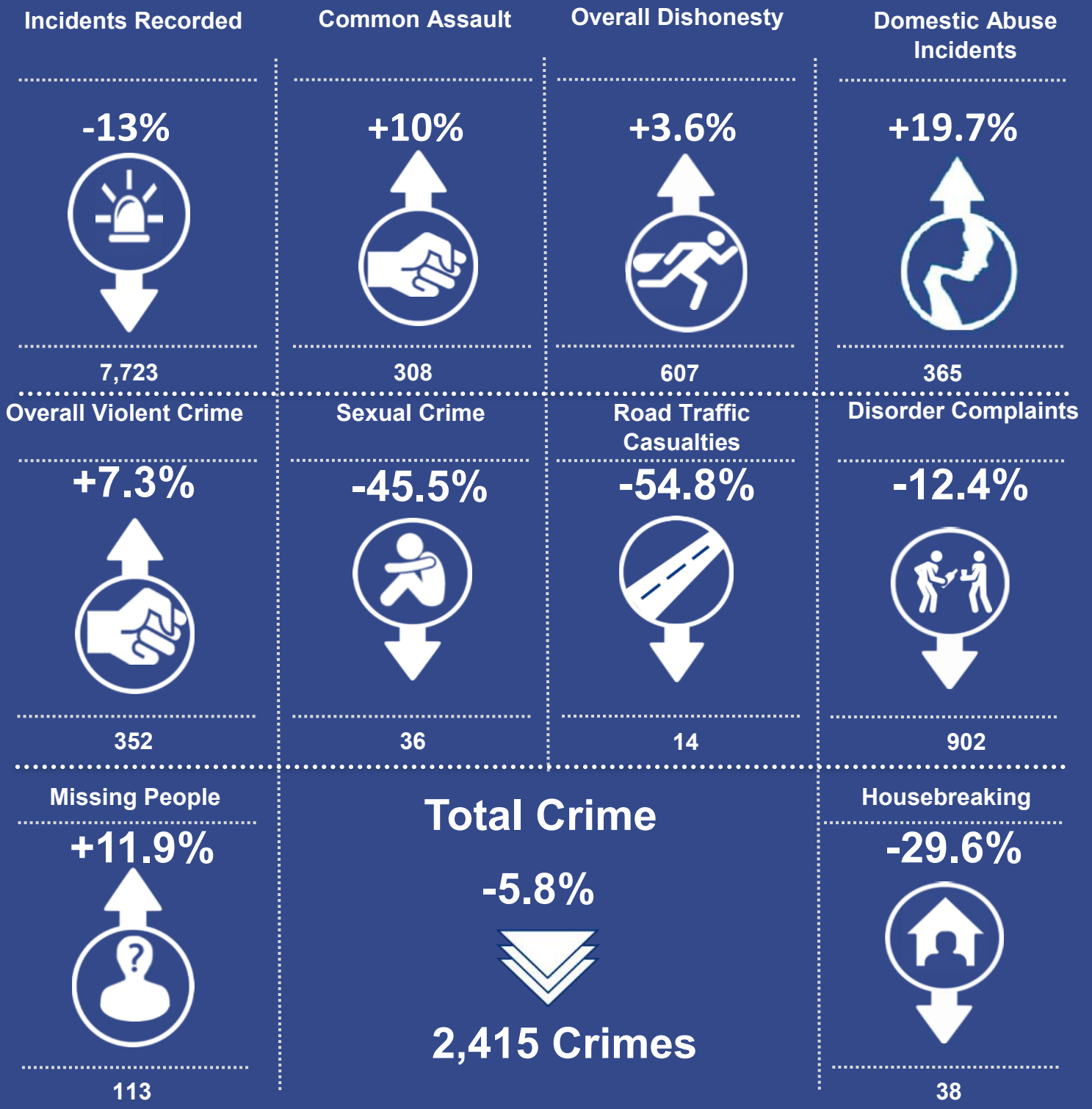




Inverclyde Performance Summary Report

Reporting Period: 01/04/24 - 31/08/2024

Unless otherwise stated, all data provided is for the period 1 April - 31 August 2024, and all comparisons are made with the same period in 2023/24. 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 17 September 2024.





