit BTP's drones operations room in London (Action 4/2025). BVLOS capability had the potential to assist in effective management of trespass, fatalities, and wider disruption. Its application in Scotland would require further public consultation alongside a business case.
- d. Members commented they were keen for a pilot of BVLOS to take place in Scotland given the potential for effective policing of the railways. If funding was an issue, they encouraged the Assistant Chief Constable to be clear on how the Committee could best assist making the case for funding on BTPs behalf, given they were keen there be no capability gap in Scotland.
- e. The Chair requested an interim update on BTPs plans for drones in Scotland in advance of a substantive paper at the next meeting (Workplan).
- f. The Assistant Chief Constable concluded his summation of his paper by noting his ambitions to consolidate BTP estates in Scotland, e.g. the potential to consolidate four Glasgow sites down to two. This approach would involve considering how partnership working could be put to best effect.

8. **RESOLVED**, that the operational update on British Transport Police in Scotland be noted.

Policing Plan Performance Q4

Agenda Item 6

9. Members considered a paper regarding Policing Plan Performance for Q4 2024/25 and the following points were made.
 - a. The Chief Superintendent (British Transport Police) introduced the paper and highlighted,
 - i. Whereas overall crime had increased 3.4%, D Division had secured an improved solved rate.
 - ii. There were significant levels of high harm violence.
 - iii. There were reductions across criminal damage, public order/football, and minutes lost to disruption.
 - iv. British Transport Police was working closely with ScotRail to support rail staff victims of crime.
 - v. The introduction of a new ScotRail TravelSafe team in eastern Scotland. British Transport Police securing its first Sexual Harm Prevention Order against a guilty male.

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- b. In response to a question, the Assistant Chief Constable noted he could provide a response in non-public session covering BTPs proactivity level in Scotland following the 2025/26 Budget settlement.
- c. In response to a question, the Chief Superintendent replied that the Force had recently begun seeking feedback from Network Rail on what action was taken in response to any recommendations from BTP following disruption incidents.
- d. In response to a question, the Chief Superintendent replied that there was no single factor underpinning BTPs positive performance with regards football policing, except to say there was close partnership working with Police Scotland at the outset of the planning cycle, and positive working relationships which allowed effective application of resources at the local level.
- e. In response to a question, the Assistant Chief Constable noted that D Division solved 63% of violence against women and girls (VAWG) crimes in the last year, and there was no doubt that a more effective response encouraged greater trust in reporting. The level of VAWG in Scotland was reflective of the crime picture across the UK. Whereas BTP was making strides in encouraging reporting and securing convictions, it was likely a true picture of the scale of VAWG offences had not yet been reached. He felt it was significant, from a BTP perspective, that 6% of VAWG crimes were against rail staff.
- f. In response to a question, the Assistant Chief Constable replied that increased passenger numbers was indeed a key driver in increased crime on the network overall. He welcomed the level of engagement with British Transport Police offered by both ScotRail and Transport Scotland.
- g. In response to a question, the Chief Superintendent noted that work was ongoing to secure effective use of Police Scotland dashboards by British Transport Police.
- h. The Assistant Chief Constable concluded by noting that a director of Edinburgh Pride had been subject to an alleged hate crime on the network – he reassured Members that BTP was investigating the matter.

10. **RESOLVED**, that the paper regarding Policing Plan Performance for Q4 2024/25 be noted.

Joint Working / Police Scotland and British Transport Police Agenda Item 7

- 11. Members considered a paper regarding joint working between Police Scotland and British Transport Police and the following points were made.
 - a. The Chief Superintendent (Police Scotland) introduced the paper and highlighted,

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- i. Partnership working between Police Scotland, BTP and Retailers Against Crime in across Glasgow city centre.
 - ii. BTPs access to the interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) from 31 March 2025.
 - iii. Collaboration on a Suicide Prevention Strategic Group, that had revealed the need for support from a men's charity for suicide prevention.
 - iv. Joint working on Op Ballaton (Safer Shores operation in Ayrshire and presence in Balloch area in anticipation of good weather).
 - v. BTPs role in supporting public order operations, particularly football e.g. Rangers v Celtic and Rangers v Fenerbahçe.
- b. In response to a question, both Chief Superintendents present from Police Scotland and British Transport Police confirmed that BTP was embedded in Commonwealth Games planning, and financial principles were in place governing cost recovery.
 - c. The Assistant Chief Constable and Chief Superintendent (Police Scotland) offered for BTP and Police Scotland to attend the Committee to brief Members on Commonwealth Games planning at an appropriate point (Workplan).

12. **RESOLVED**, that the paper regarding joint working between Police Scotland and British Transport Police be noted.

Thematic / Retail Crime Agenda Item 8

13. Members received a presentation regarding Police Scotland's approach to retail crime and the following points were made.
- a. A Detective Superintendent delivered a presentation, and highlighted,
 - i. The data underpinning retail crime and offences against retail workers.
 - ii. Retail crime drivers
 - iii. Police Scotland's response through establishment of the Retail Crime Task Force, the Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime, and funding streams.
 - iv. The *prevent, pursue, prepare, protect* model of the Retail Crime Action Plan.
 - v. Early successes achieved by the Retail Crime Task Force.
 - b. In response to a question, the Detective Superintendent replied that, whereas there were excellent local links between Police Scotland and British Transport Police, the latter were not yet embedded in the work of the strategic-level Retail Crime Task Force. He noted the opportunity to include British Transport Police in strategic intelligence gathering.
 - c. Members noted the unique nature of retail and wider hospitality at major rail hubs, and the opportunity this granted policing to target acquisitive crime in a

defined setting – both opportunistic and professionalised acquisitive theft, but also that theft driven by vulnerable persons in the throes of addiction. Within this opportunity was the obligation to ensure retail staff in a rail setting received adequate reassurance and support.

- d. The Detective Superintendent noted the task force's emerging communications strategy to share good news and promote confidence among retailers and their customers.

- 14. **RESOLVED**, that the presentation regarding Police Scotland's approach to retail crime be noted.

Audit and Inspections Update Q4 2024/25

Agenda Item 9

- 15. Members considered the Audit and Inspections Update Q4 2024/25, and the following points were made.

- a. The Head of the Deputy Chief Constable's Portfolio introduced the update and highlighted,
 - i. Good performance for D Division with regards property audits, and high compliance in handling of high-risk items such as cash, drugs and firearms.
 - ii. Improved approaches to the use of Captor.
 - iii. Liaison with His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland with regards to the Commonwealth Games inspection, and a review of uniform and equipment.
 - iv. Engagement with His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services, which involved a Force-level development plan that had relevance to D Division.
 - v. All internal audit reports had been completed at Q4.
 - vi. The Public Sector Fraud Authority's assessment of the Force as being 'in development', in line with other public sector bodies.
 - vii. Largely positive inspections of the Force's use of surveillance and human intelligence sources, and use of covert intelligence data, with some minor recommendations around documenting decision-making appropriately.
 - viii. D Division's high performance in the crime and incident audit.
 - ix. Positive progress made in closing inspection actions ahead of year end.

