

A meeting of the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel will be held on Thursday 21 November 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 20 November 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.

LYNSEY BROWN
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 July 2024 to 30th September 2024**



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	5	0	1	19	1	1
Inverclyde East	4	0	1	12	1	2
Inverclyde East Central	1	0	0	7	0	7
Inverclyde North	4	1	5	9	1	11
Inverclyde South	2	0	1	2	0	15
Inverclyde South West	0	0	0	13	2	6
Inverclyde West	0	0	0	3	0	1

Total Incidents	16	1	8	65	5	43
Year on Year Change	● -6%	● -67%	◆ 14%	▲ 0%	◆ 67%	◆ 34%
3 Year Average Change	● -5%	▲ 0%	▲ -3%	● -15%	◆ 8%	● -18%

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



special
services



false
alarms



304
total number of
incidents



12
fire & non-fire
casualties

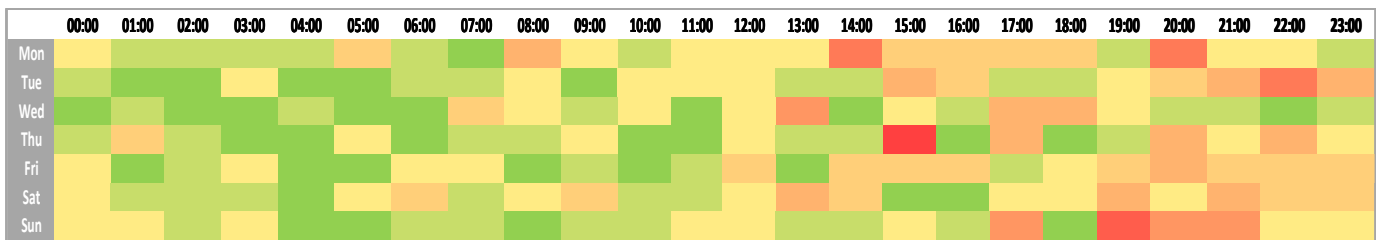


£84,710

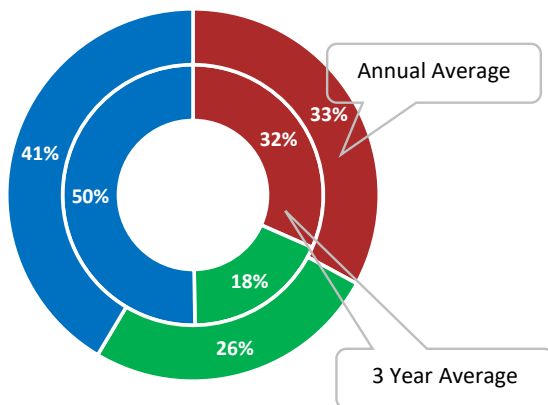
economic cost of
ufas incidents

*data above is year on year change

Activity by Time of Day

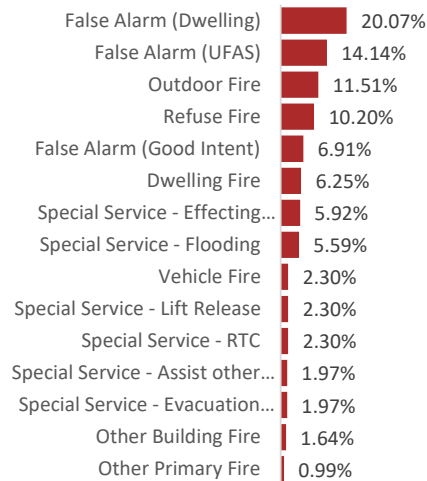


Incidents by Classification

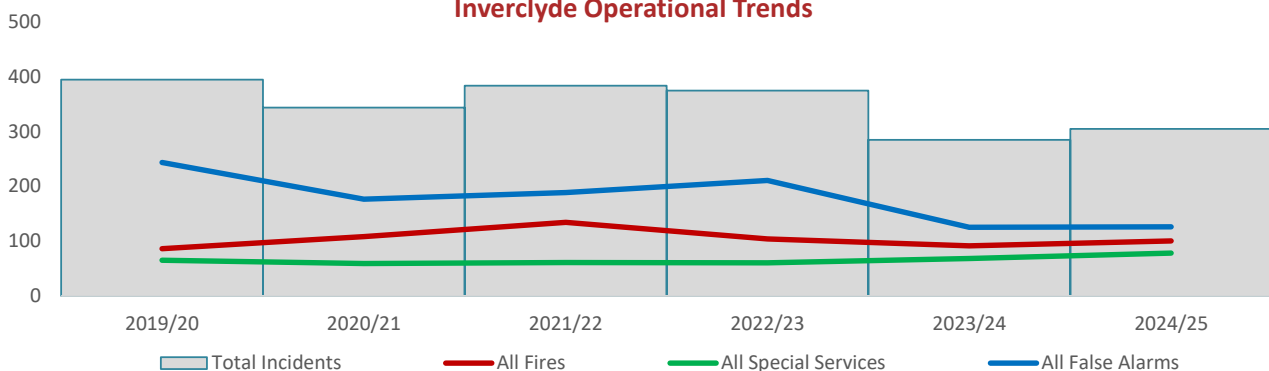


■ All Fires ■ All Special Services ■ All False Alarms

Top 15 Incidents Types by %



Inverclyde Operational Trends



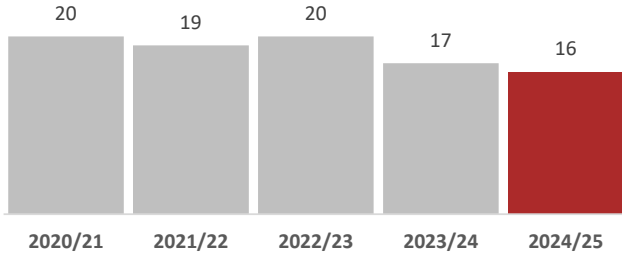
Domestic Safety - Accidental Dwelling Fires



