Inverclyde
council

Ref: LC

Date: 5 November 2021

A meeting of the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee will be held on Thursday 18 November 2021 at 3pm.

Members may attend the meeting in person or via remote online access. Webex joining details will be sent to Members and Officers prior to the meeting. Members are requested to notify Committee Services by 12 noon on Wednesday 17 November how they intend to access the meeting.

In the event of connectivity issues, Members are asked to use the *join by phone* number in the Webex invitation.

Information relating to the recording of meetings can be found at the end of this notice.

ANNE SINCLAIR
Interim Head of Legal Services

BUSINESS

1.	**Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**	**Page**
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT		
2.	**Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report**	**P**
3.	**Police Scotland Performance Report**	**P**
4.	**Police Scotland – Spotlight Report on 101 Call Waiting Times**	**P**
NEW BUSINESS		
5.	**Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report** Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	**P**

The reports are available publicly on the Council's website and the minute of the meeting will be submitted to the next standing meeting of the Inverclyde Council. The agenda for the meeting of the Inverclyde Council will be available publicly on the Council's website.

Please note that the meeting will be recorded for publishing on the Council's website. The Council is a Data Controller under UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 and data collected during any recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's Data Protection Policy, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available.

By entering the online recording or attending the chambers in person, please acknowledge that you may be filmed and that any information pertaining to you contained in the video and oral recording of the meeting will be used for the purpose of making the recording available to the public.

Enquiries to - **Lindsay Carrick** - Tel 01475 712114

**Inverclyde Performance Report
1st July 2021 - 30th September 2021**

SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

Table of Contents

Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan Priorities

The Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan has been developed to set out the priorities and objectives within Inverclyde and allows our local authority partners to scrutinise the performance outcomes of these priorities. We will continue to work closely with our partners in Inverclyde to ensure we are all **"Working Together for a Safer Scotland"** through targeting risks to our communities at a local level.

The plan has been developed to complement key partnership activity embedded across Inverclyde Community Plan and associated Delivery and Thematic plans. Through partnership working we will seek to deliver continuous improvement in our performance and effective service delivery in our area of operations.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Inverclyde identified six areas for demand reduction and is subject to regular monitoring and reporting through the Police / Fire and Rescue Committee. A summary of the priorities and current activity is detailed below with further detail and analysis contained within this performance report.

	Accidental Dwelling Fires	Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties	Unintentional Injury and Harm	Deliberate Fire Setting	Non-Domestic Fire Safety	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
Inverclyde Central	5	0	1	16	1	11
Inverclyde East	4	0	1	6	1	8
Inverclyde East Central	3	0	0	26	1	13
Inverclyde North	2	0	0	25	0	21
Inverclyde South	1	0	0	5	0	15
Inverclyde South West	0	0	5	5	0	6
Inverclyde West	1	0	1	13	0	5

Total Incidents	**16**	**0**	**8**	**96**	**3**	**79**
Year on Year Change	🟢 -20%	🟢 -100%	🟢 -11%	🔴 25%	🔺 0%	🟢 -12%
3 Year Average Change	🔺 0%	🟢 -71%	🟢 -37%	🟢 -13%	🔺 0%	🟢 -15%

About the statistics within this report

The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference in the period totals quoted in our reports after local publication which result from revisions or additions to the data in our systems. The Scottish Government publishes official statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

🟢 Activity levels have reduced by more than 5%

🔺 Activity levels have reduced by up to 5%

🔴 Activity levels have increased overall

Inverclyde Activity Summary

🔥 **126**	fires primary & secondary	⬆ 17%	🚗 **57** special services	⬆ 24%	🔔 **185** false alarms ⬆ 5%
🚒 **368** total number of incidents	⬆ 12%	👥 **8** fire & non-fire casualties	⬇ -56%	🏘 **£155,630** economic cost of ufas incidents	

*data above is year on year change

Activity by Time of Day

	00:00	01:00	02:00	03:00	04:00	05:00	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00
Mon																								
Tue																								
Wed																								
Thu																								
Fri																								
Sat																								
Sun																								
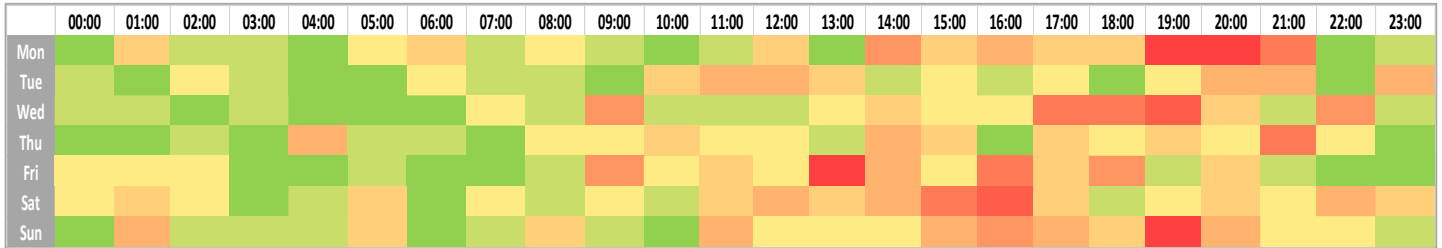
Incidents by Classification

Annual Average

3 Year Average

- 30%
- 14%
- 56%
- 34%
- 15%
- 50%

■ All Fires ■ All Special Services ■ All False Alarms
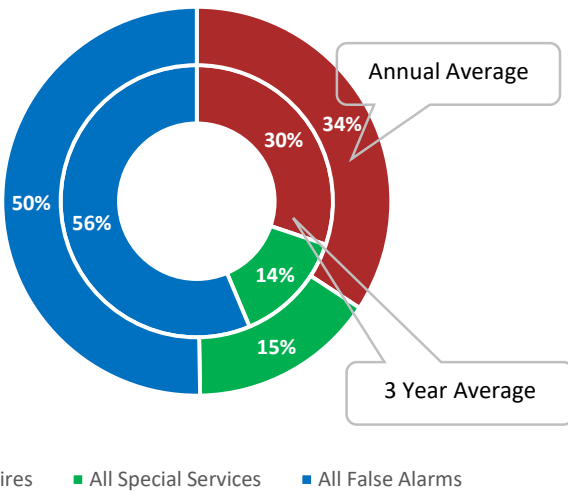
Top 15 Incidents Types by %

Incident Type	%
False Alarm (UFAS)	21.35%
False Alarm (Dwelling)	18.92%
Outdoor Fire	18.65%
False Alarm (Good Intent)	8.38%
Refuse Fire	7.57%
Dwelling Fire	5.41%
Special Service - Effecting...	2.97%
Special Service - Assist other...	2.43%
Special Service - RTC	2.43%
Special Service - Animal...	1.62%
Special Service - Flooding	1.62%
Special Service - No action (not...	1.62%
Vehicle Fire	1.35%
Other Building Fire	0.81%
False Alarm (Malicious)	0.81%

Inverclyde Operational Trends

Year	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22

■ Total Incidents ▬ All Fires ▬ All Special Services ▬ All False Alarms
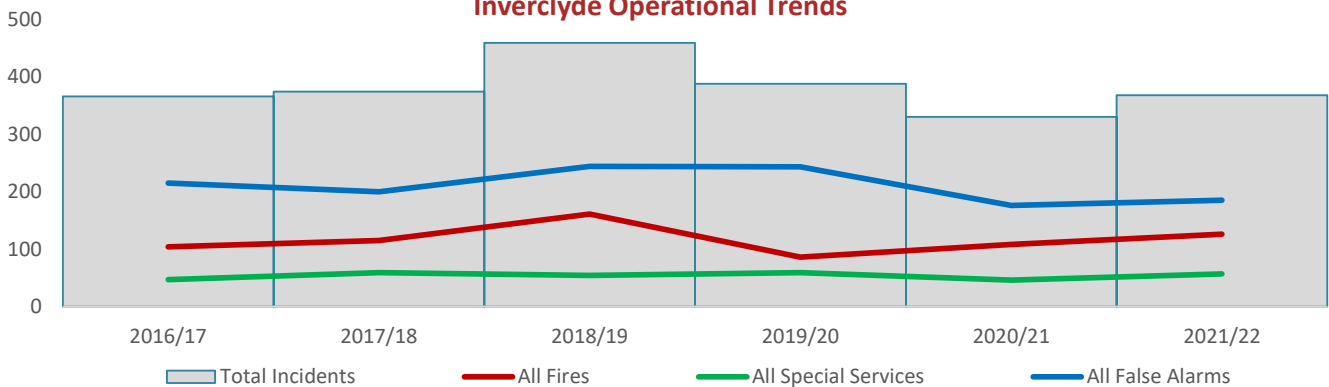
Domestic Safety - Accidental Dwelling Fires

Performance Summary

Year on Year	3 Year Average
🟢 -20%	🔺 0%

Accidental Dwelling Fires

Year	Count
2017/18	25
2018/19	16
2019/20	12
2020/21	20
2021/22	16
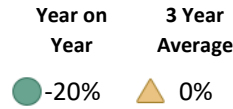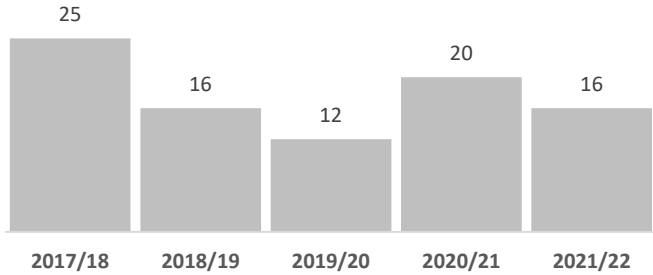
Accidental Dwelling Fires Activity by Ward (% share)

- **31%** Inverclyde Central
- **25%** Inverclyde East
- **19%** Inverclyde East Central
- **13%** Inverclyde
- **6%** Inverclyde South
- **0%** Inverclyde South West
- **6%** Inverclyde West

Main Source of Ignition

Cooking appliance	Not known	Other domestic style appliance	Matches and candles	Smoking Related
7	2	2	1	1
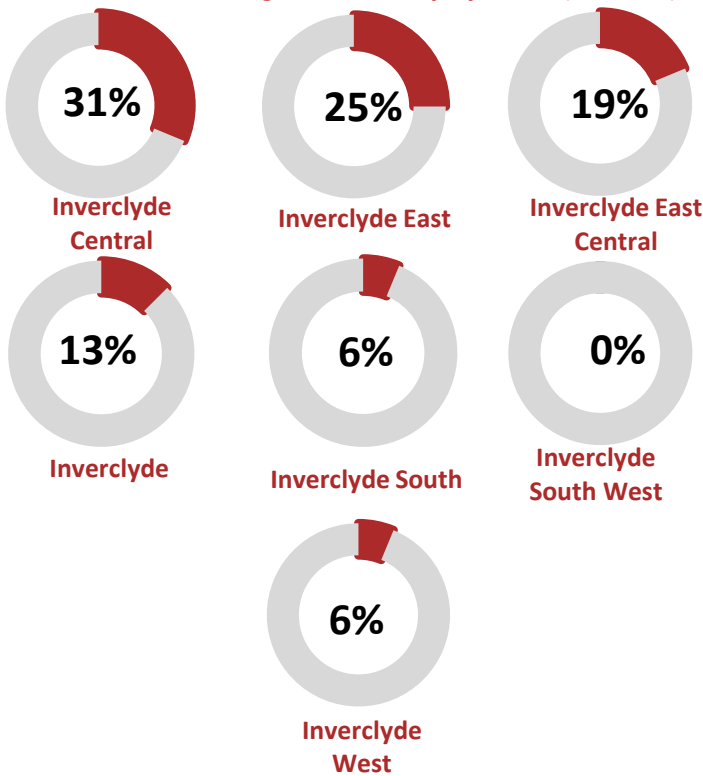
Accidental Dwelling Fires by Time of Day
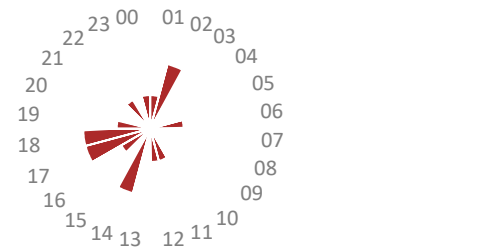
Severity of Accidental Dwelling Fires

