

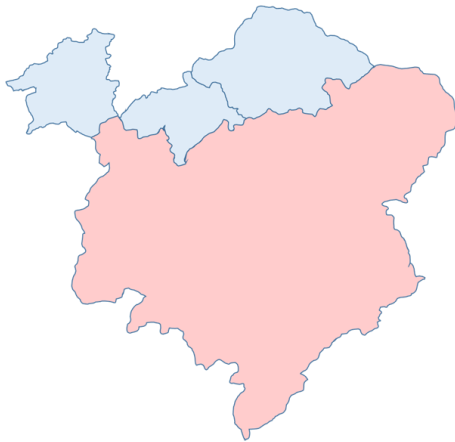
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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

### **Tweeddale East and West Community Councils Multi Member Ward Report for January 2024**



**The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Tweeddale East & West Multi Member Ward Policing Plan and the areas you have identified as priorities.**

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. Due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents and the management of crime enquiries, there is likely to be differences between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. It would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in this report as official statistics.

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## Community Sergeant Update – Tweeddale East & West – PS James Harrison



The image above shows the Street Pastors at a training day in Peebles. Street Pastors are trained volunteers from local churches who care about their local community. They have been active in Galashiels for a number of years now, usually patrolling late at night on a Friday or Saturday. They recently added Peebles to their list and we are pleased to support them going forward.

On a completely separate matter, this month I want to highlight the growing trend of frauds committed via social media, in particular two types of fraud called **Romance Scams** and **Sextortion**, with each seeming to have its own victim demographic.

A Romance scam is when you meet someone online through social media or a dating app. They express strong feelings for you after a few conversations, and seem genuine to try and gain your trust. They will try to enter a romantic relationship with you, but only communicate via messages (often with frequent spelling mistakes and poor grammar). After they have gained your trust they invent reasons to ask you for financial assistance, such as sending money to pay for a flight so they can visit you. The 'flight' will then be cancelled, and they will ask for more money to catch another flight. Sometimes they ask for money in other ways, such as Apple Vouchers. Needless to say the person in the images they sent is not the person you are having a conversation with, and they are trying to scam as much money as they can from you. The victim demographic for this tends to be middle aged or older persons.

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**Remember; be cautious of anyone who will not meet you in person, and don't send money to anyone you don't know. Only accept friend requests from people you know, and if in doubt get a second opinion.**

Sextortion is similar in that you meet someone online through social media or a dating app. They will also express strong feelings for you, seem genuine and gain your trust but will then go on to exchange explicit images of themselves, asking for the same in return. If you send an explicit image they will then use this to blackmail you for money, threatening to send the image to your contacts if you don't pay. The victim demographic for this tends to be young adults.

**The easiest way to prevent being a victim is not to send explicit pictures of yourself on social media.**

However, if you are a victim don't feel embarrassed! Stop all contact immediately, and if possible keep all communication. Report actual or attempted fraud to Police Scotland on 101, and if you have provided your account details contact your bank.

There is a romance fraud pdf flyer attached to this MMWR, please distribute widely.

The below link gives access to the latest Police document for the Scrutiny Panel for the Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board, which sits every quarter at Scottish Borders Council.

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s75749/Item%20No.%205%20a%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20Q4%20CI.pdf>

Once you click into this link, please scroll down to read the full report. It provides progress and updates on service matters from Police Scotland

## Local Policing Priorities

1. Protecting most vulnerable
2. Reducing violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing acquisitive crime
4. Improving road safety
5. Tackling serious and organised crime

## Protecting most vulnerable

*In January 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 204 mental health related calls, around 18 missing person enquiries and approximately 82 domestic related incidents.*

*Tweeddale East and West had 18 mental health related calls and 0 missing person enquiries. Due to GDPR and protection of victims/subjects involved, we are unable to share any more specific information in relation to these type of call within this report.*

*Police Scotland work in collaboration with key partners to assist the most vulnerable within the communities and to provide support.*



## **Reducing Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour**

### **Assaults**

24/01/24 – report of a male being assaulted in Eastgate, Peebles.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

11/01/24 – report of door being kicked at a property on High Street, Innerleithen.

13/01/24 – report of youths within Community Garden, Kingsmeadows Road, Peebles possibly causing damage. Officers attended and were no trace of the youths and no damage was found or has since been reported.

14/01/24 – report of loud music coming from a property in Old Town, Peebles. Officers attended and no noise could be heard.

16/01/24 – report of noise coming from a property in Walkerburn. No noise on arrival of officers.

18/01/24 – report of noise coming from property in Northgate, Peebles. No noise on arrival of officers.

18/01/24 – report of noise from a property in North Street, Peebles. No noise on arrival of officers.

