

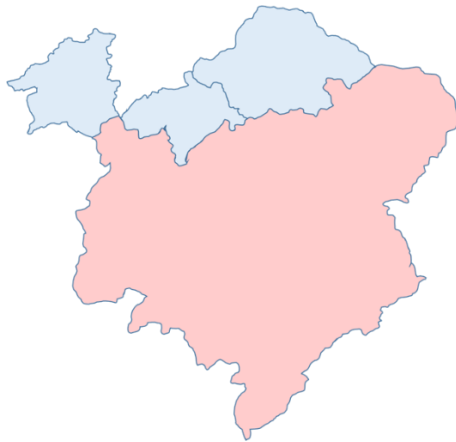
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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Leaderdale and Melrose Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for March 2025



**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 crimes, 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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## North Area Community Policing News – PS Crawford Laing

With the evenings getting lighter and the weather improving we are all likely to get out and about in the countryside at least a little more than we might over the winter. We are privileged to have certain access rights in Scotland however this comes with some responsibility. At this time of year, I feel it is worth putting out a reminder of some of these responsibilities. Many of us in the Borders are dog owners and we all need to be mindful that dog behaviour is our responsibility as owners. Dogs who may normally be well behaved can sometimes give in to their natural instinct to chase. Worrying, chasing or attacking Livestock can bring hefty fines and/or imprisonment in some cases and so it is best to avoid the risk by ensuring that your dog is kept on a lead when near to livestock. Please remember to pick up and dispose of dog waste responsibly. When walking through farmland please be respectful and avoid crop fields, close gates behind you and leave no trace that you were there. Please also keep yourself safe, cows and especially those with calves are unpredictable and are best avoided.



I have been asked about the future of the Community Action Team (CAT) now that the difficult decision has been made by SBC to stop the funding. The team are still in place and I believe a decision has still to be made regarding their future however am hopeful that they will remain in some form within the Community Policing set up.

## 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 March 2025 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 201 mental health related calls, around 23 missing person enquiries and approximately 89 domestic related incidents.

Leaderdale & Melrose had 20 mental health related calls and 3 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 Anti-Social Behaviour**

#### **Assaults**

- On 16/03/2025 report of an assault within BGH, Melrose. Crime report submitted. Male traced, charged and reported to court.
- On 19/03/2025 report of assault in Gun Road, Earlston. Crime report created for enquiry. Enquiries continuing.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

- On 07/03/2025 report of loud music from an address in Calfward Park, Lauder. Unable to confirm if noise still ongoing prior to sending officers. No further complaints received.
- On 22/03/2025 report of kids starting fires in the grounds of Lowood, Melrose. No trace of any fires on arrival of police. Advice given to informant.
- On 23/03/2025 report of males trying car doors in Whitlaw Road Ind Estate, Lauder. Diary app made.
- On 24/03/2024 report of people cold calling round doors in Abbotslea, Tweedbank. No trace of anyone going round doors on arrival of police.

#### **Vandalism**

- On 01/03/2025 report of vandalism to a motor vehicle in Queensway, Earlston. No CCTV available at locus, all lines of enquiry investigated. Enquiries complete.
- On 06/03/2025 report of vandalism to a road roller parked next to Tweedbank Railway Station. Crime report created for enquiries which are ongoing.

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- On 08/03/2025 report of possible break in by youths to disused property in Lowood, Melrose. Crime report submitted for vandalism. Details noted of 5 youths found in the vicinity. ASB letter will be sent out.

## Reducing Acquisitive Crime

### Theft by Housebreaking

- On 03/03/2025 report of a break into a unit within Tweedbank Industrial Estate. Theft of tools. Crime report submitted. Enquiries complete.

### Theft

- On 23/03/2025 report of a banking fraud in Lauderdale Drive, Lauder. Complainer still to be seen, appointment made.
- On 25/03/2025 report of a theft from petrol station in Edinburgh Road, Lauder. . Statement noted and crime report raised for enquiries.
- On 26/03/2025 report of a theft of parcel that had been left at property on High Street Earlston. For further enquiry.
- On 28/03/2025 report of a theft from Co-op petrol station, Earlston. Positive line of enquiry regarding suspects.

## Improving Road Safety

- On 29/03/2025 - a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Lauder

### Killed or Seriously Injured



## Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

### Serious and organised crime enforcement – March 2025

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 7 Drug Warrant during the month of March which resulted in the seizures of Class A, B and C controlled drugs. Six persons were reported for drug related offences during the month. The majority of these incidents were within Galashiels, Hawick and Kelso.