- **No Firefighting Action** 44%
- **Direct Firefighting** 13%
- **No Heat/Smoke Damage** 31%
- **No Fire Damage** 19%

Human Factors

- **Distraction** 31%
- **Alcohol/Drug Impairment** 6%
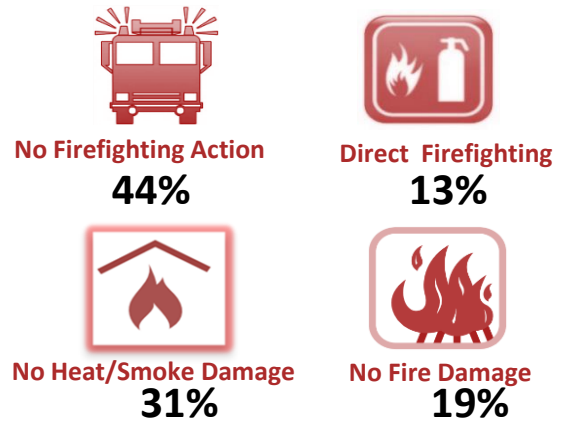
Automatic Detection & Actuation

- **Detection Present** 69%
- **Calls Made via Linked** 94%
- **Detection Actuated** 100%

It is pleasing to report a general downward trend within fire incidents that have the potential to cause harm. Where incidents are occuring the severity is predominately low and linked alarm systems and smoke detection are providing mitigation. SFRS will continue to support the transition to new detector legislation.
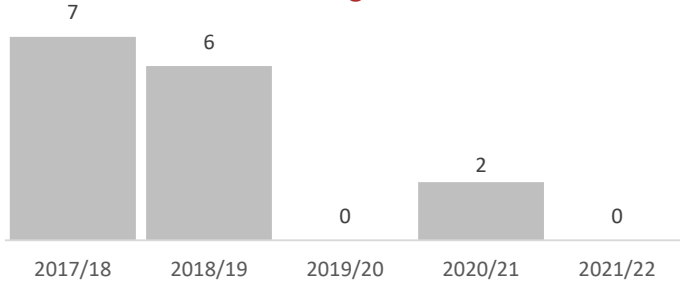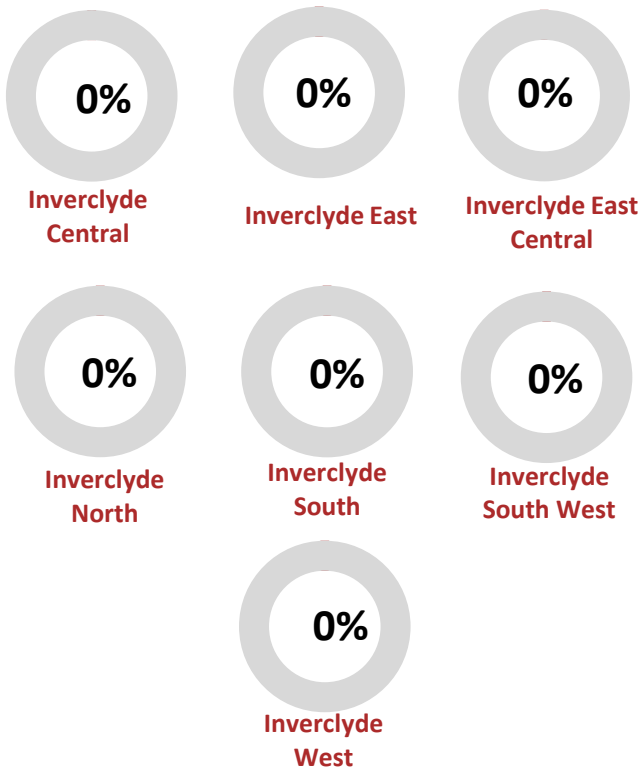
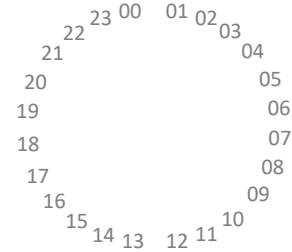# Domestic Safety - Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

Performance Summary

	Year on Year	3 Year Average
	-100%	-71%
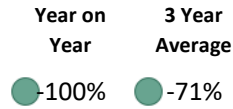
Accidental Dwelling Fires Casualties

Year	Count
2017/18	7
2018/19	6
2019/20	0
2020/21	2
2021/22	0

Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties by Ward (% share)

- Inverclyde Central: 0%
- Inverclyde East: 0%
- Inverclyde East Central: 0%
- Inverclyde North: 0%
- Inverclyde South: 0%
- Inverclyde South West: 0%
- Inverclyde West: 0%

Fire Casualties by Time of Day

00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

Nature of Injury

- 0%
- 0%
- 0%
- 0%
- 0%
- 0%

Extent of Harm

- Fatality: 0%
- Hospital - Serious Injuries: 0%
- Hospital - Slight Injuries: 0%
- First Aid at Scene: 0%

Age / Gender Profile

- Male: 0%
- Female: 0%

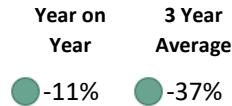|	0 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 49	50 - 79	80+
	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0

No fire related casualties during this reporting period which is welcomed. Once again the benefits of detection systems providing early warning is a key factor.
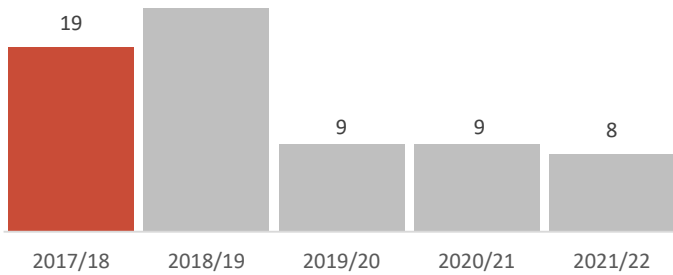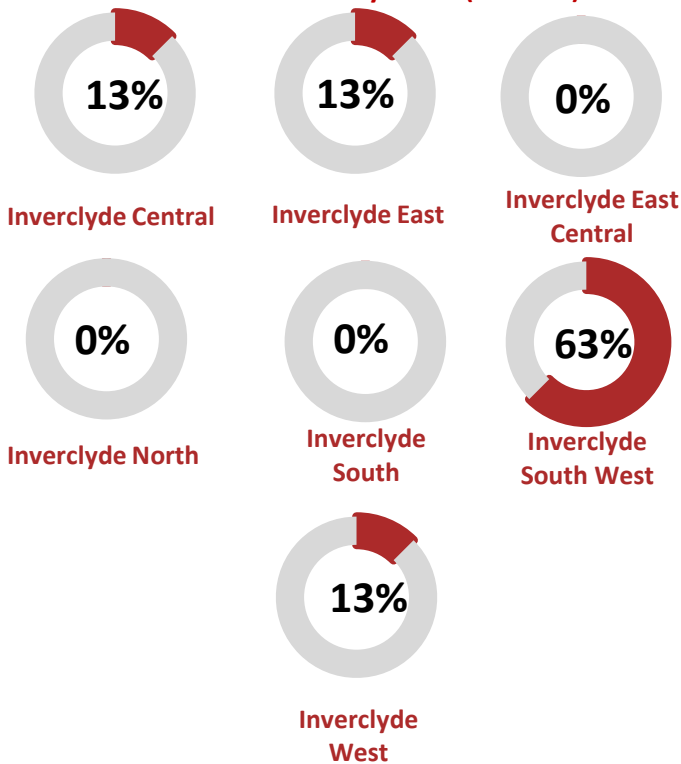
Unintentional Injury and Harm

Performance Summary

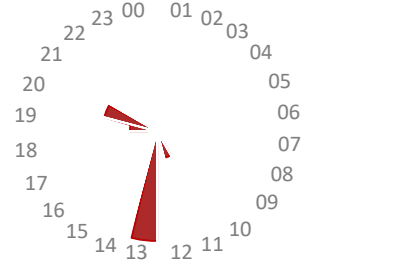|	Year on Year	3 Year Average
	-11%	-37%

Non-Fire Casualties

2017/18	19
2018/19	23
2019/20	9
2020/21	9
2021/22	8

Non-Fire Casualties by Ward (% share)

Inverclyde Central 13%

Inverclyde East 13%

Inverclyde East Central 0%

Inverclyde North 0%

Inverclyde South 0%

Inverclyde South West 63%

Inverclyde West 13%

8 non fire casualties recorded with 6 of these RTC related and overall activity levels are low. Injuries are minor in severity and SFRS will continue to work with Police Scotland and the local authority to promote road safety messaging.
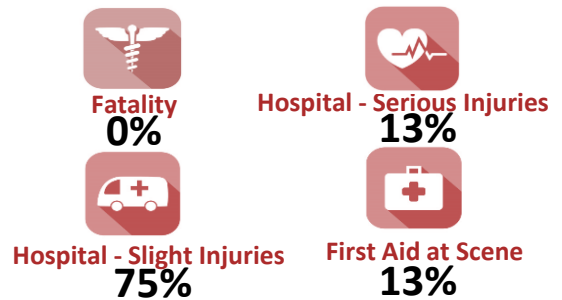
Non-Fire Casualties by Time of Day
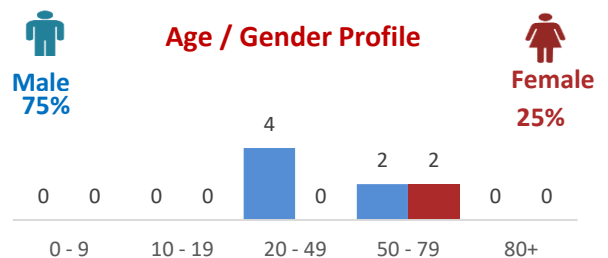
Nature of Injury

Bruising	38%
Fracture	38%
Shock	13%
Cuts/Laceratio	13%
	0%
	0%

Extent of Harm

Fatality	Hospital - Serious Injuries
0%	13%
Hospital - Slight Injuries	First Aid at Scene
75%	13%
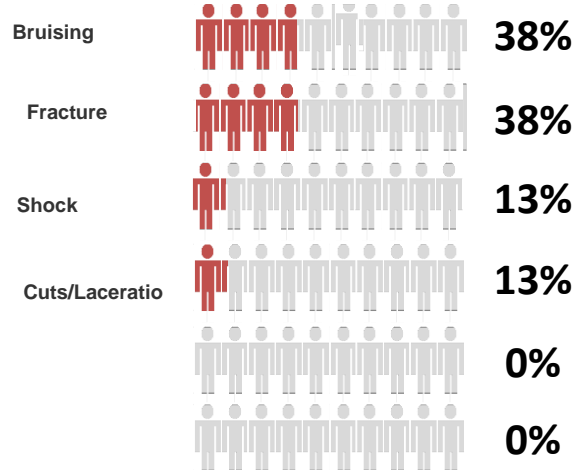
Non-Fire Emergency Activity

Road Traffic Collision	Assisting Other Agencies	Water Rescue
75%	25%	0%

Age / Gender Profile

Male 75%   **Female 25%**

	0 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 49	50 - 79	80+
	0 0	0 0	4 0	2 2	0 0

Deliberate Fire Setting

Performance Summary

	Year on Year	3 Year Average
	◆ 25%	● -13%

Deliberate Fires

81 — 2017/18
132 — 2018/19
68 — 2019/20
77 — 2020/21
96 — 2021/22
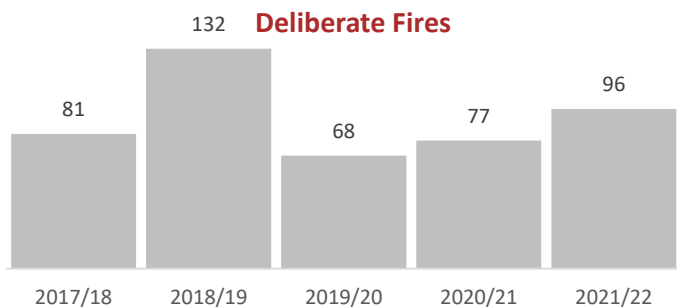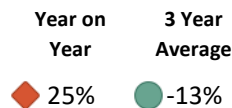
Deliberate Fires by Ward (% share)