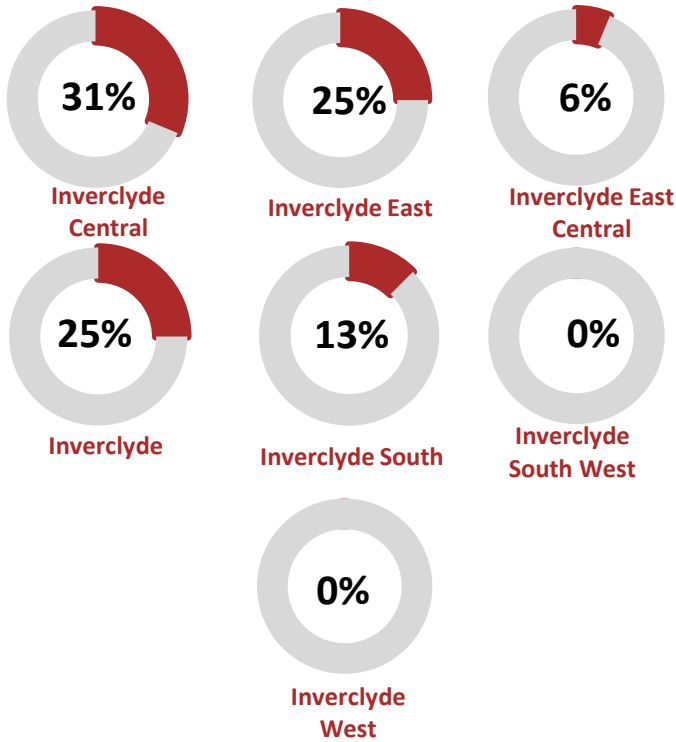
Performance Summary

Year on Year **-6%** 3 Year Average **-5%**

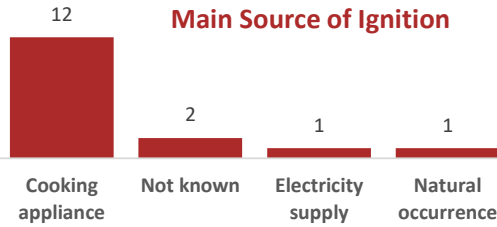
Accidental Dwelling Fires



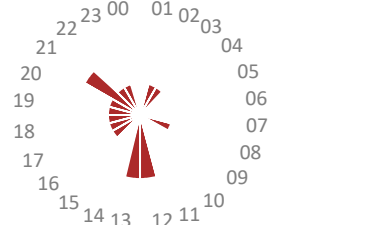
Accidental Dwelling Fires Activity by Ward (% share)



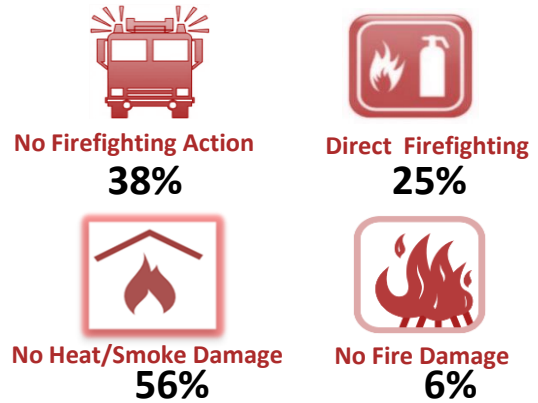
Main Source of Ignition



Accidental Dwelling Fires by Time of Day



Severity of Accidental Dwelling Fires



Human Factors



Automatic Detection & Actuation



It is pleasing to note a 6% reduction in the year on year indicator for accidental dwelling fires this quarter with a 5% reduction in the three year average indicator. The main source of ignition in these fires continues to be cooking appliances with distraction or alcohol/drug impairment having been a contributing factor in 50% of these incidents. In all of the accidental dwelling fires in Inverclyde over this quarter, detection was present and in 75% of those the detection actuated. A quarter of these incidents required some form of direct firefighting action.

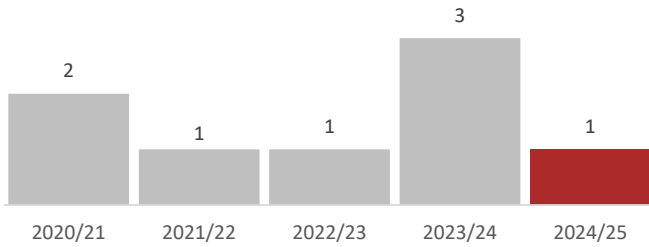
Domestic Safety - Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



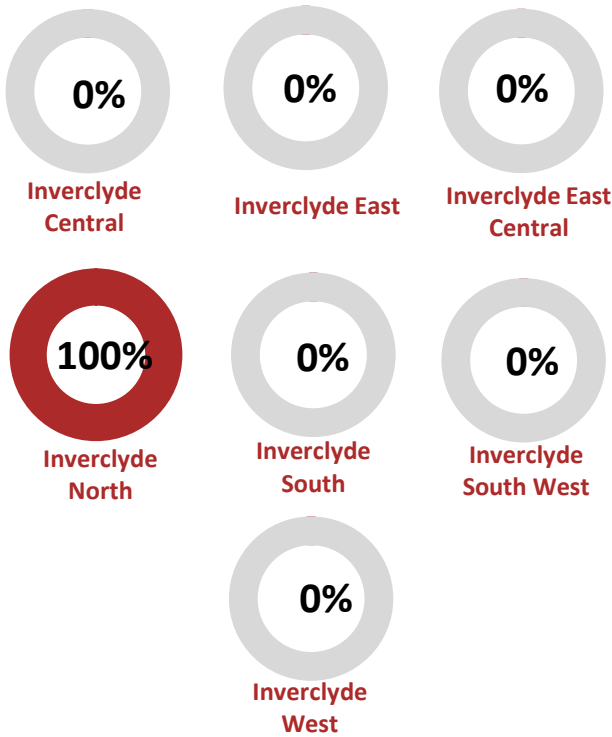
Performance Summary

Year on Year **-67%** 3 Year Average **0%**

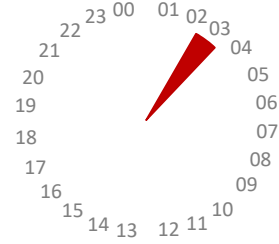
Accidental Dwelling Fires Casualties



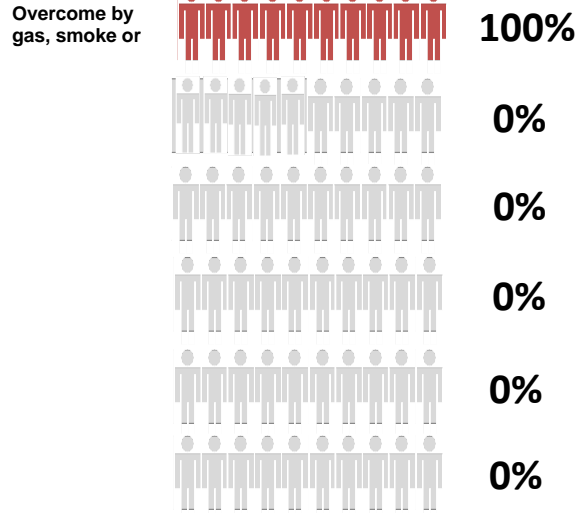
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties by Ward (% share)



