

A meeting of the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel will be held on Thursday 8 February 2024 at 3pm.

Members may attend the meeting in person or via remote online access. Webex joining details have been sent to Members and Officers. Members are requested to notify Committee Services by 12 noon on Wednesday 7 February 2024 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 and as noted above.

Please note that this meeting will be live-streamed via YouTube with the exception of any business which is treated as exempt in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

Further information relating to the recording and live-streaming of meetings can be found at the end of this notice.

IAIN STRACHAN
Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services

BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS		
4.	Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel 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: this meeting may be recorded or live-streamed via You Tube and the Council's internet site, where it will be capable of repeated viewing. At the start of the meeting the Provost/Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded or live-streamed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during any recording or live-streaming will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council's internet site or You Tube.

If you are participating in the meeting, you acknowledge that you may be filmed and that any information pertaining to you contained in the recording or live-stream of the meeting will be used for webcasting or training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public. In making this use of your information the Council is processing data which is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. If you are asked to speak at the meeting then your submission to the committee will be captured as part of the recording or live-stream.

If you have any queries regarding this and, in particular, if you believe that use and/or storage of any particular information would cause, or be likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to any individual, please contact the Information Governance team at dataprotection@inverclyde.gov.uk

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



**Inverclyde Performance Report
1st October 2023 - 31st December 2023**



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

Inverclyde Performance Report

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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	4	2	2	8	0	1
Inverclyde East	3	1	5	9	0	1
Inverclyde East Central	3	0	1	16	0	2
Inverclyde North	5	0	2	6	4	10
Inverclyde South	2	1	1	6	0	15
Inverclyde South West	1	0	0	28	1	9
Inverclyde West	0	0	0	3	2	0

Total Incidents	18	4	11	76	7	38
Year on Year Change	● -22%	◆ 300%	● -27%	◆ 111%	◆ 75%	● -64%
3 Year Average Change	▲ 0%	● -17%	◆ 5%	◆ 1%	◆ 50%	● -14%

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



fires
primary &
secondary



101



special
services



66



false
alarms



126



293
total number of
incidents



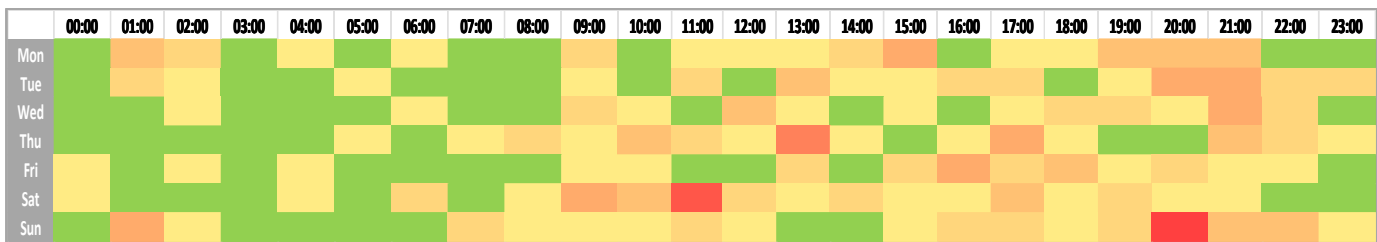
16
fire & non-fire
casualties



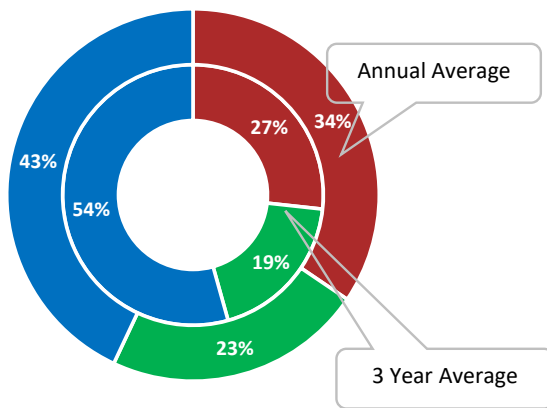
£74,860
economic cost of
ufas incidents

*data above is year on year change

Activity by Time of Day

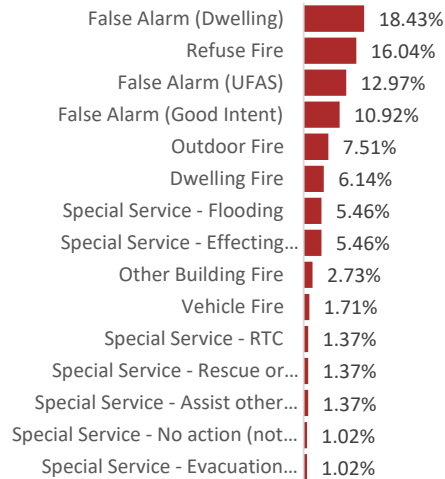


Incidents by Classification

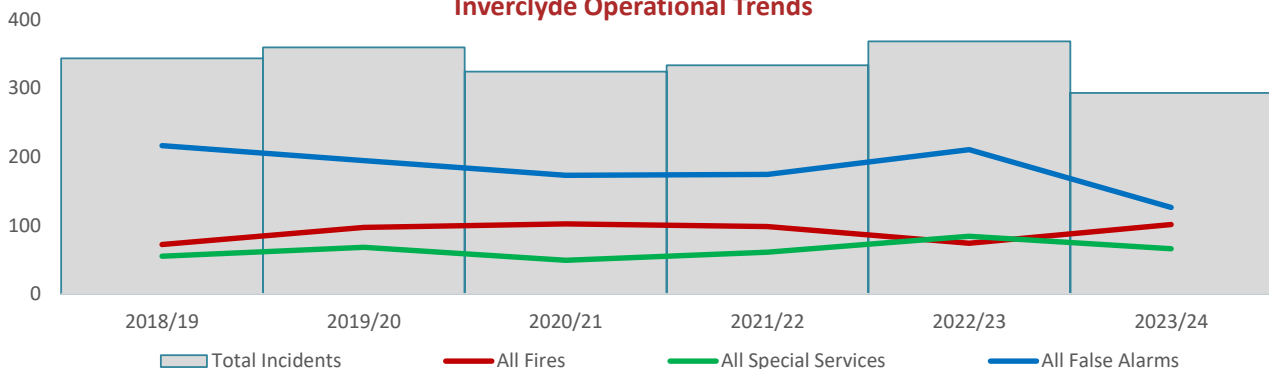


■ All Fires ■ All Special Services ■ All False Alarms

Top 15 Incidents Types by %



Inverclyde Operational Trends



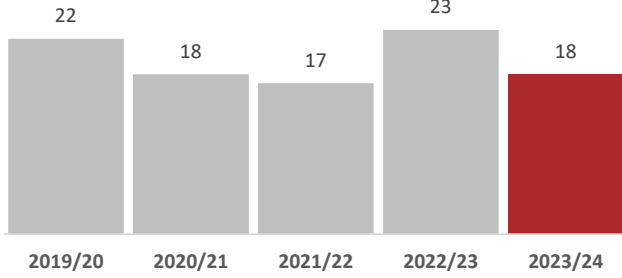
Domestic Safety - Accidental Dwelling Fires



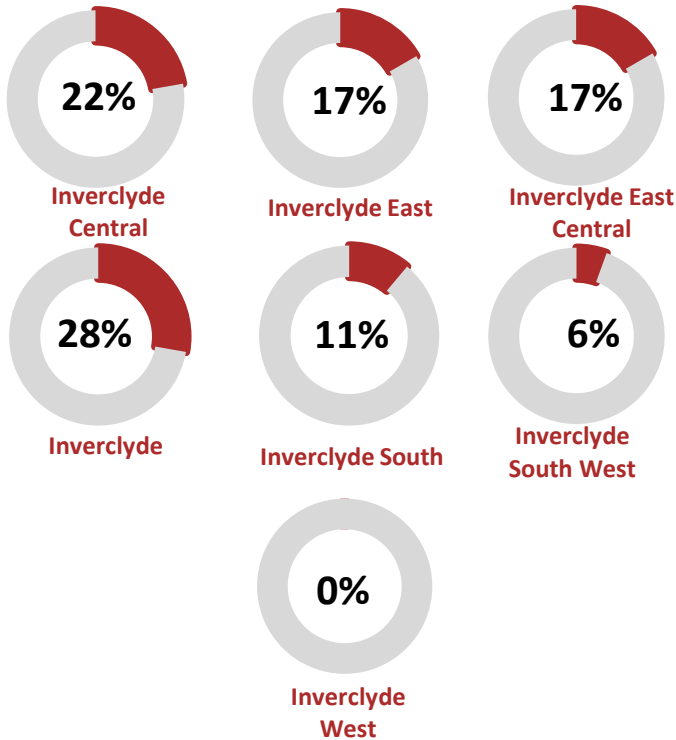
Performance Summary

Year on Year ● -22% 3 Year Average ▲ 0%

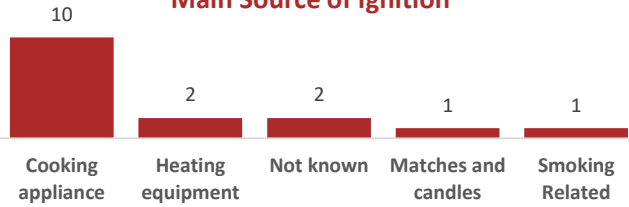
Accidental Dwelling Fires



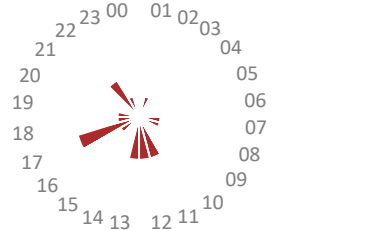
Accidental Dwelling Fires Activity by Ward (% share)



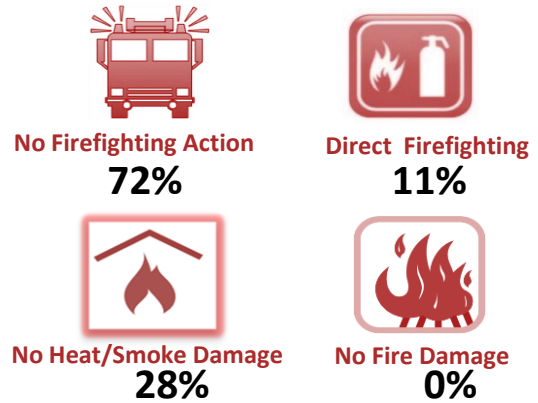
Main Source of Ignition



Accidental Dwelling Fires by Time of Day



Severity of Accidental Dwelling Fires



Human Factors



Automatic Detection & Actuation



It is pleasing to note a 22% reduction in the year on year indicator for accidental dwelling fires this quarter, the three year average indicator, however, remains static. Cooking appliances have remained the main source of ignition in these fires with distraction or alcohol/drug impairment having been a contributing factor in 72% of cases. In 94% of accidental dwelling fires detection was present and in 82% of those the detection actuated. 72% of these incidents were minor and required no firefighting action.