17% Inverclyde Central

6% Inverclyde East

27% Inverclyde East Central

26% Inverclyde North

5% Inverclyde South

5% Inverclyde South West

14% Inverclyde West

Deliberate Fires by Time of Day

Deliberate Fires by Classification

Legend: ■ Primary ■ Secondary

Year	Primary	Secondary
2021/22	8%	92%
2020/21	26%	74%
2019/20	15%	85%
2018/19	10%	90%
2017/18	26%	74%
2016/17	25%	75%

Primary Fire Ratio by Activity Type

Dwellings — 50%

Other Buildings —

Vehicles — 38%

Other Primary — 13%

Secondary Fire Ratio by Activity Type

Refuse — 32%

Other Secondary — 68%

Deliberate Fires Compared to Operational Activity

Year	All Incidents	Deliberate Secondary Fires
2016/17	366	46
2017/18	374	60
2018/19	459	119
2019/20	388	58
2020/21	330	57
2021/22	368	88

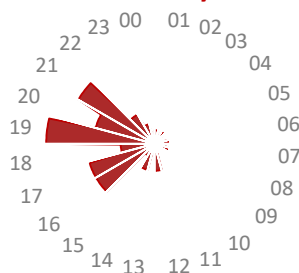Legend: ■ All Incidents ■ Deliberate Secondary Fires
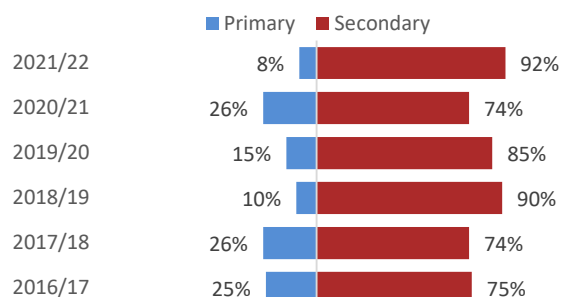
Definitions

Primary Fires - all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances

Secondary Fires – fire incidents that did not occur at a primary location, was not a chimney fire in an occupied building, did not involve casualties (otherwise categorised as a primary incident) and was attended by four or fewer appliances.
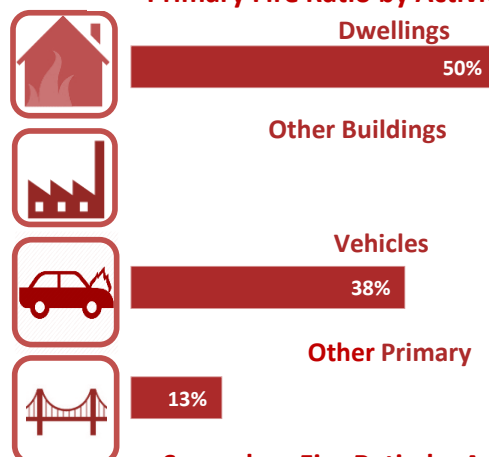
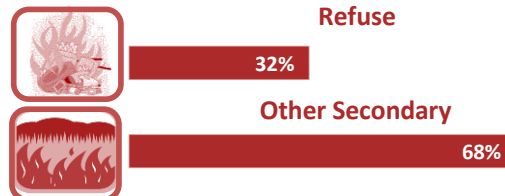An increase in deliberate fires over this period, however this is set against a reduction in primary fire percentage. SFRS continues to play a full part in the Community Hub Meetings with our partners on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to highlight trend or increased activity areas for action. Deliberate secondary fires have a seasonal element impacting on the increased data.
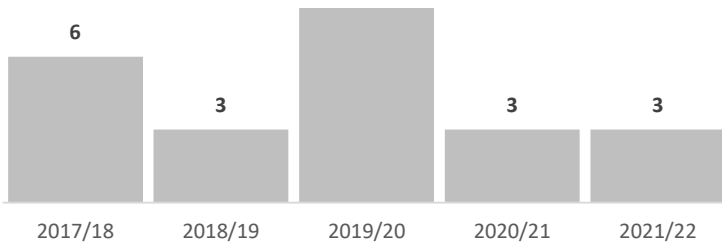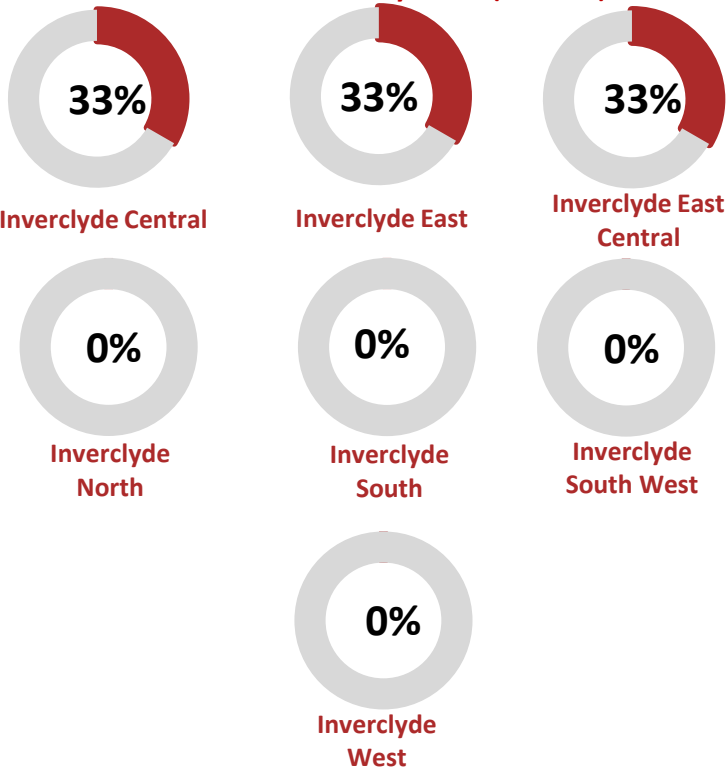
Non Domestic Fire Safety

Performance Summary
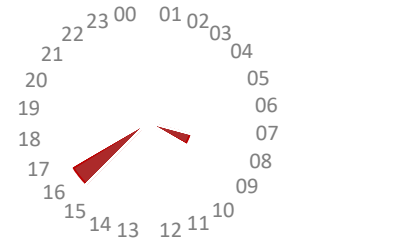
	Year on Year	3 Year Average
	⚠ 0%	⚠ 0%

Non Domestic Fires

2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
6	3	8	3	3

Non-Domestic Fires by Ward (% share)

Inverclyde Central 33%

Inverclyde East 33%

Inverclyde East Central 33%

Inverclyde North 0%

Inverclyde South 0%

Inverclyde South West 0%

Inverclyde West 0%

Non-Domestic Fires by Time of Day

Non-Domestic Fires by Nature of Origin

33%   0%

67%

■ Accidental   ■ Deliberate   ■ Not Known
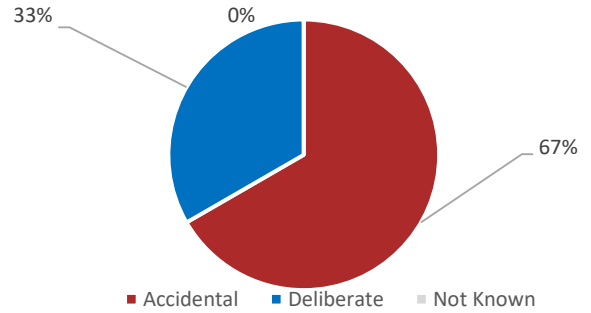
Severity of Non-Domestic Fires

No Firefighting Action 33%

Direct Firefighting 33%

Heat/Smoke Damage 100%

No Fire Damage 0%
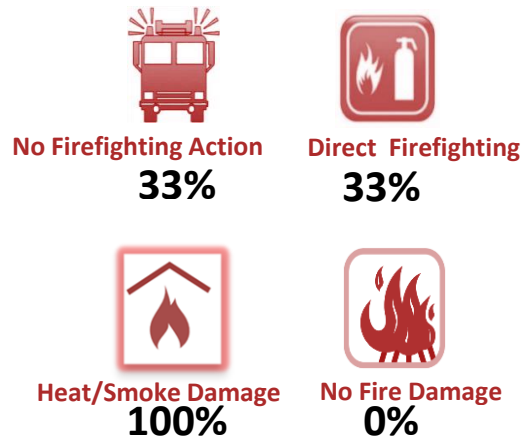
Non-Domestic Fires by Premises Type

Other private non-residential building	1
Factory	1
Nursing/Care	1

Activity levels are reduced this reporting period which is welcomed. Our Protection officers will continue to support local businesses through our Fire Safety Audit Programme both pre and post fire.
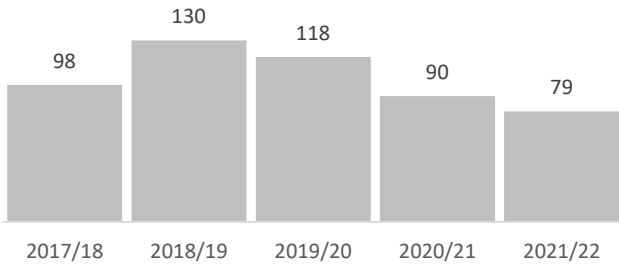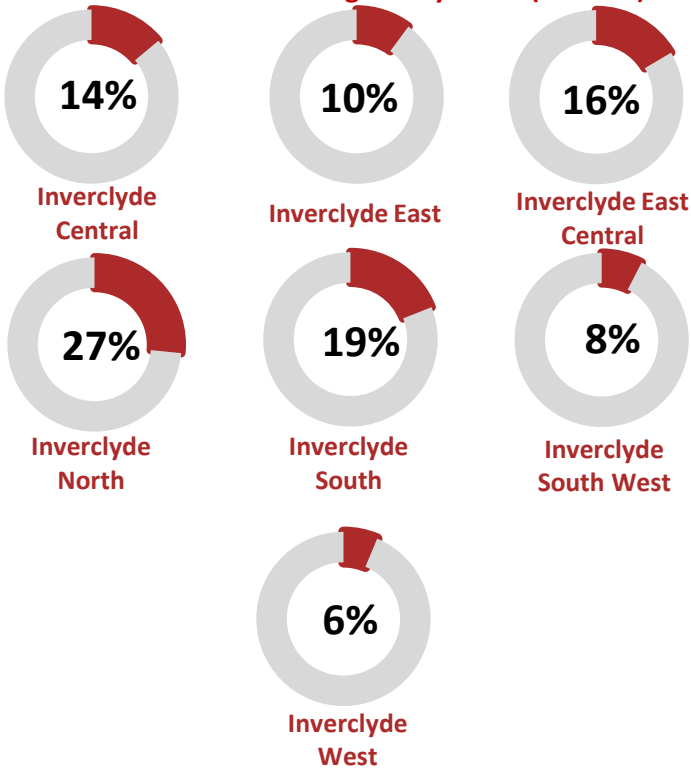
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Performance Summary
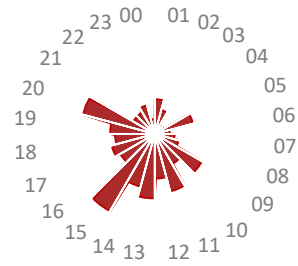
	Year on Year	3 Year Average
	-12%	-15%

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

- 2017/18: 98
- 2018/19: 130
- 2019/20: 118
- 2020/21: 90
- 2021/22: 79

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals by Time of Day

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals by Ward (% share)

- **Inverclyde Central**: 14%
- **Inverclyde East**: 10%
- **Inverclyde East Central**: 16%
- **Inverclyde North**: 27%
- **Inverclyde South**: 19%
- **Inverclyde South West**: 8%
- **Inverclyde West**: 6%