Inverclyde Performance Summary Report Reporting Period: 1 April 2023 to 31 August 2024

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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 - 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

Overall, violent crime in Inverclyde increased by 7.3% with 352 recorded crimes. Serious violence fell by 8.3%, while minor violence rose by 10%, largely due to non-injury common assaults. Weapons offences dropped by 13.5%, and initiatives like "No Knives, Better Lives" continue in schools. Disorder complaints decreased by 12.4%, and wilful fireraising dropped by 61.1%. Inverclyde recorded 61 hate crimes, influenced by changes under Scotland's new Hate Crime and Public Order Act.

Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Sexual crimes in Inverclyde dropped by 45.5%, with 36 cases recorded, most of which were non-contact, cyber-enabled offences. The detection rate rose to 75%. Missing person reports increased by 11.9%, largely due to improved recording practices, with 80% of cases involving young people. Domestic abuse incidents rose by 19.5%, reaching 365, with support provided through multi-agency initiatives like MATAC and MARAC. There was one confirmed and eight suspected drug-related deaths during the period, with efforts ongoing to address drug-related harm in the community.

Acquisitive and Cyber/Digital Crime

Crimes of dishonesty in Inverclyde increased by 3.6%, with 607 recorded offences. Shoplifting rose by 55.2%, driving the overall increase, while fraud and housebreaking dropped by nearly 31% and 30%, respectively. The detection rate for dishonesty crimes was 52.6%, well above the national average. Repeat offending remains a concern, with seven individuals responsible for 28% of shoplifting crimes. Police are working closely with local businesses and using initiatives like exclusion zones and Radiolink to combat retail crime and enhance prevention efforts.

Road Safety and Road Crime

Inverclyde recorded 14 road traffic casualties, a 54.8% decrease from last year, with no fatalities and fewer serious and slight injuries. Road traffic offences also fell by 12.2%, contrasting with a national rise. Police ran several road safety campaigns, including Child Safety Week and Drink Drug Drive initiatives. The West Safety Camera Unit continues to support road safety efforts by targeting high-risk areas, helping to maintain positive trends in road casualty reduction.

POLICE SCOTLAND'S POLICING PRIORITIES 2023 - 2026

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.

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.

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.

Support for operational policing

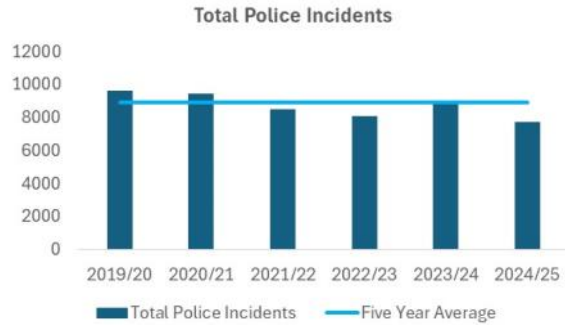
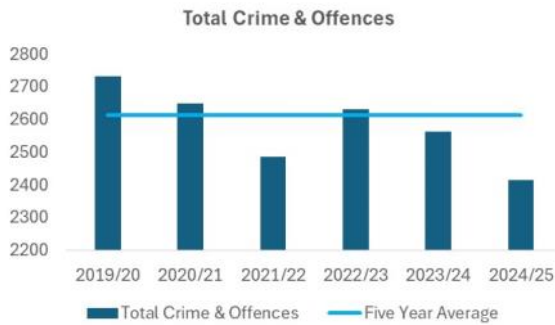
Inverclyde Police continue to link in closely with Police Scotland's Corporate Services who enable and support operational resources to deliver against the strategic priorities and their outcomes. As part of the Digitally-Enabled Policing Programme, migration to new national Core Operational Systems 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	2,563	2,415	Total number of incidents	8,881	7,723