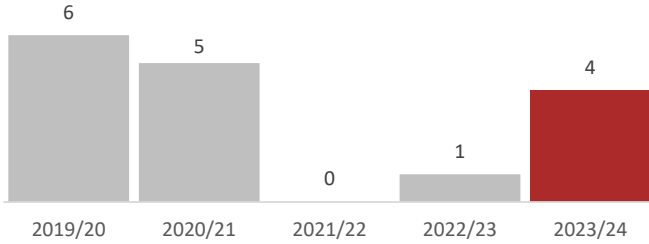
Domestic Safety - Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



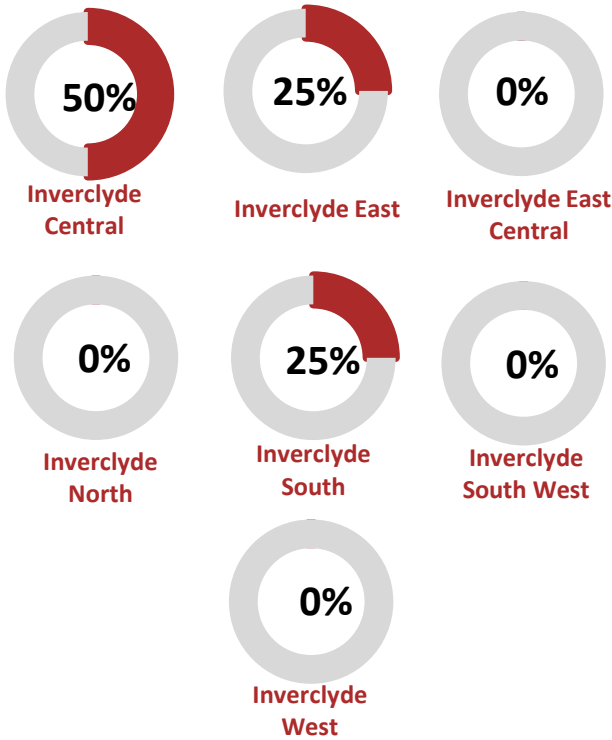
Performance Summary

Year on Year **300%** 3 Year Average **-17%**

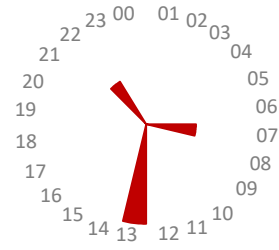
Accidental Dwelling Fires Casualties



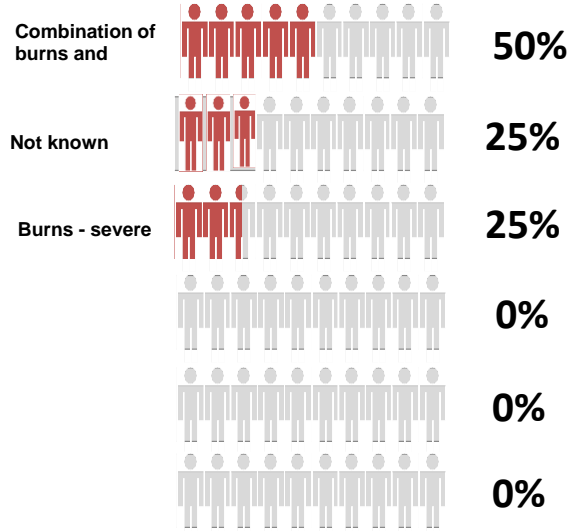
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties by Ward (% share)



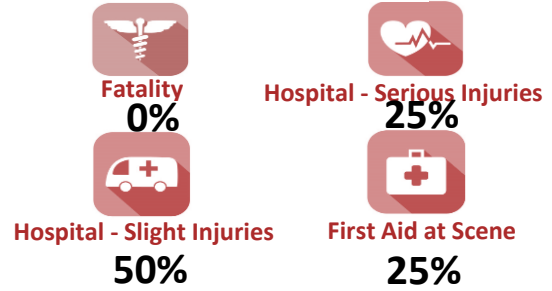
Fire Casualties by Time of Day



Nature of Injury



Extent of Harm

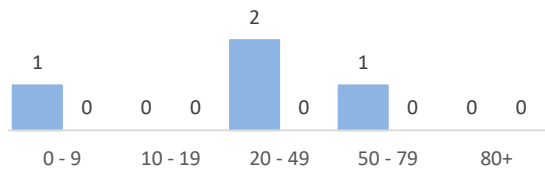


Male
100%

Age / Gender Profile



Female
0%



We have to report an increase in the year on year indicator for accidental dwelling fire casualties this quarter, although the overall trend continues downward with the 3 year average indicator showing a 17% decrease. The number of casualties remains low with the 300% increase equating to an actual number of casualties of 4 compared to 1 for 2022/23. 3 casualties were removed to hospital, 1 with serious injuries and 2 with minor injuries. The remaining casualty was treated on scene and released. These figures illustrate why we continue to focus on domestic safety and the reduction in accidental dwelling fires and casualties as one of our local priorities.

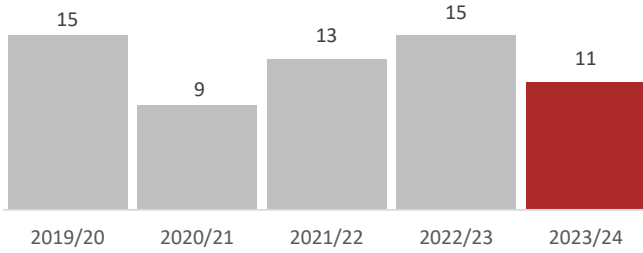
Unintentional Injury and Harm



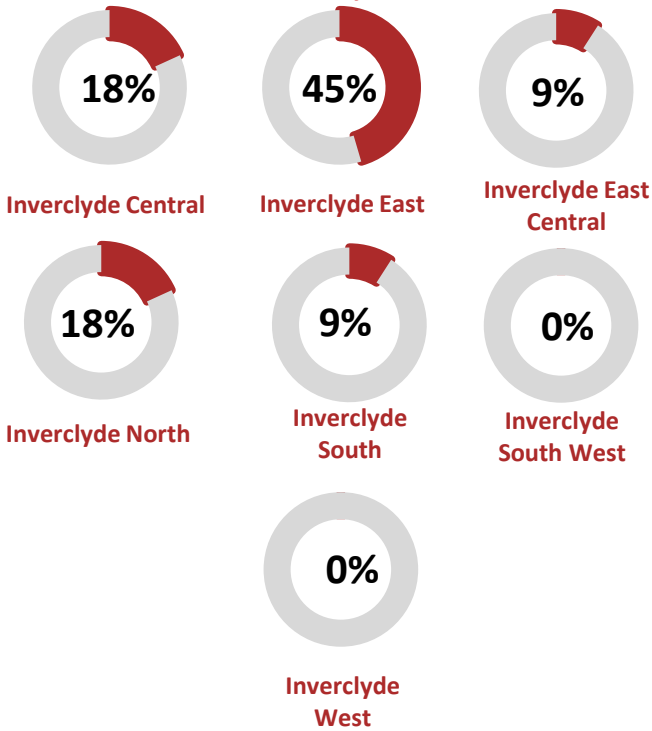
Performance Summary

Year on Year ● -27%
 3 Year Average ◆ 5%

Non-Fire Casualties

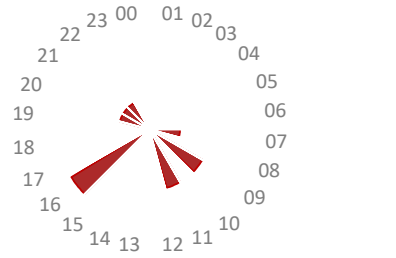


Non-Fire Casualties by Ward (% share)

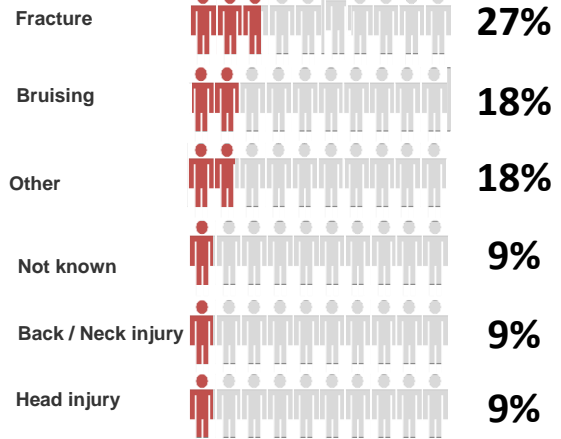


It is positive to report a 27% reduction in the year on year indicator for unintentional injury and harm this quarter, although there has been a 5% increase in the 3 year average statistic. This quarter, over half of the incidents attended by SFRS which resulted in unintentional injury and harm were those where we attended to assist another agency, Road Traffic Collisions accounted for a further 36%.

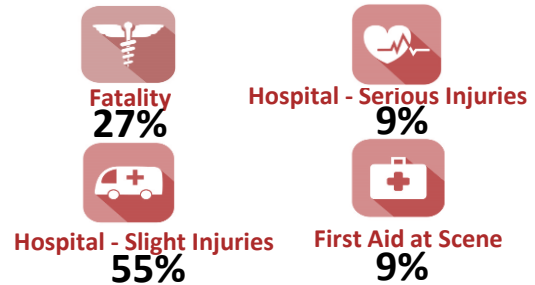
Non-Fire Casualties by Time of Day



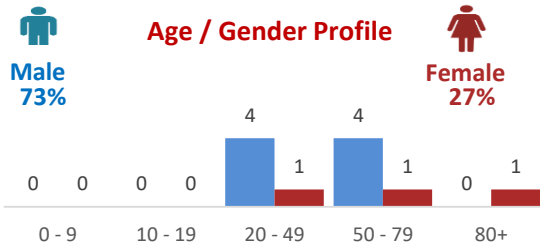
Nature of Injury



Extent of Harm



Non-Fire Emergency Activity



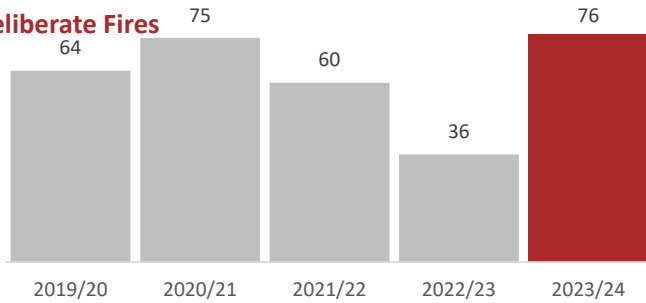
Deliberate Fire Setting



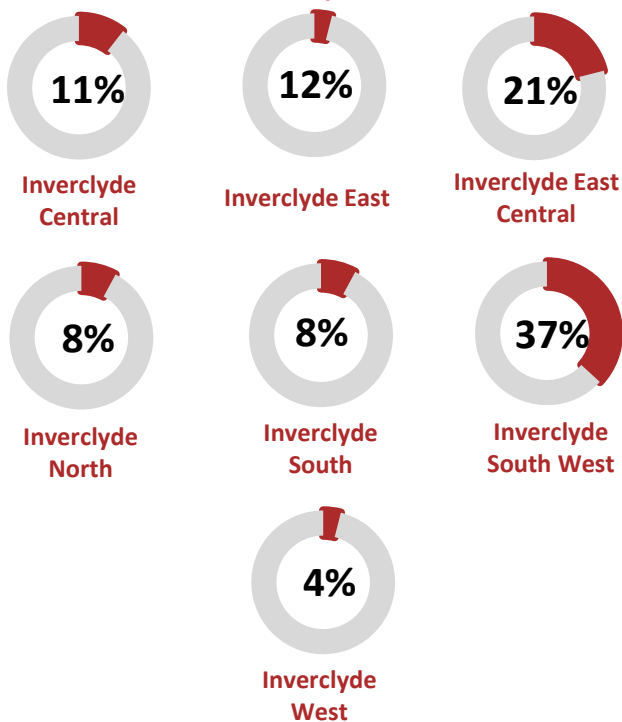
Performance Summary

Year on Year **111%**
3 Year Average **1%**

Deliberate Fires



Deliberate Fires by Ward (% share)

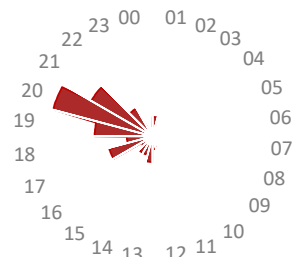


Definitions

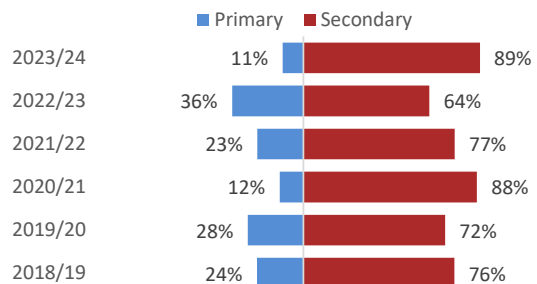
Primary Fires - all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances

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.