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals - Top 5 Premises

- Hospitals and medical care: 16%
- Residential Home, Nursing: 15%
- Infant/primary school: 11%
- Leisure Centre: 6%
- Shopping Centre: 6%
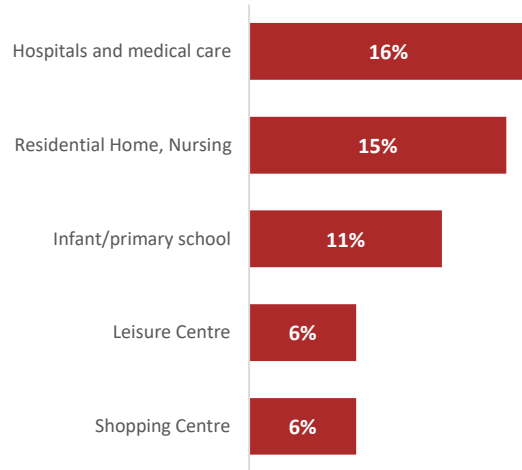
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Activity Ratios

UFAS Percentage Against all Incidents
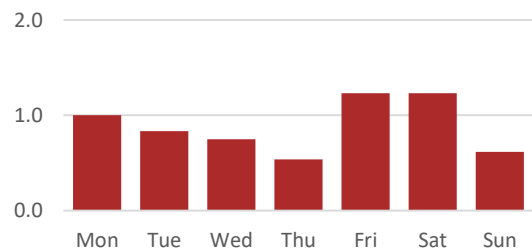21%

UFAS Percentage Against all False Alarms
43%

Human Influence and Alarm Activations
23%

Average Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals per Day

- Mon: 1.0
- Tue: ~0.8
- Wed: ~0.75
- Thu: ~0.55
- Fri: ~1.2
- Sat: ~1.2
- Sun: ~0.6

A reduced data set when compared to the same period last year in terms of demand. The property types for UFAS remain consistent with some seasonal fluctuation. SFRS consultation 'Time for Change' has been presented to Committee and will look to reduce demand in terms of our response to UFAS incidents and realise benefits for SFRS, businesses and public safety across our communities.

Inverclyde
Performance Summary Report
Reporting Period: 01/04/21 - 31/08/21

POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

SEMPER VIGILO

Total Crime ⬇⬇ **-14.2%** ⬇⬇ 2,525 Crimes

Incidents Recorded
-13.1%
8,288

Common Assault
-11.6%
255

Overall Dishonesty
-16.9%
466

Domestic Abuse Incidents
-16.5%
318

Overall Violent Crime
-16.1%
283

Sexual Crime
+2.2%
56

Road Traffic Casualties
-35.7%*
9 *against PYTD

Disorder Complaints
-26.6%*
1,619 *against PYTD

Missing People
-39.2%
141

Counter Terrorism

The threat level from INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM has been changed from Severe to Substantial—an attack has been deemed as likely to occur.

Housebreaking
-37.2%
50

*All data provided is for the period 1 Apr - 31 August unless otherwise stated. All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as of 29/09/2021

Inverclyde
Performance Summary Report
Reporting Period:
1 Apr 2021 to 31 August 2021

Introduction

I am pleased to present this report to the Police Fire and Rescue Committee for its information and consideration.

Please note that all data included in this report are management information and not official statistics.

All data are sourced from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as of date of publication.

Unless stated otherwise numerical comparisons are against the preceding five year average.

INVERCLYDE POLICING PRIORITIES 2018-2022

1 Drug dealing and drug misuse

2 Violence and antisocial behaviour

3 Dishonesty

4 Road Safety

PRIORITY AREA	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Drug supply and misuse	Drug dealing and misuse continues to be a priority area for our attention in Inverclyde as communities tell us they are concerned about the harm caused. Although our detections for drug supply are lower than last year we have been proactive in addressing this issue. We continue to gather intelligence for further enforcement action in Inverclyde, however we manage this from a Divisional perspective as criminals do not recognise Local Authority boundaries. There have been 17 drugs supply detections in Inverclyde year-to-date, compared to a five year average of 30.8.
Violence & ASB	The level of overall violent crime is down by 16.1% on the previous five year average. Meanwhile, there have been 33 fewer common assaults compared to the previous five year average of 288.4. 70 common assaults were perpetrated against emergency workers, an increase on the previous five year average of 64.2. ASB is down by 26.6% on the previous year to a total of 1,619 incidents.
Dishonesty	Housebreaking crimes continue to fall, with fewer crimes relating to all property types. However, recorded fraud continues to increase locally, mirroring the national trend—with the volume of fraud crimes rising 37.3% compared to five year average figures. Cyber-criminals are continuously looking for new ways to target potential victims. There has been a proliferation in the use of tactics such as scam phone calls, text messages and emails, as well as fake websites and social media posts, by which criminals seek to deceive people into handing over personal details and passwords.
Road Safety	The number of casualties on Inverclyde roads has fallen from 14 to nine and there have been no fatalities in the current year. Proactive policing of Inverclyde's roads has led to an increase in reported drink and drug driving offences.

POLICE SCOTLAND'S POLICING PRIORITIES 2021-2022

1.   Protecting vulnerable people

2.   Working with communities

3.   Tackling crime in the digital age

4.   Support for operational policing

DEMAND ANALYSIS - * PYTD - PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE CYTD - CURRENT YEAR TO DATE

CRIME	PYTD *	CYTD *	INCIDENTS	PYTD	CYTD
Total Crimes & Offences	2,654	2,525	Total number of incidents	9,234	8,288

All Crimes and Offences

Police Incidents
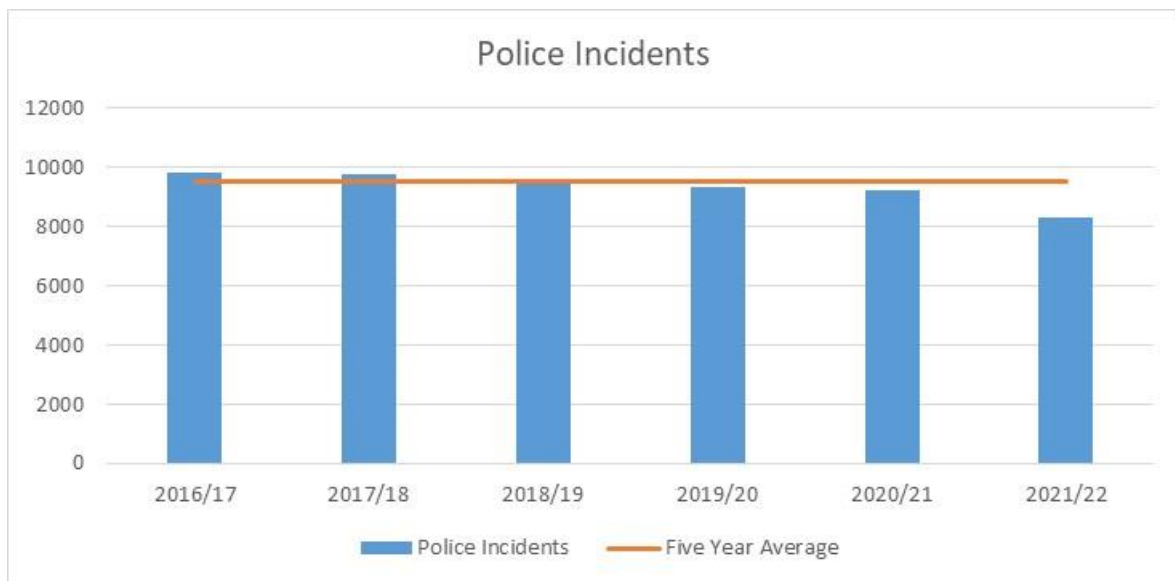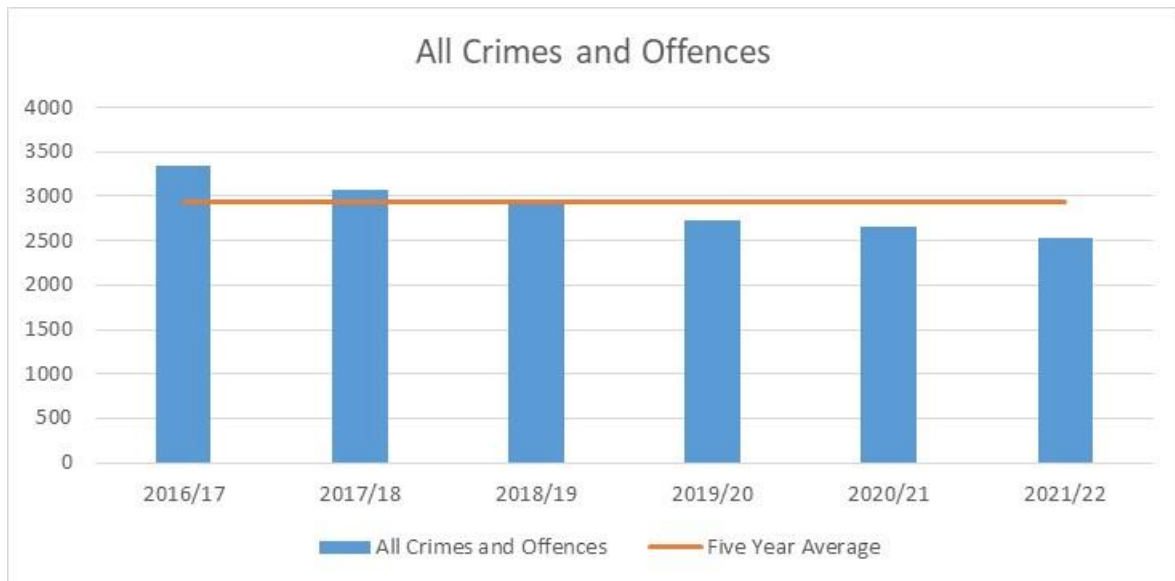
CONTEXT

The volume of recorded crime and offences has fallen by 4.9% on the previous year and by 14.2% on the preceding five year average, with a longer term decrease in non-sexual crimes of violence, crimes of dishonesty, vandalism and fireraising, miscellaneous offences and offences relating to motor vehicles driving the fall in overall volume. Meanwhile, recorded police incidents have fallen by 10.2% on the previous year, and by 13.1% on the five year average.

ONLINE & CYBERCRIME - DATA OVERVIEW

CONTEXT

In the period April – August 2021, 77 crimes have been designated as 'cyber-crimes' by Police Scotland's Cyber-Crime Intelligence Analysts. Over 62% of these were classed as financial/economic crimes, predominantly cyber-enabled fraud. Other cyber-crimes impacting on Inverclyde's communities include computer hacking, cyber-enabled sexual offences, and threatening and abusive communications.

Inverclyde Police have been running social media campaigns over the summer regarding online and telephone based frauds to help raise awareness and help people to identify scammers who target the most vulnerable in our communities. The media campaign was an extension to the Take 5 Campaign cyber fraud information leaflets delivered to every household in Inverclyde via the Council Tax letters in March 2021.

ACQUISITIVE CRIME — DATA OVERVIEW
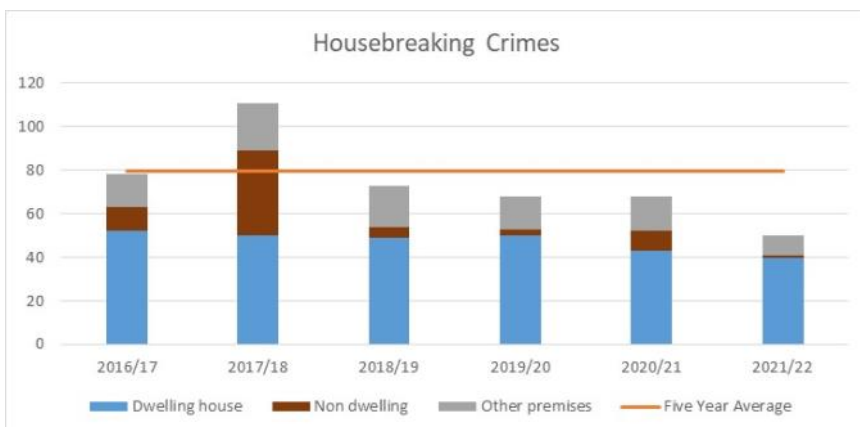
CONTEXT

169 shoplifting crimes have been recorded – a decrease of 2.1% compared to the five year average. The detection rate has fallen by 8.3 percentage points on the five year average to 74% in the current year.

