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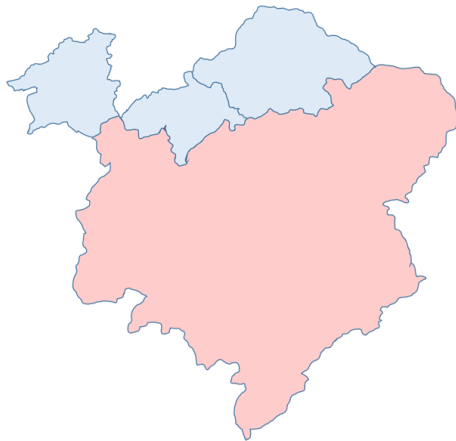


## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Leaderdale and Melrose Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for October 2021

(28/09/21 – 27/10/21)



**The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Leaderdale & Melrose Multi Member Ward Policing Plan and the areas you have identified as priorities.**

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official Crime statistics. Due to delayed reporting or recording of Crime, incidents or road accidents and the management of Crime enquiries, there is likely to be differences between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. It would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in this report as official statistics.

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**OFFICIAL****Figures for the whole Scottish Borders Area**

(Data from 01/04/2020 – 27/10/2021)

	2020 /2021	2021 /2022	% Change	Local Area Commanders Comment
Total Crimes and Offences (Group 1-5)	1,918	2,293	19.6	The detection rate for Group 1-5 is 50.1% compared to 55.2% at same time last year.
Group 1: Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	81	102	25.9	The detection rate for Group 1 is 70.1% compared to 81.7 % at same time last year.
Serious Assaults	32	35	9.4	The detection rate for Serious Assaults is 68.6% compared to 87.5% at same time last year.
Robberies	11	7	-70.0	The detection rate for Robberies is 100% compared to 54.5% at same time last year.
Common Assaults	475	591	24.4	The detection rate for Common Assaults is 64.6% compared to 72.2% at same time last year.
ASB (Incidents)	4,527	3,467	-23.4	
Hate Crime – All incidents	59	85	+44.1	The detection rate for Hate Crimes is 60.3% compared to 88% at the same time last year.
Group 2: Sexual Crimes	144	192	33.3	The detection rate for Group 2 is 60.4% compared to 72.9% at same time last year.
Rape – Recorded Crime	23	31	34.8	The detection rate for Rape is 64.5% compared to 69.6% at same time last year.
Domestic Abuse – All incidents	11	13	18.2	The detection rate for Domestic Abuse Crimes are 84.6% compared to 109.1% at same time last year.
Group 3: Crimes of Dishonesty	691	853	23.4	The detection rate for Group 3 is 29.2% compared to 36.2% at same time last year.
Housebreakings – Domestic	25	49	96.0	The detection rate for Domestic Housebreakings is 32.7% compared to 64.0% at same time last year.
Motor Vehicle Thefts	29	29	-	The detection rate for Motor Vehicle Thefts is 24.1% compared to 58.6% at same time last year.

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## Community Sergeant Update

### PS Stephen Granger



October has seen the start of the prevention and intervention phase for Operation Moonbeam. This is the police response to target illegal use of fireworks and associated anti-social behaviour which statistical evidence has indicated increases at this time of year. The activity phase will cover the two consecutive weekends spanning the Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night periods in 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has again impacted the number of organised public displays scheduled to take place. There will be significantly fewer events than in previous years, however, this may encourage members of the public to buy their own supplies for garden displays.

Amendments to The Fireworks (Scotland) Regulations 2004 were made in June 2021 relating to the supply, sale and use of fireworks.

**This will be the first Bonfire Night with the new rules, which are as follows:**

- Regulation 3: Use of fireworks outside permitted hours: restricts the times of day fireworks can be used by the general public to between 6pm and 11pm, with the exception of 5 November (when they can be used from 6pm until midnight), New Year's Eve, the night of Chinese New Year and the night of Diwali (when they can be used from 6pm until 1am).
- Regulation 3A: supply of fireworks outside permitted hours: restricts the times of day fireworks can be sold to the general public to the daytime hours of 7am and 6pm, alongside existing requirements on retailers around sale and storage licences.
- Regulation 3B: supply of fireworks in excess of the permitted quantity: restricts the quantity of fireworks that can be sold by retailers to the general public to 5kg at any one time.