- 16. **RESOLVED**, that the Audit and Inspections Update Q4 2024/25 be noted.

Annual Review / Workplan & Terms of Reference

Agenda Item 10

- 17. Members considered a paper regarding the annual review of the Committee's workplan and terms of reference, and the following points were made.

- a. A Member welcomed the alignment of the workplan with the lifetime of the BTPA Policing Plan, and the focus on Best Value. She suggested a greater focus within the workplan on oversight of stakeholder engagement (Workplan).

18. **RESOLVED**, that Members,

- a. Endorse the tiered framework for Committee scrutiny and multi-year approach to Committee work planning.

Any Other Business in Public Session

Agenda Item 11

19. There was no other business in public session.

Exclusion of the Public

Agenda Item 12

20. **RESOLVED**, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as per paragraph 39, Annex 2 (Procedural Standing Orders) of the British Transport Police Authority's Code of Governance (December 2024).

Non-Public Minutes

Agenda Item 13

21. **RESOLVED**, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2025 be approved.

Any Other Business in Non-Public Session

Agenda Item 14

22. There were two items of other business in non-public session – a verbal update from the Assistant Chief Constable regarding the 2025/26 budget design for British Transport Police in Scotland, and a discussion on the recent Supreme Court Judgement in For Women Scotland v The Scottish Ministers.

The meeting ended at 1.07pm

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SCOTTISH RAILWAYS POLICING COMMITTEE

No.	Date	Action/Paper	Owner	Outcome
2/2025	5 March 2025	When discussing the Strategic Risk Update, an SPA Co-Opted Committee Member agreed that the Scottish Parliament's Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) Bill would likely have implications for BTP, and that SPA Corporate would be able to provide a briefing note accordingly.	Head of Legitimacy and Performance	Completed The briefing note is available on Board Intelligence .
4/2025	4 June 2025	The Assistant Chief Constable continued, noting BTPs focus on developing beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operation of drones through the so-called 'drone in a box' (DIAB) – a relevant video explaining the concept could be shared with the Committee, alongside a standing offer for Committee Members to visit BTP's drones operations room in London.	Staff Officer/Board Secretary	Recommended for Closure Board Secretary emailed SRPC Members on 4 July 2025 to reiterate the offer. The video in question is accessible here .
5/2025	4 June 2025	The Scottish Government attendee noted that it would be helpful for British Transport Police to be involved in planned focus groups prompted by the judgement. The Assistant Chief Constable noted that BTP had established a Policy Review Group, which he could ensure was aligned with Scottish Government workstreams.	Head of Legitimacy and Performance	Recommended for Closure Board Secretary highlighted action with relevant BTP Assistant Chief Constable on 30 July 2025 / copied to Head of Legitimacy and Performance.
6/2025	4 June 2025	The SPA Head of Strategy and Performance noted that a relevant paper to the Supreme Court Judgement being considered by a SPA Committee the week commencing 9 June 2025 – she could share that paper in due course.	SPA Head of Strategy and Performance	Completed The paper in question is available from the Scottish Police Authority website here .

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION - OFFICIAL
HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS - Management
DISCLOSABLE (FOI / PUBLICATION SCHEME) - Yes



Report to: Scottish Railways Policing Committee
Date: 05/09/2025
Subject: Assistant Chief Constable's Report / Operational Update
Sponsor: ACC Drummond-Smith
Author: PS Paul Edmond
For: Noting

1. Purpose of paper

1.1. This paper provides an overview of key areas of performance concerns and priorities within the Scottish division of BTP.

2. Operational Performance

2.1. Scotland remains the top performing division in BTP.

2.2. Reflecting on Q1 2025/6, this has been a busy start to the year with excellent performance and some challenges, which I have reflected on below. Of note, Easter fell in Q1 25/26, whereas the previous Easter fell into Q4 of 23/24 – therefore when comparing year-on-year it is notable there was no Easter in 2024/5.

2.3. Since 1st April 2025 we have recorded 1,030 crimes within Scotland, returning a solved rate of 45.6%.

2.4. 95 of these offences are recorded with a rail staff victim and the solved rate for rail staff offences sits at 57.9%. It should also be noted that 25 of these offences remain under investigation.

2.5. The top 5 recorded crime groups within Scotland in this timeframe are:

Crime Group	Total	Percentage of all Crime	Scotland solved rate	Force solved rate
Violence	322	31.3%	68.9%	19.9%
Theft of Passenger Property	133	12.9%	15%	2.2%
Theft Railway	95	9.2%	31.6%	12.5%
Graffiti	84	8.2%	2.4%	0.5%
Criminal Damage	72	7%	20.8%	10.8%

Security Classification and Handling Instructions of document are detailed on page 1

2.6. A breakdown of our high harm offending in Scotland below shows a strong solved rate across all crime types since the start of the performance year:

Crime Group	Total	Percentage of all crime	Scotland solved rate	Force solved rate
Sexual Offending	47*	4.6%	59.6%	21%
Violence	322	31.3%	68.9%	19.9%
Weapons	39	3.8%	87.2%	76.6%
Robbery	4	0.4%	100%	8.3%

*Of note, 5 of these offences are historical reports occurring between 1982 and 1985 but reported to BTP in 2025. These were investigated by Police Scotland as part of a wider investigation and have been closed as undetected.

3. Areas of Concern

3.1. **Rise in Sexual Offending** – Despite the excellent performance across our high harm offending, it would be prudent to highlight that sexual offending shows a PYTD increase of 46.9% (15 crimes) compared with last year, albeit with 5 of these being historical offences from the 1980s recorded this year. As a force we have seen a concerted effort in our public messaging around reporting and addressing sexual offending on the network. Consequently, we might see a return on this through an increased rate of reporting. I'm pleased to say that, at the time of this report, our solved rate has increased from 62% to 66%. This rate can be affected by a number of factors, but the most significant is our staffing which consistently provide these excellent outcomes for victims.

3.2. **Staffing and resilience** – Our staffing and resilience across Scotland, especially within the North Sector, remains a concern. As described in previous SRPC meetings, Dundee and Perth are now non-operational stations.

3.3. Even when fully staffed, we have insufficient officers at Inverness, Aberdeen, Kirkcaldy and Stirling to open the stations seven days a week, sixteen hours a day, year-round. We are currently in talks with Transport Scotland to consider funding to improve resilience in these stations. Furthermore, we are making a bid into our MTFP budget setting process to increase the number of officers in Scotland, to ensure we can be more resilient and responsive to the railway.

