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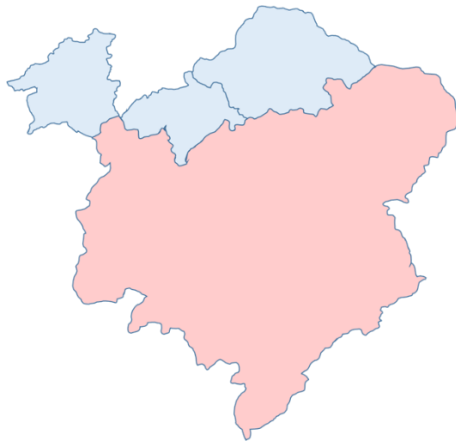


## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Hawick and Hermitage Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for FEBRUARY 2024

(1<sup>st</sup> – 29th FEBRUARY 2024)



**The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Hawick and Hermitage 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 Policing News – Hawick & Hermitage – PS Ali Granger**

There were 8 calls to Newcastleton in February, including a housebreaking with intent at the bowling club (see below), concern for persons and road traffic matters

We are aware of several instances of vandalism in the form of graffiti tags taking place around Hawick and the Community Action Team are currently investigating these. We ask the local community to help with our enquiries and contact us with any information they may have about who is responsible using the methods detailed below.

PC Trochimiak (PC Ula) and PC Mortimer were busy throughout February engaging with youngsters at Escape youth club, No 8 Youth Club at Newcastleton and Burnfoot Community School in the February half term. They took part in pancake making, playing games and pool, which helps build positive relationships and encourages youngsters as responsible members of our community. We are aware of the issues at Morrisons Supermarket as detailed below, and local officers are working to tackle the increase of incidents at this location (see CAT update below).

On a positive note there were very few reported incidents of theft and theft by shoplifting in Hawick over February as you will see from below. This is a noticeable drop from incidents reported in recent months.

As part of our planned intensification week between 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March regarding County Lines, below is a short insight into what it is and signs to help recognise it. There is a hyperlink below should you wish any further information. We strongly encourage all community representatives to be aware of County lines and how to report concerns.

### What is County lines?

A model of criminal exploitation whereby gangs and organised criminal networks coordinate the supply of illegal drugs, often using vulnerable adults and children. The model of exploiting young people has extended into Scotland - persons are exploited through use of threats, violence and grooming to supply and move drugs across the UK.

### What is Cuckooing?

Act of taking over a person's home often by exploitation, intimidation or violence. The home then becomes a safe-house to deal drugs and gives the crime group a local base for a number of weeks, before they move onto the next house, which is a tactic to evade Police. Victims are targeted due to disability, mental health and substance use. Victims may initially be paid, given substance or may also be threatened, intimidated, assaulted or blackmailed.

### Signs of Cuckooing

Unknown persons in area/address, increase in reports of violence, antisocial behaviour usual occupant no longer at address or is less visible. Increase in drug dealing activity at the address, visitors/vehicles, and drugs paraphernalia. Occupant appears anxious or distressed. Bags of clothing or bedding around their property. Barricades within the address, including weapons.

### Responding to concerns

Report concerns via 999 if someone is in immediate danger. Share less immediate concerns and information via 101 or via Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111 or [Giving information anonymously | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#) Alternatively drop into the police station or speak with your local officers.

[Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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.

[Item No. 5 a - Scottish Borders Scrutiny April - Sept.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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 and also contains an input from Local Area Commander, Chief Inspector Stuart Fletcher.

## Local Policing Priorities

1. Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical & Digital World
2. Reducing Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing Acquisitive Crime
4. Tackling serious and organised crime
5. Improving Road Safety

## Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical & Digital World



*In February 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 181 mental health related calls, around 23 missing person enquiries and approximately 73 domestic related incidents.*

*Hawick and Hermitage area had 28 mental health related calls and 2 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 Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

### Assault

On 10/02/2024 report of an assault at Morrison's, the victim had been punched to the chest by a youth who ran off with 3 others. Enquiries continuing.

On 21/02/2024 report of an assault at a property on Fisher Avenue, Police attended and spoke to the victim who had no injuries. A RPW was issued to the suspect and relevant paperwork submitted.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

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On 01/02/2024 report of a person banging on a door of a property in Drumlanrig Place in the early hours, Police attended and spoke to the occupant and established no criminality. Paperwork submitted.