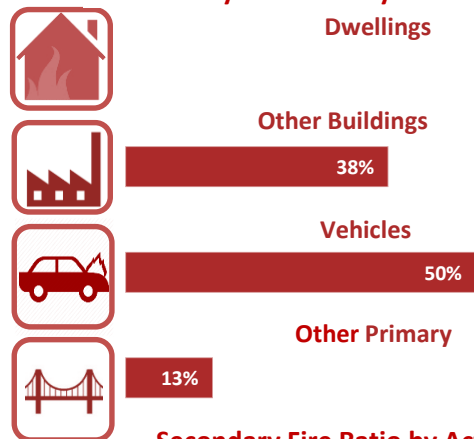
Deliberate Fires by Time of Day



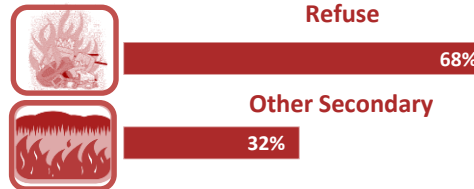
Deliberate Fires by Classification



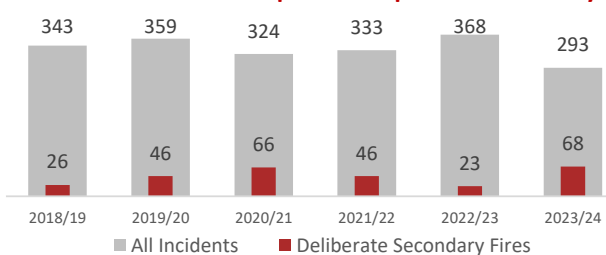
Primary Fire Ratio by Activity Type



Secondary Fire Ratio by Activity Type



Deliberate Fires Compared to Operational Activity



It is disappointing to report an increase in both the year on year indicator and 3 year average indicator for deliberate fire setting. By far, most deliberate fire setting incidents have been secondary fires, with refuse fires accounting for 68% of those. Of those primary fires which were deliberate in origin half involved a road vehicle. We continue to deliver engagement to communities around deliberate fire setting and anti-social behaviour, as well as working closely with our partners, particularly with the local authority and Police Scotland, to address these issues.

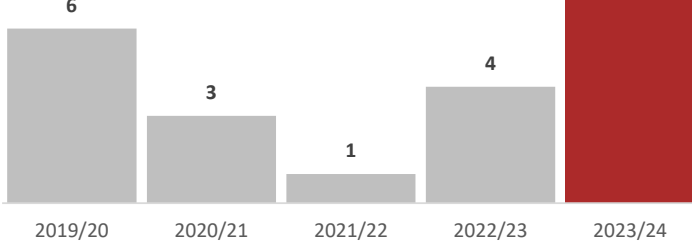
Non Domestic Fire Safety



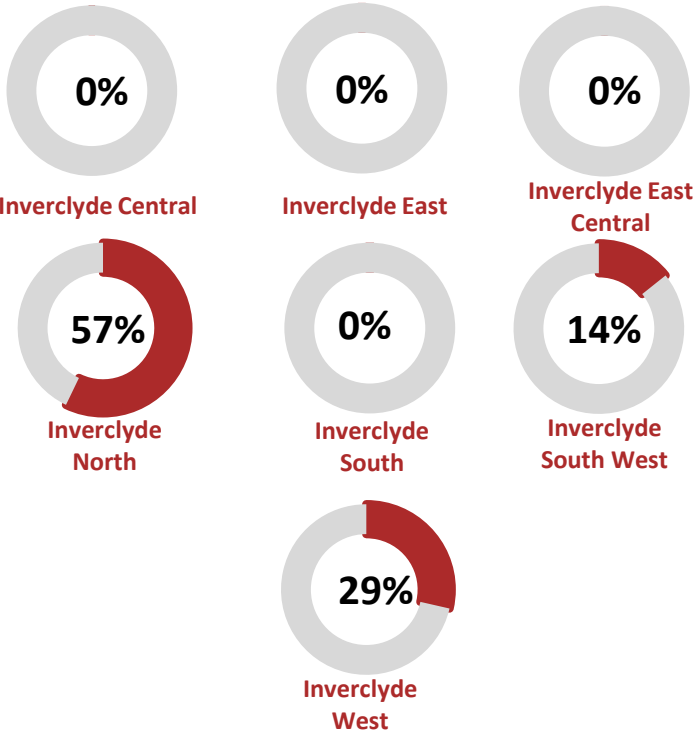
Performance Summary

Year on Year **75%** 3 Year Average **50%**

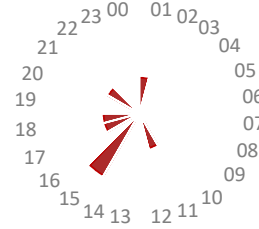
Non Domestic Fires



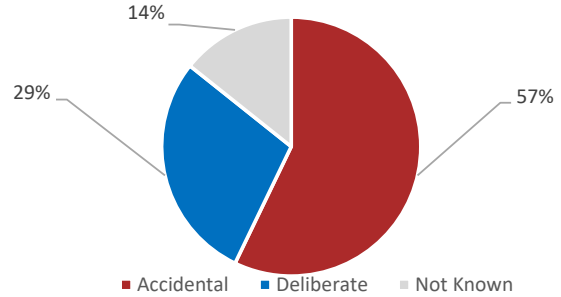
Non-Domestic Fires by Ward (% share)



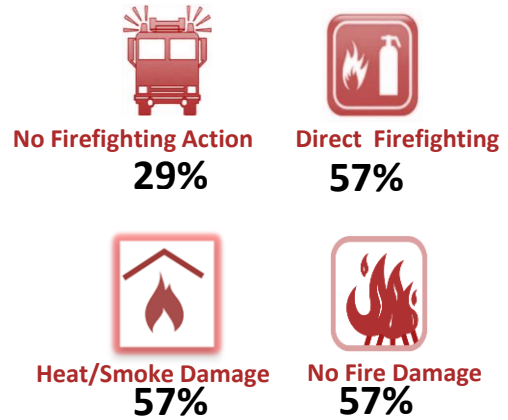
Non-Domestic Fires by Time of Day



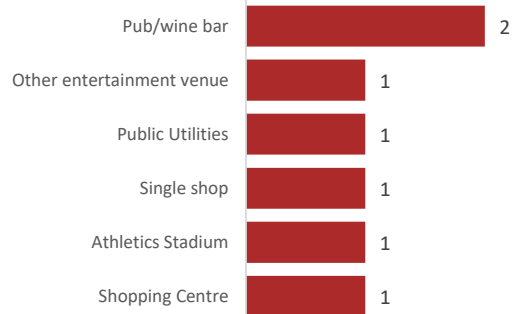
Non-Domestic Fires by Nature of Origin



Severity of Non-Domestic Fires



Non-Domestic Fires by Premises Type

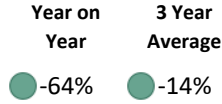


This quarter we have to report a 75% increase in the year on year indicator and a 50% increase in the 3 year average indicator in relation to non-domestic fires. The total number of incidents remains relatively low at 7, this is compared with 4 in 2022/23. All the premises involved were subject to a post fire audit by our Community Safety Enforcement Team as is our procedure.

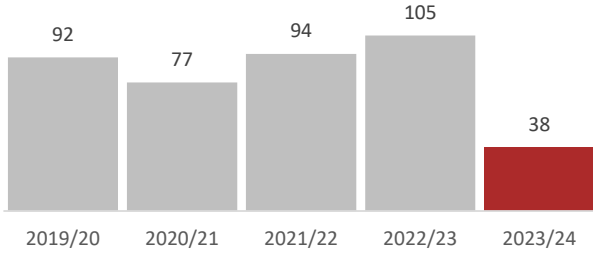
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



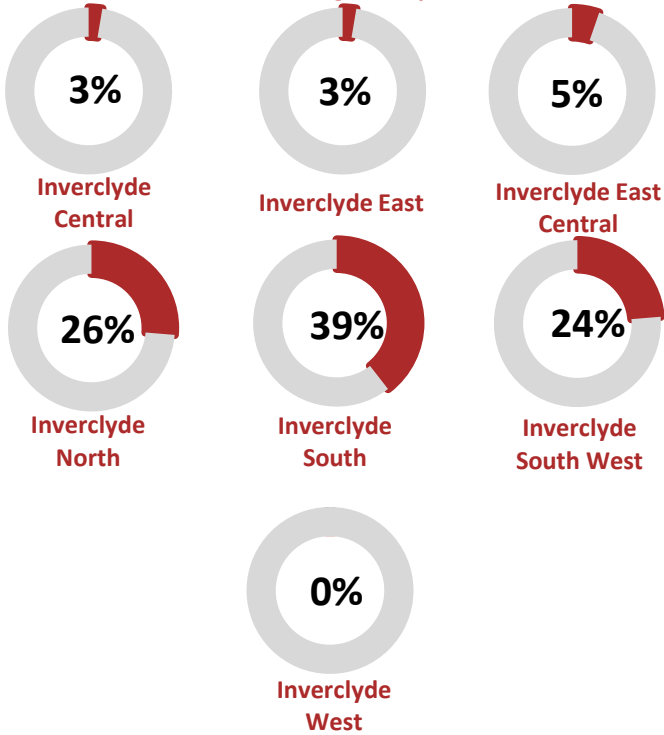
Performance Summary



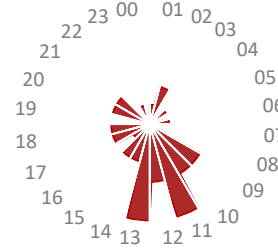
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



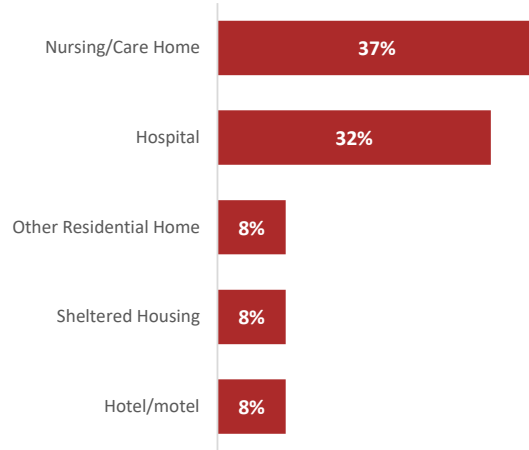
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals by Ward (% share)



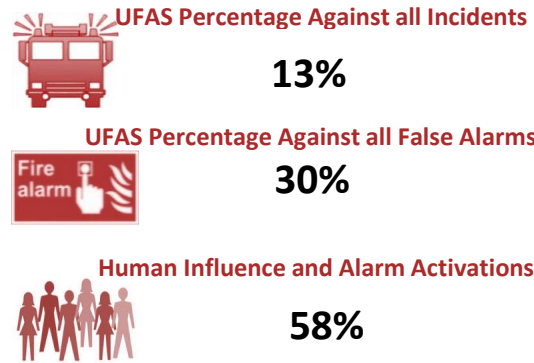
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals by Time of Day



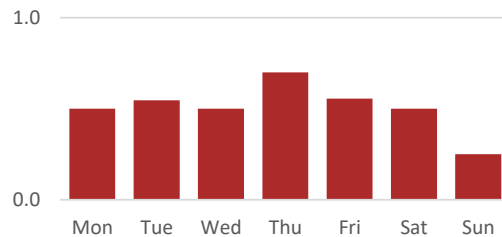
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals - Top 5 Premises



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Activity Ratios



Average Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals per Day



It is positive to report a 64% reduction in the year on year indicator and 14% reduction in the 3 year average indicator for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. The continuing reduction reflects the change in the SFRS UFAS Policy as well as our ongoing work to engage with duty holders in premises which are a source of UFAS incidents. UFAS incidents now account for 13% of all SFRS incidents, with Nursing/Care Homes and Hospitals being the 2 main property types involved.