21/01/24 – report of underage drinkers outside a property in Young Street, Peebles. As there were no descriptions and no further calls officers were not dispatched.

21/01/24 – report of noise coming from a property in North Street, Peebles. No noise on police arrival.

25/01/24 – A female has been reported for a Breach of the Peace after causing a disturbance in Leithen Road, Innerleithen.

26/01/24 – report of youths causing a nuisance at the Community Shed, Innerleithen.

28/01/24 – report of noise in Northgate, Peebles. No noise on officers attending but possibly linked to nearby licensed premises closing.

## **Vandalism**

On 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January a fence at a property in Leithen Mills, Innerleithen has been damaged.

07/01/24 – report of a window being damaged in Bridgegate, Peebles.

13/01/24 – report of a door being damaged at a property in Violet Bank, Peebles.

26/01/24 – report of light being damaged at a property in Buchan Place, Innerleithen.

29/01/24 – report of damage to a panel at the playpark in Victoria Park, Peebles.



## **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

### **Theft by Housebreaking**

09/01/24 – report of a vehicle being broken into at Burnside, Eddleston.

09/01/24 – report of a shed being broken into at a property in Glen Road, Peebles and two E-bikes being stolen.

27/01/24 – Between 23/01/24 and 28/01/24 a property in Springwell Brae, Broughton was broken into and items stolen.

### **Theft**

02/01/24 – report of items being stolen from Morrison's Daily, Old Town, Peebles.

07/01/24 – report of alcohol being stolen from Co-op, Innerleithen

10/01/24 – report of clothing being stolen from Trespass, Peebles

11/01/24 – report of a rucksack being stolen from a bus between Peebles and Edinburgh

12/01/24 – report of a handbag being stolen from an address in Old Town, Peebles

12/01/24 – report of cash being stolen from a premises in Northgate, Peebles

11/01/24 – report received that 7 Salvation Army Donations Bins across J Division had their padlocks broken and contents stolen.

- Between 0837 28/12/24 and 0947 05/01/24 Tesco, Peebles was broken into
- Between 0911 28/12/24 and 1058 05/01/24 Co-op, Innerleithen was broken into

19/01/24 – report of theft shoplifting from Sainsbury, Peebles

27/01/24 – report of theft shoplifting from Adam Purves, Glen Road, Peebles



## **Improving Road Safety**

### **Killed or Seriously Injured**

There have been no fatal or seriously injured road accidents during January

### **Road Traffic Offences**

04/01/24 – Road Policing officers seized a vehicle in Northgate, Peebles after it was found to have no insurance.

04/01/24 – a driver was issued with a fine and penalty points for careless driving on the A703

13/01/24 – a male was released on undertaking after committing various road traffic offences in Innerleithen Road and Northgate, Peebles

18/01/24 – a male has been reported to the PF after committing various road traffic offences in Walkerburn

20/01/24 – a male has been reported to the PF and their vehicle seized for road traffic offences including no insurance

27/01/24 – a driver who had no insurance was issued with a fine and penalty points by Road Policing officers in Peebles

28/01/24 – a driver was issued with a fine and penalty points for careless driving after colliding with a vehicle in Old Town, Peebles

## **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

### ***Serious and organised crime enforcement – January 2024***

*The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 5 Drug Warrants across the command area during January, four were positive and 4 persons were charged with drug related offences.*

*County lines nominals and rural acquisitive crime are still prevalent in some areas of the Scottish Borders and we are working closely with colleagues in England and local partners to detect and identify offenders in this area of criminality.*

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*Two warrants were also executed in conjunction with other departments in relation to serious crime inquiries.*

### *Cannabis Cultivations*

*Pro-active CID would again like to highlight that the local communities across the Borders may have information which they deem insignificant in relation to people being seen at disused large premises over a period of time.*

*Any suspicious activity will be followed up by this team but it is important that the public know they can report such matters in person at any Police Station, by use of 101 or anonymously via the Crime Stoppers charity.*

## Campaigns

### **Keep Safe Initiative**

Primarily aimed at disabled members of the community helping to tackle disability hate crime, Keep Safe is a national network of over 800 safe places (including shops, libraries, pubs etc.) for anyone who may feel lost, scared or vulnerable when out in the community. [About Keep Safe \(iammescotland.co.uk\)](http://iammescotland.co.uk)

All Scottish Borders Co-ops have signed up to the scheme with staff training, business packs and store signage being provided.

### **Divisional Domestic Abuse campaign**

Regular social media posts highlighting local (DAAS) and national helpline contact details and reporting mechanisms

Ongoing engagement with main local employers to share campaign messages, information in relation to local support services and charities and prevention messages targeting perpetrators directly.

