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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Kelso and District Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for September 2023 (up to 29/09)



**The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Kelso and District 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 Update - Kelso & District

There have been more reported thefts of farming GPS equipment in the Scottish Borders. On 17<sup>th</sup> September there were two thefts of GPS equipment from farms near Coldstream.

Scottish Borders Partnership Against Rural Crime (SBPARC) is a part of a multi agency initiative developed by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC). It involves key organisations collectively working together to tackle rural crime, particularly from the ever-increasing threat posed by serious and organised crime throughout Scotland. SBPARC involves Police, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NFU Scotland, Scottish Land and Estates, SEPA, River Tweed Commission, and Scottish SPCA

Our advice to help prevent these thefts is –

- Be sure to remove GPS systems, screens and other valuables when leaving vehicles and store them securely
- Park tractors and other agricultural vehicles in secure, alarmed buildings in well-lit areas covered by CCTV
- Activate PIN security on GPS systems, with your own unique number
- Permanently mark your postcode to deter thieves and trace property back to you
- Keep tractors and combines with GPS stored out of sight
- Record serial numbers and photograph your systems
- Check serial numbers of second hand systems offered for sale
- Report any suspicious activity to 101

Please report any suspicious incidents or vehicles to Police Scotland on 101 (999 in an emergency) or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

More advice and guidance can be found from NFU on the link below.

[Increase Security Measures During Harvest | NFU Mutual](#)

We regularly hold events to provide advice and assistance regarding rural crime such as the event held in Kelso Square on 21<sup>st</sup> September



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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 as presented by the Local Area Commander CI Vinnie Fisher.

### 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 September 2023 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 187 mental health related calls, around 36 missing person enquiries and approximately 91 domestic related incidents.*

*Kelso & District had 20 mental health related calls and 6 missing person enquiry. 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 ASB

##### Assault

On 02/09/2023 report of a female being assaulted in Kelso Market Square. Enquiries ongoing.

On 28/09/2023 report of a female being assaulted in Brisbane Place, Crawford Street, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

##### Anti-Social Behaviour

On 01/09/2023 report of a disturbance in Brisbane Place, Kelso involving a male and female. Both parties have been issued with a Recorded Police Warning.

On 18/09/2023 report of a disturbance within a property in Maxmill Park, Kelso. Nothing ongoing on police arrival, advice given.

On 23/09/2023 report of a female causing a disturbance outside a property in Maxmill Park, Kelso. Neighbour dispute, no complaints made, advice given.

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On 28/09/2023 report of a disturbance outside the chip shop in Roxburgh Street, Kelso. Nothing ongoing on police arrival.

### Vandalism

On 01/09/2023 report of damage to windows and doors to a property in Maxmill Place, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 05/09/2023 report of vandalism to play equipment at Sprouston Primary School. Enquiries ongoing.

On 08/09/2023 report of vandalism within a property at Maxmill Park, Kelso by the occupant. Officers attended and issued a Recorded Police Warning to the occupant.

On 17/09/2023 report of damage to front door of a property in Inchmyre, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 20/09/2023 report of tyres slashed on a vehicle parked in Inchmyre, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

## Reducing acquisitive crime

### Theft

On 13/09/2023 report of theft of number plate at Ferneyhill, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 19/09/2023 report of theft of items from outside a business premises at Inch Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 27/09/2023 report of theft of airpods from Café U, Roxburgh Street, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 28/09/2023 report of theft shoplifting from The Mole House, Horsemarket, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

### Theft Housebreaking

On 16/09/2023 report of housebreaking to a property in Maxmill Park, Kelso. Officers attended and after enquiries, a female has been charged with vandalism and housebreaking.

On 19/09/2023 report of housebreaking to a business property in Roxburgh Street, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.



## Improving road safety

On 16/09/2023 a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for careless/inconsiderate driving in Kelso.

On 13/09/2023 a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Kelso.

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On 18/09/2023 a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Kelso.

