

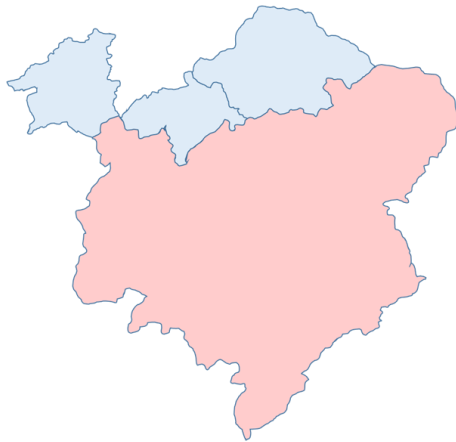
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Leaderdale and Melrose Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for January 2022



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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Figures for the whole Scottish Borders Area

(Data from 01/04/2021 –28/01/2022)

	2020 /2021	2021 /2022	% Change	Local Area Commanders Comment
Total Crimes and Offences (Group 1-5)	2,800	3,086	10.2	The detection rate for Group 1-5 is 50.7 % compared to 55.9 % at same time last year.
Group 1: Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	111	129	16.2	The detection rate for Group 1 is 60.5 % compared to 77.5 % at same time last year.
Serious Assaults	44	50	13.6	The detection rate for Serious Assaults is 70.0 % compared to 88.6 % at same time last year.
Robberies	15	8	-46.7	The detection rate for Robberies is 100 % compared to 66.7 % at same time last year.
Common Assaults	741	939	26.7	The detection rate for Common Assaults is 69.1 % compared to 74.1 % at same time last year.
ASB (Incidents)	6,093	4,608	-24.4	
Hate Crime – All incidents	74	107	44.6	The detection rate for Hate Crimes is 69.2 % compared to 78.4 % at the same time last year.
Group 2: Sexual Crimes	241	288	19.5	The detection rate for Group 2 is 51.0 % compared to 73.0 % at same time last year.
Rape – Recorded Crime	37	44	18.9	The detection rate for Rape is 52.3 % compared to 59.5 % at same time last year.
Domestic Abuse – All incidents	669	672	0.4	The detection rate for Domestic Abuse Crimes are 76.5 % compared to 72.3 % at same time last year.
Group 3: Crimes of Dishonesty	1028	1129	9.8	The detection rate for Group 3 is 29.9 % compared to 36.0 % at same time last year.
Housebreakings – Domestic	38	67	76.3	The detection rate for Domestic Housebreakings is 31.3 % compared to 52.6 % at same time last year.
Motor Vehicle Thefts	44	39	-11.4	The detection rate for Motor Vehicle Thefts is 30.8 % compared to 61.4 % at same time last year.

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Community Sergeant Update

PS Stephen Granger

I am aware of the recent positive announcements from many towns in the Borders in relation to their annual events and local festivals which will be taking place in the spring and summer of 2022. I understand the importance of these events to towns and the disappointment people will have felt previously when these events have been cancelled due to the pandemic. This is great news for all our communities and planning is well under way by police to ensure events pass safely.

I would like to take the opportunity, given its importance, to highlight an extremely important issue which many of you will have read in local media. The Scottish Borders has unfortunately been one of the areas of Scotland targeted by scammers impersonating police officers which has seen more than £300,000 being defrauded from victims across Scotland. Between October and January over 30 reports have been received from members of the public nationally who have either been visited or contacted by individuals claiming to be Police Scotland officers.

On each occasion the victim was contacted by telephone from someone claiming to be from the bank fraud department and advised that their bank account had been compromised. They were then requested to transfer money remotely or attend at the bank and remove cash which would later be collected by a police officer. Investigations are ongoing into these incidents but with a view to preventing further crimes of this nature taking place, always be suspicious of unexpected contacted by police and follow this advice:

- If you receive a call or a visit ask for the officer's details and which department they work for. If it is a visit ask to see identification. New police identification cards were rolled out in October 2021 which feature an up to date picture of the officer and have other security features that are extremely difficult to replicate. All police officers should be able to produce this on every occasion when requested.
- If contact is by telephone hang up **and if possible use a different phone** to contact Police Scotland via 101 to request verification of the person's identity.
- If you receive an email claiming to be from Police Scotland with a link to an external site to make a payment this may also be fraudulent. Any link of this type must be verified to confirm it is genuine and this can be done via contacting 101 to investigate **before parting with any money.**

Finally I am aware that there has been recent complaints throughout many towns in the Borders regarding anti social driving and particularly the use of vehicles with excessively loud exhausts. Be assured that officers will take proportionate action when they see/hear such vehicles during the course of their duties.