3.4. In 2024/25 our staff turnover rate in Scotland hit 16%, compared with the force average of 9% for the same period. Our ability to retain staff is challenged by a number of factors including higher pay within Police Scotland, and competitive jobs within the rail industry. We hope the potential investment

Security Classification and Handling Instructions of document are detailed on page 1

Security Classification and Handling Instructions of document are detailed on page 1

described above may, if approved, improve retention in Scotland. Furthermore, we have developed an action plan based on the results of our recent all staff survey.

- 3.5. **Disruption** – Our average YTD hand-back time within Scotland sits at 104 minutes, drawn from just four tragic non-suspicious fatalities so far this year. This is against a 90-minute target.
- 3.6. In one incident at Aberdeen, we had no officers on duty locally, although they were contacted at home and recalled to duty. In another incident, the location was a hard to locate section of track in the central belt. However, I believe we can improve further with some additional work in this area – for example in readiness for the darker nights of the winter, we are piloting new mobile on-scene lighting.
- 3.7. Our summer policing plans in this area were well formulated as is the Disruption Improvement Plan led by Ch Insp Adam Swallow. This highlights some key areas of good work such as our recent media campaign in conjunction with Network Rail, alongside other initiatives such as Op Guild which streamlines the process for sending safety educational letters to youths and their guardians found loitering on the railway. Our disruption performance is reviewed at the bi-weekly operational performance briefing, allowing divisions and Central Disruption Team to unpick repeat issues or locations.

4. **Drones**

- 4.1. We have secured funding for two in-car drones, for Glasgow and Edinburgh. We will now train officers at each location.
- 4.2. We are continuing to expand our drones capability and on Wednesday 26th August I met with Simon Bachelor, our head of future drones programme, to discuss our progress with a specific look at Scotland.
- 4.3. As a result, we are looking to begin a consultation process around our deployment of 'beyond visual line of sight drones' in Scotland and I am hopeful to bring more detail around this as a verbal update to this meeting.
- 4.4. In the interim, our Senior Leadership Team in Scotland will continue to work alongside Simon and his team to bring ensure the operational case for the area is reflected in the programme.

5. **Commonwealth Games**

- 5.1. I recently took my first briefing as the force Gold for Commonwealth Games 2026 to understand the scope and breadth of the event.
- 5.2. I was pleased to see the level of detail that our planning has already included, through our joint working with other partners such as Police Scotland and the event organisers.
- 5.3. As time progresses towards the opening ceremony next year, I will be able to share more details through our committee meetings.

Security Classification and Handling Instructions of document are detailed on page 1

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Scottish Railways Policing Committee

2025-26

Quarter 1 Policing Plan Update



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Create a hostile environment for high harm offences, disorder and vulnerability

- At end of Q1, overall Violence is 7% lower than LY, with decreases in with injury (-4%) and without injury (-7%).
- There has been a higher level of solved crime for Violence, with solved injury cases up 14% and no injury by 15%. This has contributed to an overall improved rate to 74% (+13).
- Violence against members of rail staff is 8.8% higher. However, solved rate in this category has increased by 2.9% to 67.6% overall.
- Whilst Robbery has seen an increase (+200%), this equates to a difference of 2 crimes. Solved rate is currently 66.7%.



Keep the network running

- In 2025/26 Q1, average hand-back time for non-suspicious fatalities was 140 minutes. This relates to one incident in North Sector, where BTP arrival time was 84 minutes.
- At end of June, total disruption incidents are 10% above LY, with Trespass seeing biggest volume increase (+11.4%). Trespass & Disorder remain the main contributors for total incident count.
- Conversely, disruption minutes are down 10%.
- Disruption-related offences are seeing a slight increase on PY (2%), with main contributor Trespass 24% higher.
- Overall, solved rate for disruption-related offences is at a similar level to last year (25%, +2%).



Prevent and reduce violence against women and girls, sexual offences and harassment

- Violence against women and girls has seen a 7% reduction against LY.
- Solve rate is up 21%, at 68%.
- Violence has seen a 21% reduction overall. Assault with injury is also 25% lower than PY. At 71.1%, solved rate is 25.2% higher than PY.
- Sex offences against women and girls is 21.4% higher. This equates to a small difference of 3 incidents. At 64.7%, solved rate is 14.7% higher than LY.



Create a hostile environment for high harm offences, disorder and vulnerability



Crime

	YTD	Solved Rates
Total Violence	181 (-7%, -14)	74% (+13.4%)
With Injury	51 (-4%, -2)	62.7% (+10.9%)
Without Injury	126 (-7%, -10)	79.4% (+16.3%)

	YTD	Solved Rates
Robbery	3 (200%, 2)	66.7% (-33.3%)

	YTD	Solved Rate
Weapon offences	22 (-24%, -7)	100% (+13.8%)

	YTD	Solved Rates
Rail Staff Assaults	41 (14%, 5)	68.3% (+4.4%)
Staff victim Violence	37 (+8.8%, 3)	67.6% (+2.9%)
Staf Victim Sex	3 (+50%, +1)	100% (+50%)
Staff Victim Serious PO	1 (+100%, +1))	0% (0%)

Officer Assaults	19 (+35.7%, 5)	110% (-4%)
Officer victim Physical	18 (+63.6%, +7)	111% (-7%)
Officer victim Verbal	1 (-66.7%, -2)	100% (0%)

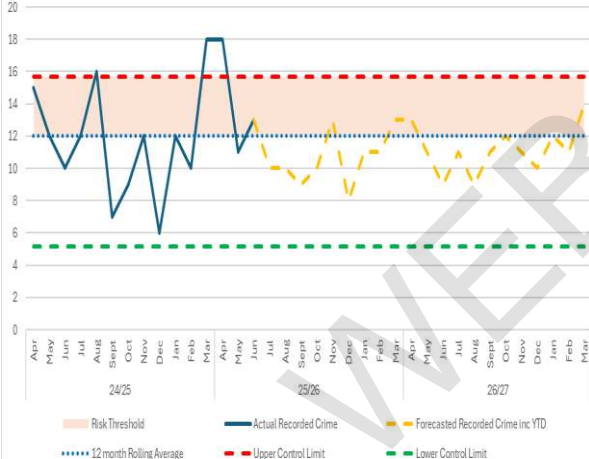
	YTD	Solved Rates
Public Order (PO)	448 (+17.9%, +68)	38.2% (-4.2%)
Serious	15 (+200%, +10)	66.7% (+46.7%)
Less Serious	431 (+14.9%, +56)	37.1% (-5.5%)

Rail Staff Victims PO	90 (+26.8%, +19)	33.3% (+0.9%)

