

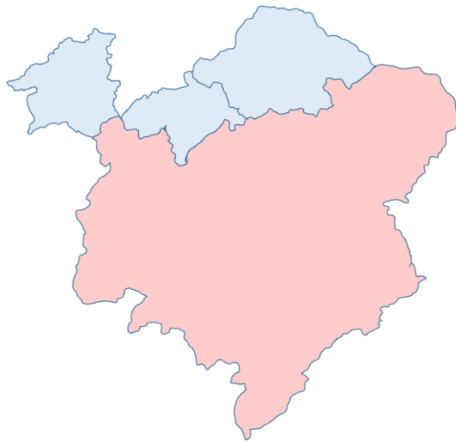
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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Hawick and Hermitage Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for APRIL 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 have been 13 calls to Newcastleton in April, including reports of road traffic collisions, concern for persons and assist member of the public. These calls do not include those calls involved in an ongoing issue PC Patterson is dealing with.

PC Trochimiak and Mortimer visited Newcastleton Youth Club on 12<sup>th</sup> April where they engaged with the 35 young people who attended that evening – an impressive turnout demonstrating how valuable this provision is.

Planning is in its final stages for Hawick Common Riding. Police have attended five meetings so far regarding the events which have covered licensing and security, meeting with the Principles, review of Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders (TTRO's), Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and most recently meeting with riding and foot marshals at Future Hawick on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Picking night takes place on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and we wish the Cornet and his supporters all the best for this years events.

PC Patterson has been carrying out several parking patrols at local primary schools including Wilton, Trinity and Drumlanrig. We are urging drivers to be considerate of safety around drop off and pick up times. Extensive patrols have also continued in the town centre.

PC Patterson has also been working with preventions officers on a motorcycle anti theft campaign in the run up to the summer months. He will also be focusing on off road motorbikes and the issues these can cause local communities



In the Easter holidays, School Link Officer PC Trochimiak ran an Easter programme for young people aged P6-S4 at Hawick High School in order to develop positive relationships within the community.

The Your Police Survey for 2024/25 has recently launched, the link below gives access. We value your input and would appreciate your time in completing the survey

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2024-2025/>

The link below 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 April 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 221 mental health related calls, around 22 missing person enquiries and approximately 104 domestic related incidents.*

*Hawick and Hermitage area had 35 mental health related calls and 1 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 04/04/2024 report that a female had been assaulted in O'Connell Street, Hawick. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 07/04/2024 report of assault on the Howegate. A male was arrested and issued with a recorded Police warning.

On 07/04/2024 report that a male was attacked at a property on Stonefield Place. The suspect was identified and arrested and held in custody.

On 10/04/2024 report that a female had been assaulted within a property on Ramsey Road. Relevant paperwork submitted.

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On 13/04/2024 report of a male being assaulted outside a commercial property on Baker Street. Male arrested, charged and reports submitted.

On 13/04/2024 report that a male had been assaulted on Lothian Road. Enquiries complete

On 24/04/2024 report that a person had been assaulted while standing outside a commercial premises on the High Street. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 28/04/2024 report that a male had been assaulted by a known person on Loyal Court. Enquiries on going.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

On 05/04/2024 report of a group of youths causing a nuisance at Morrison's Mart Street. Police attended however the youths had left prior to police arrival.

On 10/04/2024 report of a group of youths causing a nuisance to staff at Morrison's Mart Street. Officers were unable to attend due to other calls and advice given.

On 13/04/2024 report of a group of youths shouting abuse at passers-by on the High Street, Information passed for officers' attention.

On 24/04/2024 report that a group of youths using foul language, vaping and jumping on the seats on a bus on the high street. School Link Officer dealing, the youths have apologised to the complainer.

On 24/04/2024 report of a disturbance at a property on The Loan, Police attended where a verbal argument had taken place. Officers provided advice, no crimes.

On 25/04/2024 report of a disturbance at a property at Allars Crescent, Police attended and spoke to all parties. An argument had taken and spilled out onto the street; advice given no complaints.

On 26/04/2024 whilst on patrol officers observed a male urinating on the High Street, the accused was issued with a fixed penalty notice.

### Vandalism/Vehicle Crime

On 24/04/2024 report that a vehicle had been damaged on Ramsey Road, the vehicle had been scratched and dented. Enquiries ongoing.



## Reducing Acquisitive Crime

### Theft by Housebreaking

No reports.

### Theft

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On 11/04/2024 report of the theft from a property near Teviothead. Enquiries ongoing.

On 29/04/2024 report of the theft of goods from Farmfoods. Plain clothes officers observed the suspect conceal goods and leave the store without paying. Officers arrested the suspect and conveyed to Hawick police station and held to appear in court.

On 30/04/2024 report of the theft of an item from the doorway of a property on Earl Street. Enquiries are ongoing.

### Robbery

On 27/04/2024 report that a male had been assaulted in the early hours while walking up The Loan, during which the male's belongings were taken. Enquiries are ongoing.



### Improving Road Safety

On 11/04/2024 – a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Hawick

On 16/04/2024 whilst officers were on patrol stopped a vehicle on Liddlesdale Road checks showed that the vehicle had no MOT, the owner accepted a conditional offer.

### Killed or Seriously Injured

No accidents where persons were killed or seriously injured.



### Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

#### Serious and organised crime enforcement – April 2024

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 7 Drug Warrants across the command area during April, four were positive and 12 persons were charged with drug related offences. A number of stop and searches were also conducted in identified hotspot area where drugs misuse was prevalent across the Scottish Borders.

Serious and organised crime impacts local communities across the Borders and anyone with information on criminal activity are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101, report it at any Police Station or report it anonymously via the Crime Stoppers Charity. This information can be on any criminal matter but includes an individuals unexplained financial gain or wealth or persons who are vulnerable in our communities and being targeted or exploited by others for any reason.