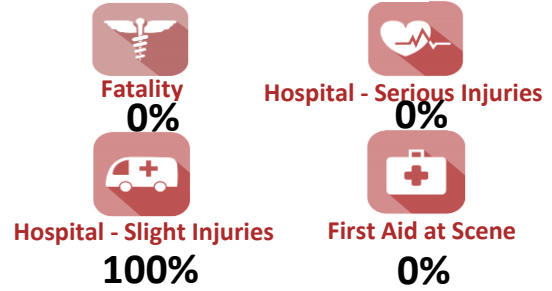
Fire Casualties by Time of Day



Nature of Injury



Extent of Harm

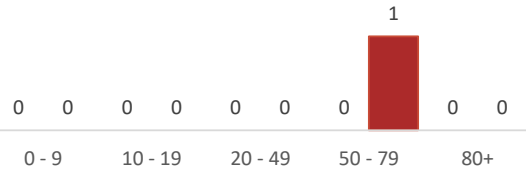


Male
0%

Age / Gender Profile



Female
100%



This quarter the year on year indicator for accidental dwelling fire casualties remains static, although the 3 year average indicator shows a 40% increase. The only accidental dwelling fire casualty this quarter was removed to hospital with slight injuries. The reduction in accidental dwelling fires and casualties is one of our local priorities and we continue to focus on domestic safety across Inverclyde, this is reflected in the fact that over this quarter we carried out 129 HFSVs, 46% of which were in high risk households and 36% resulted from Post Domestic Incident Responses carried out following incidents within dwellings.

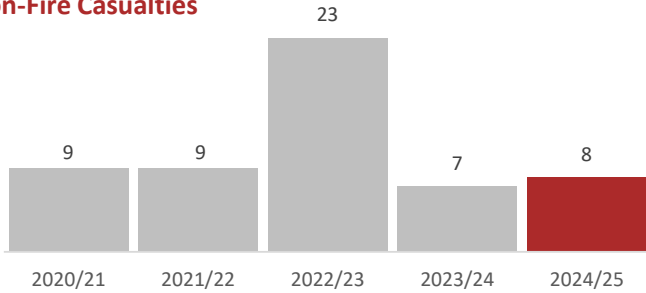
Unintentional Injury and Harm



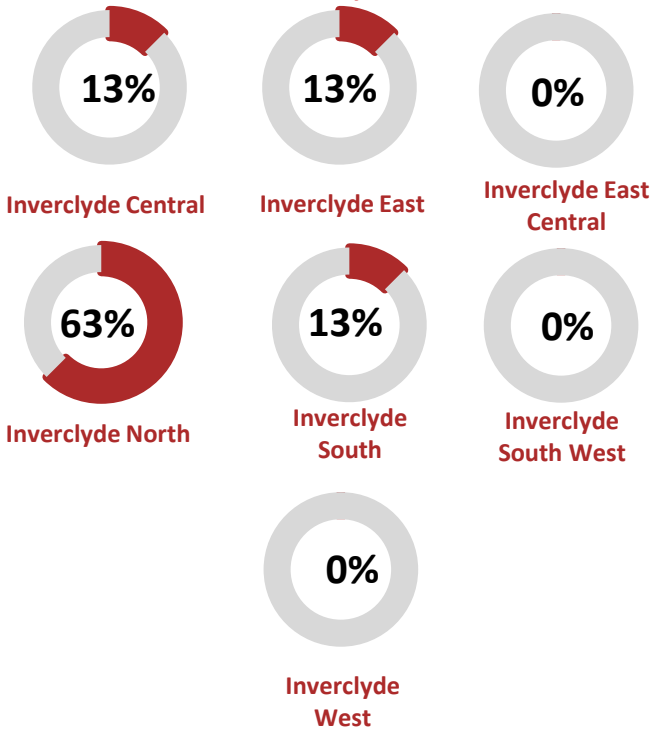
Performance Summary

Year on Year **14%** (upward arrow)
 3 Year Average **-3%** (downward arrow)

Non-Fire Casualties

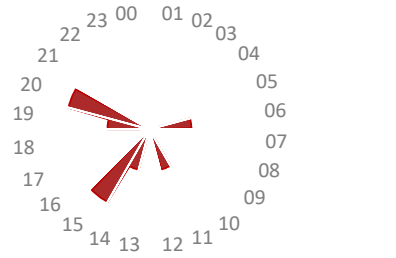


Non-Fire Casualties by Ward (% share)

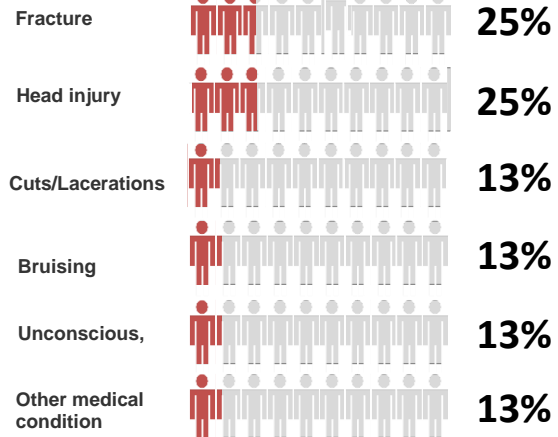


We have to report a 14% increase in the year on year indicator for unintentional injury and harm, although this equates to an actual increase of 1 compared to 2023/24. The overall trend continues downward with the 3 year average indicator showing a reduction of 3%. The increase in the year on year indicator is linked with the rise in the number of occasions in which SFRS are being mobilised to assist other agencies, this quarter 4 out of the 8 casualties were involved in this type of incident. The remaining 4 casualties resulted from road traffic collisions. SFRS remains committed to working in partnership to reduce RTC casualties, this includes delivering road safety input to young people within schools, youth groups and as part of our FireSkills programme. We also engage with the wider community in regard to providing an awareness of road safety.