On 02/02/2024 report of a disturbance at Drumlanrig Place. 2 persons arrested for assault, relevant paperwork submitted.

On 02/02/2024 report of a male carrying a knife at Howegate. Accused charged with possession of bladed article in public and possession of an offensive weapon in public and held in custody for court. Reports submitted

On 02/02/2024 report of an unwanted male chapping on window at premises at Oliver Crescent. Male traced and moved on, no criminality.

On 03/02/2024 report of youths causing nuisance at Morrisons, Mart Street. Insufficient resources available to attend, no criminality, advice given by call handler.

On 11/02/2024 report that a group of youths refused to leave B&M Bargains store, when Police attended youths could not be traced. No criminality.

On 12/02/2024 report of a disturbance at Howegate. Male arrested due to his behaviour, relevant paperwork submitted.

On 13/02/2024 report of youths smashing bottles at Morrisons, Mart Street. Caller was spoken to, no damage to any other property and suitable advice given.

On 15/02/2024 report of a group youths ringing the staff outer bell at Morrisons, Mart Street, these youth have been banned from the store, Police attended and give suitable advice, no criminality.

On 16/02/2024 report of youths causing a nuisance at Morrisons, Mart Street, Police attended, the youths had dispersed prior to arrival, no criminality.

On 17/02/2024 report of youths causing a nuisance at Morrisons, Mart Street, Police attended, the several youths moved on, details noted for further enquiries.

On 17/02/2024 reports that a male was being abusive to staff in The Stags Head, Police attended and attempted to move him on. He continued to be abusive and was arrested and conveyed to Hawick Police station, later released and reported for summons. Report submitted.

On 22/02/2024 report of youths causing nuisance at Morrisons, Mart Street, Police attended and spoke with the security guard regarding the ongoing issues and provided advice.

On 24/02/2024 report of youths causing nuisance at Morrisons, Mart Street, Police attend at this time the youths had left. CCTV was viewed and 1 of the group was identified. Officers attended their home address and was charged and cautioned in company of their parents.

On 28/02/2024 report of a known shoplifter at Morrisons, Mart Street causing a disturbance after being asked to leave the store. Police attended and noted details, no crime.

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### **Vandalism/Vehicle Crim**

On 02/02/2024 report of a deliberate attempt to melt padlock on toilet at Whitrope Siding. Enquiries ongoing

On 05/02/2024 report of graffiti being sprayed on the walls of the new flood defence walls near to the High School. Necessary paperwork submitted. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 11/02/2024 report that a window had been smashed at a property on Allars Crescent, Police attended, Necessary paperwork submitted.

On 22/02/2024 report that a property on Renwick Terrace had a window smashed. Police later traced the suspect who was arrested and released with conditions, paperwork submitted.



## **Tackling Acquisitive Crime**

### **Theft by Housebreaking**

On 20/02/24 report of Housebreaking with Intent at Newcastleton Bowling Club. CID are investigating with positive lines of enquiry.

On 20/02/2024 report of Housebreaking with intent to Ramsey Road. No damage to property and nothing stolen. Enquiries on-going.

### **Theft**

On 05/02/2024 report of theft of mobile phone. Informant has not engaged with Police since the initial call, ethical CR raised. Enquiries on-going.

### **Robbery**

**No reports in February**



## **Improving Road Safety**

On 17/02/2024 during the early morning report that a male had left a licenced premises and drove off, officers traced the vehicle, the driver was arrested for drink driving and is due to appear at Jedburgh Sheriff court.

On 17/02/2024 whilst officers were on patrol observed a vehicle make off at speed and driving erratic. Officers stopped the vehicle and issued the drive with ASBO.

Road Policing conducted hand held speed enforcement on the A7 at Ashkirk which resulted in 7 warnings being issued.

### **Killed or Seriously Injured**

No accidents where persons were killed or seriously injured.



## Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

### Serious and organised crime enforcement – February 2024

*The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 2 Drug Warrants across the command area during February, both were positive and 2 persons were charged with drug related offences. This included another large / industrial scale Cannabis cultivation which had a potential street value of £500,000.*

*They would also 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

### Fuel Theft

It's important to put measures in place to protect your fuel tank and make it extremely difficult for thieves to target your fuel.

Locate in safe location many thieves use Google Maps to find satellite images of fuel tanks.

