

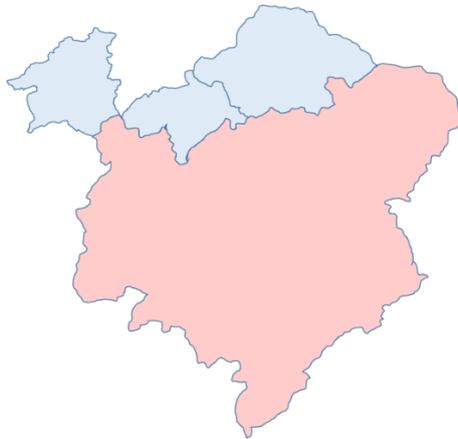
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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Hawick and Hermitage Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for MARCH 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 9 calls to Newcastleton this month regarding road traffic issues, concern for persons calls, loud noise and one assault. PC Patterson has been patrolling the village regularly, contacting community representatives and following up on speeding complaints.

It was also highlighted this month that there has been a significant amount of parking tickets issued in the Hawick area over the past financial year, 427 tickets in the Hawick town south beat area alone. This is a result of a joint effort by both the Community Action Team and the Community Policing Team. The majority of the parking tickets were issued in Hawick High Street and surrounding streets.

### Livestock Worrying



A Police Scotland campaign is running throughout March with aim of ensuring dog owners understand the distressing nature of livestock attacks, as well as emotional and financial impacts.

NFU Scotland have stated that from their data, figures show that dog attacks on sheep and cattle in Scotland quadrupled in in the last two years and are running at an all-time high – costing Scottish agriculture over £300,000 a year.

Scottish Borders Police are working with partners to enhance intelligence, prevention and enforcement activity through SBPARC (Scottish Borders Partners Against Rural Crime).

The following advice is given to all dog owners -

- 1 Don't take your dog into fields where there are lambs, calves or other young farm animals.
- 2 If you go into a field with farm animals, keep your dog on a short lead and stay as far away from animals as possible.
- 3 Keep your dog under control at all times and don't allow it to venture into fields unattended.

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If you have concerns about a dog not being under control please call 101 for non emergencies and in an emergency call 999. More information can be found at [Livestock worrying - Police Scotland](#)

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 \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

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 violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing acquisitive crime
4. Improving road safety
5. Tackling serious and organised crime

## Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical & Digital World



*In March 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 215 mental health related calls, around 23 missing person enquiries and approximately 85 domestic related incidents.*

*Hawick and Hermitage area had 10 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

### Assault

On 16/03/2024 report of a female being assaulted on Crumhaugh Road, Officers attended and located the suspect who was arrested and held in custody and due to appear in court.

On 21/03/2024 report of a male being assaulted at a property on Trinity Street. Enquiries ongoing.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

On 11/03/2024 reports of a group of youths causing a nuisance at Morrison's, Mart Street. Officers attended and identified all the youths who were spoken to, details obtained for further enquiry.

On 12/03/2024 reports of a group of youths causing a nuisance at Morrison's, Mart Street. Officers unable to attend as dealing with other incidents.

On 16/03/2024 report of a disturbance in Wellogate Place, no criminality established.

On 21/03/2024 report that unknown persons were kicking the front door at a property on Trinity street. No complaints made and no damage.

On 24/03/2024 while officers were on patrol in Oliver Place observed a male urinating in a doorway. The male cautioned and charged and issued a fixed penalty notice.

On 27 and 29/03/2024 report of loud music from a property in Newcastleton. Advice given.

### **Vandalism/Vehicle Crime**

On 02/03/2024 report that a vehicle parked on Moat Crescent had been vandalised. Crime report submitted, Enquiries ongoing.

On 09/03/2024 report that over the past few weeks the occupier of a property on The Loan has been targeted by youths damaging a Motability scooter. Crime report submitted, Enquiries ongoing.

On 13/03/2024 report that a camera had been damaged at a property near Craik Forest. Crime report submitted, Enquiries ongoing.



## **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

### **Theft**

On 11/08/2024 report that an elderly female had her purse stolen while at the cash point at B&M Bargains when 2 males approached and ran off with her purse. Male arrested and charged.

### **Robbery**

On 03/03/2024 report that persons had entered a property at Bourtree Place assaulting the occupants and stealing property. Police attended and statements and door to door enquiries took place. One suspect arrested and charged, enquiries ongoing.



## Improving Road Safety

On 08/03/2024 report of a vehicle driving erratic on the High Street believed that the driver was under the influence. The vehicle was later traced south on the A7. The driver took a roadside breath test which he failed and was conveyed to Hawick Police and charged. He was later released when sober.