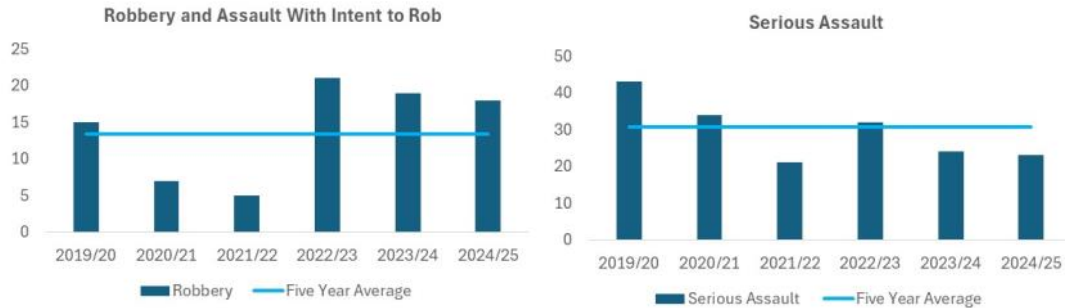
Crime and Offences

Year on year, crimes and offences in Inverclyde have fallen by 5.8%, with a total of 2,415 recorded. Conversely, recorded crimes and offences have increased by 3.3% at a national level. The overall detection rate for crimes and offences in Inverclyde is 70.8%, an increase on the previous year’s position of 64.7%; the detection rate also remains above the current national position of 66.3%.

Police Incidents

Police incidents recorded this year have dropped by 13%, totalling 7,723. One contributory factor in this decrease is a reduction in silent or abandoned 999 calls, suggesting that technical solutions addressing accidental emergency dials from certain smartphones are working. Despite the decrease in the total number of incidents, there are indications of growing demand in relation to certain issues, including a rise in recorded ‘theft’ incidents, domestic incidents/domestic bail checks, and police information incidents. We continue to work closely with partner agencies to ensure the implementation of the most appropriate and proportionate Police response to identified issues.

VIOLENCE, ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND DISORDER



Violence

Overall violent crime has risen by 7.3% compared to the same period in 2023/24, with a total of 352 recorded crimes. While recorded crimes of serious violence have fallen by 8.3% to a total of 44 crimes, minor violence has risen by ten percent, with 308 crimes recorded. Nearly 72% of crimes of minor violence relating to common assaults resulting in no injury. The detection rate for violent crimes remains steady at 65.3%, comparable to the previous year's rate of 65.5% and the national rate of 69.7%. Approximately half of all violent crimes in Inverclyde occur in private spaces like homes and flats, posing unique challenges for law enforcement due to limited investigative opportunities (e.g., lack of witnesses or CCTV). Despite these difficulties, especially in cases of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, officers are trained to identify alternative investigative methods. 77 weapons offences were recorded in the current reporting period, a decrease of 13.5% on the previous year. Community Policing Officers and the Partnerships and Preventions Team have worked across Inverclyde schools to deliver programs like "No Knives, Better Lives" and have also engaged with local community groups to address specific antisocial behaviour concerns.

Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

Complaints regarding disorder in Inverclyde decreased by 12.4%, with a total of 902 incidents reported. Tackling disorder and antisocial behaviour remains a key focus of the Inverclyde Partnership Hub, a police-led multi-agency initiative that collaborates with statutory and third-sector organisations. Crimes involving damage and reckless behaviour also fell by 19.2% compared to the previous year, with reports of vandalism falling by 15.3%. Wilful fireraising crimes fell significantly with 14 crimes compared to 36 in the same period last year (-61.1%). The Multi-Agency Fire Raising Group, chaired by the Partnerships and Preventions Superintendent and involving SFRS, Inverclyde Council's ASM team, and housing agencies, continues to focus on long-term planning to prevent and detect crimes of wilful fireraising.

Hate Crime

During the reporting period, 61 hate crimes were recorded in Inverclyde, following the introduction of Scotland's new Hate Crime and Public Order Act, which ensures equal protection for all social groups as well as making it easier to identify hate crimes. The Act also added Age and Variations in Sex Characteristics as protected characteristics. In addition to the impact of the new legislation, changes in methodology and counting rules arising from the introduction of new recording systems make comparisons with previous years challenging.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Sexual Crime

A total of 36 sexual crimes were recorded in Inverclyde during the reporting period, a decrease of 45.5% on the same period in 2023/24. Three crimes in the reporting period involved non-recent reporting. The majority (approximately 60%) of sexual offences in Inverclyde were non-contact, cyber-enabled crimes such as indecent communications, possession of indecent images of children, and threats to disclose intimate images. The detection rate for sexual crimes was 75%, compared to 71.2% in the previous year and the national rate of 56.5%.