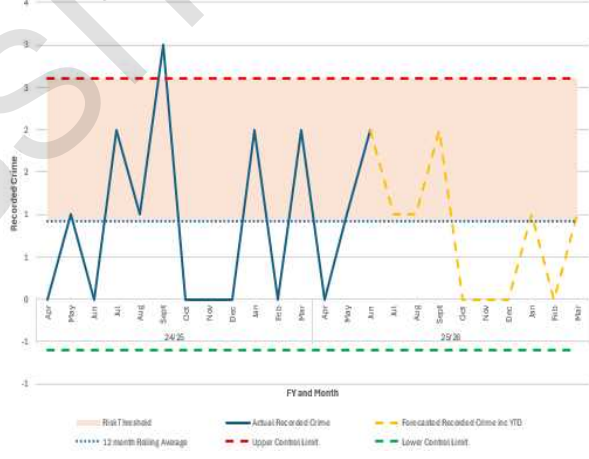
Total Violence Committed Crime Forecast



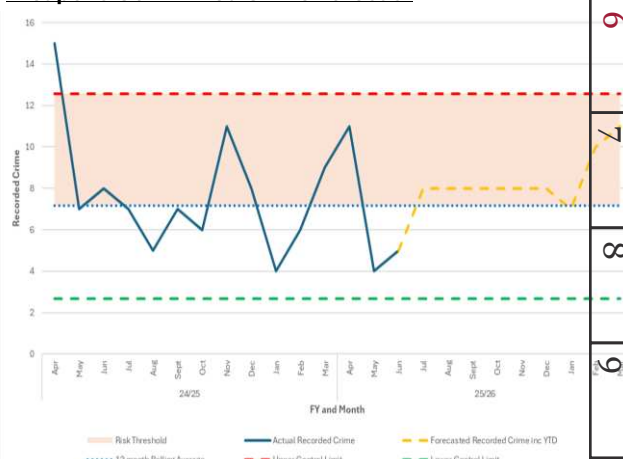
Staff Assault Committed Crime Forecast



Robbery Committed Crime Forecast



Weapons Committed Crime Forecast



Through diligent enquiry in Q1, officers successfully identified a male offender responsible for three offences committed at Aberdeen Railway Station (May). The male was arrested and charged for assault and Threatening & Abusive Behaviour, issued with conditions not to travel on or go to any rail line in the UK. Other court results from Q1 include a male sentenced to three years in prison at Hamilton Sheriff Court after being found guilty of the assault of his partner and another serious assault at Bellshill Station in April 2023.

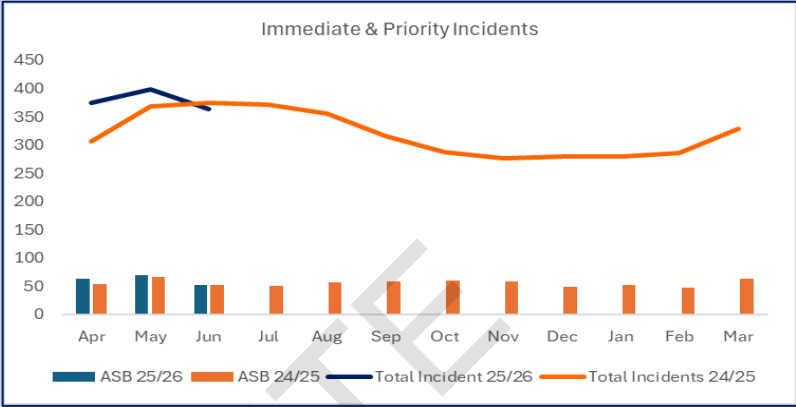
As part of Rail safety week 2025, officers at Edinburgh Waverley attended LNER’s ‘Keeping Safe, Keeping Time’ drop-in day. The event was aimed at conflict avoidance for staff and topics raised included encouraging staff on the benefits of wearing Body Worn Camera & the best practice for incident reporting to BTP.

Following a report of a hate crime between Glasgow Queen Street and Falkirk High on 31st May 2025, there was investigation & subsequent arrest of a male made (remanded in custody).



Incidents

	YTD	Response Times		YTD	Response Times
Incidents	1,136 (+8%, +86)	85.2% (+3%)	ASB	143 (-17.3%, +30)	94.4% (+7.7%)
Immediate Grade	534 (-0.6%, -3)	75.7% (-5.5%)	Immediate Grade	43 (-38.4%, -23)	88.4% (+12.8%)
Priority Grade	602 (+17.3%, +89)	93.7% (-1.8%)	Priority Grade	143 (-25.2%, -36)	94.4% (+0.9%)



Vulnerability

Safeguarding Vulnerability Report	YTD
Adult At Risk (AAR)	208 (+30%, +48)
Child & Young Person (CYP)	239 (-13.1%, -36)
DASH	22 (+57.1%, +8)
SPMH	103 (+51.5%, +35)
Total	447 (+2.8%, +12)

Interventions	YTD
Life Saving Interventions	37 (-2)

High-impact sessions designed to help officers and staff strengthen their knowledge around County Lines were held ahead of the County Lines Intensification Week in June. On Tuesday 24th, officers in Glasgow engaged with businesses and set up stands on the main concourse alongside Police Scotland and Crimestoppers to engage with members of the public and hand out information leaflets. Departing and arriving cross country services into Glasgow Central were monitored. Similarly, Wednesday 25th saw action in Edinburgh Waverley, with engagement with business, train companies and walk-throughs of cross-country services.

A pilot for a proactive, youth centred approach to addressing the challenges faced by young people in Glasgow’s city centre began in March. Combining active street engagement with a welcoming ‘hub’ to maximise impact, ‘Common Ground’ focusses on safety, support, and connection to longer term resources. There is particular emphasis on early intervention, prevention, and safeguarding to improve the health, safety & well-being of young people. Officers and rail staff can contact the hub, speak to the team and refer people accordingly.

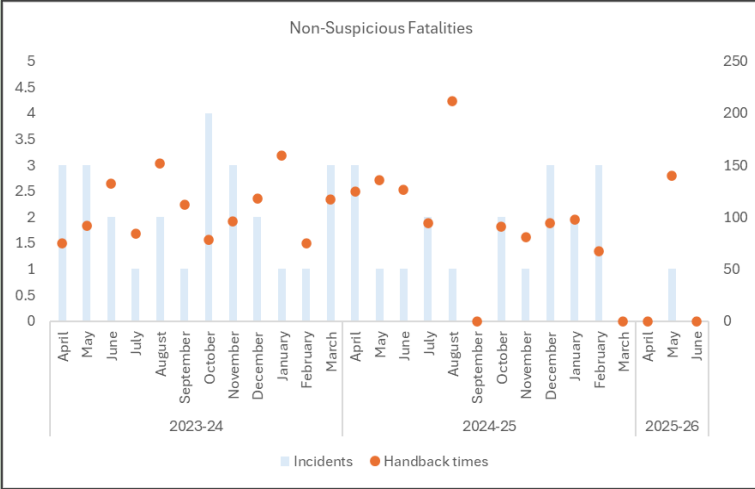
In Q1, ASSIST (Applied Suicide Interventions Skills) training was delivered to enhance suicide intervention skills, improve confidence and competence in this area as well as promoting awareness. With the development of the HART team, briefing documents are being distributed to officers that incorporate vulnerable and at risk of harm nominals who are repeat presenters on the railway network. This allows officers to develop their knowledge and awareness of vulnerable individuals utilising the rail network and identify patterns of behaviour that can then be fed back to the relevant agencies involved with the individual.