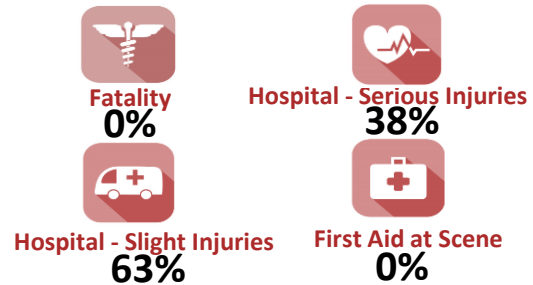
Non-Fire Casualties by Time of Day



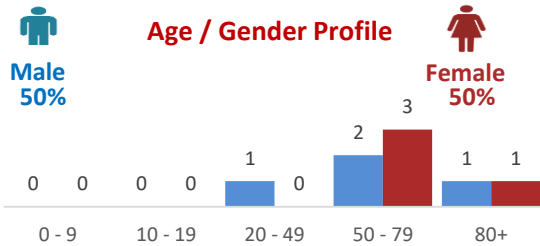
Nature of Injury



Extent of Harm



Non-Fire Emergency Activity



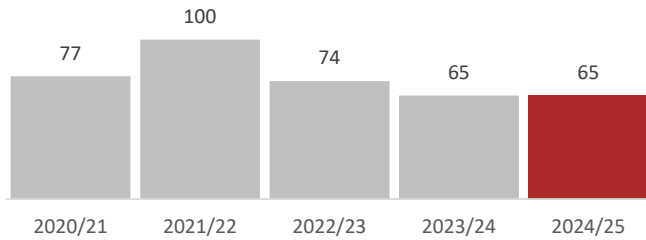
Deliberate Fire Setting



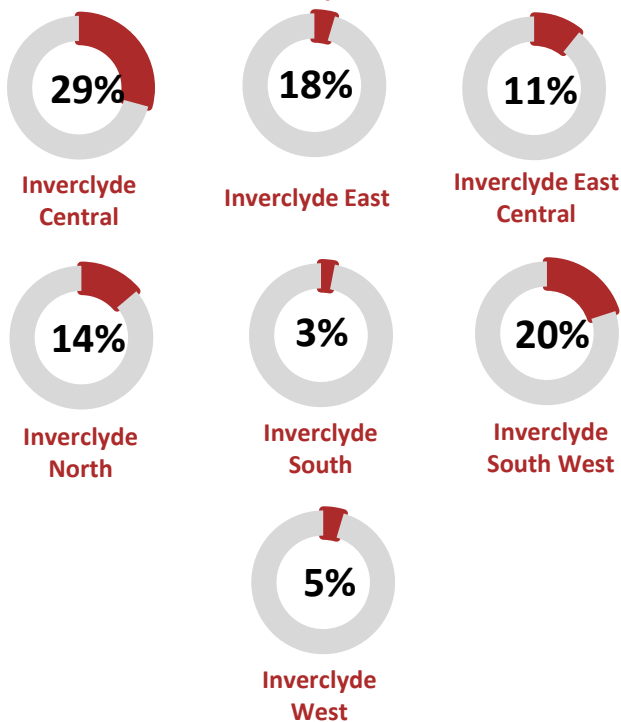
Performance Summary

Year on Year ▲ 0%
 3 Year Average ● -15%

Deliberate Fires



Deliberate Fires by Ward (% share)

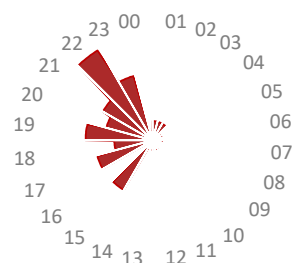


Definitions

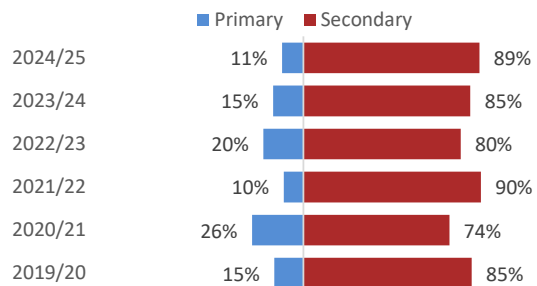
Primary Fires - all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances

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.

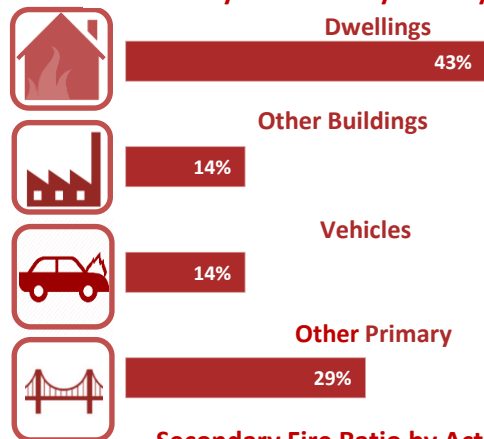
Deliberate Fires by Time of Day



Deliberate Fires by Classification



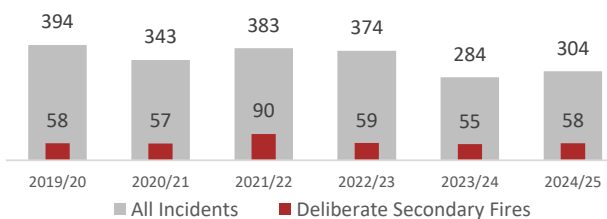
Primary Fire Ratio by Activity Type



Secondary Fire Ratio by Activity Type



Deliberate Fires Compared to Operational Activity



This quarter we can report that the year on year indicator for deliberate fires remains static, but there has been a 15% decrease in the three average indicator. Secondary fires continue to account for the majority of deliberate fires in Inverclyde with half of those being fires involving refuse. Of those primary fires which were deliberate in origin, 57% involved buildings this quarter. We continue to work closely with our partners alongside our ongoing community engagement activities in an effort to tackle the issue of deliberate fire setting.