Housebreaking crimes (including attempts) fell from a five year average of 79.6 to 50 crimes. There were fewer HBs to all categories of premises. The detection rate has increased by 8.2 percentage points on the five year average to 28.2% in the current year.

Motor vehicle crimes have fallen by 26.8% on the five year average to a total of 46 crimes. Theft of a motor vehicle continues to account for the highest proportion of motor vehicle crime (n=16). The MV crime detection rate is 21.7%, a decrease 11.7 percentage points on the previous five year average.

One bogus caller crime has been recorded in the current year. This involved the elderly complainer losing a mid-three figure sum in a government boiler replacement scheme doorstep fraud.

COUNTER TERRORISM & DOMESTIC EXTREMISM

CONTEXT

On February 2021 the Home Secretary announced a decrease in the UK's Terrorist Threat Level from 'Severe' to 'Substantial'. This means it is deemed an attack is likely. At this time there is nothing to suggest that there is any specific threat to Scotland. However, the threat from Islamic, Northern Ireland and Right-wing terrorism remains a serious threat.

Inverclyde has an embedded CTLO (Counter Terrorist Liaison Officer) who provides expert guidance and support regarding emerging threats from national and international terrorism & Extremism. Recent activities the CTLO has been involved with including work with Ports Authority in Inverclyde to assist with inspections and training to staff and Security officers to include vigilance about the threat from international terrorism, import & export due to Brexit and COVID-19 and the challenges brought by the increase with the Cruise ship industry. Recently a presentation was given to WoSLRP (West of Scotland Resilience Partnership) which is a contingency planning group for West of Scotland. The presentation involved raising awareness of Counter Terrorism terminology and to highlight issues regarding the impact of Brexit / COVID and provide an overview of the threat level posed to UK and Scotland.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, VOLENCE & DISORDER - DATA OVERVIEW

1 April 2021 to 31 August 2021 - OBJECTIVE: Reduce the number of victims of violent crime

Robberies (inc. Assault with Attempt to Rob)

Serious Assault
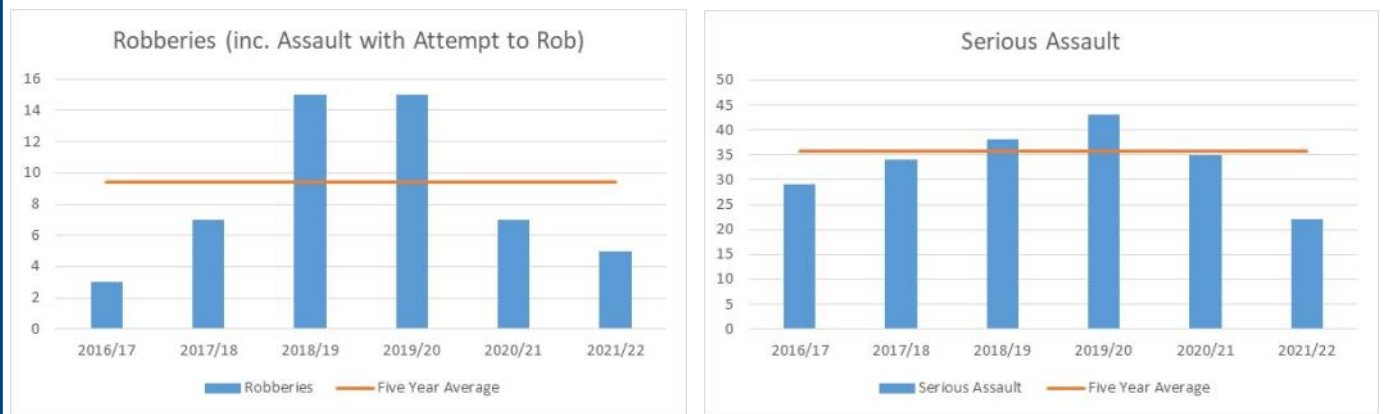
CONTEXT

43 Group 1 crimes of violence have been recorded YTD – a decrease of more than a quarter on the preceding five year average (n=57.8). One murder has been recorded, compared to a five year average of 0.6, and no attempted murders. Meanwhile, robberies have fallen by 46.8% and serious assaults by 38.5%. The detection rate for Group 1 crimes is 58.1%, compared to the five year average rate of 72%.

Common assaults are down by 11.6% on the five year average, to a total of 255. 70 crimes targeted emergency workers (most commonly police officers). The detection rate for common assaults fell from a five year average of 70.6% to 68.2% in the current year.

16 fire-raising crimes have been recorded, four fewer crimes than the previous five year average. The current detection rate is 6.3%, compared to the five year average rate of 15%. Meanwhile, recorded vandalism crimes fell from a five year average of 253.3 crimes to 197 crimes.

Antisocial Behaviour

CONTEXT

1,619 disorder incidents have been recorded year to date, a decrease of 11.7% on the previous two years' average. The spike noted in 2020/21 was primarily due members of the public reporting perceived or actual breaches of COVID-19 regulations.

Disorder Incidents
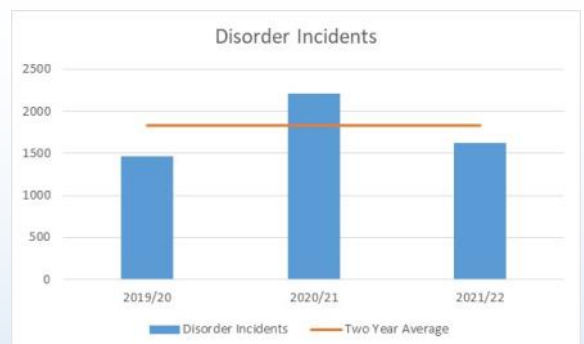
Many disorder incidents reported in Inverclyde are as a result of large scale youth gatherings specifically over the school holidays at various locations in Inverclyde. Many of the issues relate to intoxication, Anti-social behaviour, property damage and young people putting themselves in risky situations. Police and Partners have developed a dedicated dynamic action plan to target patrols to specific areas based on recent intelligence. Several key partners are actively involved in this action plan including Police Scotland, BTP, Inverclyde Council Community Wardens and Youth Workers. The majority of young people who are gathering are out socialising with friends however a minority are intent on causing disorder whereby they will be dispersed, alcohol confiscated and parents contacted or parent alert letters issued. Community youth link workers engage with the young people to highlight alternative options to gathering and offer appropriate safety advice.

SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME - DATA OVERVIEW

CONTEXT:

YTD, there have been 17 drug supply detections in Inverclyde, compared to a five year average of 30.8. Proactivity continues to target the two Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs) currently managed by Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Division, one of which predominantly impacts on Inverclyde. Both SOCGs are primarily involved in the supply of controlled drugs for financial gain, in addition to other harms such as the use and threat of violence and the use of firearms.

Enforcement activity is intelligence led to ensure the right people are being targeted in the right places. We continue to gather intelligence for further enforcement action in Inverclyde and it remains a priority for officers to carry out intelligence led patrols ensuring that individuals involved in the possession and supply of controlled drugs are pro-actively engaged, subsequently leading to obtaining and executing search warrants.

Drug Supply Detections
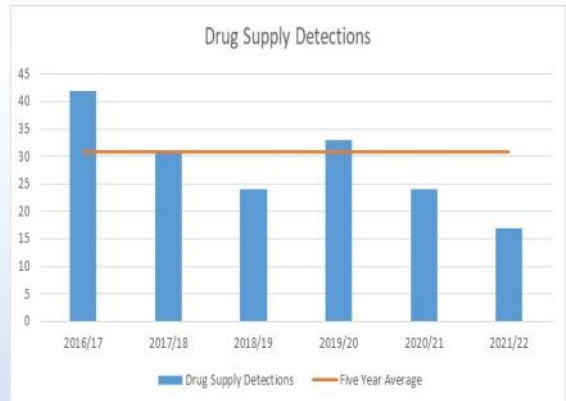
PROTECTING PEOPLE AT RISK FROM HARM - DATA OVERVIEW

CONTEXT

Reported sexual crimes increased by 2.2% compared to the preceding five year average, to a total of 56 crimes. The detection rate for sexual crimes is 32.1%, down from a five year average of 46.4%. 68% of sexual crimes reported in the current year occurred in dwelling houses and other private settings.

Over 86% of the sexual crimes recorded in the reporting period were against young people under the age of 16 years at the time of the offence – with the number of child victims increasing by 75% on the previous year.
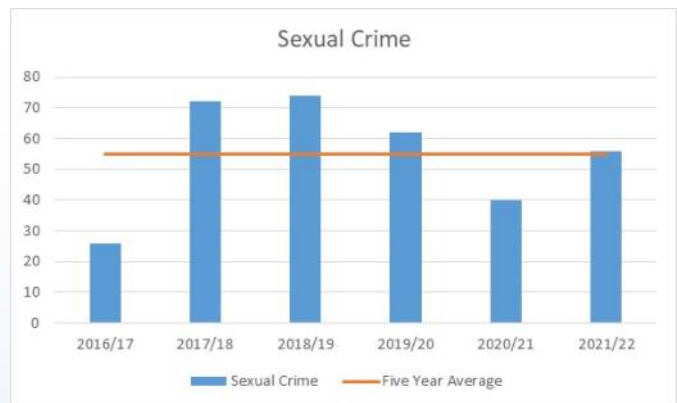
Sexual Crime

Reports of both 'recent' and 'non-recent' sexual crimes have increased slightly compared to the previous year, rising by 56% and 20% respectively. Nearly a third of reports in the current year involved non-recent reporting. 89% of non-recent sexual crimes involved victims aged under 16 years at the time the offence occurred. Eight non-recent crimes involving child victims occurred in child care institutions and are being investigated under the auspices of the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and Police Scotland's Operation FORSETI.

141 missing person incidents have been recorded in Inverclyde – an decrease of 39.2% compared to the previous five year average. Young people (aged 10-19 years) continue to account for the highest proportion of missing person results compared to all other age categories. Over two-thirds of all incidents resulted in missing persons being traced within 24 hours.

318 domestic abuse incidents have been recorded, down by 16.5% when compared to the previous five year average. 48.4% of these incidents resulted in at least one domestic crime being recorded. The detection rate for domestic crime was 80.8%, an increase 22.9 percentage points on the five year average detection rate.

As part of the on-going commitment to assist vulnerable people in crisis, Police in Inverclyde are now utilising Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) which is a time limited and supportive problem solving contact with an individuals in distress and involves an empathetic and compassionate response. DBI level 2 is provided by trained 3rd sector staff (SAMH) who would make contact with the person within 24 hours of presentation, and provide community problem solving, support and signposting for a period of up to 14 days. This process has been operational for Inverclyde Police since June 2021 and so far the results have been very positive in getting people the right help at the right time.