On 28th May, officers located a missing person at Edinburgh Waverley station. Via colleagues in the control room, they updated the investigating police force, carried out checks to ensure the person did not need further support and then organised transport through Police Scotland who returned him to his temporary home address in Edinburgh. Multi-agency collaboration meant that, after being involved with this Missing Person, officers were then able to return to duty at Edinburgh Waverly Station quickly.



Incidents & Minutes

Category	YTD Incidents	Total Delay Minutes	Primary Minutes
	YTD	YTD	YTD
Disorder/Drunks or Trespass	329 (+9.3%, +28)	5,264 (+9.9%, +475)	2,298 (+9.8%, +206)
Trespass	343 (+11.4%, +35)	15,588 (+20.8%, +2,683)	6,192 (+16.7%, +886)
Vandalism/Theft	87 (+16%, +12)	1,203 (-42.1%, -874)	454 (-32.4%, -218)
Level Crossing Incidents	39 (+2.6%, +1)	984 (-9.4%, -102)	549 (+30.4%, +128)
Fatalities/injuries by being hit by train	3 (-57.1%, -4)	269 (-94.7%, -4,839)	81 (-96.2%, -2,042)
Cable Theft	1 (+1)	4 (-4)	4 (-4)
Total	802 (+10%, +73)	23,312 (-10%, -2,653)	9,578 (-9.8%, -1,036)



There has been continued partnership working across the various disruption strands for incidents and disruption-related criminality. Liaison has taken place with Level Crossing managers to combat the issues around level crossing misuse in the North Sector. Monthly meetings and direct liaison meetings at Broughty Ferry, Hospital Mill and Carnoustie with several recommendations made.

In May, officers in Aberdeen responded to a report from the local Community Council of children accessing the underside of a viaduct. Upon a search, the problem location was identified and officers engaged with the local MoM to ensure an engineering solution was implemented. This was completed within a week, preventing further reports or escalation of risk. Moreover, BTP have been working with the NWR Route Performance improvement Co-ordinator following a recent increase in Trespass at Priesthill & Darnley Station. The embedded inspector sits within the West of Scotland Signal Centre at Cowlares to assist NWR Route Control Managers if a serious incident is ongoing. Directly liaison with officers in attendance to share information & minimise disruption.

In June, the annual good-weather response partnership in the West was launched following partnership meetings from March. The partnership continues to work well and will continue to be a focus over the summer. At the Lana Del Rey concert at Hampden Park on the 26th June 2025, the railway took a record 15,000 spectators to the event with no issues. Planning meetings in the run up to the event meant that there were adequate resources to police in an effective and flexible manner on the event day. Clear communication and dialogue between BTP and industry has been a key component in the success of events such as this throughout the summer. The embedded disruption Inspector works closely with BTP Operations and NWR EWAT teams within NWR to carry out horizon scanning for any events that have potential to cause disruption to the rail network.

During Q1, officers connected with the local community across the Division. In Renfrewshire, school talks took place with Primary 6 pupils around how to stay safe on the rail network and on the dangers of trespassing. There was positive feedback from all schools and pupils involved with continued popularity of the VR headsets. In the West, officers attended at the ‘Safe Kids 2025’ event which also received positive feedback. Throughout May, Dumbarton officers engaged in the ‘Choices’ event alongside partner agencies of Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Medics Against Violence and the Rosie Project. This involved rail safety input delivery to all S1 pupils at the secondary schools throughout West Dunbartonshire Council area. VR headsets from the BTP Disruption team were again utilised as a modern way to deliver key messages and were very well received.

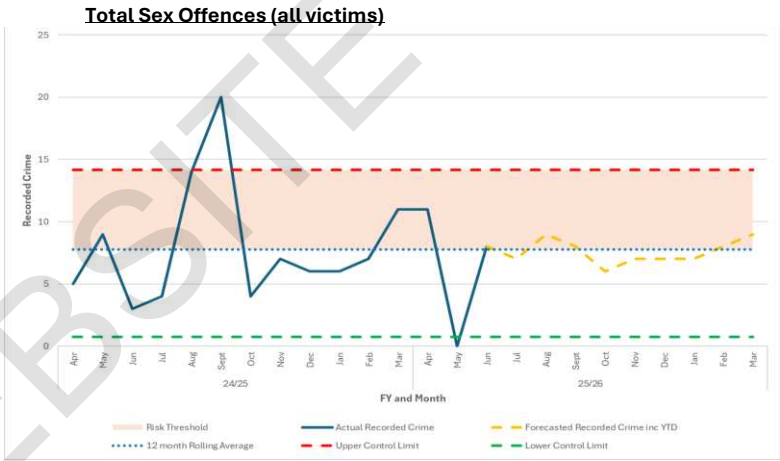
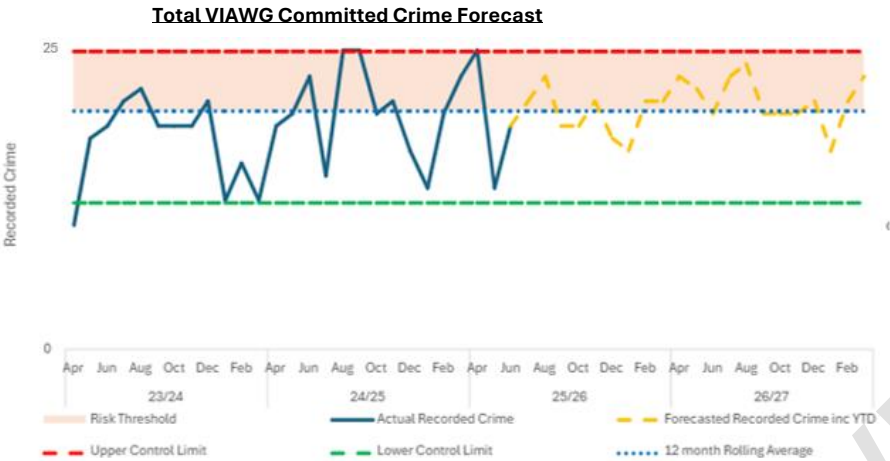


Crime

	YTD	Solved Rates
Total VIAWG	56 (-7%, -4)	66.1% (21%)

	YTD	Solved Rates
Violence (female victims)	39 (-15%, -7)	66.7% (+18.9%)
With Injury	10 (-16.7%, -2)	60% (+10%)
Without Injury	29 (-14.7%, -5)	69% (+21.9%)

	YTD	Solved Rates
Sex Offences (female victims)	17 (+21%, +3)	64.7% (+14.7%)
Total Sex Offences (all victims)	20 (+18%, +3)	65% (+6.2%)



VIAWG incidents are discussed at the weekly Travel Safe Team tasking meeting, with resources tasked to areas of increase. This has been particularly helpful during the summer months where there is typically an increase in younger females heading to summer concerts and coastal towns during better weather. Informed patrol plans aid visibility and acts as an additional deterrent.