Missing People

Inverclyde Police take all missing person reports seriously, using a rigorous threat assessment to determine potential risks to the individual or others. During the reporting period, 113 people were reported missing - an increase of 11.9% on the same period in 2023. A significant contributory factor for this increase is the National Missing Persons Unit's implementation of national business rules relating to how these incidents are recorded and when forms must be raised, which have helped establish an accurate reflection of the number of missing people and the resulting demand of these incidents on frontline officers. All individuals were traced safe and well, with the average missing period lasting 13 hours. Almost 80% of missing people in the reporting period were young people. The 5 most frequently reported persons accounted for 43 separate reports, (38% of the overall total); all five were care-experienced young people.

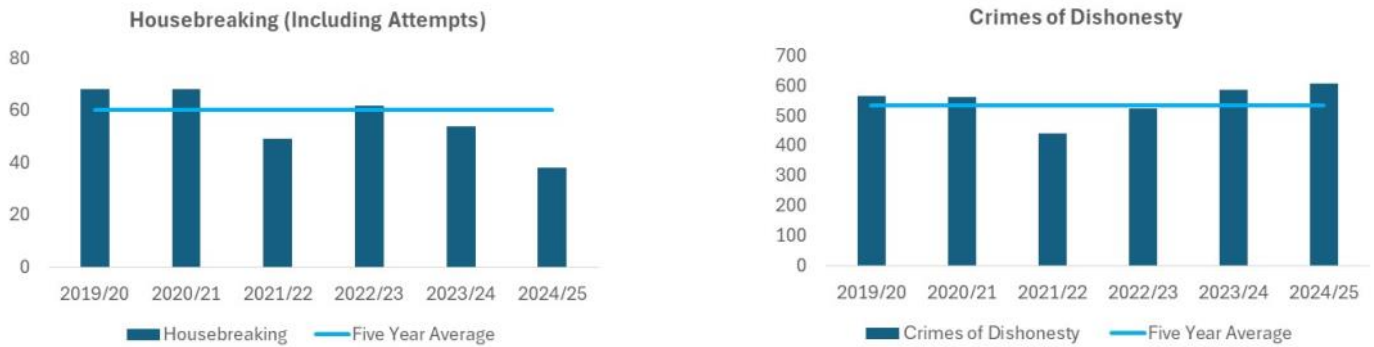
Domestic Abuse

Tackling domestic abuse remains a top priority for the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division. Although domestic abuse is widely considered under-reported, the police are committed to providing a professional, sensitive, and consistent response to victims. Caution should be exercised in comparing the number of domestic abuse which involved crimes being recorded, and the detection rate, due to a change in methodology and counting rules in the current reporting year arising from the introduction of new recording systems. With these caveats in mind, recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Inverclyde increased by 19.5% over the previous year, reaching a total of 365 incidents. MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination) and MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) continue to play critical roles in protecting victims, offering tailored support, and ensuring accountability among all stakeholders involved.

Drug-Related Deaths

One confirmed and eight suspected drug-related deaths occurred in Inverclyde during the reporting period, with toxicology results still awaited in relation to the latter. A range of substances are suspected of having contributed to these deaths, including cocaine, heroin, etizolam and ecstasy. We continue to collaborate with various partners to combat drug-related harm, including delivering educational programs in schools and taking proactive measures to address drug supply and distribution within the community.

ACQUISITIVE CRIME



Overall crimes of dishonesty increased by 3.6% on the previous year, with a total of 607 recorded crimes. This is consistent with the national picture, with a four percent increase noted in crimes of dishonesty across Scotland. A significant rise in theft by shoplifting (+55.2%) is the key driver in this rise, with an overall drop of over a quarter for other acquisitive crimes. For example, recorded fraud has fallen by nearly 31%, while crimes of housebreaking also dropping by almost 30%. The detection rate for crimes of dishonesty was 52.6%, considerably higher than the national rate of 34.3%.