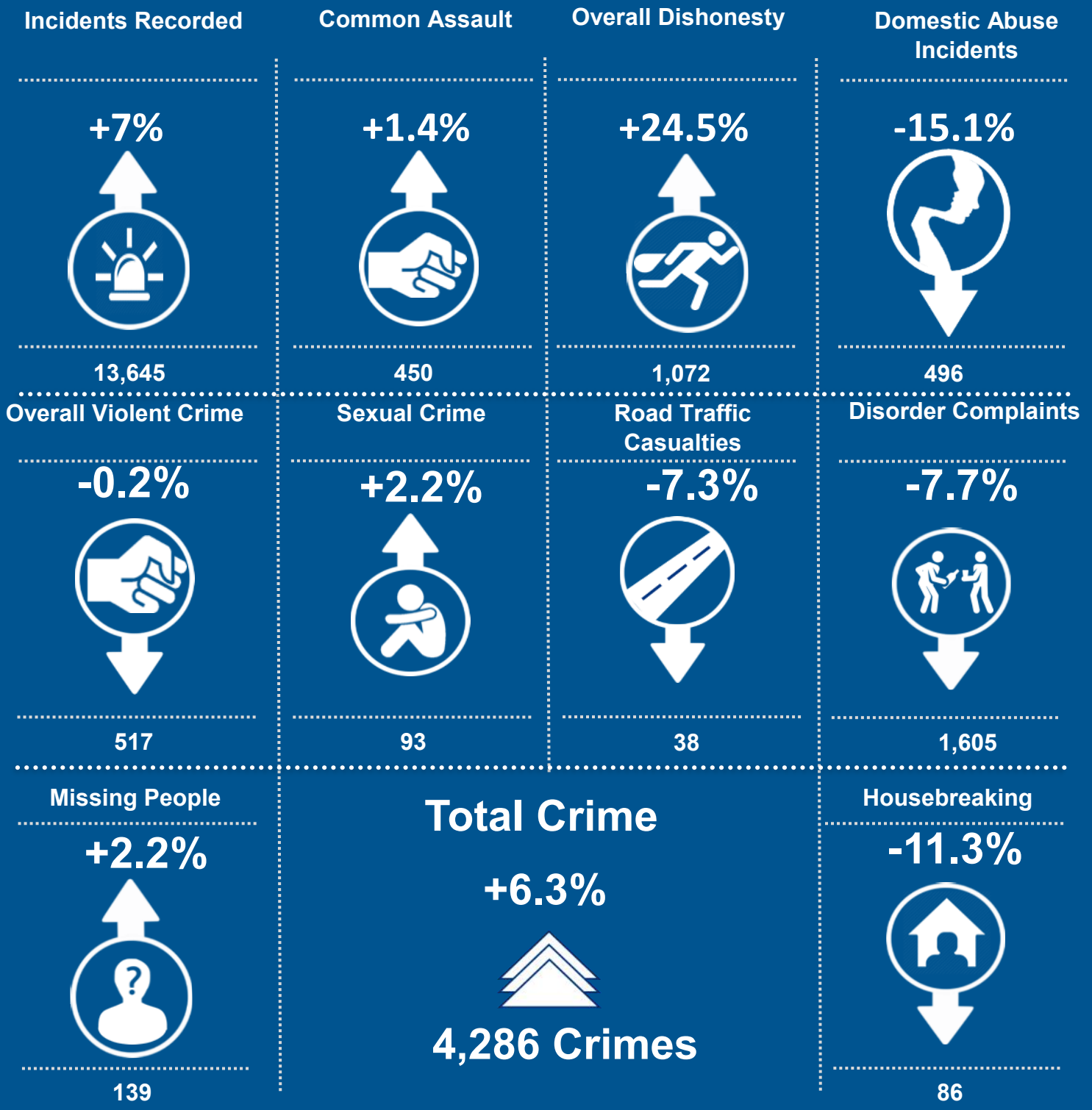


POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Inverclyde Performance Summary Report

Reporting Period: 01/04/23 - 30/11/23

Unless otherwise stated, all data provided is for the period 1 April 2023 - 30 November 2023, and all comparisons are made with the same period in 2022. 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 13 December 2023.



Inverclyde Performance Summary Report Reporting Period: 1 April 2023 to 30 November 2023







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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 comparable period in the preceding reporting year.

Chief Superintendent Gordon McCreadie
Local Policing Commander
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division

INVERCLYDE POLICING PRIORITIES 2023/26

PRIORITY	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
 <p>VIOLENCE, DISORDER AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</p>	<p>In addition to falling by 0.2% as compared to the same period in 2022, the rate of violent crime in Inverclyde (66.5 crimes per 10k population) is below the national average rate. Serious violent crimes in particular fell by nearly ten percent on the previous year. The detection rate is 67.7%, close to the national rate of 69.5%.</p>
 <p>PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE</p>	<p>Recorded sexual crimes have increased by 2.2% on the previous year, though the rate of these crimes per 10k population in Inverclyde remains below the national average. Almost 31% of these crimes involved non-recent reporting and approximately 40% of crimes were classed as 'non-contact' (including cyber-enabled crimes such as the sending of indecent images). Meanwhile, missing persons reports have increased slightly (+3) to a total of 139, with many of these incidents relating to Looked After and Accommodated Children. There is ongoing liaison with residential units and hospitals to provide advice and guidance into missing persons.</p>
 <p>ACQUISITIVE AND CYBER / DIGITAL CRIME</p>	<p>Overall crimes of dishonesty increased by nearly a quarter to a total of 1,072 crimes in Inverclyde. Nationally, recorded acquisitive crime is also on the rise. Collectively, theft by shoplifting, common theft and fraud accounted for nearly 80% acquisitive crimes. The detection rate for crimes of dishonesty in Inverclyde is 42.4%, compared to the national rate of 32.2%. The Partnerships, Preventions and Interventions Unit continue to engage with local businesses to tackle the issue of acquisitive crime.</p>
 <p>ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME</p>	<p>Overall, road casualties have fallen by three, to a total of 38. There have been no road deaths in the current reporting period, and serious road injuries fell from 18 to 12 year-on-year. Meanwhile, proactivity by Inverclyde officers and the Road Policing Unit has contributed to a rise of 6.2% in recorded road traffic offences.</p>

POLICE SCOTLAND'S POLICING PRIORITIES 2023/24

Protecting vulnerable people

Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division continues to support a multi-agency approach to reduce drug deaths, to engage with Scottish Government and stakeholders to influence approaches to supporting individuals with complex mental health needs, and to work in partnership to develop local effective and efficient pathways to support vulnerable people.

Working with communities

The Division continues to support this Police Scotland priority and to develop strategic partnerships to find synergy in policy making and shared resources. Police in Inverclyde recognise the importance of engaging with communities to understand their needs, and strive to support innovation in local partnership settings.

Tackling crime in the digital age

Police in Inverclyde continue to benefit from the support of specialised Police Scotland units such as the Cybercrime Unit and the Economic Crime and Financial Investigation Unit, amongst others. There are continued efforts to ensure our Officers have the training, resources and equipment needed to tackle the threat arising from cyber related criminality and technological advancement.

Support for operational policing

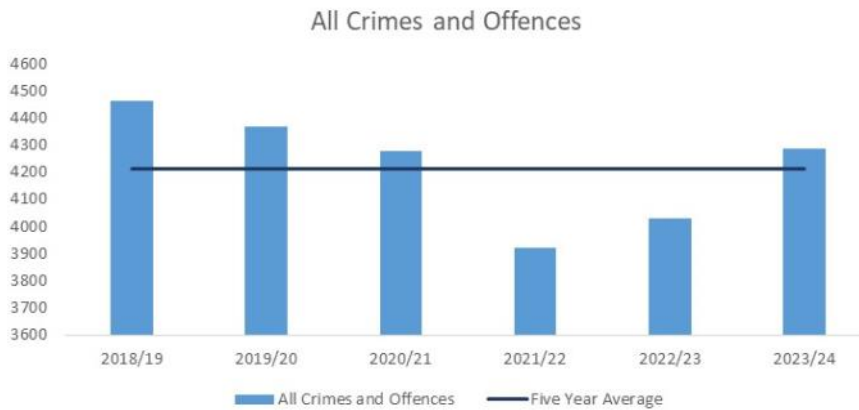
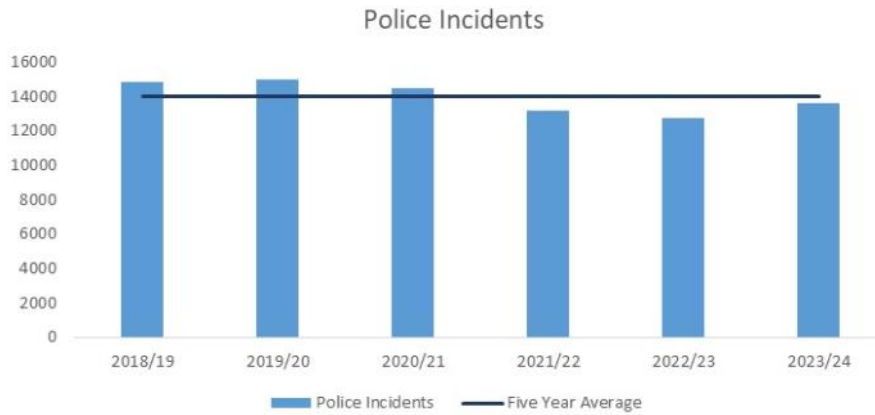
Inverclyde Police continue to link in closely with Police Scotland's Corporate Services who enable and support operational resources to deliver against the strategic priorities and their outcomes. As part of the Digitally-Enabled Policing Programme, migration to new national Core Operational Systems has led to increased efficiency and deployability of local Police Officers, allowing them to more effectively serve Inverclyde's communities.

DEMAND ANALYSIS

PYTD - PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE

CYTD - CURRENT YEAR TO DATE

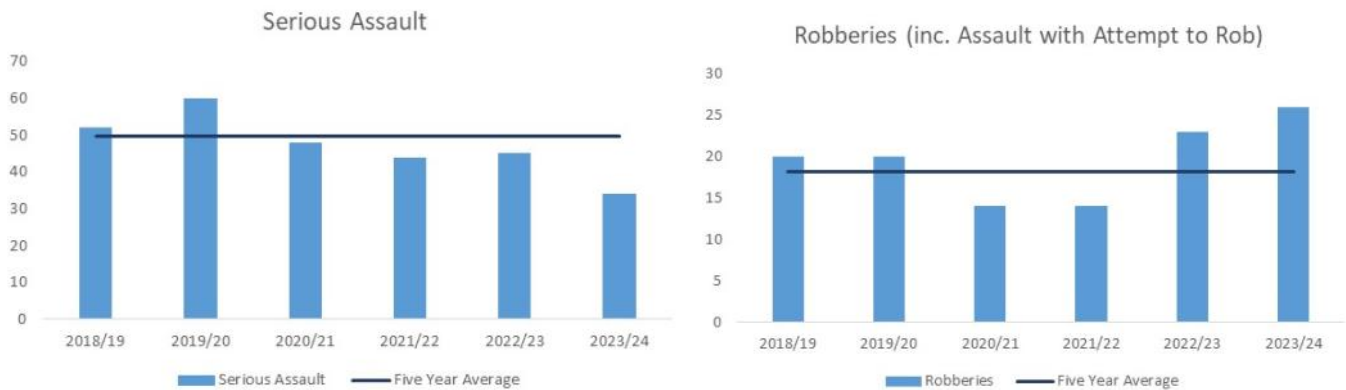
CRIME	PYTD	CYTD	INCIDENTS	PYTD	CYTD
Total Crimes & Offences	4,031	4,286	Total number of incidents	12,749	13,645



The volume of recorded crime and offences in Inverclyde has increased by 6.3%. This is in line with the national picture, with crime figures rising by a similar margin on last year. The overall crime rate in Inverclyde of approximately 551 crimes per 10,000 population remains below the national crime rate of roughly 603 crimes per 10k. Within Inverclyde, the overall rise in recorded crime and offences has been driven by an increase in Group 1 crimes of serious violence, Group 2 sexual crimes, Group 3 crimes of dishonesty (e.g. theft, shoplifting, fraud), Group 5 crimes of proactivity (e.g. drug possession and supply, weapon carrying offences), and Group 7 road traffic offences (e.g. speeding, license offences). Meanwhile, Group 4 crimes of malicious mischief (e.g. vandalism, fire-raising, reckless conduct) and Group 6 miscellaneous offences (e.g. common assault, breach of the peace) have fallen slightly on last year's figures. The overall detection rate for crimes and offences in Inverclyde is 63.8%, close to the national average of 64.3%.