Consider locating your tank behind a garage or shed away from roads or in clear view of your home or business. Locate inside a security gate or cage a good quality, robust fence or cage will help make life difficult for thieves. Install an alarm. Fit a fuel theft lock. Install outdoor security lighting. Low energy dusk till dawn lights are a low-cost option to protect your expensive fuels and oils. Install CCTV. Put up signage to highlight the security measures you've installed.

### Scams

Victims of Phone / Internet / Doorstep Scams continue to be provided with an incident follow-up information pack containing advice intended to prevent repeat victimisation. This pack now includes a copy of the latest "Little Book of Big Scams" which covers a huge variety of common scams. [Little Book of Big Scams – Cyber Scotland](#)

### 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 \(iammescotland.co.uk\)](#)

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

### No Cold Calling Zones

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- Any community organisation interested in setting up a new zone or wishing to refresh an existing zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or 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 11 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.

Throughout February 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.

On 10/02/24 officers on mobile patrol found a crashed vehicle in Hawick. Following enquiries, a male was arrested and later charged with driving whilst under the influence of alcohol along with other offences. No one was injured. A second male was charged with taking the vehicle without permission of the owner.

On 28/02/24 officers SBCAT took part in Operation Checkpoint which is a Multi force Operation targeting travelling criminals operating between counties in the North of England and Scotland. SBCAT conducted road checks on the A68, A7 and A1 targeting vehicles coming into Scotland from England. About 70 vehicles were stopped, 12 drivers were warned regarding minor offences for lights and tyres and one was issued a ticket for no MOT. A driver of an HGV was stopped and searched due to the smell of cannabis. He was found to be in possession of cannabis and under the influence of drugs. He was arrested and blood samples have been sent away for analysis prior to prosecution.

**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 131 tickets have been issued.

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 along with Duns Industrial Estate (no issues).

We've also received new complaints of cars parking in ambulance spaces outside the 2 of the health centres in Hawick. We have spoken with the staff in the nearby businesses and reminded them of the parking restrictions. Regular checks are being made and parking tickets have been issued.

**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. 21 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in this month along with numerous hi-visibility patrols of rural areas.

On 18/02/24 Officers on quadbikes at Monynut found a male in a van. It was strongly suspected the male had transported off road bikes to Monynut and friends of his were out on the bikes. The male was issued a ticket for an unrelated offence and left Monynut

Several other quad bike and vehicle patrols were completed on weekends with nothing to report.

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**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted at these locations.

3 youth warning letters were issued during the month of February in relation to youths.

Extra patrols have been completed in the areas identified in the tasking as well as Burnfoot in Hawick due to ongoing issues with youths at the Primary School. They have also been doing foot patrols outside Jedburgh Sheriff Court on court days due to several altercations that have occurred between people attending court.

On the evening of Saturday 17/2/24 – The Specials Initiative Team (SIT) which is a team of 6 Special Constables joined the SBCAT for patrols in Hawick. The first couple of hours was spent dealing with youths committing ASB at Morrisons. They completed detailed checks at 3 licensed premises, using plain clothes officers. 2 traffic tickets were issued and several drivers were given warnings. The public noticed the extra officers and were keen to engage. The team received a lot of positive feedback. CI Fletcher is arranging for the SIT to return and work with the SBCAT in other parts of the Borders.

On 23/2/24 whilst SBCAT officers were on foot patrol in Galashiels they carried out a drug search of a male. Although this search was negative subsequent enquiries established that he had committed a shoplifting nearby. As a result he was arrested, charged and reported for theft.

On 24/2/24- Following a report of anti-social behaviour at Morrison's, Hawick. Officers attended where it was established that a 12-year-old girl had spat at a member of staff and also thrown a cardboard sign at another. Subsequent enquiries identified the girl and she was thereafter traced and charged with 2 x Assaults and threatening and abusive behaviour.

On 24/2/24- During patrol in Newton St Boswells, two female youths had alcohol seized from them. Youth warning letters issued.

**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 10 people were arrested on warrant.

On 06/02/24 – After 3 weeks of checks for a priority warrant CAT officers found the suspect hiding in bathroom. The suspect was also found to be in possession of multiple different types of controlled drugs.

On 20/02/24 – CAT officers arrested a male wanted on a high priority warrant.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT** – SBCAT officers have taken part in 1 drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders.

On 1/2/24- CAT officers executed an MDA warrant in Galashiels which resulted in the recovery of a personal amount of cannabis and over £1,000 in cash being seized. Enquiries are ongoing (approx. 36g, value £550.00)



## **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:

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

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.