As part of a continued commitment to work closely with White Ribbon partners and rail industry colleagues, officers in D Division are getting trained as White Ribbon speakers. This enables them to support events on the rail network in Scotland, working with other volunteers from White Ribbon, Scotrail and NWR and continuing engagement with public & rail industry.

On 23rd April, an engagement day was held at Edinburgh Waverley Station. Police Scotland, Crimestoppers Scotland and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland joined BTP to raise awareness of the text 61016 service and to provide safety & crime prevention information to members of the public. The event was well attended by passengers and staff providing a good example of continued engagement.

Officers within Paisley Gilmour Street have liaised with the University of West of Scotland and West College Scotland around engagement with students. These engagements explain the role of the BTP, ongoing VIAWG campaigns and what to do in the event of experiencing an incident on the rail network. Feedback from previous events has been extremely positive and BTP presence has been requested again. This has been an excellent opportunity to provide Crime Prevention and Community Safety advice, build stronger communications with communities and increase public trust and confidence in BTP. Moreover, plans were made for upcoming 2025 Freshers Events in Paisley.

OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS**Joint Working Document****British Transport Police (BTP) & Police Scotland (PS)****Scottish Railways Policing Committee – 19th September 2025****Local Policing****North**

Within Highlands and Islands Division (N Division) officers from Preventions and Interventions and City Centre Team, Inverness have been working in collaboration with BTP during the recent County Lines Intensification Week (CLIW).

The initiative aimed to promote Crimestoppers and educate rail users about the ongoing issues of criminal exploitation and County Lines in the Scottish Highlands.

Officers engaged with staff and commuters on busy trains, distributing 400 leaflets to raise awareness. Additionally, highly visible patrols were carried out at both the train and bus stations, fostering discussions with ScotRail employees and staff from associated businesses.

Future Work

This joint effort is expected to lead to a significant increase in intelligence submissions. By equipping staff with the knowledge to identify the signs of criminal exploitation and the appropriate reporting mechanisms it is hoped that through partnership working and engagement, Police can better combat County Lines activity in the region.

East

Within Edinburgh City Division (E Division) Officers from Prevention, Intervention and Partnerships (PIP) have carried out a joint public engagement event alongside BTP, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and Crimestoppers to raise awareness of personal safety and provision of crime prevention advice concerning home, vehicle, fraud and online safety.

E Div PIP officers co-ordinated a Retail Crime Day of Action within Edinburgh City Centre, incorporating City Centre Community Policing Team, local Retail Crime Task Force officers, BTP, Essential Edinburgh, RAC and Lothian Buses. This plain clothed initiative was to prevent, detect and deter retail crime within the City Centre and saw representatives from Apex radios and various loss prevention staff from the local retail sector take part. Apex radios provided Shopwatch radios for those taking part, which clearly demonstrated the benefits of the scheme. The day of action saw several people stopped and searched, resulting in the recovery of stolen property and suspected controlled drugs.

The local City Centre Community Policing Team continue to co-ordinate Op Verbeia, which is part of the local policing response to youth Anti-Social Behaviour and violence within Edinburgh City Centre on Friday and Saturday evenings. Officers engaged on the operation routinely engage with BTP colleagues as part of this work, as Waverley Mall and Waverley train station are areas within the identified patrol matrix. This operation continues to be a focus within the city centre to prevent, detect and deter criminality.

E Div PIP chair the Women's Safety on Public Transport Subgroup as part of the City of Edinburgh Council Women's Safety in Public Places Community Improvement Partnerships (CIP). BTP attend and contribute to this meeting, sharing ideas and opportunities for partnership working

Future Work

Work is underway to plan this year's annual Young Drivers Event which will take place between 29/09/25 – 02/10/25 at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange. E Div PIP, local Road Policing and the City of Edinburgh Council co-ordinate this event, which is aimed at sixth year High School pupils to provide road safety

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OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS**Joint Working Document****British Transport Police (BTP) & Police Scotland (PS)****Scottish Railways Policing Committee – 19th September 2025**

education and challenge attitudes towards dangerous driving. Various partners, including BTP are involved in the planning stages, and they also take part in the event to promote railway safety.

West

In Argyll and Dunbartonshire (L Division), PS and BTP have been working together on Operation Ballaton which is a multi-agency response with numerous other stakeholders including Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, the Local Authorities for the two Council areas, other Transport Providers (Scotrail and SPT), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) and Luss Rescue Boat. The aim of this Operation is to ensure that Balloch Park remains a safe place to visit, to live and to conduct business, by reducing the episodes of mass gatherings and alcohol fuelled disorder and violence.

Op Ballaton has recently been relaunched for the Summer with significant communications on varying forms of Media including television interviews. In recent years Ballaton has been successful with a reduction in calls of disorder and assaults to the park of approx. 25% last year. Ballaton also worked well over the weekend of 12/13th of July which saw significant numbers in the park due to very warm weather.

In Ayrshire (U Division), the primary focus in joint working between PS and BTP in North Ayrshire is around the Safer Shores initiative designed to create a safer environment during the warmer weather when members of the public, including groups of youths attend Irvine Beach.

In Greater Glasgow (G Division) PS and BTP are involved in the steering group for the Common Ground Youth Project and Street Guardians which is a highly successful initiative focussed on reducing youth disorder in the City Centre. This project has premises on Argyle Street directly outside Central Station and focusses on helping young people, mainly of whom are from local authority care.

BTP have linked PS in with the Railway Children charity and Police Scotland use their services as another referral route for children of concern in the City Centre

In Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (K) Division, PS co-ordinate a monthly GRIP meeting attended by local authority partners from community safety warden services, youth workers and BTP to identify patterns of behaviour and trends within the town centre area relating to youth offending. The purpose is to agree joint action plans to tackle disorder. Community wardens, CCTV operators and youth team staff are then briefed on the identified priorities weekly to ensure resources are aware and deployed appropriately.

Future Work

Within Greater Glasgow (G Division), PS continue to meet with BTP every week with Glasgow City Council to discuss issues and challenges in the City Centre. This meeting takes place every Tuesday. This includes a recent joint partnership consultation meeting regarding changes to the outside of Central Station.

In Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (K Division) work continues through the local Suicide Prevention Group, of which BTP are a key member, to develop a men's support group such as Andy's Man Club in the area, as this has been identified as a current service gap.