Meanwhile, recorded police incidents have increased by seven percent on the previous year. Although part of this rise can be attributed to an increased in silent/discarded 999 calls (caused by a rise in accidental 999 dials resulting from software updates to some smart devices), there are also indications of a continually growing and evolving demand on Police in Inverclyde, with a rise in crime incidents and external agency requests.

VIOLENCE, ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND DISORDER



Violence

Violent crimes have fallen by 0.2% compared to the same period in 2022, with serious violent crimes in particular decreasing by nearly ten percent on the previous year. In addition, the rate of violent crime in Inverclyde (66.5 crimes per 10,000 population) is below the national average rate (79.6 crimes per 10k). The detection rate is 67.7%, close to the national rate of 69.5%.

Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

The number of complaints relating to disorder in Inverclyde fell by 7.7%, to a total of 1,605 incidents.

While one additional crime of wilful fire-raising has been recorded in the reporting period compared to the previous year, crimes of 'malicious mischief' (a category including vandalism, fire-raising and reckless conduct) have fallen slightly on 2022/23 figures. Nonetheless, fire-raising continues to be recognised as a key issue of concern in Inverclyde, with the rate of crimes per 10,000 population being considerably higher than the national average. A Multi-Agency Wilful Fire-Raising group chaired by Police Scotland has established, which includes SFRS, Inverclyde Council's ASB team and housing agencies. Police in Inverclyde continue to work with Inverclyde's communities, issuing advice to all householders regarding the dangers of leaving combustible items in common close areas.

Hate Crime

39 hate incidents were reported, with a total of 30 hate crimes subsequently being recorded in the current reporting year. Recorded hate crimes have decreased by approximately 23% on the previous year. A considerable proportion of recorded hate crimes in Inverclyde related to Police Officers being targeted during the course of their duties in relation to actual or perceived protected characteristics.

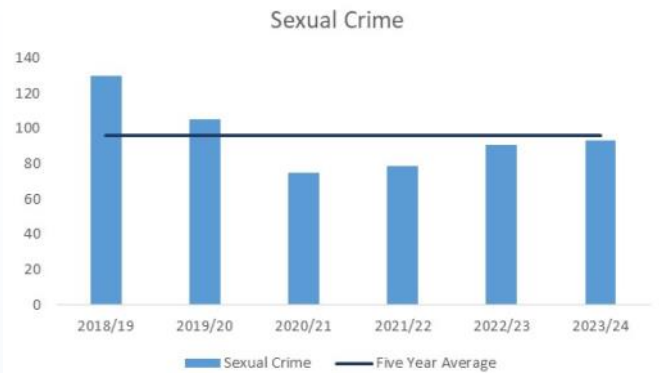
Over half of recorded hate crimes in the reporting period were racial in nature, with hate crimes targeting victims on the basis of other protected characteristics (sexual orientation, transgender identity, religion/belief, and disability) featuring less commonly.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Sexual Crime

93 sexual crimes have been recorded in Inverclyde in the reporting period, an increase of 2.2% on the previous year - in line with the increase recorded at a national level in the same period. However, the rate per 10,000 population in relation to sexual crime in Inverclyde (12 crimes per 10,000 population) remains lower than the national average crime rate. Nearly 31% of sexual crimes in the current year involved non-recent reporting. There are specific challenges associated with the investigation and detection of non-recent sexual crimes, due to the passage of time and

resulting loss of various forensic opportunities. Approximately 41% of sexual crimes recorded in the current year related to non-contact offences - many of these being cyber-enabled sexual offences, including indecent communications and sharing of intimate images without consent. The detection rate for sexual crimes is 65.6%, considerably above the previous year's rate of 49.5%.



Missing People

In the period April to November, 139 missing person reports have been recorded in Inverclyde, a rise of three reports compared to same period in 2022. All missing people were traced alive, with over 91% being traced within two days of first being reported missing. Looked After and Accommodated Children (LAAC) featured in over a third of missing person incidents, with incidents involving LAAC also rising by over three times the number recorded last year. Repeat missing persons continue to be an issue of concern (particularly in relation to Looked After and Accommodated Children). In the reporting period, over 11,000 officer hours have been spent investigating missing person incidents in Inverclyde.

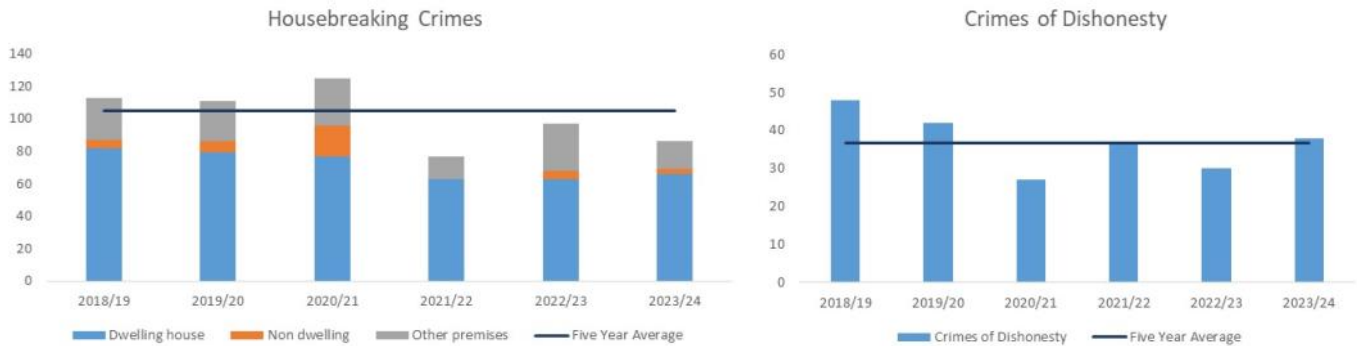
Domestic Abuse

Victims of domestic abuse remain one of Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division's top priorities. While research strongly suggests that domestic abuse continues to be significantly under-reported, Police in Inverclyde continue to work with a range of partners to instil confidence in victims to report abuse to the Police and to continually improve our service to all victims of domestic abuse. Recorded domestic abuse incidents in Inverclyde decreased by 15.1% on the previous year, to a total of 496. 44.4% of all recorded incidents resulted in a crime being recorded. The detection rate for domestic crime decreased by 2.5 percentage points on the previous year, to 74.4% in the reporting period.

Drug Related Deaths

Eight suspected and five confirmed drugs related deaths occurred in Inverclyde in the reporting period. While toxicology results are awaited in relation to the suspected drug related deaths, analysis of confirmed drug deaths identified that while drugs such as cocaine, heroin and Etizolam continue to commonly feature. Police in Inverclyde continue to work alongside a range of partners to tackle drug related harms, with the vast majority of frontline officers now carrying Naloxone and being able to intervene in life threatening situations. Other initiatives include the delivery of educational inputs to schools by local officers and continued proactivity relating to the supply and distribution of illicit drugs within Inverclyde's communities.

ACQUISITIVE CRIME



Overall crimes of dishonesty increased by nearly a quarter to a total of 1,072 crimes in Inverclyde. Nationally, recorded acquisitive crime is also on the rise. Collectively, theft by shoplifting, common theft and fraud accounted for nearly 80% acquisitive crimes. The detection rate for crimes of dishonesty in Inverclyde is 42.4%, compared to the national rate of 32.2%.

Meanwhile, the number of housebreaking crimes has fallen by over 11% on the previous year, while the detection rate is 19.8%, a slight rise on last year's rate (19.6%).

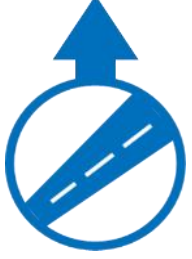
The Partnerships, Preventions and Interventions Unit continue to engage with local businesses to tackle the issue of acquisitive crime. Exclusion zones continue to be utilised as a tactic to deter the most prolific repeat shoplifters in Inverclyde.

CYBER & DIGITAL CRIME

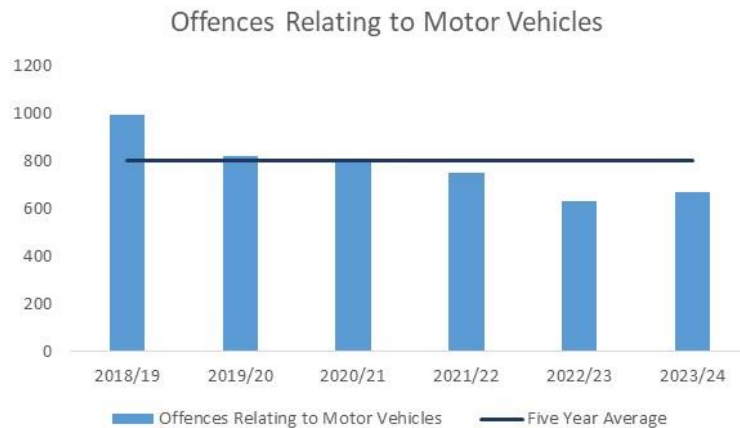
Cyber-enabled crime continues to impact on the communities of Inverclyde, with analysis indicating that cyber-enabled frauds constitute half of all recorded cybercrimes in Inverclyde. Other cyber-enabled crimes impacting on the communities of Inverclyde include threatening and abusive posts/messages, sexual extortion and indecent communications with children.

Police in Inverclyde continue to engage with the public to raise awareness of online scams and to methods to stay safe online.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Road Traffic Casualties		2022/23	2023/24
	Number of persons killed on our roads	1	0
	Number of persons seriously injured	18	12
	Number of persons slightly injured	22	26
	Number of children seriously injured	3	0

Road Traffic Data from 01/04/2023 to 30/11/2023



Overall, road casualties have fallen by three, to a total of 38. There have been no road deaths in the current reporting period (compared to one in the same period last year); serious road injuries fell from 18 to 12 year-on-year; and slight injuries increased from 22 to 26.

Meanwhile, proactivity by Inverclyde officers and the Road Policing Unit has contributed to a rise of 6.2% in recorded road traffic offences, as compared to last year's figures. An increase has been noted in the number of various recorded road traffic offences, including (but not limited to) licence, insurance, mobile phone and seat belt offences.

Inverclyde Police in Partnership with Inverclyde Council continue to promote the initiative which resulted in a 'Parking Buddy' being delivered to each Primary School in the area in order to make motorists think about their actions when driving and parking around school zones which should result in more awareness of the safety of children on the roads near to schools.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE: COMPLAINTS & USER SATISFACTION

COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE POLICE

From 01/04/2023 - 30/09/2023

Table: Complaints and allegations received in the Inverclyde Council area, by period (Apr – Sept) ¹

	TOTAL COMPLAINT CASES RECEIVED			TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED		
	YTD	LYTD	% Change	YTD	LYTD	% Change
Inverclyde Council	51	37	37.8%	69	62	11.3%

1. Data is based on the case received date.

Table: Allegations received in the Inverclyde Council area, by category, type and period (Apr – Sept) ¹

Allegation Category and Type	PYTD	YTD	% change
On Duty - TOTAL	35	47	34.3%
Assault	6	5	-16.7%
Discriminatory Behaviour	1	0	-100.0%
Excessive Force	6	1	-83.3%
Incivility	10	8	-20.0%
Irregularity in Procedure	10	24	140.0%
Neglect of Duty	0	3	x
Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	0	1	x
Other - Criminal	2	2	0.0%
Other - Non Criminal	0	1	x
Traffic Irregularity/Offence	0	2	x
Quality Of Service - TOTAL	27	22	-18.5%
Policy/Procedure	5	6	20.0%
Service Delivery	8	4	-50.0%
Service Outcome	14	12	-14.3%
Grand Total	62	69	11.3%

1. Data is based on the case received date.

In the period April to September 2023, a total of 51 complaint cases and 69 allegations have been received in Inverclyde in the reporting period. 47 allegations were 'On Duty' with a further 22 relating to quality service.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

From 01/04/2023 - 30/11/2023

76% of respondents to the 'Your Police' survey reported that they felt safe in their local area, compared to the national figure of 78.5%. 39.4% agreed, or strongly agreed that they had confidence in the Police in their local area (national figure - 34.2%). 29.7% of Inverclyde respondents felt that the police were doing a good job in the local area (nationally, 25.1% of respondents felt this way).