Repeat offending remains a significant issue in shoplifting within Inverclyde, with just seven individuals responsible for 28% of recorded shoplifting crimes during the reporting period. Alcohol continues to be the most commonly stolen item, and efforts are underway to strengthen intelligence on the resale of stolen alcohol to address this problem. The Partnerships, Preventions, and Interventions Unit, alongside Community Policing officers, are actively engaging with local businesses to combat retail crime. Exclusion zones remain a key deterrent for prolific shoplifters, supported by the Radiolink system in Port Glasgow and Greenock. Officers have been collaborating with 'Retailers Against Crime' to enhance intelligence gathering and crime prevention strategies. Additionally, they have held information sessions at the Oak Mall and Tesco in Port Glasgow, providing advice on fraud, theft, and online safety during a Retail Crime Day of Engagement with the public.

CYBER & DIGITAL CRIME

Cyber-enabled crime continues to impact on the communities of Inverclyde. Crimes of fraud continue to be the most commonly reported cyber-enabled crime. We continue to raise awareness of online frauds through our many local collaborations and nationally with Cyber Scotland Partnership and the financial industry.

Sexual extortion crimes (usually perpetrated using various social media platforms), and a variety of other sexual offences including indecent communications, possession and distribution of indecent images of children and threatening and abusive communications offences constituted the majority of recorded cyber-enabled crimes. We engage nationally with partners to raise preventative awareness of online child sexual abuse and exploitation, partners include CEOP, Childline, Barnardo's, UK Safer Internet Centre, Lucy Faithful Foundation Scotland and the Internet Watch Foundation.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Road Traffic Casualties		2023/24	2024/25
	Number of persons killed on our roads	0	0
	Number of persons seriously injured	11	5
	Number of persons slightly injured	31	14
	Number of children seriously injured	0	0
Road Traffic Data from 01/04/2024 to 31/08/2024			



During the reporting period, Inverclyde recorded 14 road traffic casualties, representing a 54.8% decrease compared to the same period in 2023 (n=31). Notably, there were no recorded road fatalities, and the number of serious and slight injuries decreased by six and 11, respectively. As in the previous year, no children were seriously injured on Inverclyde’s roads during this period, reflecting a continued positive trend.

Meanwhile, 388 road traffic offences were recorded in Inverclyde in the reporting period, a decrease of 12.2% compared to the same period in 2023/24. This contrasts with a 4.5% increase observed at the national level. 82% of the recorded offences were detected as a result of proactive police activity.

The dedicated Road Policing Unit of Police Scotland’s Operational Support Division have assisted Police in Inverclyde in various road safety and road crime campaigns during the reporting period, including Child Safety Week and the National Seatbelt Campaign in June, the Summer Drink Drug Drive Campaign and National Mobile Phone Campaign in July, and the Motorcycle Safety Campaign and Child Safety - Return to School Campaign, both in August.

The West Safety Camera Unit (SCU) of Safety Cameras Scotland continues to offer support to Inverclyde Police across the local authority area. These locations are selected using a rigorous assessment of injury collision volumes, severity and causation. 545 speeding offences were recorded by SCU in Inverclyde during the reporting period. Officers will continue to coordinate and map our activity with RPU, partners and our communities.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE: COMPLAINTS & USER SATISFACTION

COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE POLICE

From 01/04/2024 - 30/06/2024

	TOTAL COMPLAINT CASES RECEIVED			TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED		
	YTD	PYTD	% Change	YTD	PYTD	% Change
Inverclyde Council	22	30	-26.7%	51	44	15.9%

In the first quarter of 2024/25, a total of 22 complaint cases and 51 allegations have been received in Inverclyde.

43 allegations were 'On Duty' with the majority involving allegations of irregularity in procedure. A further eight allegations related to quality of service.