On 21/09/2023 a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for careless/inconsiderate driving in Kelso.

### **Killed or Seriously Injured**

On 16/09/2023 report of a collision in Woodmarket, Kelso involving an elderly female, who sustained an injury to her leg. Officers attended and a male has been charged with careless driving.



## **Tackling serious and organised crime**

### ***Serious and organised crime enforcement – September 2023***

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 9 Drug Warrants across the command area during September, all except one were positive and a variety of MDA charges were proffered against 10 persons. Heroin, cocaine, benzodiazepines and cannabis were all recovered during these searches in addition to large sums of cash and suspected stolen property.

They also assisted other CID departments in the area with stolen property warrants for housebreakings across the Scottish Borders and in relation to serious sexual offences. In total 14 warrants were executed across the division by CID.

The CID Proactive Unit have a number of live inquiries in relation to Serious and Organised Crime which, once concluded, will be subject to media releases.

They would like to re-inforce the message to all wards that any drug related crime or organised criminality in the Scottish Borders can be anonymously reported via CrimeStoppers, who are an independent charity not connected to the Police. The public can of course still use 101 for this purpose too.

A number of bespoke business cards explaining the benefits of and reassuring any caller to CrimeStoppers have been produced and can be circulated amongst the Wards should this be deemed useful.

## **Campaigns**

### **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](#)

### **High Value Bike Thefts from Vehicles**

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Following a spate of bike thefts from visitors vehicles in the Peebles area, work is ongoing to place warning signage at hotspot areas in Peebles, Innerleithen and Glentress. Prevention advice leaflets are also to be distributed to local businesses such as cafes, hotels etc.

### 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

- 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

- Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) exhibited at the Border Union Show highlighting the latest rural crime prevention advice. The partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year.

We continued to distribute free wireless perimeter security alarms 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.

### CAT Update:

During the past month SBCAT officers carried out High Visibility foot patrols and worked alongside other community agencies at the Ex-standard Bearers Cycle/horse ride (0900-1600 hours) and Yarrow and Ettrick agriculture show (0900-1400 hours) Quad present and community engagement. Kelso Ewe Sales were also attended for community engagement. On 24/9/23 CAT assisted with the PMRA September Ride (Peebles)

**ROAD SAFETY** – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Borders and have issued 14 traffic tickets throughout the month.

**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 112 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. 43 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in September (and the CAT attended the launch of a national rural crime initiative and also attended two events (Kelso and Yarrow) at which numerous members of the public were spoken to regarding rural crime prevention.

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – High visibility foot and mobile patrols have been carried out in intelligence led areas of the Scottish Borders to detect and deter criminal activity.

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**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. These individuals are aware they are wanted and enquiries to trace them are continuing. This month 3 offenders have been arrested by SBCAT and put to court.

SBCAT officers took part in the Community Safety Advice day for Sensory Services at the Corn Exchange, Melrose. This involved working with partner agencies such as SFRS and Health meeting with members of the public from all over the borders who are deaf or hard of hearing, giving community safety advice and promoting ways they can contact the Police Service of Scotland and report any concerns.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT** – SBCAT took part in executing 2 drug search warrants in the area. During a search in Hawick, a personal amount of drugs were recovered. Enquiries with social services under way to establish if the 85 years old occupant is being the victim of 'Cuckooing' by the individual charged with the possession.

**Other** – Report received regarding a youth on a motorbike in Newtown St Boswells. On SBCAT arrival there're was no youth on a motorbike, family spoken to and indicated that their 7 year old son had permission from the land owner who owns the field directly adjacent to the home address to ride his bike there. Advice was given to the family regarding this.

During the month SBCAT officers took part in Operation Checkpoint, a UK wide police initiative combating County Lines criminal travelling to commit crime. During this, a number of vehicles and person were stopped and checked. No offences were detected.

### **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:

[KelsoDistrict@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:KelsoDistrict@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.

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