

Police report

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[\[mailto:Mark.Rennie2@scotland.pnn.police.uk\]](mailto:Mark.Rennie2@scotland.pnn.police.uk) **Sent:** 25 August
2016 12:23 **To:** **Subject:** Police Scotland: South East Area Command
Update

Dear all,

As we are in the last week of the festival it provides an opportune moment to draw breath and provide you all with an update as to how the Area Command has been operating during this busy time of the year.

Our #OpSummerCity operation has been a great success. The additional officers that the division secured from neighbouring Police Scotland divisions has really made an impact in the City Centre and Southside/Meadows areas.

As well as our own teams, we have officers on foot patrol throughout the City Centre helping visitors, attending calls and ensuring that those who may be there to steal, deal drugs or drink too much, do not get the opportunity to spoil the festival.

It has been a real eye opener for the officers from out with Edinburgh who have been surprised at how busy it is but also really enjoyed helping visitors, dealing with queries and being part of the policing operation.

Our social media campaign on twitter and Facebook has also been a success and provided an opportunity to illustrate all the work being done and the professional, friendly and approachable nature of the Police Scotland officers working in the area.

As always, the Division and Police Scotland has been the subject of recent media reports. I try not to get too frustrated when I read such reports, however, rarely do I see any accuracy in them and often they misrepresent the wider views of the

communities we police.

It's probably worth providing that extra detail though on two particular articles/issues.

20's speed limit enforcement:

The Evening News reported that we had called off 20's enforcement.

This was completely untrue and was based on a check by the paper which suggested that no specific road checks had been carried out in second week following the launch. What the article failed to acknowledge was that officers across the city had carried out checks of 30 and 40 limits in accident hotspot areas in Edinburgh over that period. My officers had also been visiting local primary schools to ensure safe routes around the schools and officers on patrol had also spoken to motorists during general patrols (for example, if it was believed that they had exceeded 20 limits in the City Centre).

As we have always said, the limits themselves should be self enforcing, however, we will look at streets where concerns and problems are reported. This week alone, as well as further checks around primary schools, we have carried out 3 morning 20 limit road checks, warning 21 drivers and issuing a ticket to another.

Officers on patrol had halved since Police Scotland began:

I also found this report frustrating as at the moment my Response teams have never been so healthy.

Recent changes have bolstered Response numbers to ensure that we can attend calls quickly and intervene appropriately before an incident escalates.

This change and further changes to our policing model in October, will not only ensure that when the public call the police we have the capacity to respond quickly but also ensure

that our funded ward and Community officers are able to dedicate their time to dealing with community problems and meeting local groups.

These articles also failed to mention that on any given day a whole variety of officers patrol, attend calls and prevent crime across the City i.e. Response, Community, Roads Policing, DVRU, Housebreaking teams, Retail crime team, CID, Public Protection officers, Armed Support Vehicles, Ops Support teams and FLEXI team officers from out with the Division. The challenge, in fact, is sometimes not the lack of resource but actually co-ordinating it to make sure we make best use of it.

As always should you be concerned regarding any element of local policing within the division or would just like to clarify something you have read or watched in the media please do not hesitate to contact me or the local community Inspectors who will happily discuss the detail with you.

Officers have been working hard throughout the summer and that work is currently reflected in some really positive results in terms of recorded crime across a whole range of crime types. We have experienced an overall reduction in recorded crime since April 1st and importantly our victim based crime is down by over 500 crimes, a reduction of 16%.

Importantly, having been involved with everyone else in the battle to tackle housebreaking when I only covered South Edinburgh, all the hard work is paying dividends and we have seen a significant 46% reduction in domestic housebreaking (128 houses). That's a really positive story and is as a direct result of pursuing key offenders and ensuring that by capturing them they have now received more lengthy prison sentences.

Just as a flavour though some other positive crime news for South East:

Serious assault -23% 16 less people injured

Robbery -31% 10 people not the victim of this impactful crime.

Break-ins to vehicles down by 68% - 37 cars with no smashed windows.

Vandalism -20% 108 less instances of graffiti, broken property and smashed windows!

A additional 10 weapons seized from offenders and off the street.

Theft down 18%.... 171 people who still have their Ipads and wallets!

Overall, it looks very positive across the board. The only issue of concern at the moment regarding ongoing crime in the area relates to theft of vehicles, which has increased by 42% or 41 vehicles. Anecdotally, it appears that some youths who were breaking into houses and stealing vehicles have moved back to straight thefts (probably as they realise they are more likely to end up in jail for housebreaking after being caught by us).

Operation Soteria has been set up across the division to deal with the issue and officers from the Howdenhall area have specifically been focussing on this issue over the last few weeks. As well as increased patrols and work around Braidburn Valley Park (Police and Council) we have also been targeting offenders by using cameras to film their clothing for evidential purposes and utilised a decoy motorbike to good affect, which resulted in 3 youths being arrested.

Our work in this area continues as we all know and have seen for ourselves, the inherent dangers involved in young people stealing and driving stolen vehicles around the City.

On a lighter note the #OpSummerCity social media campaign has gathered apace.

PC Bobbi and Baddie bear have been out across the City to engage children in the policing of the festival.

The First Minister, followed on from Ian Rankin in grabbing a bear for a hug last night, so if you want to grab a cuddle (from the bears not me) just get in touch.

Regards,

CI Mark Rennie