Thematic analysis of local issues which reportedly are causing residents concern in Inverclyde identified that drug misuse and drug supply are a common source of worry, with other issues including youth disorder, road traffic concerns such as speeding and dangerous driving. Within Inverclyde, there is ongoing road safety enforcement and deterrent activity supported by Road Policing officers. Proactive drug enforcement by local officers continues to be delivered, supported by the Division's Serious Organised Crime Team and Support Unit personnel.

LOCAL POLICING PRIORITY OUTCOMES – CASE STUDIES

The Partnership Team have ongoing work to review missing person incidents and provide continued training and daily liaison with partners to improve process, communication and reduce demand amongst services. All Local Authority and most of the private children's houses have all been given training on the Not at home and Philomena procedure.

We also carried out an extensive piece of engagement working in partnership with SFRS to deliver Fire Safety inputs to high schools in Inverclyde, where we discussed the dangers of fire-works, fire raising and the consequences along with reporting lines.

Police in Inverclyde also delivered inputs focusing on financial harm and suicide prevention. We worked with Virgin Money to raise awareness of banking scams with customers, and we supported a Rugby Wellbeing day organised by St Columbas in Kilmacolm.

Police in Inverclyde participated in the '16 days of activism to eliminate violence against women and girls' campaign which ran between 25 November and 10 December. This campaign included activities designed to raise awareness of the of gender-based violence, promoting, proactively targeting offenders and operational activity to prevent abuse and keep people safe.

FORTHCOMING INITIATIVES

We are arranging to deliver the Hate Crime/Third Party Reporting Training to staff of partner agencies throughout Inverclyde, to raise awareness of hate crime and enable staff to report incidents online that they become aware of, through their roles working with service users.

We are rolling out training for the Partners Intelligence Portal (PIP) where partners can access an electronic system and input intelligence that gets sent straight to our National Intelligence Bureau.

Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division's Partnerships, Preventions and Interventions Unit will continue to liaise with residential units and hospitals to provide advice and guidance into missing persons. The Philomena protocol - a scheme that asks carers to identify children and young people who are at risk of going missing, and to record vital information about them that can be used to help find them quickly and safely - is now in place in each residential unit in Inverclyde.

Anti-social behaviour and retail crime prevention activities are being planned across Inverclyde.

3.0 INVERCLYDE POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL LETTER TO CABINET SECRETARY

- 3.1 At the 21 September meeting of this panel a motion was passed for the chair of the panel to write to the Cabinet Secretary to raise concerns around the proposed cuts to Police Scotland K Division, which covers the Inverclyde area. A letter was issued by the Chair of Inverclyde Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel on the 24 October 2023 to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs, Angela Constance MSP, setting out the panels concerns.
- 3.2 A response, dated 21 November 2023, was received from the Cabinet Secretary reiterating Police Scotland's operational independence. The Scottish Government assures Inverclyde Council that local needs are met through flexible resource deployment, increased funding, and the UK's best-paid police force. For specific concerns, the Council is encouraged to contact the Chief Superintendent for the area.
- 3.3 A copy of the initial letter and response is included in the appendices to this report.

4.0 POLICE SCOTLAND ESTATE STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Police Scotland are undertaking engagement activity to listen to the feedback and views of local communities about their future estate changes and progress they have made so far towards their Estate Strategy, published in 2019. The strategy seeks to move towards more police stations co-located with partners where possible, to ensure services are delivered in the most efficient and effective way. There are currently over 60 such co-locations, providing sustainable, modern, and secure workspaces for Police Scotland personnel. The strategy reinforces the notion that co-location with partners is not only the best way to deliver savings to the public purse, but it also facilitates more integrated and effective public services with better outcomes, particularly for the vulnerable in our society.
- 4.2 Public Consultation – National Conversation

Police Scotland have launched a National Conversation about their estate, to gather public feedback on the experience of communities since the launch of the Estate Strategy four years ago in 2019. The consultation opened on the 14 December 2023 and closes on the 31 July 2024. The Estate Strategy, consultation, and frequently asked questions can be accessed online at the following link <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/52e22ece/>

- 4.3 Public Consultation – local consultation on each building

There will also be a local consultation on each building where there is a proposed change. The consultation will provide some information on each building and why they are consulting on it.

The consultation will seek the public's views on how the buildings are used:

- by the public for engaging with police
- by police officers and staff for operational policing
- by members of the public as a safe space
- other (please specify)

It will also look for views on the overall impressions of the building in the value it brings to the local community and to what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to dispose of this building for the reasons stated. The local building consultations list can be accessed from following this link <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/b47b9a36/>

- 4.4 Both Port Glasgow and Greenock Police Stations have been included within the local consultations on potential closures. There has been a significant degree of public confusion around these consultations with conflicting messages around release dates, response timescales, pre-determined outcomes, and future police estate presence within Inverclyde. Specifically, the reported timescales for consultation proved inaccurate, causing confusion and concern.
- 4.5 Both consultations were released on 21 December 2023, just prior to the Christmas break, with the Port Glasgow station consultation deadline of 31 January 2024 and Greenock Station consultation deadline of 31 March 2024. Given the quick turnaround for the Port Glasgow consultation a special meeting of the Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel was arranged for 25 January to consider and approve a response to both the national and local consultations. The deadline for the Port Glasgow Station consultation subsequently changed to 18 February 2024.

5.0 SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT BUDGET 2024-25

- 5.1 The Scottish Government has published proposed spending and tax plans for 2024 to 2025, as presented to the Scottish Parliament. The supporting documents can be accessed from the following link <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-budget-2024-25/documents/>.

5.2 Police Scotland

The Scottish Government are investing £1.55 billion in policing in 2024-25, increasing the Scottish Police Authority resource budget by 5.6 per cent – an additional £75.7 million, and providing the resources needed to support frontline service delivery – including key investment priorities including body-worn video. The budget also states there will be an increase police core capital funding to £64.6 million, a rise of 12.5 per cent, for investment in the police asset base including its estate, technology and fleet.

In her December 20 address, Chief Constable (CC) Farrell welcomed the Scottish Government's budget while urging focus on adapting Police Scotland for future challenges. The budget announcement provided an overall £104m uplift over and above flat cash funding for policing. CC Farrell commended the service's achievements and outlined a new operating model prioritising frontline services, removing redundancies, and tackling online threats. Building trust, optimising resources, and ensuring officer well-being are key priorities. Challenges like court delays and mental health crises will be addressed with a focus on efficient resource allocation and core duties. CC Farrell presented a vision for a future-proof Police Scotland, committed to public safety within budgetary constraints.

The full statement is available from the following link <https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2023/december/scottish-budget-2024-25-chief-constable-statement/>

Prior to the budget announcement Police Scotland had presented 'Supporting Police Scotland's journey to a new and affordable Operating Model - Budget proposal 2024-25' to the Scottish Police Authority Board at their meeting on 30 November 2023. This document set out what would have been the consequences of a flat-cash budget and also the benefits of the requested additional investment of £128 million. This document is contained within the appendices to this report.

5.3 Scottish Fire & Rescue

The Scottish Government have said they will support Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) deliver with a resource uplift of £13.6 million and increasing capital investment by £10.3 million to £43 million, an uplift of 32% – allowing the SFRS to address priorities around decontamination, dignified facilities and bring its estate up to modern standards.

6.0 PROPORTIONATE RESPONSE TO CRIME PILOT

6.1 Aberdeenshire police are testing a new approach to responding to certain incidents. This approach will involve not investigating certain reported crimes. Crimes are often reported where there is no associated threat, risk, harm or vulnerability and no proportionate lines of enquiry for local police officers to investigate. This approach will respond to such calls with confirmation that the crime has been recorded and a crime reference number, but no further action will be taken. Police Scotland offer the example of theft from a garden; if there are no proportionate lines of enquiry such as CCTV or eyewitnesses, then the caller may be informed that the report has been filed but no further action taken. This is intended to give police officers more time to focus on proportionate lines of enquiry, emergencies and keeping people safe from harm. Police Scotland statement:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2023/september/proportionate-response-to-crime/>

6.2 Police Scotland provided information on this test of change in relation to proportionate response to crime at a series of online engagement sessions with Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel conveners during November 2023. The west of Scotland session was held on 30 November 2023.

7.0 HMICS THEMATIC INSPECTION OF ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE IN POLICE SCOTLAND

7.1 The aim of this inspection is to make an assessment as to whether Police Scotland has a healthy organisational culture, ethical framework and whether the appropriate values and behaviours are consistent across the organisation.

Key findings included:

- Although on a journey of change and improvement, the police service still feels the legacy effect of police reform and earlier leadership styles, with the residual impact of cuts to core areas such as training, reticence regarding performance management, and a lack of value placed on police staff still evident.
- Many respondents felt the service had been slow to react to wider societal change and to policing-specific events in both the UK and worldwide.
- Frontline local police officers are feeling the pressure of increasing and shifting demand and feelings of being less valued.
- Significant degree of organisational frustration about lack of decision-making and prioritisation by the Executive.
- It was found to be unclear to many what the aspirational culture of Police Scotland should be.
- The Joint Strategy for Policing aims to achieve a positive working environment for its workforce, and includes a number of cultural aspirations, however there is a lack of effective performance reporting on how well these are being achieved.

The report is available from: <https://www.hmics.scot/publications/hmics-thematic-inspection-organisational-culture-police-scotland>

The press release is available following this link <https://www.hmics.scot/news/police-culture-scotland-needs-improve>.

8.0 SFRS MAKE THE CALL CAMPAIGN

8.1 Scotland's firefighters are struggling to reach those who are most at risk of fire in homes. SFRS is appealing to communities across Scotland to help it reach the most isolated and vulnerable people this Winter. The "Make the Call" campaign is tasking families, friends, and carers to make a ten-minute phone call to book a free Home Fire Safety Visit. SFRS report that they do

not know who is vulnerable, where they are or how to contact them, so are appealing to the public to put them in touch with anyone they know who could be vulnerable to fires at home. The full statement is available from: <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news/scotland-s-firefighters-are-struggling-to-reach-those-who-are-most-at-risk-of-fire-in-homes/>

9.0 SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE – FIRE SKILLS COURSE

9.1 Inverclyde Council are providing funding and support to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) to run a 5-day Fire Skills Course for ten young people in Port Glasgow during March 2024. This follows on from SFRS delivering a successful course in East Renfrewshire Council during November 2023. The course was delivered by the East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, and Inverclyde (ERRI) Community Action Team with support from Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance Service. The aims of the project are for the young people to learn important life skills which includes safety, discipline, respect, CPR, communication, and teamwork. The success of the East Renfrewshire project was highlighted as a new item on the SFRS website <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news/fire-skills-course-in-east-renfrewshire/>.

10.0 LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE PLANS UPDATE

10.1 Inverclyde's Local Policing Plan 2023-26 was approved at the Inverclyde Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel on 23 March 2023. It is expected that an annual update on progress by Police Scotland on delivering the objectives in the plan will be reported at a future meeting of this panel during 2024-25.

10.2 Local Fire & Rescue Plans are recommended for review at least once every three years. Inverclyde's 2021 Local Plan is currently under review by SFRS and an update will be reported at a future meeting of this panel during 2024-25.