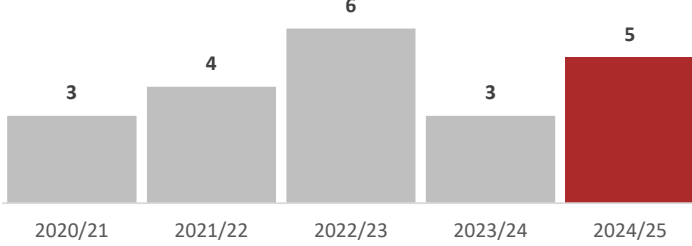
Non Domestic Fire Safety



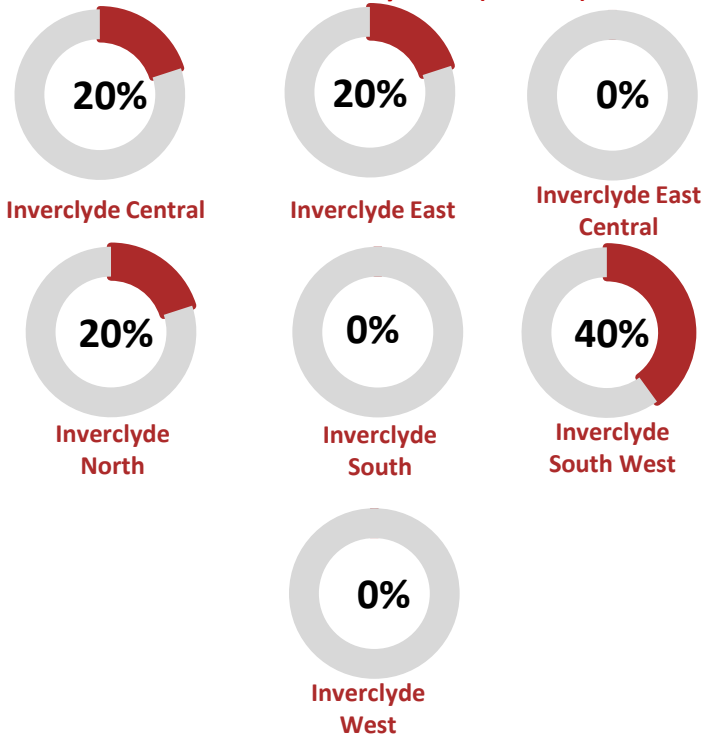
Performance Summary

Year on Year **67%** 3 Year Average **8%**

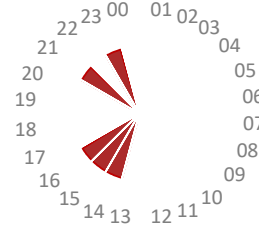
Non Domestic Fires



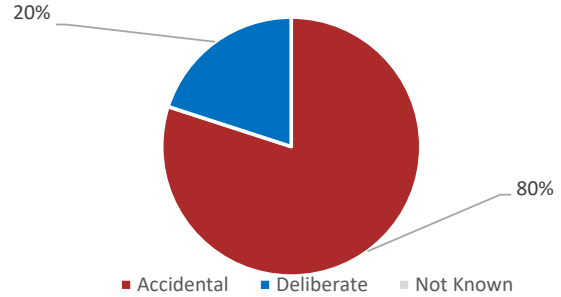
Non-Domestic Fires by Ward (% share)



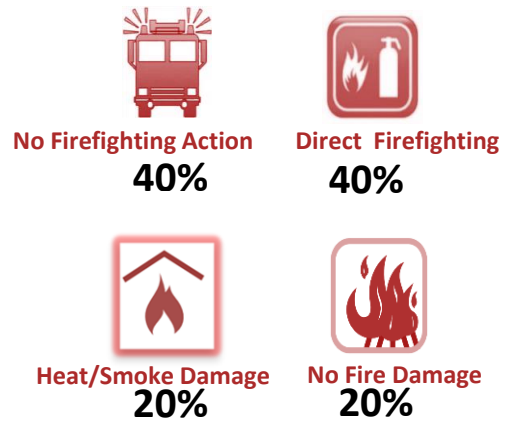
Non-Domestic Fires by Time of Day



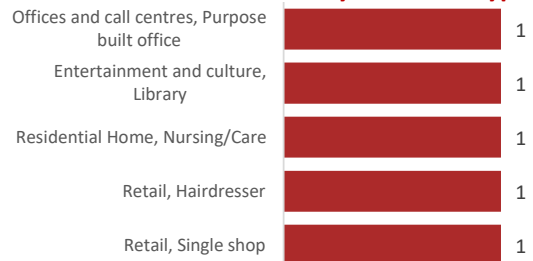
Non-Domestic Fires by Nature of Origin



Severity of Non-Domestic Fires



Non-Domestic Fires by Premises Type



It is disappointing that this quarter see us reporting 67% increase in the year on year indicator and an 8% increase in the 3 year average indicator in relation to non-domestic fires. The total number of incidents remains relatively low at 5, this is compared with 3 in 2023/24. The majority of these incidents were accidental in nature and all of the premises involved were subject to a post fire audit by our Fire Safety Enforcement Team, allowing SFRS to ensure that the responsible persons were legislatively compliant and also to provide advice and guidance on fire prevention.

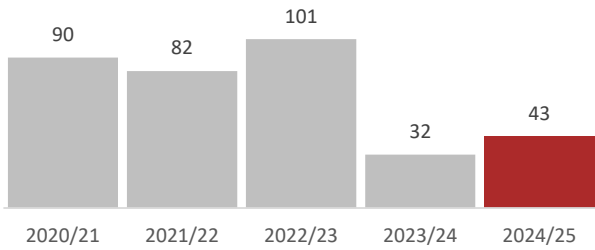
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



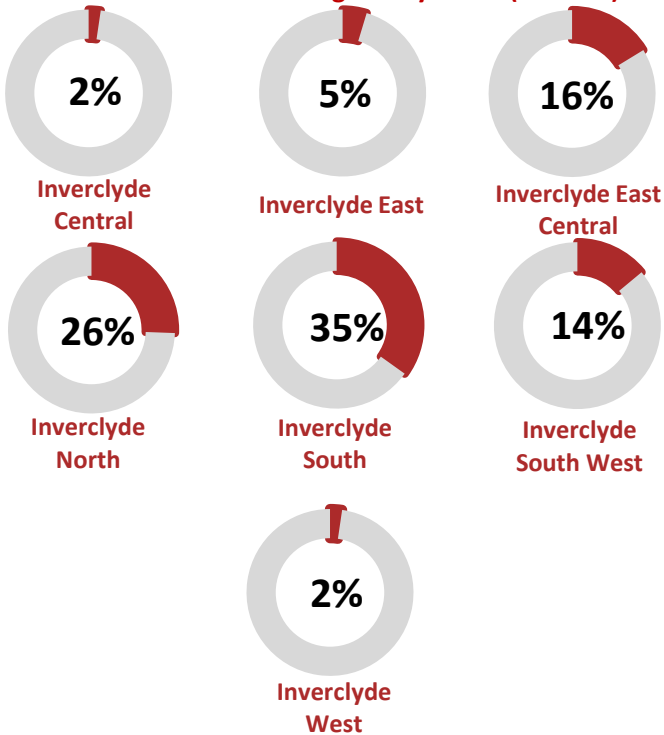
Performance Summary

Year on Year ◆ 34% 3 Year Average ● -18%

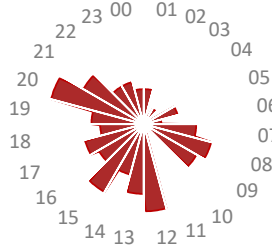
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