Report to: Scottish Railways Policing Committee

Date: 19 September 2025

Subject: BTPA Executive Cover Paper / Legitimacy – Use of Policing Powers

Author: Head of Legitimacy and Performance

For: Information

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Background

1. The legitimacy slides overleaf show D-Division's data on stop and search and use of force, mirroring the Force-wide data provided quarterly to the Finance, Legitimacy and Performance Committee. They are presented for transparency and as an opportunity for scrutiny and oversight.
2. It is important to note that D-Division's data is a small subset of the overall Force picture and as such, small fluctuations cause disproportionate shifts in percentage terms.
3. It is acknowledged that use of powers is one of many factors affecting trust and legitimacy, and within the context of BTP's operations in Scotland, sensitivity and adherence to agreed protocols and ways of working consistent with Police Scotland is of paramount importance to the maintenance of public confidence.

Observations

4. By far the most prevalent reason for searches to be conducted is drugs, followed by weapons and theft. This is the same as the Force-wide picture.
5. The find rate is in line with the Force-wide picture, with the most frequently found object being drugs.
6. The recorded outcomes have a higher percentage of arrest in Scotland (25%) than Force-wide (10%) and a lower rate of no further action (NFA) being taken (55%) than Force-wide (70%).
7. Stop and Search disproportionality on the basis of race is lower for BTP in Scotland than the rest of BTP, with the recently revised census data for Scotland having had an impact. Again, the low numbers mean a small number of stops can easily swing the picture.
8. Members may wish to explore the supervision and assurance in place on D Division in relation to Stop and Search and Use of Powers.

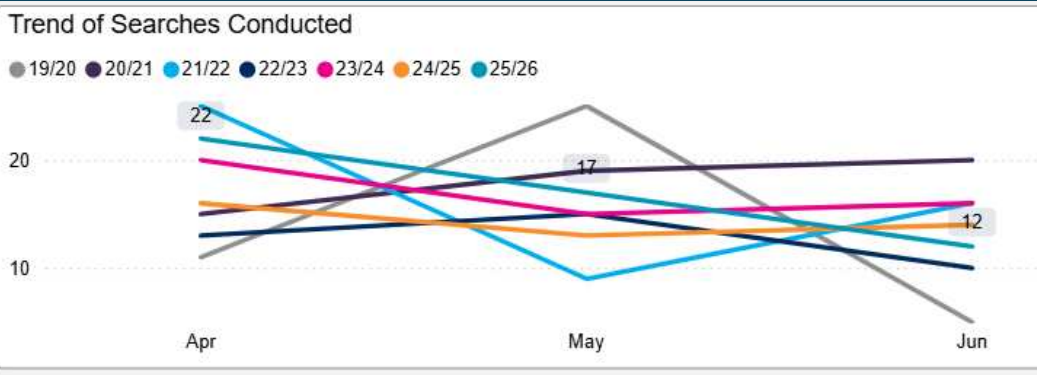
Recommendation

9. That Members note this paper, and take a view on whether they would find it useful periodically to revisit these reports.

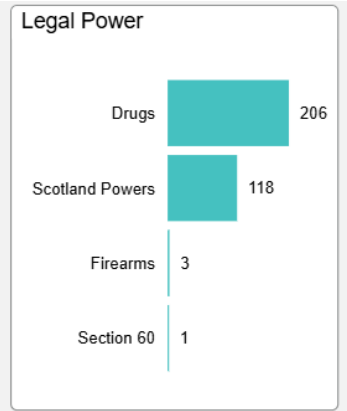
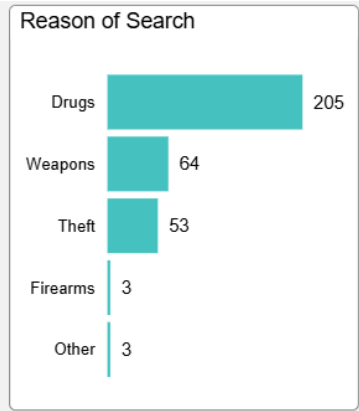
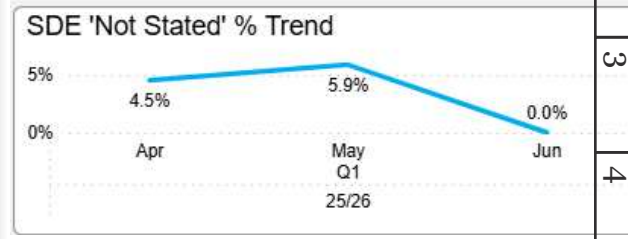
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*Please be mindful numbers for D-Division are low in volume & therefore % can fluctuate further when compared to Force levels

Stop and Searches* – 25/26



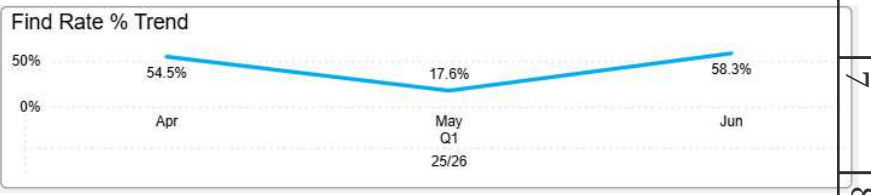
25/26 Searches	Object Find	Object of Search	Other Object
51	22	43.1%	(Blank)
24/25 Searches	Object Find	Object of Search	Other Object
43	22	39.5%	11.6%
23/24 Searches	Object Find	Object of Search	Other Object
51	21	33.3%	7.8%
22/23 Searches	Object Find	Object of Search	Other Object
38	14	34.2%	2.6%



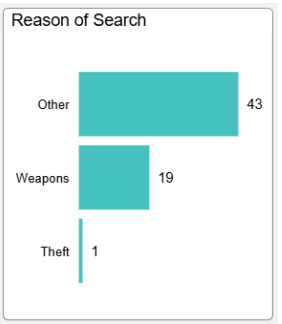
Object(s) Found

Object (group)	#
Drugs	97
Theft	32
Weapons	17
Other	6
Firearms	1
Total	153

Outcome	%	#
Arrest	25.49%	13
Caution (Simple Or Conditional)	5.88%	3
Summons / Charged By Post	1.96%	1
Voluntary Attendance	1.96%	1
Drugs Warning	3.92%	2
Police Discretionary Resolution	1.96%	1
Alcohol / Tobacco Seized	3.92%	2
No Further Action	54.90%	28