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There are exemptions to regulation 3, which includes groups who have a local authority issued public entertainment licence or public liability insurance documents, and professional fireworks operators.

The public should be mindful of these changes and I would encourage them to report concerns relating to the sale, supply and discharge of fireworks outside permitted times promptly to police. This can be done via 101 or via Contactus on the Police Scotland website.

Finally, the weekends of both Hallowe'en (Sunday, 31 October) and Bonfire Night (Friday, 5 November) fall within the timings relating to the policing of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. This was referenced in last month's report by CI Vinnie Fisher the Local Area Commander. Community Officers will be abstracted to cover other duties during this time between local response policing or deploying to COP26. Your patience and understanding is appreciated during this time and non urgent queries can still be directed to the Community Policing email boxes at the end of this report which will continue to be monitored.

### **Local Policing Priorities**

1. Protecting most vulnerable
2. Reducing violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing acquisitive crime
4. Improving road safety
5. Tackling serious and organised crime

#### **Protecting most vulnerable**

*In October 2021 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 141 mental health related calls, around 31 missing person enquiries and approximately 70 domestic related incidents.*

*Leaderdale and Melrose district had 13 mental health related calls and 6 missing person enquiries. Due to GDPR and protection of victims/subjects involved, we are unable to share any more specific information in relation to these type of call within this report.*

*Police Scotland work in collaboration with key partners to assist the most vulnerable within the communities and to provide support.*

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## **Reducing violence and ASB**

### **Assault**

On 28/09/21 report of assault in Morow Gardens, Melrose. Enquiries continuing.

On 13/09/21 report of assault in The Square Earlston. Enquires continuing.

On 14/09/21 report of assault in Craw Wood, Tweedbank. Enquiries continuing.

On 18/10/21 report of assault in Calfward Park, Lauder, male arrested for various offences.

On 19/10/21 report of assault in Earlston, enquiries ongoing.

On 23/10/21 report of assault in Waverley Road, Melrose, crime report submitted for assault, suspect interviewed and released without charge.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

On 02/10/21 report of loud music from house in Jura Drive. No noise on arrival of police.

On 02/10/21 report of loud music in Chiefswood Road, Melrose. No excessive noise on police arrival. Occupants informed and turned music down.

On 02/10/21 report of youths playing football causing noise disturbance in area of Lauder Primary School. Officers unable to attend due to higher risk incidents. No further calls received.

On 02/10/21 report of disturbance in Scotts Place, Melrose. Police attended no disturbance ongoing, no crimes identified.

On 03/10/21 report of noise disturbance in Jura Drive, Tweedbank. Police attended and occupier turn TV down.

On 04/10/21 report of person being verbally abusive within Borders General Hospital. Police attended and after enquiry report to be submitted.

On 08/10/21 report of noise disturbance in Jura Drive, Tweedbank. Police attended no noise on arrival. SBC aware of noise issues.

On 10/10/21 report of person being verbally abusive with Borders General Hospital. Police attended and after enquiry report to be submitted.

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On 23/10/21 report of an ongoing disturbance in Market Square, Melrose, no trace of any males on police arrival. No disturbance.

On 24/10/21 one male urinator in market Square, Melrose. Crime report submitted.

On 24/10/21 report of youths in the area of Earlston High School. Council aware and no crime reported.

On 26/10/21 report of disturbance near Melrose Primary School. Both parties were spoken to and no criminality identified. Advice given to both parties.

### Vandalism

None reported.

## Reducing acquisitive crime

### Theft

On 28/09/21 report of a telephone scam which has resulted in a sum of money being obtained. Enquiries continuing.

On 29/09/21 report of money stolen from ward at Borders General Hospital. Enquiries continuing.

On 05/10/2021 report of money stolen in Morow Gardens, Melrose. Offender known and report to be submitted.