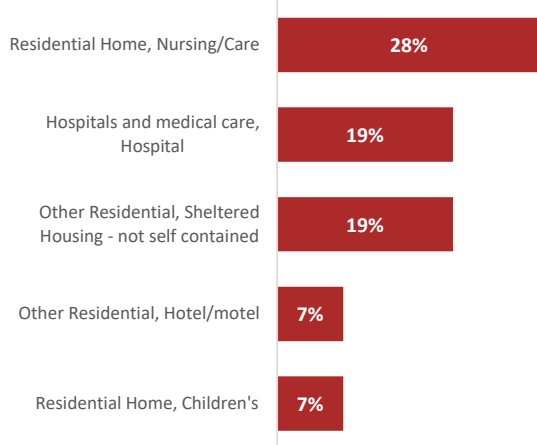
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals by Ward (% share)



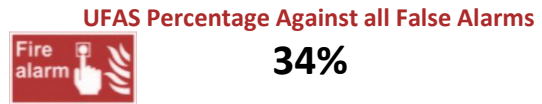
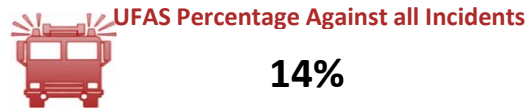
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals by Time of Day



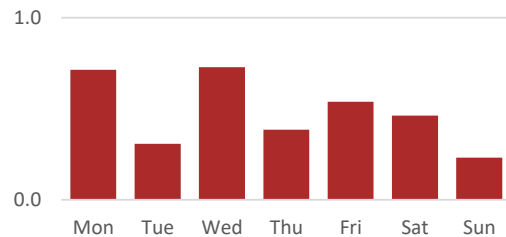
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals - Top 5 Premises



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Activity Ratios



Average Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals per Day














This quarter we have to report a 34% increase in the year on year indicator but an 18% reduction in the 3 year average indicator for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. The overall trend is a continuing reduction in UFAS incidents following our change to our UFAS Policy and Procedure. UFAS incidents accounted for 14% of all SFRS incidents across Inverclyde this quarter, with Nursing/Care Homes and Hospitals being the 2 main property types involved. SFRS continues to engage with duty holders in premises which are a source of UFAS incidents and with Alarm Receiving Centres to work together to keep reducing these and their associated financial, time and resource impacts.



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.

Incidents Recorded	Common Assault	Overall Dishonesty	Domestic Abuse Incidents
<p>-13%</p>  <p>7,723</p>	<p>+10%</p>  <p>308</p>	<p>+3.6%</p>  <p>607</p>	<p>+19.7%</p>  <p>365</p>
<p>Overall Violent Crime</p> <p>+7.3%</p>  <p>352</p>	<p>Sexual Crime</p> <p>-45.5%</p>  <p>36</p>	<p>Road Traffic Casualties</p> <p>-54.8%</p>  <p>14</p>	<p>Disorder Complaints</p> <p>-12.4%</p>  <p>902</p>
<p>Missing People</p> <p>+11.9%</p>  <p>113</p>	<p>Total Crime</p> <p>-5.8%</p>  <p>2,415 Crimes</p>		<p>Housebreaking</p> <p>-29.6%</p>  <p>38</p>



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

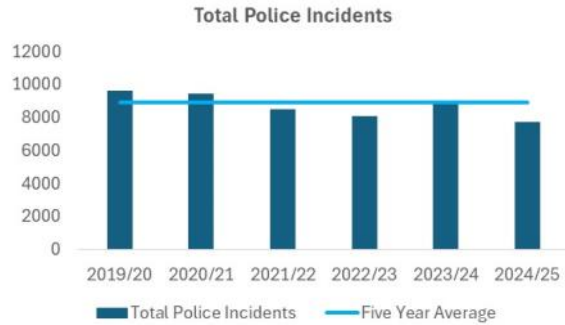
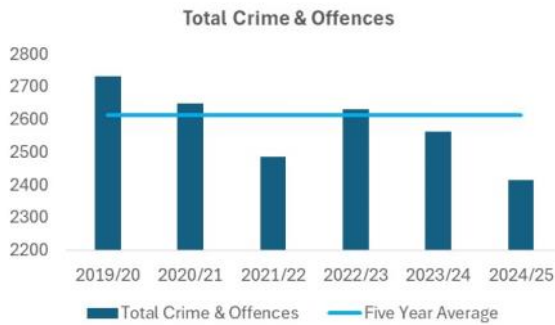
Inverclyde Police continue to link in closely with Police Scotland's Corporate Services who enable and support operational resources to deliver against the strategic priorities and their outcomes. As part of the Digitally-Enabled Policing Programme, migration to new national Core Operational Systems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



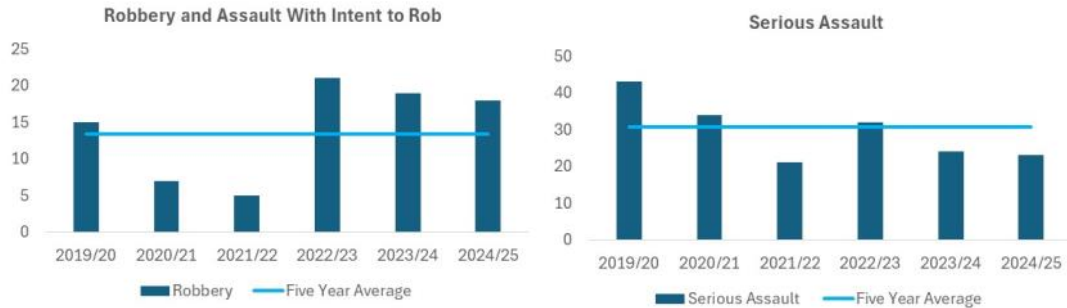
Crime and Offences

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.

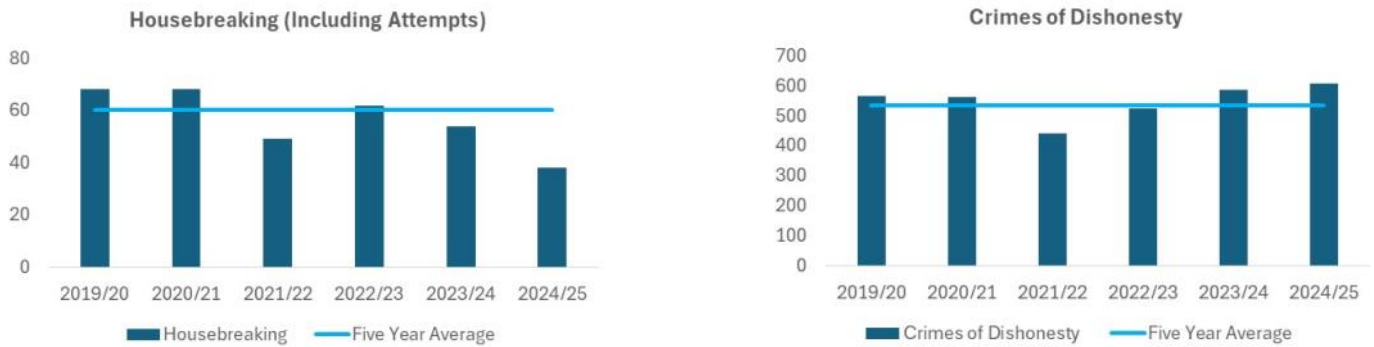
Domestic Abuse

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.