25/26 Searches	Object Find	Object of Search	Other Object
63	2	1.6%	1.6%



Object(s) Found

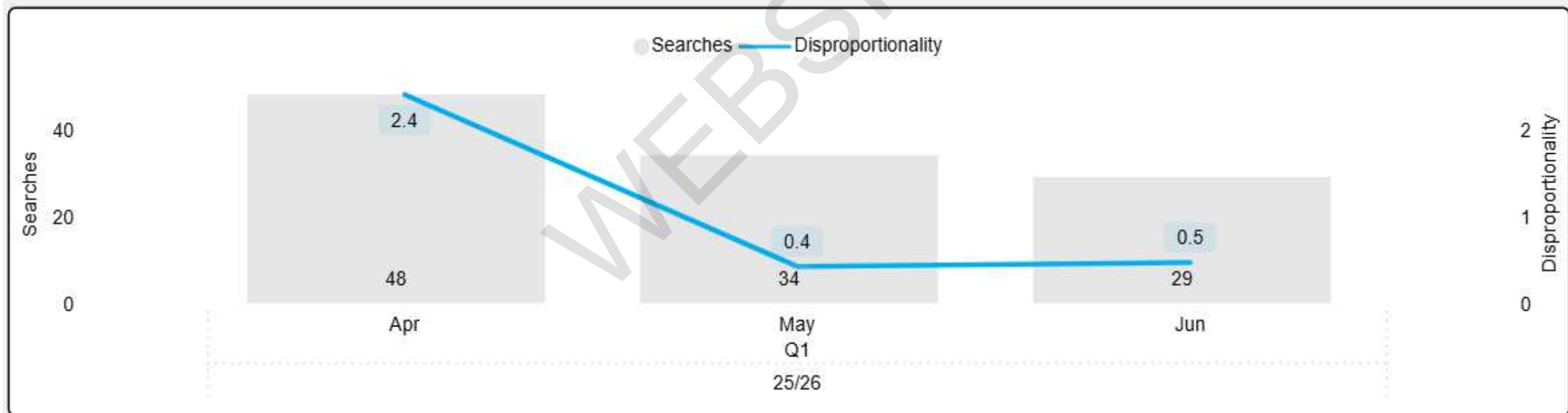
Object (group)	#
Drugs	1
Theft	1
Total	2

Section 66 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016
Recording of this power became available after the NICHE upgrade in August 2024. The power grants a police Constable the power to search an individual not in police custody if they are being taken from one place to another or if the Constable believes the search is necessary for the person's care or protection.

In 2025/25 Q1 D-Division conducted 63 searches under s.66 with a 1.6% find rate.
Therefore, these searches have been presented separately for awareness.

Stop and Searches – 25/26 Disproportionality

	White	Black	Asian	Mixed	Other	Not stated	Total
Population	5,051,887	65,421	212,027	60,899	49,622		5,439,856
Population Representation (%)	93%	1%	4%	1%	1%		100%
Search Representation (%)	87%	5%	2%	1%	1%	5%	100%
Searches	97	5	2	1	1	5	111
Searches Per 1000 Population	0.02	0.08	0.01	0.02	0.02		0.02
Disproportionality Figure		4.0	0.5	0.9	1.0		1.2



*Please be mindful numbers for D-Division are low in volume & therefore % can fluctuate further when compared to Force levels

Use of Force* – Q1

UoF Submissions

233

Officer Injured

4 1.7%

Subject Injured

4 1.7%

BWV Used

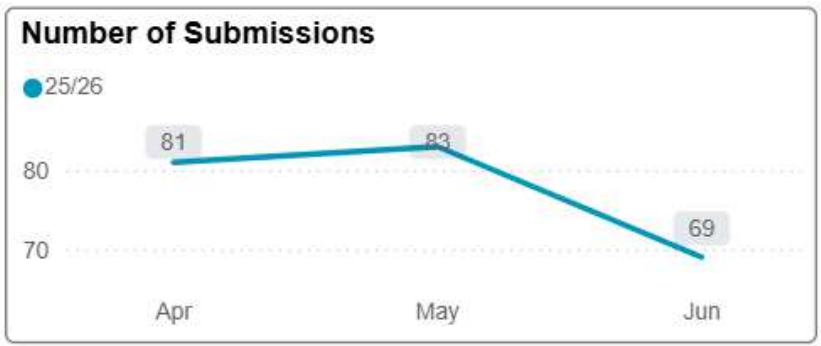
211 90.6%

CW Reference

211 90.6%

Niche Reference

101 43.3%



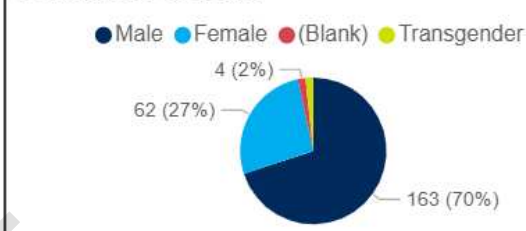
*Multiple tactics can be selected per submission

Subject Profile

Perceived Ethnicity

ODE	#	%
White	200	85.8%
Black	10	4.3%
Other	8	3.4%
(Blank)	4	1.7%
Asian	4	1.7%
Mixed	4	1.7%
Unknown	3	1.3%
Total	233	100.0%

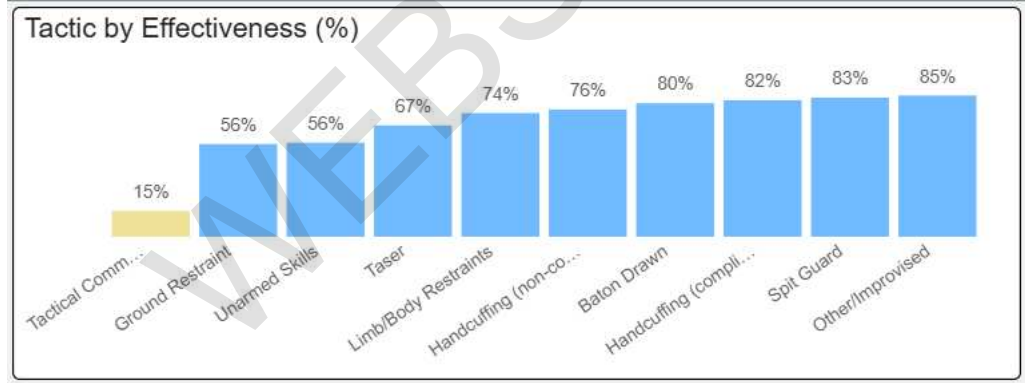
Perceived Gender



Medical Offered	3	Medical Provided	1
Perceived to have a Physical Disability (Blank)		Perceived to have a Mental Disability	11

Reason for Force

UoFReason	#	% of Total
Effect arrest	124	53.22%
Protect other officers	110	47.21%
Protect self	110	47.21%
Prevent escape	107	45.92%
Prevent harm	96	41.20%
Protect public	87	37.34%
Protect subject	74	31.76%
Prevent offence	64	27.47%
Effect search of a person	41	17.60%
Remove handcuffs	10	4.29%
Other	6	2.58%
Secure evidence	5	2.15%
Total	233	100.00%



Effectiveness

262

Effective Tactics

228

Non-Effective Tactics

53%

% Effective

Taser Usage

All data here comes from the Use of Force forms submitted

Submissions where Taser was Carried

80 34.3%

Submissions where Taser was Used when Carried

3 3.8%