Several other searches and disused building checks were conducted over the month, in relation to industrial sized cultivations which have been evident within the local communities of the Scottish Borders over the last two years.

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These were all found to be in order however we would like to reinforce the message that assistance from members of the public seeing any unusual activity at such premises should be reported to the Police, anonymously if need be.

Serious and organised crime impacts local communities across the Borders and anyone with information on criminal activity are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101, report it at any Police Station or report it anonymously via the Crime Stoppers Charity.

## Campaigns



The Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) has identified the worrying of livestock as one of the key issues impacting on rural/agricultural communities in Scotland.

All livestock are valuable assets and any harm to them impacts an owner/farmer's livelihood. It is every dogs instinct to chase, even if they are usually obedient and good with other animals. Consequently, all dogs should be kept under proper control by the owners/handlers whether they are in an urban or rural area.

In respect of Livestock Worrying, the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 has been updated from November 2021 to the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 and features several key changes:

- Renaming of offence
- Widens categories of livestock
- Increased Penalties
- Additional Police Powers

All of which it is hoped will bring the legislation in line with modern farming practices, act as a clear deterrent. and provide further support to livestock owners.

Chasing by dogs can do serious damage to livestock, even if the dog doesn't catch them. The stress of chasing/attacking/worrying by dogs can cause animals to die and pregnant stock to miscarry.

Livestock fleeing from dogs are often killed or seriously injured by their panicked attempts to escape, often causing significant collateral damage to fences and field boundaries in the process.

Dogs chasing ewes and lambs can cause them to separate with lambs dying from starvation or hypothermia if they fail to find the mothering ewe again.

## CAT Update

### ROAD SAFETY & PARKING TICKETS –

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Officers have been carrying out high visibility enforcement across the Borders and addressing parking concerns there. Extra attention was given to Kelso Square following complaints.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March SBCAT officers were on mobile patrol in Galashiels when they stopped a vehicle. Within they found 4 males and an overwhelming smell of cannabis. All 4 were detained, searched and they were each found to be in possession of a personal amount of cannabis. The driver also failed the road drugs test and was arrested. All 4 were charged with possession and samples from the driver were sent for analysis. He will likely be reported for drug driving once the analysis is complete.

A few days later there was a call to Galashiels regarding a group of male youths smoking cannabis on a park bench. SBCAT officers attended and found the same youths from the incident on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. They were all searched for controlled drugs and more cannabis was recovered.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March SBCAT officers spent a shift doing a dedicated patrol of rural Peeblesshire with extra attention being given to West Linton following concerns about parking at the primary school and speeding vehicles.

**RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME** – We carry out high visibility mobile patrols across rural areas at varying times while completing static road checks.

Quad bike patrols have been completed on the Selkirk side of the 3 Brethren following complaints of off-road bikes in the area and in Bannerfield. With officers engaging with local farmers when possible. Similar rural patrols have been completed at Monynut.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of March a male was assaulted in Selkirk after trying to stop 3 males who were stealing scrap metal from his garden. SBCAT and Response officers attended at the scene and attempted to find the males who had made off in a vehicle. Initially there was no trace but there was a subsequent report of a vehicle crashing near Midlem. Officers attended and found the 3 males nearby in possession of the property stolen from Selkirk. All 3 were arrested and later charged with theft, with the driver also charged with drink driving and other traffic offences.

**VIOLENCE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted as per our taskings.

During the evening of 19<sup>th</sup> of March SBCAT officers were conducting a foot patrol of Burnfoot. This was following a small fireraising that had occurred a few days prior. They were informed by a member of staff that youths had started another small fire against the wall of the school. Together they viewed the CCTV and were able to identify the youths.

Following several youths calls to Fairhurst drive in Hawick windows CAT officers conducted extra patrols and enquiries. CCTV was obtained from the Burnfoot Morrisons showing a group of female youths stealing eggs minutes before eggs were thrown at windows in Fairhurst Drive. A 4 youths were subsequently identified.

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### PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE –

The SBCAT had no involvement with domestic enquiries during March

### TACKLING SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME –

In early March the SBCAT executed a search warrant in Selkirk. About £800 of cannabis was recovered along with small amounts of other controlled drugs. A male was arrested and later charged with supplying controlled drugs.

In late March a female wanted for supplying controlled drugs in the Borders was stopped by police trying to leave the country at Manchester Airport. SCBAT officers subsequently attended at Manchester, arrested and interviewed her.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March SBCAT assisted with the execution of a MDA warrant in Kelso. No drugs were found but SBCAT officers found a significant amount of unexplained cash within the property which was seized for further enquiry.

### 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](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.

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