3.0 THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD

3.1 The meeting of SPA Board was held on the 26 September 2024

<https://www.spa.police.uk/what-we-do/governance-meetings/board-meeting/26-september-2024/>

and considered several updates, including: -

- Road safety campaign
- Take Five campaign
- Student safety
- Criminal justice reform
- Policing's role in mental health - mental health index

3.2 Road safety campaign

Police Scotland conducted a campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of speeding. The campaign featured a video highlighting the consequences of losing control due to excessive speed. The campaign's message was clear: speeding is a risk, and even a moment of inattention can lead to a fatal accident. Police Scotland emphasised their commitment to road safety and their ongoing efforts to educate and enforce road traffic laws.

3.3 Take Five campaign

Police Scotland is participating in the national Take Five campaign to raise awareness about financial fraud. The campaign emphasises the importance of "Stop, Challenge, Protect" when dealing with suspicious financial requests. As part of the campaign, the Cybercrime Harm Prevention team supported a physical space called the Stop Inn in Glasgow. The Stop Inn used mind-reading technology to demonstrate how taking a moment to focus can prevent falling victim to scams. Officers used this opportunity to engage with the public and reinforce the message of staying alert and cautious against potential fraud.

3.4 Student safety

Police Scotland is actively working to ensure the safety of students at universities and colleges across Scotland. Officers have been visiting campuses to provide crime prevention advice and information to students. This includes guidance on acquisitive crime, violence, domestic abuse, and other potential risks. Police Scotland is also using social media to share safety tips and engage with students. The goal is to help students stay safe and aware of potential threats during their studies.

3.5 Criminal justice reform

Chief Constable (CC) Jo Farrell highlighted the success of a pilot summary case management process aimed at improving the efficiency of the criminal justice system. The pilot, launched in 2022, has led to a significant reduction in summary trials requiring court dates. The decision has been made to expand this process to all courts in Scotland.

The Chief Constable emphasised the negative impact of criminal justice inefficiencies on Police Scotland's operations, overtime costs, and officer well-being. Over 500 officers are called to court daily, with many not required to give evidence. The associated overtime costs are significant, including those for officers on annual leave. CC Farrell expressed her satisfaction with the progress made through the summary case management process but stressed the need for further improvements and efficiencies throughout the entire criminal justice system.

3.6 Policing's role in mental health - mental health index

Police Scotland has established a mental health taskforce to improve the handling of mental health cases. A key development is the launch of a mental health index, designed to connect officers with appropriate mental health support quickly and efficiently. The index allows officers to consult with clinicians in their area to determine the best course of action when dealing with

individuals experiencing high-level distress. This can significantly reduce the time spent in emergency departments.

Examples have shown that the mental health index can be used effectively to resolve mental health concerns within a short timeframe, often over the phone. This can lead to significant savings in officer time compared to traditional approaches involving emergency department visits. The launch of the index is expected to provide a more consistent and efficient approach to mental health triage processes.

4.0 EMERGENCY SERVICES UNITE WITH NHS TO ENHANCE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

A partnership between NHS 24, Police Scotland, and the Scottish Ambulance Service has created the Mental Health Pathway to streamline mental health support in Scotland. Individuals seeking urgent mental health assistance can now contact the NHS 24 Mental Health Hub (111) 24/7. Non-emergency mental health calls to 999 are also referred to the Hub.

The pathway ensures patients receive appropriate care from mental health professionals, reducing the need for emergency services in non-emergency cases. This benefits patients, police, and ambulance staff. Police Scotland has reported that officer hours have been redirected to core policing, and 99% of officers feel confident making referrals through the pathway.

The Mental Health Pathway is seen as a valuable addition to existing mental health services, providing better outcomes for individuals and communities while improving efficiency and resource allocation.

5.0 HMICS – POLICE RESPONSE TO MISSING PERSONS

5.1 The HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) conducted an inspection to assess the police response to missing persons in Scotland. The inspection involved interviews, focus groups, and a review of police records and practices. The report highlights positive police practices but also offers recommendations to improve the response to missing persons and support for their families. The main recommendations for improvement are:

- Developing a mobile-friendly version of the national missing persons application.
- Strengthening partnerships with other organisations involved in missing persons cases.
- Improving communication with families and carers.
- Coordinating return discussions and safe and well checks.
- Regularly evaluating the effectiveness of missing persons operations.

These recommendations aim to improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of police operations concerning missing persons cases.

The report is available to view at <https://www.hmics.scot/publications/thematic-inspection-of-police-response-to-missing-persons-in-scotland/>

6.0 CONSULTATION ON HMICS SCRUTINY PLAN 2025-28

6.1 The HM Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) is conducting a consultation to gather input for its upcoming 3-year scrutiny plan. HMICS is seeking feedback from stakeholders, including communities served by Police Scotland and the SPA, on key issues impacting policing in Scotland. The goal is to identify areas that would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS and to inform the development of the 3-year plan.

The online questionnaire is available on the HMICS website [Help us to shape the future of policing in Scotland \(Page 1 of 3\)](#) . Closing date for the questionnaire is **29th November 2024**.

6.2 A draft response has been prepared in consultation with Inverclyde Elected Members, including the chair of Inverclyde Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel. This draft response is presented in Appendix 1 of this report.

7.0 VISIT TO SFRS OPERATIONS CONTROL ROOM

7.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue held an event for the Inverclyde Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel on Tuesday 10 September 2024, at the Operations Control Room in Johnstone. The focus of the event was to provide an overview of the control room which is the is first point of contact when you dial 999 to report an emergency. The event was attended by several members of the Panel and the service was thanked by the Convenor of the Panel for hosting the informative event.