On 14/10/21 report of a communications scam/hack which resulted in financial loss, in Abbotsford Road, Melrose. Enquiries ongoing

On 18/10/21 report of theft of fuel from Lauder, enquiries ongoing

On 19/10/21 report of theft of fuel from Lauder, enquiries ongoing, crime report submitted for theft

On 21/10/21 report of communications scam in Earlston. No financial loss. Crime report for attempt fraud submitted.

### Theft by Housebreaking

None reported

## Improving road safety

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Within the Selkirk Sheriff Court Jurisdiction there were 4 parking tickets issued in September.

On 07/10/21 – driver was issued a fine and penalty points for dangerous parts and accessories in Lauder.

On 07/10/21 – a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for not obeying white lines in Soutra.

On 22/10/21 – a driver was issued a fine for having no MOT in Lauder.



### Tackling serious and organised Crime

On 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 officers on patrol in Galashiels stopped a male and following a search of him and his possessions, 45.8g of Herbal Cannabis was recovered along with £327 in cash. Total value of items recovered was £700. The circumstances the male was found in resulted in him being arrested and reported for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

On 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 officers executed a drugs search warrant at a address in Galashiels, a search of the address resulted in the recovery of items related to drugs supply and quantities of both Class A and Class B drugs. A male occupant has been reported to the procurator fiscal for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

On 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 officers executed a search warrant at an address in Hawick. Following a search over 60 items of stolen property were found. A male occupant was reported to the procurator fiscal regarding the circumstances.

On 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2021 officers executed a search warrant at an address in Hawick. Following a search of the address over 100 items of counterfeit goods and £6000 cash were recovered along with amounts of Cocaine and Cannabis. A male occupant will be reported for trading offences and possession of controlled drugs.

### Campaigns

**October Activity:** You can keep up to date with the latest from [Scottish Borders Police](#) by following their Facebook page.

- **"After Dark" Housebreaking Prevention Campaign.**

A house that looks unoccupied is a target for criminals.

- ✓ Keep windows and doors locked

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- ✓ Secure sheds and garages
- ✓ Fit/check outside security lighting is working
- ✓ Fit a shed/garage alarm
- ✓ Fit an intruder alarm
- ✓ Record/security mark valuable property
- ✓ Consider additional garage door locks
- ✓ Use timer switches on lights
- ✓ Secure bicycles to a ground anchor
- ✓ Consider leaving a radio or audio device on when not at home



**As the nights get darker earlier think about your home security.**

- A **Bike Security Drop-In** was held at the Enduro World Series Tweed Valley Event at Innerleithen on 2nd October. Local Officers and VeloEye offered Free Bike Marking and Security Advice





- **Ongoing Divisional Domestic Abuse campaign**

- Regular social media posts highlighting local (DAAS) and national helpline contact details and reporting mechanisms

- e.g. " Are you – or someone you know - afraid of your partner or ex-partner? Know that you are not alone, that we believe you and that we can help. In the Scottish Borders, DAAS provides confidential information and support to anyone experiencing domestic abuse focussing on risk assessment and working with you to safety plan; DAAS will enable you to make informed choices about safety and provide support to help you recover and live a life free from harm/abuse. DAAS are available on 01835 825024 or [daas@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:daas@scotborders.gov.uk) Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm.

For further information on the range of services available in Scottish Borders visit <http://ow.ly/mzXp50FPzE2>

Outside office hours you can call the 24 Hour Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 027 1234 or visit <http://ow.ly/P3sh50FPzE3> in an emergency always call 999."

A banner with a dark blue background and a teal wave at the bottom. The text is white and teal. It includes contact information for the National Domestic Abuse Helpline and the Scottish Borders Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Service, along with a website URL and a slogan. A small logo is in the bottom right corner.

**Domestic Abuse**

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: **0800 027 1234**  
Scottish Borders Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Service: **01835 825 024**  
or **daas@scotborders.gov.uk**  
In an emergency, call **999** - Police Scotland will respond

Domestic Abuse - there's no excuse  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/domesticabuse)

## 2. General Crime Prevention Activity

### Rural

- Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) - the partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year.