11.0 INVITE TO DEMONSTRATE THE 'JOURNEY OF A CALL'

11.1 Chief Superintendent (CS) Gordon McCready has made a commitment to invite members of the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel to a broader familiarisation and awareness of how the Police receive, triage and respond to calls for service from the public. In terms of content, the session will explore the following areas:

- Contact, Command and Control Division – site visit to the main centre at Helen Street, Glasgow where attendees will see and discuss the ways in which calls for service are received, assessed and dispatched. This will also include an explanation of how the 'Service Overview' function manages national assets e.g. Armed Response Vehicles and Air assets, to support local policing.
- Greenock Police Station – overview of Local Policing including Estates, Divisional assets and some discussion with local officers in respect of their experiences.
- Site visit to Greenock Police Cells to provide an overview of the complexities and limitations of legislation as well as an awareness of the custody provision.

11.2 CS McCready initially proposed a date of 12 March 2024 for this session, however due to commitment clashes for members of the Panel a new date will be rearranged in due course.

12.0 IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		X
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty		X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

12.2 Finance

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

12.3 Legal/Risk

There are no legal/risk implications contained within this report.

12.4 Human Resources

There are no human resource implications contained within this report.

12.5 Strategic

There are no strategic implications contained within this report.

13.0 CONSULTATION

13.1 There were no consultations required outside those noted in the report.

14.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel meeting - Police Scotland Estate Strategy Consultations (25 Jan 2024); Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel Meeting - Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report (23 Nov 2023)



Supporting Police Scotland's journey to a new and affordable Operating Model

Budget proposal 2024-25

Version 1.3
30 November 2023



Finance



Our proposition

Investing in Police Scotland will enable us to re-shape and re-size the organisation and to re-invest the benefits in fulfilling the Chief Constable's commitment to strengthening the service

- A properly funded police service is critical to the achievement of the Scottish Government's commitments and vision for Justice and wider society. Our ask to the Scottish Government is to fund our pay and non-pay pressures to the value of **£74.5m in 2024-25**.
- This additional investment will **buy us time** to develop a plan for a **3-year efficiency programme by Autumn 2024** to feed into the 2025-26 budget cycle and the years beyond.
- This plan will drive the change to a new operating model for Police Scotland which will enable Chief Constable Farrell's stated priorities for the service:
 - The prioritisation of service delivery against areas of greatest threat, harm and risk;
 - The strengthening of our community policing model to enhance proactivity, problem solving and the prevention of crime and harm; and
 - Appropriate support for the wellbeing of our officers and staff.
- The plan will also maximise efficiency within the service to ensure ongoing sustainability and balanced budgets, and opportunities for the re-investment into new areas of capability. To support this, in addition to the £74.5m uplift in our resource budget for 2024-25, we would seek;
 - A capital allocation of £76.5m to support the roll out of new capabilities such as body worn video and for spend to save initiatives;
 - A re-instatement of our reform funding to £25m to allow us extra capacity to bring in resources to drive the changes in our operating model; and
 - A non-recurring resource allocation of £23m (for VR/VER) in 2024-25 to allow us to begin to reshape and re-size the organisation to generate efficiency/capacity between years 2025-26 – 2027-28 and to support reinvestment into priority areas of policing and new capabilities.
- This investment in our national police service will enable us to embark on the next stage of reform, whereby we can re-shape and re-size the organisation to meet the challenges of the next 10 years of Police Scotland.
- The above request is inclusive of SPA and Forensic Services. It is assumed that there will be a pause in the roll out of the Forensic Services operating model.

2024-25 funding requirement

We can **move in a planned way** from our current operating model towards a **new affordable operating model** (delivering enhanced operational capacity and leaner support & corporate services) with **additional budget support in 2024-25**.

Our ask to Scottish Government is that the anticipated £74.5m pressure in 2024-25 is fully funded to buy us time to establish an efficiency programme to reshape and re-size the organisation.

Revenue
£1,402.7m
+£74.5m

Reform
£25m
+£5.0m

Capital
£76.5m
+£26.4m

VR/VER funding
+£22.6m

We need £76.5m to deliver our basic rolling replacement programme, and key digital capability such as Body Worn Video.

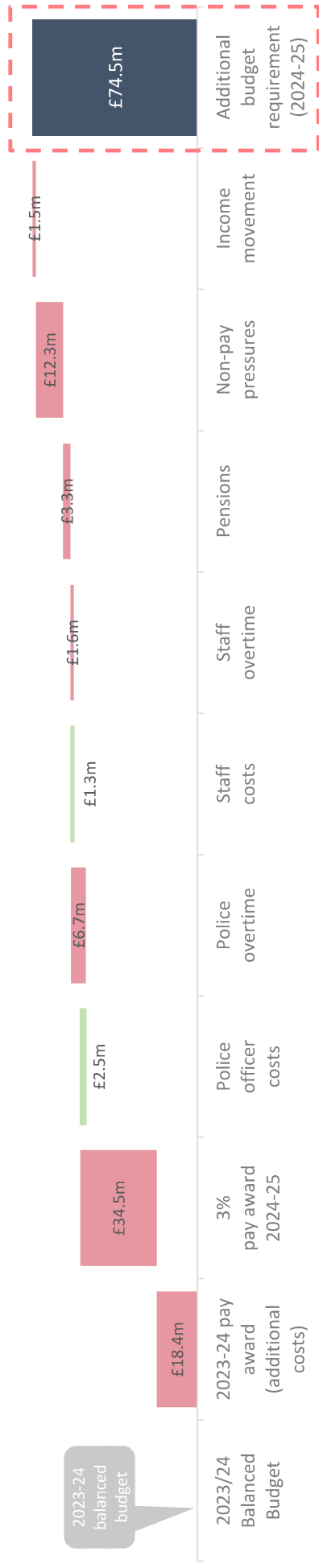
Capital plans indicate that we will require ~£100m p.a. in future years..

We seek full re-instatement of our reform funding to £25m to increase capacity to drive the changes in our operating model.

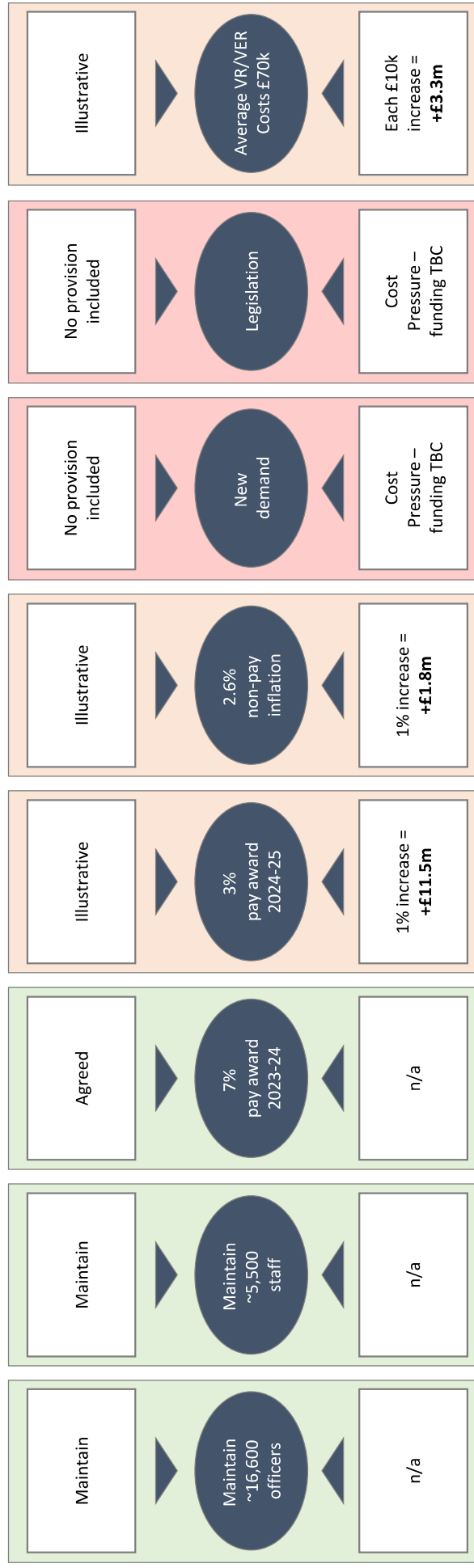
VR/VER funding up to £23m is required to implement the initial 3.7% reduction required as part of the 2023-24 settlement, and to enable us to begin to re-shape and re-size the organisation in 2024-25.

2024-25 revenue budget – assumptions and sensitivity

We require an enhancement to our core revenue budget of approximately £75m next year, along with VR/VER funding up to £23m, to enable us to embark on the next stage of reform, and to begin to significantly re-shape and re-size the organisation.



Key planning assumptions:



Benefits - what will investment in Police Scotland buy?

Investing in Police Scotland will enable us to re-shape and re-size the organisation and to re-invest the benefits in fulfilling the Chief Constable's commitment to strengthening the service

- Investment in Police Scotland will allow us to **continue our journey of transformation and service improvement**. This means realising the ambitions that underpinned the creation of the national service and **strengthening our ability to protect our communities** from increasingly complex threat, harm and risk.
- Investment in 2024-25 will **enable us to continue to focus on driving efficiency** and then **re-invest the benefits** of change to build and **enhance our capabilities**. This will include 'spend to save' initiatives which can deliver sustainable efficiencies for re-investment in frontline policing.
 - We need to design, develop and implement a new model of response and community policing which builds public trust and confidence while tackling threat, harm and risk
 - We need to equip our officers with Body Worn Video
 - We need to deliver essential improvements in critical national infrastructure such as 999/101 service centres and technology
 - We need to drive change and improvement in how Police Scotland engages with the public and its partners and in particular enhance the quality and accessibility of our response and resolution function.
 - We need to improve standards of service through Police Scotland's response to vulnerability, risk and public need at the earliest opportunity; maximising opportunities for remote engagement and resolution; reducing local policing demand and directing appropriate incidents to the right agency through pathway referrals and enhanced collaborative working.
 - We need to further enhance the mobile capability of our officers
 - We need to offer a better response to cyber-crime
 - We need to offer a better response to public protection and to better protect children from harm and sexual exploitation
 - We need to be a much more digitally enabled and engaged service
 - We need to be a catalyst for system wide change and improvement across the CJ system and wider public sector
 - We need to realise further opportunities for enhanced collaboration across blue light services
 - We need to better harness the potential of our data and improve the insights we can use to inform tactical and strategic decision making
 - We need to be more visible and to build public confidence
 - We need to protect the wellbeing of our workforce
 - We need to invest in driving culture change and becoming a wholly anti-discriminatory service to ensure that we increase public trust and confidence in policing