8.0 200 YEARS OF SFRS CELEBRATION

8.1 The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) celebrated its 200th anniversary with a special event in Edinburgh on 23 October 2024. Founded in 1824, the SFRS was the world's first municipal fire service. To commemorate this milestone, the SFRS hosted a day of celebration that included a service at St Giles' Cathedral, a rededication of the James Braidwood statue, and a civic reception. While the service itself was closed to the public, there was be a public display of firefighters, fire appliances, and the SFRS Pipe Band in Parliament Square. The service was live streamed on YouTube.

9.0 FIREWORKS SAFETY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

9.1 The Scottish Government and the SFRS launched a Fireworks Safety campaign ahead of Bonfire Night. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the dangers of fireworks misuse and the rules for safe use. The campaign emphasises the importance of being considerate of others and the legal restrictions on firework use, especially for minors. The campaign provides resources such as a stakeholder toolkit and social media materials to help spread awareness and promote safety.

10.0 INVERCLYDE POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL LETTER TO POLICE SCOTLAND

10.1 At the 19 September meeting of this panel a request was made for the Chair of the panel to consider a response to the HMICS 'Frontline Focus – Wellbeing' inspection report, which recognises members support for the recommendations within the report aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of police personnel and a willingness to consider them within local political-decision making where applicable and appropriate.

10.2 Following consideration of this request, a letter was issued by the Chair of Inverclyde Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel on the 25 October 2024 to the Chief Constable and the Local Policing Commander for Renfrewshire and Inverclyde to express the views of the Panel on this matter. A copy of the letter is presented within Appendix 2 of this report.

11.0 IMPLICATIONS

11.1 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 (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

11.2 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					

11.3 Legal/Risk

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

11.4 Human Resources

There are no human resource implications contained within this report.

11.5 Strategic

There are no strategic implications contained within this report.

12.0 CONSULTATION

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

13.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 None

Appendix 1 – Draft response to HMICS Consultation on future scrutiny plan

1. Please tell us in your opinion where scrutiny from HMICS could add the most value and why?

Inverclyde Council believes that HMICS could add value by focusing on the following areas:

- **Drug Harm Reduction:** Substance misuse, particularly synthetic opioids, remains a significant public health issue in Inverclyde. The police play a key role in addressing the harms associated with drug use, including crime, disorder, and health risks. The planned HMICS thematic inspection on this area could evaluate the effectiveness of police strategies for reducing drug-related harm, such as partnerships with health services, harm reduction initiatives, and enforcement activities.
- **Community Policing and Public Trust:** Building trust between the police and the community is essential for effective local policing. Inverclyde Council places a high priority on community policing initiatives to address local concerns and improve public safety. An inspection could assess the quality of community policing in Scotland, including level of resource, visibility, responsiveness, and the effectiveness of community engagement programs.
- **Use of Technology in Policing:** The use of technology is increasingly important in modern policing. An inspection could evaluate the use of technology by Police Scotland, including body-worn cameras, crime analysis tools, and digital evidence management systems.
- **Protecting Vulnerable Groups:** Protecting vulnerable groups is a key aim for Inverclyde Council. An HMICS inspection could assess Police Scotland's strategies for safeguarding vulnerable individuals, including the identification of at-risk persons, prevention of exploitation, response to incidents of abuse, and the process of sharing that information with relevant local authority services. The planned inspections around Adult Support and Protection and Services for Children at Risk of Harm will certainly contribute towards this theme.
- **Violence Prevention (Including Gender-Based Violence):** Reducing violence, including gender-based violence, is an objective for Inverclyde Council. A multi-agency approach is essential for addressing violence prevention. Continuing HMICS inspections on themes such as Domestic Abuse could evaluate Police Scotland's role in preventing violence, including the investigation of violent crimes, enforcement of bail conditions, and support for victims of violence.
- **Information Sharing Practices:** Effective information sharing between Police Scotland, Inverclyde Council, and other relevant agencies is influential for addressing crime and community safety issues. An HMICS inspection could evaluate the quality of information sharing practices, including the timeliness, accuracy, and security of information exchange. There is also a need to consider the consistency of information sharing across the country as the process seems to vary by division.

2. Are there any significant new or emerging issues in policing that we should consider when we inspect policing in Scotland?

- **Cybercrime and Online Harms:** The rise in cybercrime, including online fraud, cyberbullying, child exploitation, and sextortion is a serious challenge for modern policing. Police Scotland's capacity to deal with digital crimes, as well as the adequacy of training and resources allocated to specialised cybercrime units, should be a key focus area
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** As policing increasingly uses AI, there are concerns about bias, fairness, and transparency in these technologies. Scrutiny should focus on how Police Scotland is integrating AI, ensuring it is used ethically, and evaluating its impact on public trust and decision-making processes.
- **Drug-related Crime and County Lines Activity:** The rise of county lines drug networks and practices such as cuckooing, where criminal groups exploit vulnerable individuals is an emerging issue in many parts of the UK and something we are aware of happening within Inverclyde. Policing efforts to tackle this exploitation and protect vulnerable individuals from being drawn into criminal activity could be scrutinised.
- **Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control:** While domestic abuse has been a long-standing issue, recent legislative changes around coercive control highlight the need for policing strategies that focus on more nuanced forms of abuse. The future planned inspections in this area should consider how Police Scotland is adapting to new laws and providing adequate training to officers on these issues.
- **Hate Crime and Racial Tensions:** As Scotland's diversity grows, so too has the potential for hate crimes. It will be important to assess Police Scotland's handling of hate crime reports, training, and community engagement to ensure effective response and build trust.

Our Ref: IC/PFSP/DW

Your Ref:

Date: 25/10/2024

Chief Constable Jo Farrell
Police Scotland
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Dear Chief Constable Farrell

Support for HMICS Recommendations

I am writing to you today as Convener of the Inverclyde Council Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel in response to the recent report published by the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) regarding the wellbeing of officers and staff within Police Scotland. We appreciate the thorough examination, and the valuable recommendations outlined in the report.

As a local authority, we recognise the critical importance of supporting our police service in delivering high-quality, effective, and responsive services to our communities. We want to reiterate our full support for the recommendations made by HMICS, particularly those aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of police personnel and advancing a culture of open communication and support within the organisation.

We understand that the wellbeing of officers and staff is paramount not only for their personal health but also for the overall effectiveness of policing in our area. Therefore, we commit to taking cognisance of these recommendations in our local political decision-making processes, where applicable and appropriate. We believe that by aligning our efforts with the HMICS recommendations, we can contribute to a more supportive environment for our police service, ultimately benefiting the communities we serve.

We look forward to collaborating with the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland to ensure that these recommendations are implemented effectively, and that the wellbeing of our police personnel remains a priority.

Thank you for your continued dedication to improving policing in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

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

CC: Chief Superintendent Gordon McCreadie