ROAD SAFETY & ROAD CRIME - DATA OVERVIEW

PRIORITY: REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED ON OUR ROADS

Road Traffic Casualties	2020/21	2021/22
Number of persons killed on our roads	1	0
Number of persons seriously injured	4	5
Number of persons slightly injured	9	4
Number of children seriously injured	0	2

Road Traffic Data from 01/04/2021 to 31/08/2021

Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles
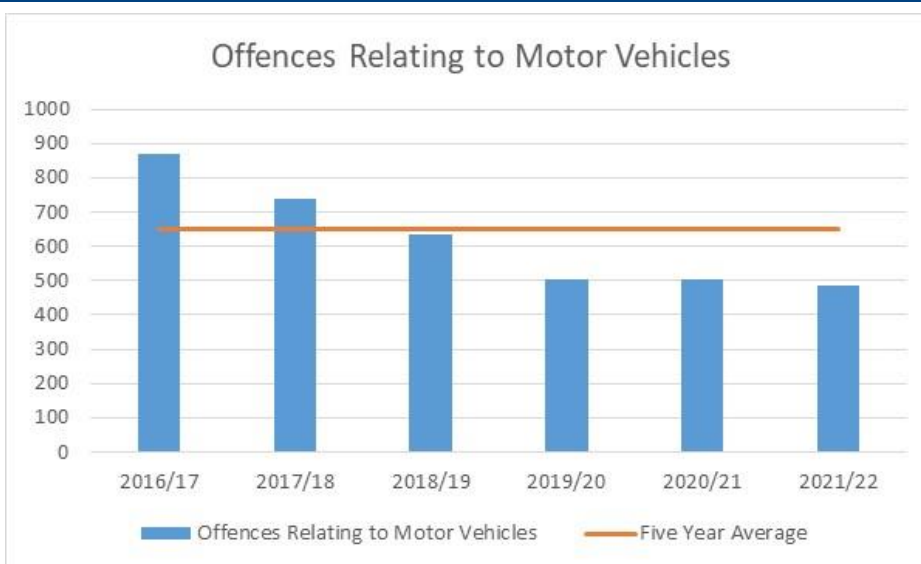
CONTEXT

There have been no road fatalities throughout the reporting period. In the same period last year, there was one road fatality. Meanwhile, one additional serious road injury has been recorded (n=5) while there were five fewer slight road injuries (n=4). Two children have been seriously injured on Inverclyde's roads year-to-date, an increase on the same period last year.

While offences relating to motor vehicles fell by 25% on the five year average to a total of 487, notable increases were noted in respect of the number of disqualified, drink and drug and dangerous driving offences. 61 drink and drug driving offences (including failure to provide a sample) have been recorded—an increase of 56.5% on the previous five year average.

The detection rate for offences relating to motor vehicles overall fell by 5.2 percentage points on the five year average, to 86.7% in the current year, primarily due to the growing demand on Forensic Services resulting in delays in toxicology results being returned in relation to drink and drug driving offences. The detection rate for these drink and drug driving offences is 77%, down from a five year average of 94.4%.

Local officers accompanied by Road Policing officers are conducting a series of engagement and enforcement initiatives aimed at raising awareness about various aspects of road safety. This has included a high visibility and unmarked patrols combined with speed checks at various locations with some drivers being issued fixed penalty notices, Anti-Social Behaviour orders or given appropriate road safety advice. Road Policing department are providing assistance regarding the recent escalation in the use of off-road bikes and quad bikes especially when being used on footpaths, parks and roads. Many of the people involved are young people who have been given bikes by their parents who often are not aware of the rules. A media campaign is being developed in conjunction with Inverclyde Council Safer Communities to highlight the legal implications and dangers associated with the use of off-road bikes which will be followed by a period of action against individuals who continue to flout the rules.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE: COMPLAINTS & USER SATISFACTION

COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE POLICE

From 01/04/2021 - 31/08/2021

Quality of Service Allegations	11
On Duty Allegations	24
Off Duty Allegations	0
Total Allegations	35

On Duty Allegations

Unlawful Arrest	Assault	Corrupt Practice	Discrimination	Excessive Force	Incivility	Irregularity in Procedure	Neglect of duty	Oppressive Conduct	Other Criminal	Other Non Criminal	Traffic	Total
1	4	0	0	2	3	12	1	1	0	0	0	24

Off Duty Allegations

Crimes of Dishonesty	Crimes of Indecency	Crimes of Violence	Malicious Mischief	Incivility	Misc Offences	Offences involving Motor Vehicles	Other	Other Crimes	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CONTEXT

A total of 35 complaints have been made in the reporting period, equating to 29 complaints per 10,000 police incidents. No off duty allegations were made in the reporting period, while a total of 24 on duty allegations were made (compared to a three year average of 31 allegations). A total of 11 allegations were made in relation to quality of service, below the three year average of 11.7. On duty allegations most commonly related to irregularities in procedure (n=12).

Allegations
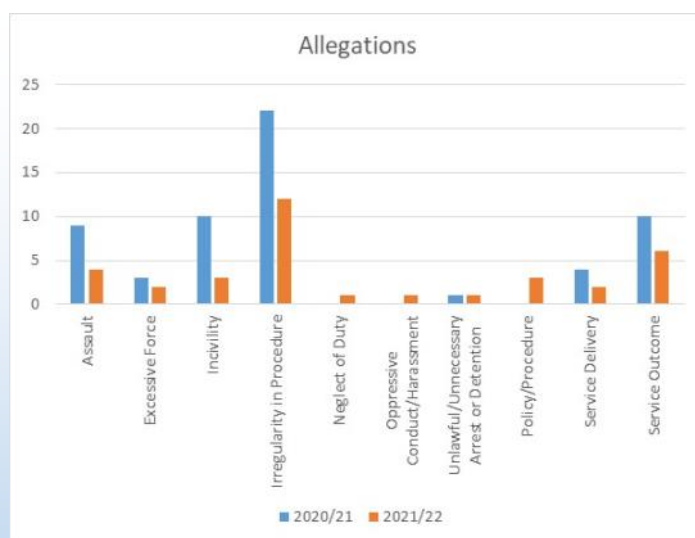
Briefing Paper for the attention of Inverclyde Scrutiny Board

101 Call Waiting Times

1.   Purpose

1.1   The purpose of this briefing paper is to provide Inverclyde Scrutiny Board with an oversight, in relation to 101 Call waiting times.

1.2   There has been considerable media interest as well as numerous requests from elected members in relation to this matter.

1.3   This briefing paper will therefore outline some of the reasons for an extended wait time and will also explain measures that have had to be taken, to ensure staff remain as safe as possible throughout the ongoing Pandemic whilst providing a comprehensive service to the communities of Scotland and policing colleagues.

2.   Outline

2.1   To provide some context around our call handling times, Police Scotland receives around 3.4 million contacts annually and this volume brings with it the necessity to prioritise the answering of certain types of calls over the non-emergency 101 calls. The highest priority is given to 999 calls from the public seeking emergency assistance, this is followed by calls received from partner emergency services (e.g. other Police Forces, Fire, and Ambulance) and Alarm activations.

2.2   Police Scotland Service Centre is one of the few Call Centre environments where staff have attended on a daily basis to deliver a service to the communities of Scotland and police colleagues.

2.3   During peak demand periods, some callers who dial the 101 non-emergency number, have had to wait longer than normal to have the call answered. There are various contributory factors and the following will outline some of the reasons. Cognisance should also however be taken, that alternative methods of reporting non-emergency matters have been publicised regularly and that when 101 is called there is an automated message to hang up and dial 999 if the call is an emergency. Between 60 and 120 Seconds an automated message also highlights other reporting facilities available, for example, the online reporting facility known as 'Contactus'.

2.4   Due to the ongoing Pandemic, there has been a Health and Safety requirement to gain additional information in relation to COVID-19 risks. As you know, if officers are required to attend at a premises, it is essential that the call handler establishes if there are any persons at that location who are Covid positive, Shielding, Self-isolating, under quarantine restrictions or suffering from any symptoms, to allow the attending officers to wear the appropriate PPE. The obvious implication of this is a longer duration of call, which has an impact on the wait time for other callers.

2.5   The introduction of the Contact Assessment   Model (CAM), has increased the duration of calls, due to a more in-depth initial   information gathering exercise

(THRIVE), to ensure the call is resolved in the most appropriate way. This has had a noted positive impact on Local Policing, in that many enquiries are now resolved at first point of contact by the Resolution Team at C3 Division. Typically between 65% and 70% of all contacts received are resolved within C3 Division.

2.6 Over and above the rise in call duration, there are other elements that have had a direct Impact on non-emergency call times, the following is not an exhaustive list:

- COVID19 related absence within C3 Division including the Service Centre.
- Reduced capacity for personnel due to physical distancing.
- Reduced capability to host recruitment days and restrictions on the number of candidates attending selection centres.
- An increase in call volume which previously would have been resolved by partner agencies. COVID19 restrictions and working from home policies have reduced partner agency capacity throughout the pandemic.
- Increase in call volume on COVID19 related restrictions by the Government, which has caused varied and unpredictable call demand.
- Significant increase in call demand due to each stage in easing of COVID19 restrictions.
- Significant increase in calls associated with summer demand period. This year the country has seen a significant rise in 'staycation' holidays due to the inability of the Scottish public to travel abroad. This increase in tourism has brought about an increase in policing issues particularly within rural and popular holiday and beauty spots.
- A significant number of people that use 101 are looking for information. Add frequently asked questions of the website.

2.7 It is worth noting that when members of the public were surveyed about their experience of contacting and interacting with Police Scotland. A high level of user satisfaction in Police Scotland was maintained during July 2021 and measures of confidence in C3 Division remain high, as follows:

- 68% of respondents felt Police Scotland were easy to contact
- 81% were satisfied with their treatment during initial contact
- 86% felt staff understood what they needed
- 62% felt that they were provided with the appropriate response

3. Conclusion

3.1 C3 Division has continued throughout the Pandemic to seek innovative ways to address the 101 system issues, from both a short and long term aspect and will continue to do so. Despite the risks, staff have continued to report for duty at one of the few Service Centres still functioning at as normal a service as possible, including answering calls of a non-emergency type, which is not replicated elsewhere in many other areas.

3.2 The rise in demand and associated challenges has not been unique to Police Scotland, with all other emergency services across the UK experiencing similar

issues. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to prioritise emergency 999 call handling creating an average speed of answer of under 10 seconds throughout.

David Duncan
Chief Superintendent

Report To:	**Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee**	Date:	**18 November 2021**
Report By:	**Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development**	Report No:	**P&F/06/21/HS**
Contact Officer:	**Hugh Scott, Service Manager, Community Learning Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport**	Contact No:	**01475 715450**
Subject:	**Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report**		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee on current and emerging issues relating to Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Services.

1.2 The report includes an update on recent consultations, an update on the Independent Advisory Group on Emerging Technologies in Policing and provides a detailed update from the Scottish Police Authority on current, developing and emerging issues.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to be made aware of national initiatives, reviews, and consultations and, where appropriate, to inform Members of potential future agenda items relating to Police and Fire and Rescue matters.

2.2 This report is intended to draw these elements together with a view to informing and shaping future meeting agendas as appropriate and raising awareness of emerging issues.

2.3 This report provides updates for the following:

- Local Police Plan Consultation
- Body Worn Video (BWV) Consultation
- National Gaelic Language Plan Consultation
- Independent Advisory Group on Emerging Technologies in Policing
- SPA Engagement Strategy
- SFRS Board

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Committee notes the current and emerging national issues relating to Police and Fire & Rescue matters.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 Consultation Responses

4.1 The development of Local Police Plans for 2020-23 is being jointly progressed by the Scottish Police Authority (SPA), Police Scotland and CoSLA. The first stage consultation was open from 27th June to 13th August 2021 during the period of Committee recess. Officers submitted a response online as detailed in Appendix I. Follow up discussion sessions are planned to build on the feedback received through the survey, and these sessions present a further opportunity for any concerns or issues to be raised and proposed solutions identified, as well as for best practice examples to be identified and shared.

4.2 The first survey on Body Worn Video (BWV) was undertaken in February 2021 to inform the introduction of Body Worn Video for armed police officers. More information, including a summary of the feedback received, can be found on Police Scotland's Engagement Hub. The second survey ran from 1st June to 31st August 2021 and Elected Members were invited to submit responses in support of a corporate response. Officers submitted an online response and this is detailed in Appendix 2.

4.3 The Police Scotland consultation on their draft Gaelic Language Plan 2021-26 ran from 23rd July to 5th September 2021 and sought comment on the proposed commitments of Police Scotland in support of the National Gaelic Language Plan. Elected Members were invited to submit responses in support of a corporate response and Officers submitted an online response and this is detailed in Appendix 3.

5.0 Independent Advisory Group on Emerging Technologies in Policing

5.1 The group was established following the work of the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing in exploring issues relating to the potential introduction of cyber kiosks, fiscal recognition, body-worn video cameras and remote piloted aircraft systems.