I would encourage members of the public affected by this type of behaviour to report the matter directly to police at the time via 101 or alternatively via email. When possible this should include details of the driver if known and/or the make model or registration number of the vehicle concerned. If officers cannot be dispatched to the incident at time of report this information may allow for some follow up by officers with the registered keeper or driver of the vehicle at a later time either via a physical visit or a letter to provide a warning or offer advice.

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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 December 2021 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 137 mental health related calls, around 11 missing person enquiries and approximately 72 domestic related incidents.

Leaderdale and Melrose district had 14 mental health related calls and 1 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.



Reducing violence and ASB

Assault

On 12/11/2022 report of female assaulted in a property in Melrose. Crime report submitted and enquiries ongoing.

On 13/11/2022 report of male assaulted in Summerfield, Earlston. One person arrested and charged

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 08/01/22 report of youths gathered playing music in Huntly Road area, Melrose. On police arrival only two youths in area, spoken to, no noise, and no crimes identified and pair moved on. Complainer updated.

On 11/01/22 report of disturbance within hospital. Male sedated on police arrival. Mental health related.

On 16/01/22 report of a disturbance within hospital. Male concerned traced on police arrival, no complaints made, male heading home.

Vandalism

None reported



Reducing acquisitive crime

Theft

On 15/01/22 report of theft of pedal cycle from Jura Drive, Tweedbank. Further engagement to be made with complainer.

On 15/01/22 report of theft of fuel from a local petrol station in Earlston, Crime Report to be recorded.

On 19/01/22 report of theft of fuel from petrol station in Earlston. Crime Report to be submitted.

On 20/01/22 report of theft from local hospital in Melrose. Statement noted and crime report being submitted.

On 22/01/22 report of theft from house in Craw Wood, Tweedbank. Enquiries ongoing.

Theft by Housebreaking

None report



Improving road safety

Within the Selkirk Sheriff Court Jurisdiction there were 15 parking tickets issued in January.

On 06/1/22 – a driver was issued a fine for having no MOT in Melrose

On 13/1/22 – a driver was issued penalty points and a fine for speeding in Lauder

On 17/01/2022 a driver was issued a fine for having no MOT in Earlston

On 22/01/2022 a driver was issued a fine for having no MOT in Lauder

Killed or Seriously Injured

No accidents where persons were killed or seriously injured.

Tackling serious and organised crime

On 11th of January 2022 officers from across the Scottish Borders executed search warrants at three addresses in Hawick. Systematic searches of the addresses, saw £1000 cash along with controlled drugs with an approximate street value of £9000 recovered. A female has been reported for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.



On 27th of January 2022 officers from across the Scottish Borders executed a search warrant at an address in Hawick. A systematic search of the address, saw £2590 cash along with controlled drugs

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with a street value in excess of £30,000 recovered. Two males were arrested and investigations are continuing into the supply of these controlled drugs.

Campaigns

- **Divisional Domestic Abuse campaign**

- Regular social media posts highlighting local (DAAS) and national helpline contact details and reporting mechanisms
- Ongoing engagement with main local employers to share campaign messages, information in relation to local support services and charities and prevention messages targeting perpetrators directly.

Rural

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



- We continued to distribute free Selecta DNA 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.

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No Cold Calling Zones

- 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/>



CAT Update:

DRUGS: Following receipt of intelligence, three premises in Hawick were searched by SBCAT under Misuse of Drugs Act warrants. Class A drugs with a potential street value of over £11,000 were seized, along with over £1000 in cash. Two persons have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.



A further house was searched in Hawick, again under an MDA Warrant, which resulted in the recovery of class B drugs with a potential street value of £20,000 to £30,000. Two males were arrested and interviewed, with enquiries ongoing prior to supply charges being brought. A report will be sent to the PF in due course.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: Following previous issues of vandalism in Innerleithen, a swift enquiry resulted in three youths being identified and charged with a number of vandalisms in the area.

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PARKING: Attention given to Kelso, with tickets issued focussing on the dangerous and inconsiderate parking, i.e. double and single yellows, loading bays, taxi ranks etc. A letter drop to businesses in the town centre was completed, alongside social media messaging supported by posts by Kelso Community Council and Visit Kelso. This appeared to have a good affect, with positive responses to social media commenting on the availability of parking spaces following the work. Random checks will be carried out going forward.

QUADS: The quads have been put to good use, with two days of action in Moneynut Forrest due to further reports of off-road bikers in the area. Seven persons have been charged with road traffic offences in the area.

The quads were also utilised for a day of action for Operation Galileo, which is the national operation targeting hare coursing. While reports of hare coursing in the borders have decreased of late, this is due in the main two days of action like this. Further dates are planned in the coming months.

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**.

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

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.



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