Allegation Category and Type	YTD	PYTD	% change from PYTD
On Duty - TOTAL	43	29	48.3%
Assault	6	2	200.0%
Discriminatory Behaviour	1	0	x
Excessive Force	7	1	600.0%
Incivility	5	6	-16.7%
Irregularity in Procedure	19	17	11.8%
Neglect of Duty	0	1	-100.0%
Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	2	1	100.0%
Other - Criminal	0	1	-100.0%
Unlawful/Unnecessary Arrest or Detention	3	0	x
Quality Of Service - TOTAL	8	15	-46.7%
Policy/Procedure	4	3	33.3%
Service Delivery	1	3	-66.7%
Service Outcome	3	9	-66.7%
Grand Total	51	44	15.9%

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

From 01/04/2024 - 31/08/2024

82.9% of respondents to the 'Your Police' survey reported that they felt safe in their local area, compared to the national figure of 85.8%. 42% of respondents reported that their concern about crime had increased in the last 12 months, lower than the national proportion of 47.1%.

43.9% agreed, or strongly agreed that they had confidence in the Police in their local area, with 44.1% of respondents giving this response at the national level. 31% of Inverclyde respondents expressed the opinion that the police were doing a good job in the local area (nationally, 36.6% of respondents responded this way).

Analysis of responses to recent 'Your Police' survey responses identifies key themes of concern, including increasing antisocial behaviour, crime, and a perceived lack of visible policing in their communities. They report issues such as underage drinking, drug use, vandalism, and reckless driving, particularly involving motorbikes and electric scooters, which create an intimidating atmosphere, especially at night. Some members of the local community report that violence and knife crime, alongside disturbances caused by drug dealers and users, contribute to feelings of insecurity. Traffic-related concerns are also prominent, with complaints about speeding, dangerous driving, and unsafe parking practices, while noise pollution from motorbikes and gatherings has contributed to community frustrations. Some respondents perceived that a lack of youth resources contributes to the problem of youth-related crime and antisocial behaviour.

LOCAL POLICING PRIORITY OUTCOMES – CASE STUDIES

Car Seat Safety Event

Morrison's in Greenock hosted a car seat safety event led by the Preventions Team in partnership with the Good Egg initiative, aimed at promoting child safety on the roads. A large number of child car seats were inspected and adjusted for free, ensuring they were properly fitted. In addition, parents and carers received valuable guidance on best practices for keeping children safe in vehicles, helping to prevent potential road traffic injuries.

Water Safety

The Preventions Team facilitated a water safety event at Gourrock outdoor pool, working closely with colleagues from the Police Marine Unit. Partners from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and the Sea Cadets were in attendance, offering interactive demonstrations and advice on staying safe in and around water.

“It’ll Cost You” Campaign

The "It'll Cost You" campaign focused on raising awareness of the link between underage drinking and antisocial behaviour, crime, and violence within local communities. The campaign highlighted the negative impact alcohol can have on young people and the wider community, emphasizing the legal and social consequences of supplying alcohol to minors. By addressing these issues, the campaign aims to reduce alcohol-related harm and promote safer behaviour among Inverclyde's youth.

FORTHCOMING INITIATIVES

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness

The Preventions Team is actively supporting the “Talk a Good Game” sessions held at St Columba's School, which focus on suicide prevention and mental health awareness. These sessions aim to provide students with practical tools for managing their mental well-being, while also encouraging open discussions about suicide and removing the stigma around seeking help.

Sextortion Inputs

The Preventions Team has received strong backing from the Education Department and is now taking bookings for "sextortion" education sessions across Inverclyde's high schools. These sessions are tailored for senior pupils and aim to raise awareness about online safety, particularly around the risks of sexual extortion and the exploitation of personal images. The team will deliver these important lessons before the end of the year, equipping students with the knowledge to protect themselves from online predators and scams.

Financial Harm Inputs

The Preventions Team has also arranged bookings to deliver financial harm awareness presentations to local community groups. These sessions will provide critical information on protecting individuals, particularly vulnerable adults, from scams, fraud, and financial exploitation. By engaging with community members directly, the team hopes to strengthen the public's understanding of these risks and offer practical advice on safeguarding personal finances.