### **Rural**

Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) the partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year.



- We continued to distribute free Selecta DNA forensic marking kits & signs and crime prevention advice to farmers and rural business. These can be requested by Farmers / Rural businesses using the [Contact Us Form](#) on the Police Scotland Website.



### No Cold Calling Zones

- A new Zone has been set up in Eddleston covering 120 Houses – Road signs and house-packs have been provided.
- Implementation work is ongoing with Bowden and Newtown St Boswells community councils for zones in these areas.
- Any community organisation wishing to refresh their zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or interested in setting up a new zone should contact their local community policing team <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>



**CAT Update:**

**ROAD SAFETY** – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Scottish Borders and have issued 7 traffic tickets for various offences throughout the month. Following concerns regarding antisocial driving at Tesco, Galashiels, and regular checks were carried out during the month in line with direct CAT taskings and 1 driver was reported for driving with no insurance. Throughout January numerous hi- vis speed and static road checks have been carried out at schools throughout the Scottish Borders at dropping off and picking up times.

**PARKING TICKETS** – Officers have been carrying out high visibility patrols in Peebles, Kelso, Eyemouth, Duns, Selkirk, Galashiels, and Hawick, and addressing parking concerns there. Advice has been given to drivers and 177 tickets have been issued. In early January a female was knocked over and injured by a person driving a vehicle that had been illegally parked in Peebles town centre. Over the following days the SBCAT targeted area for parking offences and issued a total of 64 tickets in the Peebles area. On multiple occasions the officers were approached by members of the public thanking them for their efforts. On 16/01/24 – during one shift 2 CAT officers issued 20 parking tickets in Eildon while completing other duties. Passing attention was given to Traquair Road, Innerleithen (no issues) The War Memorial in Coldstream (no issues) Galashiels Town Centre and Bridge Street in Kelso were also regularly checked by officers, which was also carried out as a result of requests made at the previous meeting. Following a report of illegally and poorly parked vehicles within Duns Industrial Estate Business owners and staff were spoken to and the parking regulations were explained to them. They all moved their vehicles to suitable places. Regular checks are being completed but no further parking issues have been identified.

**RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME** – We continue to carry out static road checks in rural areas at all times of day to deter and detect rural acquisitive crime. 34 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in January along with numerous hi-visibility patrols of rural areas. On 24/01/24 two officers conducted a patrol of Monynut on quadbike. Other regular patrols have been completed with nothing to report.

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted at these locations. 16 youth warning letters were issued during the month of January in relation to youths. On 6/1/24 following an enquiry a youth was traced and C/C'd for vandalising a shop window in Selkirk. On 24/1/24 following a report that youths had set a fire in Selkirk, officers attended and after confirming it was a small controlled fire their presence resulted in a male youth being identified and his parents having to be spoken to.

**PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE** – Part of the SBCAT role is to trace persons wanted on warrant/missing person/and bail curfew checks. SBCAT have carried out regular checks on multiple individuals who are wanted on warrant. During the past month a total of 11 people were arrested on warrant. This includes 2 high priority warrants whereby the 2 individuals were remanded at court the following Monday due to the risks they posed to the public. On 12/1/24 officers reported a male for warrant after he was found to be in breach of his curfew. On 12/01/24 – CAT officers observed two people wanted on high priority warrants. They ran off from the officers but following a foot chase they were both arrested. Due to the risk they posed to the public they were both remanded at court

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT** – SBCAT officers have taken part in 1 drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders. On 13/1/24- CAT officers carried out a drug search on a male found in a car in the Selkirk area. He subsequently failed a roadside drug wipe and was arrested (enquiries ongoing). On 17/1/24- CAT officers executed an MDA warrant in Peebles which resulted in the recovery of a

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personal amount of cannabis and a male being charged and reported. (approx. 22g est value, £330.00)

**OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE-** On 11/1/24- CAT officers arrested a person in relation to a reported Fraud. Following interview they were charged with Fraud and reported to the PF. On 18/01/24 - Following an invite from a young pupil of Drumlanrig Primary School in Hawick CAT officers attended at the school. They explained the role of the police and the actions that young children can do to help their community.



### [Feedback from a meeting/contacting your Community Policing Team](#)

Anyone with information relating to any criminal activity can contact Police Scotland by dialling 101 or alternatively anonymously by calling

**CRIMESTOPPERS** on **0800 555111**.

Should the Community Council wish to discuss any matters highlighted in the report, please contact:

[TweeddaleEastCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TweeddaleEastCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

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We will endeavour to provide you with this information, however some information is sensitive and as an organisation we have to ensure compliance with GDPR.