A launch event was held at Kelso Ram Sales on 10th September

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/news/article/4144/new\\_partnership\\_launched\\_to\\_help\\_tackle\\_rural\\_crime\\_in\\_the\\_scottish\\_borders](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/news/article/4144/new_partnership_launched_to_help_tackle_rural_crime_in_the_scottish_borders)

Hare Coursing days of action are being held regularly at priority locations and times.





- We continued to distribute free SelectaDNA forensic marking kits & signs and crime prevention advice to farmers and rural business. These can be requested by Farmers / Rural businesses using the [Contact Us Form](#) on the Police Scotland Website.



### No Cold Calling Zones

- A refresh of the existing zone in Swinton been completed (new road signs and house packs).

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- Information has been provided to Innerleithen Community Council re. setting up a new one.
- Any community organisation wishing to refresh their zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or interested in setting up a new zone should contact their local community policing team <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>



## New 159 fraud hotline launched

**A new emergency hotline has been launched for people to report and check financial scams as they happen.**

A potential victim who dials 159 will be automatically connected to their bank's fraud prevention service. **This is only if your bank has signed up to this scheme.**

Anyone who receives a call or message from somebody claiming to be from a trusted organisation and who suggests money should be transferred is being urged to hang up and call 159.

Fraudsters stole £4m a day in the UK in the first half of the year.

The banking trade body, UK Finance, has described the level of fraud as a national security threat.

- **Fraudsters steal £4m a day as crime surges**
- **Politeness leaving people at mercy of fraudsters**

The new service is being promoted by **Stop Scams UK** - a coalition of banking and technology companies.

Initially, the project is being run for a year, but the intention is for it to become a universal service eventually.

However, not all banks and building societies are signed up. TSB will not join until January. Banks that are taking part include Barclays, Lloyds (including Halifax and Bank of Scotland), NatWest (including Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank), Santander and Starling Bank. Nationwide Building Society said it would join but it has also [launched its own version](#).

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More than 80% of UK mobiles and landlines will be able to use 159 at the outset, costing the same as a national rate call. There is also [an accompanying website](#).

### CAT Update:

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – During October the CAT have completed targeted foot and mobile patrols, paying particular attention to youth hot spot areas in Peebles, Jedburgh, and Kelso. Following issues at the public toilets in Jedburgh, CCTV was installed and patrols completed, resulting in a significant reduction in incidents reported. In Peebles, a bottle marking initiative has been carried out in Peebles with the assistance of local licensed premises



**DRUGS** – CAT officers continue to carry out intelligence led stop and searches, with quantities of drugs being recovered. They have also executed drugs warrants in Galashiels and Duns, with Class A and B drugs seized. Further warrants were executed in Hawick with a large quantity of counterfeit clothing seized. Enquiries are ongoing with the various brands and a male will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal. A further house search in Hawick resulted in the recovery of various items of stolen property. One male has been reported for a variety of offences.

**ROAD SAFETY** – CAT have issued a number of tickets to drivers for various offences. Mobile patrols have been carried out in hotspot areas including Hawick, Galashiels and Peebles and a number of ASB vehicle warnings have been issued. High visibility road checks have been carried out in targeted hot spots.

**QUAD BIKES** – Two new police quad bikes are now fully operational, and have already been utilised for missing person searches in the Newcastleton and Yetholm areas. Additionally, they have been used to patrol more remote areas in Peebles where youths have been gathering and leaving broken bottles, litter etc.

### Feedback from a meeting/contacting your Community Policing Team

Anyone with information relating to any criminal activity can contact Police Scotland by dialling 101 or alternatively anonymously by calling **CRIMESTOPPERS** on **0800 555111**.

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Should the Community Council wish to discuss any matters highlighted in the report, please contact:

[LeaderdaleMelroseCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:LeaderdaleMelroseCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

We will endeavour to provide you with this information, however some information is sensitive and as an organisation we have to ensure compliance with GDPR.