On 10/03/2024 while officers were on patrol they observed a vehicle travelling on Weensland Road with a light out, the vehicle was stopped. Checked carried out showed that the driver was not insured to drive the vehicle. The driver was charged.

On 14/03/2024 during enquiries officers spoke to a subject who provided details that they had driven a vehicle to Hawick, checks showed that the subject had no driving licence or insurance. The subject was cautioned / charged, and the vehicle seized.

### Killed or Seriously Injured

No accidents where persons were killed or seriously injured.



## Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

### Serious and organised crime enforcement –

We are awaiting the March update from the Proactive CID, however the team have been incredibly busy this month after an operation in Galashiels where five men were arrested and charged after cannabis with an estimated street value of £2.3 million was recovered. This was in addition to the execution of other drugs search warrants and follow up enquiries from past seizures. The formal March update will be provided in the April report.

## Campaigns

### Doorstep Crime – Shutout Scammers

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/>

### Rural Crime

We continue to provide security, crime prevention and livestock worrying advice to farmers and rural business. This can be requested by Farmers / Rural businesses using the [Contact Us Form](#) on the Police Scotland Website.

## CAT Update

**ROAD SAFETY** – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Scottish Borders and have issued 10 traffic tickets for various offences throughout the month.

Throughout March 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. Speed checks were completed at the Primary Schools at Langlee, Melrose, Lauder and Earlston. Several drivers were warned regarding driving slightly over the speed limit.

On 13<sup>th</sup> March SBCAT took part in Operation Janaca at Leadburn, near Peebles along with the Mid Lothian CAT, Roads Policing, Trading Standards and the DVSA. 2 males were arrested, 18 minor offences were detected and 1 vehicle was seized. These figures have not been included in the SBCAT figures.

**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 91 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), Duns town centre (tickets issued) ambulance parking bays at the health centres in Hawick (tickets 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. 18 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in this month along with numerous hi-visibility patrols of rural areas. While doing these patrols SBCAT have been stopping to speak to local farmers and residents to gain an insight into any ongoing issues and to give advice.

At Monynut vehicle patrols and a quad bike patrol were completed on weekends 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.

9 youth warning letters were issued during the month of March in relation to youths.

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023, SBCAT officers traced a group of girls causing issues in Morrisons at Hawick. They escorted them outside and they were given a warning.

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On 19<sup>th</sup> March SBCAT found a group of youths on the roof of WH Smith in Kelso. They were conveyed home to their parents.

Similar high visibility foot patrols are being completed around Burnfoot Primary School, Melrose Primary School and outside Jedburgh Sheriff Court on court days due to previous reported issues with members of the public.

During the evening of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The Special Initiatives Team joined SBCAT officers in carrying out hi-visibility foot and mobile patrols in Kelso, Innerleithen and Peebles, in response to reported ASB. During their patrols alcohol was seized from 5 youths in Peebles (Youth warning letters to follow), 14 LP's checks carried out and as a result 1 ILP was submitted for Peebles. 1 male youth was arrested and C/C'd for a S38 offence in Peebles and was taken home and left with his parents, a male youth wanted for a Serious Assault in Peebles was also traced by CAT officers at which time he was arrested and subsequently charged for 3 offences. Mobile patrols carried out on A68, A699, A698 and A72 where 70 vehicle checks were also carried out.

**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 3 people were arrested on warrant.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March the County Lines Intensification Week started. This was a week of action targeting the use of vulnerable youths and adults to store controlled drugs or transport them across the UK. The SBCAT conducted additional foot patrols in the affected areas and along with a letter drops for Crimestoppers. We also spoke with our housing associations and public transport companies and provided them with posters and information for their staff.

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

On 15/3/24- Acting on intelligence CAT officers executed a MDA warrant at an address in Selkirk, however the search proved negative.

Following on from an incident where CAT officers carried out a drug search on a male found in a car in the Selkirk area and he subsequently failed a roadside drug wipe and was arrested in January 2024. On 14/3/24 following analysis of samples obtained from the male he was reported for drug driving.

On 26/03/2024 SBCAT assisted the PCT and other officers in the execution of numerous search warrants in Galashiels which resulted in the seizure of approximately £2.5m worth of cannabis

### **OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE-**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March a community police officer was bitten on the hand by a dog suspected of being an XL Bully. Following enquiries the dog was identified, searched warrants obtained and the dog was seized. The owner was charged under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Throughout March SBCAT have been carrying out extensive enquiries with regards to the graffiti which has been spray painted around several locations in Hawick, including the flood defences. At this time enquiries are continuing.

## **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.