### Campaigns

#### Motorcycle Safety

Our annual motorcycle safety campaign urges drivers to look out for motorcyclists as riders take to the road this summer. In 2023/24, there were 151 road deaths and 27 were motorcyclists.

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Motorcyclists make up around one per cent of all road users yet account for 14 per cent of deaths. Engagement and enforcement activity will take place throughout the spring and summer months using both marked and unmarked police vehicles. Police Scotland officers, including those from the national motorcycle unit, will be carrying out intelligence led patrols to engage with all drivers and riders.

### 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.

### Special Constables – Recruiting

With a long and impressive history, the Special Constabulary is a part-time, volunteer body consisting of voluntary officers with identical powers to that of police officers. As a special constable, you'll work alongside our police officers in your spare time – forging strong partnerships in the community, patrolling our streets, preventing crime, and interacting with all kinds of people to give back, keep your local community safe and make a real difference.

You can work full time and be a Special Constable in just 96 hours per year or a few hours a week. The role is diverse, demanding, and rewarding. You could be doing anything from policing a football match to assisting at a road accident. Special constables also police major sporting and public events and provide an excellent bridge between the Police Service and the public, representing both the community within the police service and the police service within local communities.

Special Constables can act as a positive force for change - bringing with them an extensive pool of skills, talents, experience, local knowledge, and diverse backgrounds - as well as enhancing the overall level of service provided by the police. So, whatever your walk of life, step forward now and find out how being a police volunteer could be the perfect fit to suit your lifestyle.

[Police Scotland Special Constable Recruitment - Police Scotland](#)

### 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 April numerous hi- vis speed and static road checks along with foot patrols have been carried out at schools throughout the Scottish Borders at dropping off and picking up times. Including primary schools in Kelso, Galashiels, Duns, Peebles, Hawick and Lilliesleaf.

On 17<sup>th</sup> April SBCAT officers took part in Operation Checkpoint on the A1 along with Roads Policing and the DVSA. Numerous vehicles were stopped and 4 drivers were issued with traffic tickets.

**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 75 tickets have been issued.

Passing attention was given to Traquair Road, Innerleithen (no issues) The War Memorial in Coldstream (ticket issued) Galashiels Town Centre and Bridge Street in Kelso were also regularly checked by officers along with Duns Industrial Estate (no issues), ambulance parking bays at the health centres in Hawick (several tickets issued)

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In March the Central Ticket Office ran out of parking tickets. The SBCAT has very few blank tickets left, which has affected the figures for this month. We will be given new ticket books as soon as they are available.

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

At Monynut vehicle patrols and a quad bike patrols were completed on weekends with the following to report

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April officers from SBCAT, ELCAT and Edinburgh conducted a joint day of action with patrols of Monynut and the surrounding area on quad bikes, off road motorcycles and off road motor vehicles. On this occasion no offences were detected.

However, the following day officers were conducting a mobile patrol at Monynut when a farmer made them aware of 2 young males driving a vehicle erratically and generally messing about endangering lambs. The vehicle was traced in the area and the driver was charged with careless driving.

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

Similar high visibility foot patrols are being completed across the Borders with a focus on Peebles, Innerleithen, Kelso, Newtown St Boswells and Burnfoot in Hawick due to youths causing ASB. As well as Jedburgh Sheriff Court on court days due to previous reported issues with members of the public.

2 youth warning letters were issued during the month of April in relation to youths.

On 13 April the SB CAT assisted at Melrose 7s conducting foot patrols across Melrose. This continued into the evening where we were once again joined by the Specials Initiative Team (SIT). They stopped 4 youths who had been drinking and contacted parents to collect. Alcohol was seized from several other youths and disposed of, and some other minor issues were dealt with 2 recorded police warnings were issued.

On 27<sup>th</sup> April the SIT returned to work with the SBCAT in Peebles, Innerleithen and Hawick. Some youths were taken home following ASB. 3 tickets were issued for minor offences, 5 licensed premises were checked, and 60 vehicles were stopped.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> April 24 CAT officers carried out a bail check on a male in Hawick. The male was found to be in breach of his conditions and was reported for warrant.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT** – SBCAT officers have taken part in 4 drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders.

On 5/4/24 the SBCAT executed 4 search warrants in one day. The first 2 were completed in Hawick with the Proactive Crime Team. Over £1000 in cash was seized from one of the addresses. A further MDA search warrant was then executed in Selkirk with the Proactive Crime Team. About £7000 of heroin was recovered along with Over £3000 in cash. Following this the SBCAT executed a MDA

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search warrant in Galashiels with assistance from a Public Order team to force entry. Personal amounts of cannabis, cocaine and controlled tablets were seized from within.

### OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE-

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 a suspicious device was found within a property in Selkirk. Due to a risk it could be an explosive device the MOD's bomb disposal unit attended along with other specialists. The SBCAT assisted in securing the area, evacuating elderly residents and ensuring that the public were safe.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024, CAT officers following a report of a S127 comms offence towards a Borders MP, traced, arrested, interviewed and subsequently charged a male for the offence, with him being released on an undertaking to appear at court.

New legislation relating to fox hunting came into effect last year. The new laws have been compiled with across most of Scotland but there have been reports of offences in the Scottish Borders. Over the past couple of months SBCAT have been investigating and this month 1 male was charged under the new legislation, another was arrested, interviewed and released without charge. This was the first time this legislation had been used in Scotland and this was reported by the press at a National level.

As of 20<sup>th</sup> May the SBCAT will be reduced to 1 Sergeant and 6 Constables.

## 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.