Consequences of Flat cash in 2024-25

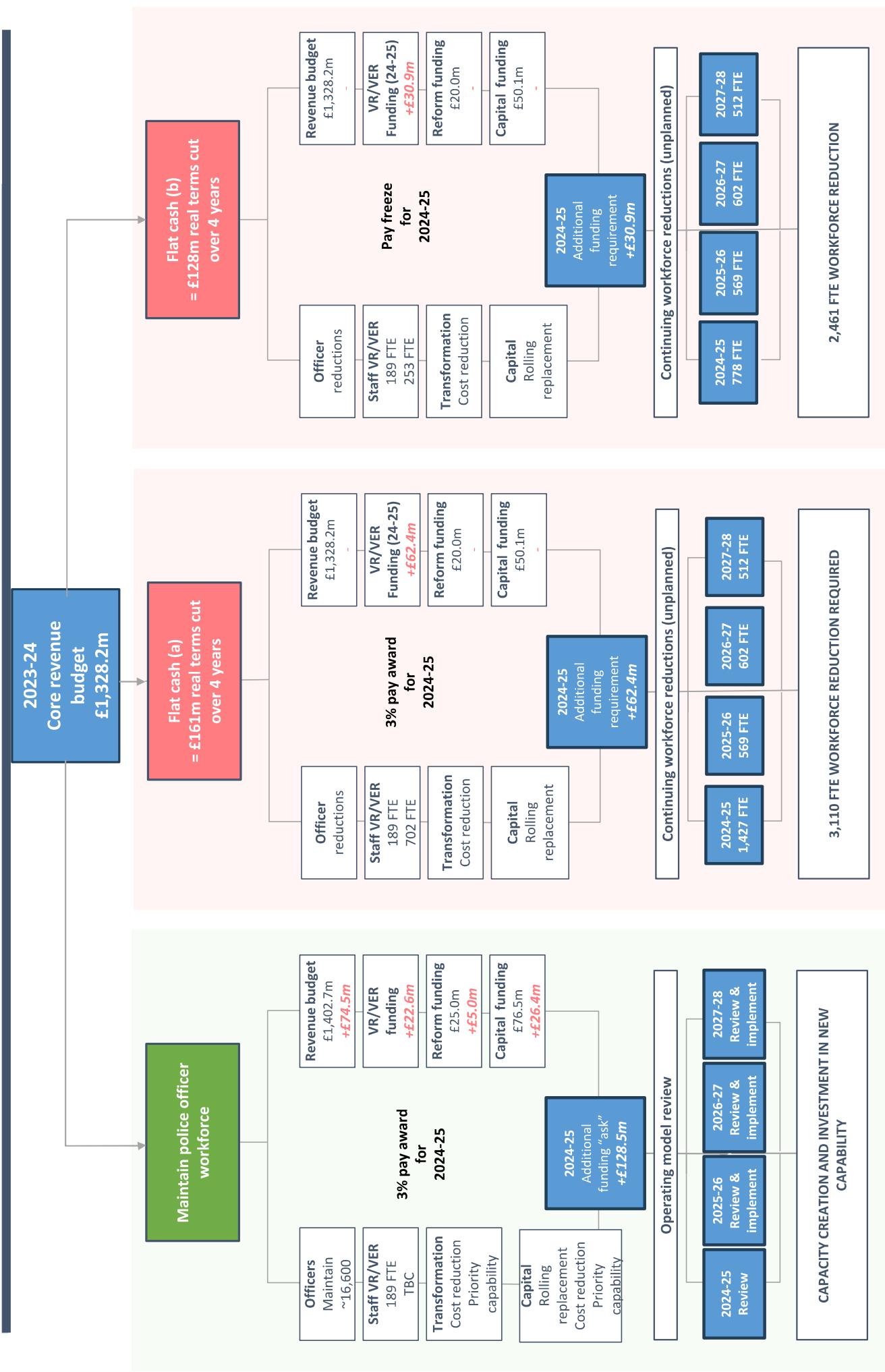
It is not viable for the service to operate within a flat cash funding settlement for 2024-25 without severely impacting service delivery, officer and staff wellbeing, external and third-party relationships, and ultimately the safety of the public.

- Flat cash funding would have severe operational consequences, causing a significant disruption to services as **savings would have to be achieved through salami slicing**, as opposed to efficiency or organisational redesign.
- Tactical, short-term measures would have to be taken to deliver maximum savings in 2024-25. This could see a **reduction of up to 1,427 FTE (6.4%)** by 31 March 2025 which can only be achieved through a **continuation of the officer recruitment pause** throughout the entire duration of 2024-25, along with an **extensive VR/VER programme**. The impact of flat cash could be **minimised by implementing a pay freeze** for 2024-25 but this would have further operational implications and would still require significant workforce reductions.
- A flat cash funding settlement in 2024-25 will be likely to result in impacts across the following operational areas:
 - **Caring for our most vulnerable people & communities:**
 - A reduction in visible local policing.
 - Challenges to our ability to fulfil our “Wellbeing” remit with our partners.
 - **Protecting our children and citizens from new threats:**
 - An inability to increase local policing resources and enhance visibility and public confidence.
 - An inability to augment national and local public protection services in the face of continued growth in reporting of sexual crime and domestic abuse.
 - An inability to effectively keep people safe in the online space.
 - An inability to support the implementation of new legislation.
 - **Our proactive capability will be reduced:**
 - A reduction in local resources will undermine our ability to engage in collaborative problem solving and crime prevention.
 - A reduction in Roads Policing resources will inhibit our ability to keep Scotland’s road users safe.
 - Our capacity for the proactive investigation of Serious & Organised Crime Groups will be impacted.
 - **Enabling a safe and secure Scotland:**
 - Delays in attending calls for service and the nationwide adoption of a reduced attendance model.
 - Our capacity to effectively respond to major events and incidents will be impacted.
 - Our capacity to manage community tensions will be impacted.

Appendix A

Funding scenarios

Summary: funding scenarios



Appendix B

Operating environment and crime volumes

Group 1 – Non Sexual Crimes of Violence

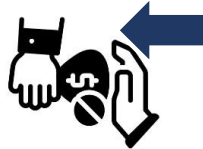
Robbery and Assault with Intent to rob

Crimes of Robbery and assault with intent to rob are showing an increase of **191 (22.4%)** compared to the five year mean. Whilst there has not been a steady increase in this crime type, the current numbers are the highest for the last five years.



Threats and Extortion

These crimes have seen a steady increase from 2019/20 onwards, with an average yearly increase of 326 crimes in the current period. Driven by an overall increase of online-based crime, it seems highly likely this crime type will continue to rise. Crimes showing an increase of **1,021 (221.3%)** compared to the five year mean.



Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty

Fraud

Crimes are steadily increasing year-on-year and are currently the highest they have been for the last five years – up **2,421 crimes (37.2%)** against the five year mean.



Theft by Shoplifting

Since the lifting of covid restrictions there has been a significant increase in crimes, there are **5,924 (42.0%)** crimes more than the five year mean.



Theft of a motor vehicle

Crime numbers are higher than any of the previous five years, being an increase of **353 (15.6%)** crimes compared to the five year mean. The previous highest period was 2018/19.



Group 2 – Sexual Crimes



Communications Act 2003

Crimes are the highest they have been over the last five years – up by **52 crimes (39.9%)** compared to the five year mean.



Sexual Assault (SOSA 2009)

Crimes have increased by **281 (14.3%)** compared to the five-year mean.



Crimes of Sexual Exposure (SOSA)

These have seen an increase of **59 (26.5%)** compared to the five year mean. This increase means the current level of crime is the highest in the period for the last five years.



Taking, distribution, possession etc, of indecent photos of children (from April 2011)

Crimes are close to the highest level over the last five years and increased by **64 (20.6%)** compared to the five year mean.



Rape Crimes

At the end of Quarter 2 2023-24 reported crimes of rape noted an increase of 11 crimes (0.9%) compared to the five year mean.

Rape Detections

During the same period the Rape Detection Rate fell to the lowest level compared to the last five years, down to **47.4% (-4.9 percentage points compared to five year mean)**.

Group 5 – Other Crimes



Bail offences (other than absconding)

Crimes have increased by **1,428 (28.1%)** compared to the five year mean.

Group 6 – Miscellaneous Offences



Minor Assault

Since 2020/21, the number of common assaults has seen a year-on-year increase, with the current number being the highest over the last five years. There is an increase of **2,101 (8.1%)** compared to the five year mean.

Additional Information

Compared to last year in C3 Division...

Overall call volume up **3.0%**, Partner Demand up **25.9%**,

Average call answer time up, additional public contacts up **14.9%**.

Protecting Vulnerable People...

Adult concern forms increased, Child concern forms increasing, Drug consumption markers increasing, Missing Persons increasing and Mental Health demands increasing.

Force Detection Rate



During 2023-24 the overall detection rate has dropped below the lower confidence limit reflected by most crime groups. The mean number of days to detect crimes has increased year on year and has more than doubled from 16.43 in 2018/19 to 33.83 in 2022/23.

Group 7 – Offences relating to Motor Vehicles



Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen

Current number of drink, drug driving offences have increased compared to the five-year mean – up **538 (14.9%)**.



Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossing)

Currently the highest numbers over the past five years – up **507 offences (27.4%)**.



Driving Carelessly

The current number of this crime have increased by **553 (12.6%)** compared to the five-year mean.



Mobile Phone Offences

Offences are currently higher than the five-year average by **381 (27.5%)**. The new restrictions on the use of mobile devices introduced in 2022 will likely see this crime type increase.

- Demands on Police Scotland continue to rise.
- Various crime types are enabled through the online sphere and are likely to continue to see ongoing increases and are also increasingly complex to police and detect.
- The current societal Cost of Living situation is highly likely to continue to exacerbate some crime types.
- Group 5 & 7 crimes are heavily affected by police proactivity and previous/current campaigns.
- The issues surrounding detection rates are multi-faceted and complex.

Our Ref: TM/LR

Your Ref:

Date: 24 October 2023

Angela Constance MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
Scottish Government
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Cabinet Secretary

I am writing to you today as Convener of the Inverclyde Council Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel to express my concern about the current staffing levels of Police Scotland, and the proposed cuts to policing across K division, which includes Inverclyde.

As you know, K Division is a large and diverse area, covering both urban and rural communities. It is also an area with high levels of deprivation, and the continued reduction in policing has, in the panel's opinion, made it even more difficult for the police to help keep our communities safe.

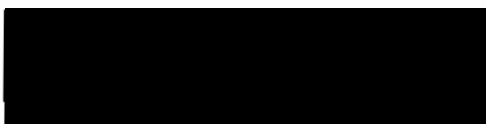
The members of the Panel are aware of considerable concerns within our communities about the impact of the cuts to policing. They are worried about longer response times, less visible police presence, reduced support to our schools, and a decrease in the number of officers available to investigate criminal behaviour. Of particular concern is the impact of police savings on the safety of vulnerable people, such as the elderly and those with disabilities. These people can often be the most likely victims of crime, and they rely on the police to help keep them safe.

The Panel believe that any further cuts to policing in K Division will put the public at increasing risk and I am asking the Scottish Government to give due regard to the concerns of this Panel. As elected members, we certainly understand the pressure on all budgets across all elements of Scottish Government, Local Authorities, and partner agencies this year and the coming years, but it would be remiss of me as Convener of this Panel, not to express my concerns.

In my role as Convener of the Inverclyde Local Police and Fire and Scrutiny Panel, I hope that you recognise the concerns raised in this letter as being in the spirit of keeping the citizens of Inverclyde safe from harm.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor David Wilson
Convener of the Inverclyde Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel



Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartas agus Cùisean na Dùthcha
Angela Constance MSP/BPA



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Councillor David Wilson
david.ross@inverclyde.gov.uk

Our Reference: 202300383173
Your Reference: Police Scotland - K Division

21 November 2023

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 24 October on behalf of the Inverclyde Council Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel regarding policing in "K" Division which includes Inverclyde.

As you will be aware, the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 stipulates that the Chief Constable of Police Scotland is responsible for the policing of Scotland, and is accountable to the Scottish Police Authority for this, rather than to Scottish Ministers directly. These arrangements are in place to ensure public confidence that the police act independently, free from unwarranted Ministerial interference.

Our national police service provides the Chief Constable with the flexibility to deploy resources wherever they are needed. Additionally, individual Divisions can access specialist expertise at a regional and national level to meet demand which would not have been possible before the creation of Police Scotland in 2012. While decisions on the allocation of officers and resources are a matter for the Chief Constable, it is vital Police Scotland continues to inspire public trust and maintains relationships with communities as they ensure local priorities continue to be met.

These priorities are set and agreed locally and are clearly set out in local policing plans. Should you wish to discuss any aspect of local policing I would suggest contacting the Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Gordon McCreadie, who I'm sure you will have had some contact already. He can be contacted via email to Gordon.McCreadie@scotland.police.uk.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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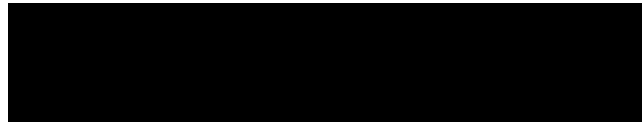


Policing is and will remain a priority for this Government, which is why, despite difficult financial circumstances due to UK Government austerity, we have increased police funding year-on-year since 2016-17, with £1.45 billion being invested this year. As at 30 Sept there were 379 more police officers than in 2007 and around 1,480 new recruits have joined Police Scotland since the beginning of 2022.

Scotland continues to have more police officers per capita than England and Wales and following the agreed pay deal of 12% over two years, our officers continue to be the best paid at all levels.

I hope this reply reassures you that this vital service remains a priority for the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely



ANGELA CONSTANCE

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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