



Scottish Borders Area Commander's

Local Monthly Update – May 2020

(Data from 01/04/2020 – 31/05/2020)

	2019/2020	2020/2021	% Change	Local Area Commanders Comment
Total Crimes and Offences (Group 1-7)	1395	1032	-26	
Total Crimes (Group 1-5)	674	544	-19.3	
Overall Violent Crime	146	136	-6.8	
Group 1: Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	16	27	68.8	The increase in Group 1 crime is mainly as a result of an increase in the number of reports of Domestic Abuse Scotland Act and Threats and Extortion crimes. 80% of the Threats and Extortion are linked to online crimes.
Group 2: Sexual Crimes	40	41	2.5	
Group 3: Crimes of Dishonesty	296	182	-38.5	
Group 4: Fire-raising, Malicious Mischief, etc	149	108	-27.5	
Group 5: Other Pro-Activity Crimes	173	186	7.5	This increase is down to a 90% increase in officers detecting breaches of bail conditions.
Group 6: Miscellaneous offences	376	324	-13.8	
Group 7: Offences relating to Motor Offences	345	164	-52.5	

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data has been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and is correct as at 02.06.2020.

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.

Local Area Commanders Comments

Covid-19 Update:

During the month of May the vast majority of people in the Scottish Borders continued to comply with the guidelines. However, we did see some issues in the more rural areas, including St Abbs and Coldingham but when engaged with these persons dispersed when requested to do so.

Officers in the Scottish Borders continue to adopt the following Policing style as directed by the Chief Constable when dealing with COVID-19 incidents:

Engage – Establish individual circumstances and how quickly someone can comply

Explain – the risks to public health

Encourage – Voluntary compliance

Enforce – If faced with non-compliance and only as a last resort.

It is pleasing to see that the total number of COVID related ASB calls reduced by 19% during the month of May.

As I write this report we have now seen the relaxing of some of the restrictions and I will provide an update of what issues we faced in my next report.

Crime figures and Incidents of Note:

The following is a list of some of the more notable incidents that we have dealt with in May:

- In the early hours of Sunday 3rd May residents in the Howegate area of Hawick reported to Police a male shouting and threatening to shoot people whilst holding what appeared to be a handgun. Police attended and traced a male who was found in possession of an Airsoft gun. He was subsequently arrested and charged for possession of an imitation firearm.
- On 7th May in Jedburgh an elderly lady was subjected to an attempted robbery at her home address where a male tried to push past her to gain entry into her house. She resisted and the male then fled the area. Enquiries are still ongoing by CID to trace the male.
- During the month of May there have been 4 reports of online extortion in the Scottish Borders. People have been tricked into sending naked/compromising images of themselves over social media with the recipient then threatening to share the images wider unless money is paid. Despite this being a well-known tactic by criminals it is concerning that so many people are still being trapped. As a result we sent out more crime prevention advice on keeping yourself safe on-line.

- On 13th May a dwelling in Croft Street, Galashiels was broken into. A male was arrested and charged for this offence.
- On 20th May a male was assaulted near to Hawthorn Road, Galashiels following an altercation with two other males. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the persons responsible.
- On 21st May a 37-year-old male from Jedburgh died of a suspected drugs overdose.
- Overnight on 22nd/23rd May in the Crossland Crescent area of Peebles several break-ins occurred and a number of high-value mountain bikes were stolen. Police traced a van and a car nearby which were signalled to stop, the van was found to contain all the stolen bikes but the car made off at high-speed. Two individuals have been identified for this crime and CID are in the process of reporting them to the Procurator Fiscal. In light of this and after some security issues were identified our Crime Prevention Officer visited each of the victims and carried out a Crime Prevention survey.
- On 27th May an intelligence led operation targeting drug dealers took place in Eyemouth. Over £10,000 of drugs were recovered along with £4,000 in cash. This operation was carried out by the SB CAT.
- On 28th May, following a lengthy enquiry, 4 males were identified and will be charged for several instances of hare coursing across the Scottish Borders area.
- On 29th May in Duns a male was arrested and charged following the deliberate fire-raising of an address in The Mount area of the town.
- On 29th May in the Maxmill area of Kelso a dwelling was broken into and a number of items stolen. Following enquiries two individuals have been arrested and charged for this offence.
- On 30th May following a disturbance in the Roxburgh Street area of Kelso a male was assaulted. The person responsible has been arrested and charged.

Gypsy Travellers

Whilst Scottish Borders Council are the lead agency with regard to assisting members of the travelling community. We have been supporting the council Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer during his regular engagement with the travelling families housed temporarily in Selkirk. Whilst I acknowledge that the arrival of the travellers initially caused the local community some concern. I am content that our joint approach to this vulnerable and marginalised group was in line with the Framework set out by COSLA and the Scottish Government at the start of the pandemic.

Community Action Team

In addition to the excellent Operation in Eyemouth as detailed above the CAT have carried out the following activity and taskings in May:

- Carried out 40 drugs stop and searches.
- Conducted 26 static road checks (which included speed enforcement via hand-held radar) across the region.
- Carried out a weekend of action around off-road bikers at Monynut Forest
- Completed 26 bail curfew checks



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