5.2 The work of the group is being progressed via four work streams, with each producing separate reports and recommendations: -

- Legal framework and ethical standards
- Evidence and scientific standards
- Consultation and community engagement
- Oversight, scrutiny, and review

5.3 Elected Members will be advised of developments as and when the Independent Advisory Group publish the outcome of their research

6.0 The Scottish Police Authority

6.1 <u>SPA Board</u>
The SPA met on the 29th September 2021 and considered several updates. This included –

- 5 Year Financial Plan
- Capital Strategy
- Procurement Strategy
- Forensic Services Strategy
- Gaelic Language Plan
- 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26)

The next meeting is due to take place on the 24th November 2021.

6.2 <u>SPA Engagement Plan</u>
On 17th September 2021 CoSLA provided details of the SPA Engagement Plan to Police Scrutiny Board Conveners. The Plan sets out how the SPA will engage with Local Authorities across 2021-23 and sets out an engagement structure, introduces regional based meetings and regular strategic discussions with the SPA Chair and CEO, the CoSLA Presidential Team and Community Well Being Spokesperson, CoSLA CEO and Chair of SOLACE to discuss work programmes and related issues. Thematic meetings with local scrutiny conveners will be introduced and will focus on policing issues of significant public interest.

6.2.1 A response was provided by the Convener of the Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee welcoming the engagement structure and regional based meetings and requesting additional information on the fit of the strategic discussions within the overall engagement and reporting structure. Similarly, clarity has been requested on the level of influence local scrutiny conveners will have in setting localised policing issues for the thematic meetings. Communication between the Convener of the Local Police Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee, and CoSLA regarding the SPA Engagement Plan is ongoing.

6.3 SPA CoSLA Update

On 28th September 2021 the SPA wrote to all Local Authority Police Scrutiny Conveners with an update from the CoSLA Leaders meeting of 17th August. This update included confirmation that the number of trained officers carrying Taser will increase from 500 to 2000 over the next three years. The SPA are satisfied that the governance and oversight processes surrounding the discharge of Taser in Scotland are significant and robust, with the Police and Investigations Review Commissioner (PIRC) investigating every incident involving police use of a Taser in Scotland. An SPA fact sheet on Taser was provided and a copy is attached at Appendix 4 for information purposes.

6.3.1 The update confirmed that Police Scotland will be equipping its armed police officers with BWV in advance of COP26 in November. This is supported by the SPA and in coming weeks, a Code of Practice will be published and the SPA will see finalised Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessments and Data Protection Impact Assessments. The SPA have also sought assurance around the development of a Children's Rights Impact Assessment for BWV as the national approach develops.

6.3.2 The issue of 101 call handling performance has been discussed at recent SPA meetings. The performance of call handling teams following the implementation of the revised call handling approach through the Contact Assessment Model was noted. However, it was highlighted that there remains a concerning number of 101 non-emergency calls which are being abandoned for reasons which are not entirely clear. Steps are being taken by Police Scotland to enhance understanding of this situation and make any service improvements required to support callers. The Convener of the Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee, had requested further information from the SPA on the issue of call waiting times, responses to increasing call volumes and abandoned calls.

6.3.3 The SPA Chair has provided a written response to the Convener outlining the position of Police Scotland and their actions in respect of call handling and response times. The SPA Chair has given a commitment of continued performance monitoring of Police Scotland's improvement activity in the period ahead.

6.3.4 The SPA has commenced planning with Police Scotland and CoSLA, as well as other key stakeholders, on a project which aims to better understand the link between markedly lower confidence levels in policing in areas of deprivation. This work is in the very early stage of development and will be delivered across the 2022-24 period and the Local Authority Police Scrutiny Conveners will be kept abreast of developments.

6.3.5 The SPA, in partnership with Police Scotland and the Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) have jointly funded five projects which will support the police to improve engagement with seldom heard communities, communities which are historically under-represented and may be less likely to engage for a variety of reasons, including race, religion, sexuality, disability, and age, as well as communities isolated through geography or economic disadvantage. These five projects will receive a share of £62,000 to support innovation and learning, maintaining and developing our focus on policing in the public interest. They will focus on engagement with young people in deprived communities; engagement with refugees, migrants and those from BAME communities; understanding intersectionality; and the development of practical toolkits which support accountability mechanisms. All projects will be concluded by September 2022.

7.0 The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Board

7.1 The meeting of SFRS Board was held on the 26th August 2021 and considered several updates, including:-

- Annual Procurement Report
- Long Term Strategic Vision
- Combined Risk and Performance Report

The next SFRS Board meeting took place on 28th October 2021.

7.2   Audit & Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) commenced on the 8th of July 2021 and the ARAC was invited to:-

- Note the Overview Dashboard Report
- Scrutinise the Audit Scotland action plan
- Scrutinise the content of the Assessing the Effectiveness of Inspection Activity report

The next meeting was held on the 14th October 2021.

7.3   The Change Committee considered a proposal for the post implementation review report on The New Watch Duty System Phase One & Two on the 5th of August 2021.

The next meeting was held on the 4th of November 2021.

7.4   The People Committee: 9th September 2021 considered reports on:-

- Performance and Risk Report Quarter 4 2020/21
- Workplace Culture3
- Employee Relations
- Leadership and Development
- Independent Audit/Inspection Action Plan
- Partnership Working
- Strategic Risk Register
- Forward Planning

The next meeting is scheduled for the 2nd December 2021.

7.5   The Convener of the Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee, has written to Ash Denham MSP, Minister for Community Safety, regarding the implementation of the new fire and smoke alarm standard which will apply to all homes in Scotland from February 2022.   In particular, concerns were raised about the financial burden the requirement for new alarms would place on financially vulnerable households. The Convener has asked whether or not additional resources would be allocated to local authority areas and, if so, how much; What research has taken place to identify potential demand and inform the allocation of resources; and, what measures would be put in place to ensure that vulnerable households are supported and the risk of rogue traders is mitigated. An update will be provided to this Committee upon receipt of a response.

8.0   IMPLICATIONS

Finance

8.1   There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

8.2 **Legal**

In respect of section 10 of this report, section 45(5) of the Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 notes; A local commander must provide to the local authority such— (a)reports on the carrying out of police functions in its area (including by reference to any local policing plan in force for the area), (b) statistical information on complaints made about the Police Service in, or the policing of, its area, and (c) other information about the policing of its area, as the local authority may reasonably require.

8.3 **Human Resources**

There are no Human Resources issues associated with this report.

8.4 **Equalities**

None at this time, although recognition will be given to the wider and associate equalities agenda.

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
X	NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Fairer Scotland Duty

IF this report affects of proposes any major strategic decision –

Has there been an active consideration of how this reports recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals
X	NO

8.5 **Repopulation**

There are no direct repopulation issues associated with this report.

9.0   CONSULTATIONS

9.1   There were no consultations required outwith those noted in the report.

10.0   LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1
- Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update report (March 2021)
- Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update report (May 2021)

Consultation Response – Review of Local Police Plans

Theme	Question	Answer format
Setting local priorities, objectives and agreeing the Plan	1. Does Police Scotland share the findings and information used to determine local priorities and objectives for policing with you / your Local Authority? Yes	**Yes / No / not sure**
	2. How effectively do Police Scotland engage with you on changing local priorities?	**Scale 1-5 (not at all to very)**
	4. with supporting info provided in respect of our decision to give a 4 rather than a 5	
	3. Are there any further comments you would like to make on setting local priorities? **Police Scotland are an integral partner of our Community Safety Partnership and this allows an understanding at Officer level of changing local priorities and the CSP structure facilitates upward reporting of such changes to the Inverclyde Alliance, relevant Committee and Scrutiny Board. It is important that the decision making process for setting local priorities is supported by a strong evidential basis which facilitates monitoring and reporting.**	**Open text**
	4. Please provide detail of any additional activities you feel Police Scotland could take to enhance how Local Authorities are engaged and involved in the priority setting process, and in the development of the overall LPP content? **Through nomination to the Police & Fire Scrutiny Board many Elected Members have a high level of engagement and involvement in the monitoring process. There is scope for increasing engagement and involvement in the priority setting process through a full Council Member briefing and this could be supported by Officers through prior discussion and development of evidence based priorities.**	**Open text**
	5. What would be most supportive in enabling Local Authorities to give their feedback and input in to the priority setting process? **At Officer level, engagement and briefings through existing structures, such as the Community Safety Partnership, provides an opportunity for feedback and input into the processes for setting priorities. Direct engagement with Elected Members in a forum/briefing model would allow for open discussion on relevant aspect of local policing and could enhance awareness and understanding of the priority setting process.**	**Open text**

Consultation Response – Review of Local Police Plans

Theme	Question	Answer format
	Direct engagement with Elected Members in a forum/briefing model would allow for open discussion on relevant aspect of local policing and could enhance awareness and understanding of the priority setting process.	
	6. How can Local Authorities support Police Scotland with this e.g. dedicated planning and community engagement officers to help gather and coordinate feedback?	**Open text**
	Local Authorities can provide support for Senior Officers in engaging with all areas of the LA and can offer access to community engagement via existing structures and engagement processes.	
	7. How does the local authority / CPP provide evidence to Police Scotland to inform the development of LPPs?	**Open text**
	Evidence is provided on the basis of current LA priorities, which themselves are evidenced from a mixture of data and community engagement	
	8. In what ways can this be enhanced going forward? For example, in providing feedback to Police Scotland, adjusting timescales for reviewing and developing Plans, providing intelligence and evidence obtained by the Local Authority or Community Planning Partnership?	**Open text**
	Direct engagement with Senior Officers and Elected Members with appropriate timescales and assessment procedures for considering intelligence and evidence could enhance the development of LPPs.	
Wider integration of the LPP and performance measurement	9. In your view, could the process to develop the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) in your area be enhanced to more effectively embed the role of policing?	**Yes / No / not sure**
	Policing is an integral element of the LOIP, making a significant contribution to the outputs of the LOIP. Greater embedding of Policing within the LOIP process would increase visibility in the CPP process and increase the two-way exchange of information with communities.	**'if yes, how?'**
	10. In your view, could the process to develop key local strategies and plans (such as the community safety strategy) in your area be enhanced to more effectively embed the role of policing?	**Yes/No / not sure**

Consultation Response – Review of Local Police Plans

Theme	Question	Answer format
Yes. Perhaps even more so than the LOIP, Policing is an integral element of the Community Safety Strategy, which is the key strategy area for identification and delivery of prioritised areas of work. Enhanced embedding of the role of policing could increase the action based approach to community safety work.		'if yes, how?'
	11. How effectively do Police Scotland demonstrate the benefit of access to national services to local communities?	**Scale 1-5 (not at all to very)**
3. A score of 3 was given as there is scope for improvement and a potential overreliance on social media		
	12. How effectively do Police Scotland engage at local level in the review of LPPs	**Scale 1-5 (not at all to very)**
3. A score of 3 was given as direct community engagement on LPP development could be improved.		**Open text**
	13. In what ways could the reviewing of a Local Policing Plan (prior to committing to refresh/replace) be enhanced going forward?	
The review could be enhanced by a full outturn/output/outcome report on the previous LPP to demonstrate successes, the need for ongoing action, long-term planning and areas for improvement.		
	14. To what extent does Police Scotland measure progress against delivering the objectives set out in Local Police Plans?	**Scale 1-5 (not at all to very)**
The mechanisms utilised for measuring progress against delivery of objectives are not clear.		**Open text**
	15. How well do performance measures used help to assess whether implementation of the Local Police Plan is making a positive difference locally, and making a contribution to delivery of the LOIP?	
The mechanisms utilised for measuring progress against delivery of objectives are not clear.		
	16. In your view, does the current performance reporting provided by Police Scotland enable your role to undertake effective scrutiny and promote accountability?	**Yes / No / not sure**
		If no, what would enable

Consultation Response – Review of Local Police Plans

Theme	Question	Answer format
		this?
	Not sure. The current model facilitates reporting, but not scrutiny. The reporting process to LAs is Police led and can often be thematic based. Whilst this is helpful, it would be more relevant to have a standardised reporting structure which includes all relevant local policing elements against comparable timescales e.g. quarterly, annually, five year averages and for this to be supplemented with requested thematic based focusses.	
	17. Would the development and introduction of national practical guidance / standards on local scrutiny be helpful, with the guidance/standards aligned to the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and the Community Empowerment Act (2015)?	**Yes / No / not sure**
	Yes and Yes	**Would your local authority like to be involved in development?**

Consultation Response – Body Worn Video

1. I trust Police Scotland and have confidence in the way they work.

What do you think about this?

I agree - X

I am not sure

I do not agree

2. Would you feel safer knowing that your communication with Police Scotland is being recorded by a body worn camera?

A lot safer - X

A bit safer

I would feel the same

I would not feel safe

3. I would trust Police Scotland more if they are recording communication with the public.

    What do you think about this?

I agree - X

I am not sure

I do not agree

4. I would be more confident about the way Police Scotland work if they are recording communication with the public.

    What do you think about this?

I agree - X

I am not sure

I do not agree

5. There should be guidance for when Body Worn Video should or should not be used.

What do you think about this?

I agree - X

I am not sure

I do not agree

Is there anything else you want to tell us about this? Write it here:

> Transparency on the circumstances for the use or non-use of the use of BWV is essential both for public confidence in the system and accountability within the system.

6. Police officers, staff and special constables should decide when Body Worn Video is used or not used.

What do you think about this?

I agree

I am not sure

I do not agree - X

Is there anything else you want to tell us about this? Write it here:

> Transparency on the circumstances for the use or non-use of the use of BWV is essential both for public confidence in the system and accountability within the system.

7. People should be told before Body Worn Video is used.

What do you think about this?

I agree - X

I am not sure

I do not agree

Is there anything else you want to tell us about this? Write it here:

Intentionally blank

8. Police Officers, staff and special constables should wear Body Worn Video cameras at all times when they are working.

What do you think about this?

I agree

I am not sure - X

I do not agree

Is there anything else you want to tell us about this? Write it here:

The use of BWV outwith a public facing and public contact role would significantly increase the personal data held in respect of identifiable individuals. Whilst this would increase public transparency it would also see a significant increase of personal data held and careful consideration requires to be given to the management of this additional data in respect of SAR requests.

9. Do you have any other worries about Body Worn Video?
Write your answer here:

Intentionally blank

Consultation Response - Gaelic Language Plan

1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that Police Scotland should establish a Gaelic language plan development and implementation group with representation from across the organisation?
Agree

2 What would you suggest this group could do to improve our use of Gaelic language in the future?
Gaelic should be on option offered in all communications with the public

3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that Police Scotland should increase community messaging and liaison through the medium of Gaelic? Select an option:
Agree

4 What are your suggestions about the methods of communication we can use to increase the use of Gaelic in our interactions with the public?
Gaelic should be on option offered in all communications with the public

5 To what extent do you agree or disagree that Police Scotland should seek opportunities to increase the visibility of Gaelic nationally through procurement and branding?
Agree

6 What are your suggestions about other ways we could use our policies to support the use of Gaelic language in Scotland?
Policies should support the use of Gaelic on the same basis as other spoken languages in Scotland Promoting a positive image of Gaelic

7 To what extent do you agree or disagree that Police Scotland should integrate Gaelic into a range of campaigns?
Agree

8 What are your suggestions about any future campaigns, with a focus on safety and wellbeing, which may benefit from using Gaelic language?
Any community focused campaigns on safety and wellbeing should be as inclusive as possible.

9 Is there anything you think we have missed in this draft version of our Gaelic Language Plan that you think is important?
No comment submitted

10 Anything else that you would like to tell us?
No comment submitted

SCOTTISH POLICE **AUTHORITY**

POLICE SCOTLAND

Fact Sheet

TASERS

What are Tasers?

Taser is the brand name of the Conducted Energy Devices that police forces across the UK use. Tasers can be used in a number of ways to de-escalate a potentially violent or dangerous situation without excessive force.

It was a NASA researcher, Jack Cover, who in 1974 first patented the device designed to immobilise a living target without serious trauma or injury. Sometimes referred to as Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs), a Taser is designed to provide frontline officers with an ability to restrain potentially dangerous individuals without the use of excessive force.

By 1976 the first Taser device had been manufactured and by the mid-2000s they had become common-place throughout many police forces across the world.

Axon Taser device

In the UK a Conducted Energy Device/Taser is classified as a 'prohibited weapon' in Section 5 of

Purpose

The Strategic Police Plan commits to the provision of Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland. This requires designing and maintaining services which meet rising and evolving demands in a constantly changing environment. To meet these demands now and in the future Scotland's police service must adapt and proportionately adopt the necessary technologies which will enable them to protect the safety and wellbeing of our communities (as outlined in the Policing Principles - Section 32 of Police and Fire Reform Act 2012).

This series of public focused and user-friendly factsheets has been developed to provide an overview of the benefits of emerging technology and upcoming developments within policing, the policies that will govern them, and the ethical, privacy and human rights implications.

the Firearms Act 1968 and it is an offence for any member of the public to possess or use such a weapon. Police officers whilst acting in their capacity as such, are exempt from the requirements of the legislation.

Tasers have been used in the UK by police forces since 2004[1]. Research suggests that when a Taser is drawn by frontline officers there is an 85% compliance rate, with no need to discharge the device[2].

Why are Tasers used in policing?

When confronting potentially dangerous or violent individuals, frontline police officers have a duty to minimise the risk of injury or death to the individual themselves, the immediate community, and other officers.

Use-of-force options can vary from verbal de-escalation methods to physical restraints or holds. If warranted, a baton may be used to protect against or restrain a potentially harmful individual.

Any use of force by an officer must be the minimum amount necessary to accomplish the lawful objective concerned[3].

It is recognised that a baton may cause injury to a potentially harmful individual, another member of the public or police officer. Instead of

using a baton to control situations where the threat of violence is high, technologies such as a Taser may be used instead.

Taser device in officer belt

A Taser device can be used by an officer as a deterrent by pointing a laser beam at a dangerous individual (known as "red-dotting"). This is often enough to de-escalate a situation. On the occasion when red-dotting does not resolve an issue, the Taser can be discharged with one of two functions: 'fired' or 'drive stun'. When a Taser is fired, this means that the trigger is squeezed and the cartridge is deployed from a distance.

By contrast, drive stun is when the Taser is applied by hand directly to somebody in close quarters who is displaying serious threats of violence. Both approaches can be used to control a situation whilst minimising injury and harm. Tasers are one of several tactical options that can be used when dealing with an incident that has the potential for conflict.

[1] https://www.humberside.police.uk/taser
[2] Kroll, M.W., Brave, M.A., Pratt, H.M.O. et al. Benefits, Risks, and Myths of TASER® Handheld Electrical Weapons. Hum Factors Mech Eng Def Saf 3, 7 (2019). https://doi.org/10.1007/s41314-019-0021-9
[3] https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/fxhkdzem/use-of-force-sop.pdf

In Police Scotland, the carrying of Tasers is limited to that of specially trained police officers to ensure that its utilisation is proportionate, ethical, transparent, and only used as a method of harm reduction when absolutely necessary.

Police Scotland implementation and use of the technology

In 2018 Police Scotland introduced a new cadre of Specially Trained Officers (STO) who are personally qualified to use a Taser device[4]. There are approximately 520 STOs currently working within Police Scotland. In order to qualify to use a Taser, officers must undergo rigorous training (the Police Scotland CED User Course totals 24 hours, exceeding the minimum UK requirement of 18 hours contact time).

Officers in Taser training

STOs must also take part in yearly refresher training in order to continue to be issued with a Taser device.

Since their introduction in June 2018, STOs have been deployed to 1,355 incidents. During this time period, Tasers have been used on 782 instances, although they have only been discharged 90 times in this period (11.5% discharge rate per use).

The University of the West of Scotland conducted a study which assessed the extended use of Tasers for STOs. The research project evaluated the first six months of Taser deployment in the latter half of 2018. The results of the study confirmed that both the public and officers were in general support of the controlled use of Tasers in Police Scotland.

Police Scotland's Taser Tactical Group maintains an overview and scrutiny of the STOs. Its aims include identifying best practice and looking for opportunities to share learning. Police Scotland also has a Taser Monitoring Group which provides strategic oversight of Taser use by frontline officers.

What safeguards are in place?

Police Scotland follows the College of Policing's Code of Practice on Armed Policing and Police use of Less Lethal Weapons[5]. This guides and informs how officers throughout the country

[4] https://www.spa.police.uk/spa-media/3l2dstfc/item-6-4-tasers.pdf
[5]
https://library.college.police.uk/docs/appref/

CCS207-CCS0120853800-001-Code-of-Practice-on-Armed-Policing.pdf

utilise Taser devices in certain scenarios.

Every time a Taser is used by a Police Scotland officer, a Use of Force report is completed to document the need for its use and enable auditing of Taser deployment. In Scotland, Tasers have been used by Armed Policing Unit since 2015. In the past six years, Tasers were discharged 25 times by the Armed Policing Unit[6].

Assurance for citizens

Police officers are required to operate in dangerous and challenging situations when carrying out their role to protect the public. Access to STOs carrying Tasers helps to manage these risks and protect the public.

Compared to other uses of force such as PAVA spray (a safer alternative to pepper spray), baton use, or firearms; Tasers are least likely to cause long-term harm. Taser devices are mainly used to control individuals in situations where the risk of violence is high. This is done to mitigate any further harm (i.e. injury or death) to that individual, as well as protect bystanders and police officers.

Analysis undertaken by Police Scotland shows that Tasers significantly reduce officer and subject injury rate compared to conventional police defence tools:

- Baton used - 28% officer injury rate, 52% subject injury rate
- PAVA Spray used - 24% officer injury rate, 16% subject injury rate
- Taser used - 0.2% officer injury rate, 0.6% subject injury rate (2 officers and 3 subjects injured from the 620 times that Taser has been drawn)[7]

Despite the clear benefits of STOs carrying Tasers, it is recognised that there are risks associated with Taser use and these must be carefully controlled. There is some evidence to suggest that Tasers can trigger the 'weapons effect'[8] – the psychological phenomenon in which the visual cue of a weapon in public-police interactions can lead to the increased aggression from both parties.

It is also important to recognise that in some countries there have been concerning reports of Taser over-use in relation to vulnerable and minority groups (such people with mental health issues, problem drug users, and ethnic minorities[9]).

It is vital that Taser use in Scotland is limited to specially trained police

[6] https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/t31gtqqx/armed-policing-quarterly-report-q4-2020-21.pdf

[7] https://www.spa.police.uk/spa-media/3l2dstfc/item-6-4-tasers.pdf

[8] Ariel B, Lawes D, Weinborn C, Henry R, Chen K, Brants Sabo H. (2019). The "Less-Than-Lethal Weapons Effect"—Introducing

TASERs to Routine Police Operations in England and Wales: A Randomized Controlled Trial. Criminal Justice and Behavior. 2019;46(2):280-300.

[9] https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/uk-public-should-resist-drum-beat-calls-all-police-carry-taser

officers; is proportionate, ethical, transparent, and is utilised only as a method of harm reduction when necessary.

In order to ensure ethical and proportionate use of Tasers the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC) investigate all Taser discharges as a matter of course. PIRC supported the operational introduction of Tasers by Police Scotland within their annual report 2018-19.

They affirmed that "in the vast majority of incidents where Tasers were used by STOs, it has allowed them to resolve incidents swiftly, increasing officer and public safety, which is very reassuring.

Moreover, our findings show a large number of occasions where officers have used Tasers in order to limit or prevent self-harming by people suffering from mental health issues, and in some cases have potentially prevented deaths."

Looking forward

Police Scotland aim to increase the number of officers specially trained and with access to Tasers from 500 to 2000 over the next 3 years. This means that through a greater geographic distribution of Tasers more local police teams will be able to use Taser as a tactical option when police are called to control situations where the threat of violence is high.

There is currently no intention to expand beyond 2000 trained officers.

Keeping up to date

To keep up to date with our work, please keep an eye on the Scottish Police Authority's website where you can find papers and watch livestream committee discussions, and follow us on Twitter:

@ScotPolAuth @policescotland

28 September 2021