

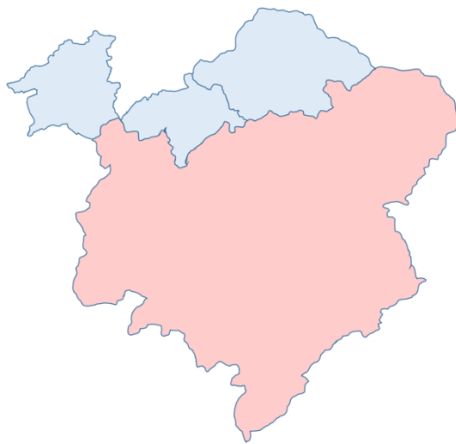
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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Kelso and District Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for December 2024



**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 – PS Ali Granger



Congratulations to Kelso based Special Constable Ian Merritt, who worked his last shift at Kelso on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December before his well earned retirement from Policing. Ian has 19 years service as a Special Constable, and regularly gave up his Friday nights to assist his colleagues in Response Policing on a late shift. He is pictured here with Superintendent Carson, receiving his 19 year service bar to add to his Long Service Medal.

More information on Police Scotland Special Constables can be found at [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)

PC Tait-Logan has been involved in the J Div Operation which targets ASB and deterring / detecting theft by shoplifting throughout the month of December. This has included foot patrols, licenced premises visits, parking patrols and work on the drink drive campaign. Rural patrols of the area have also been carried out, targeting rural crime. She has also been busy in the schools attending at the Kelso Primary Schools giving inputs on ASB both in school and in the community with specific focus around the skate park.

PC Tait-Logan assisted Broomlands Primary School and encouraged Safe Crossing with the younger students on their visit to church in December.

PC Tait-Logan attended Kelso High on the evening of the seniors Christmas dance, being on hand in case of an emergency and providing another chance to engage positively with the students and staff.

PC Tait-Logan has also been called upon regularly to assist colleagues in response policing throughout the month.

The Your Police Survey for 2024/25 is still open, 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/>

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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.

[\(Public Pack\)Item No. 5 \(a\) - Police Scotland Agenda Supplement for Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board, 13/12/2023 09:30 \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

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 as presented by the Local Area Commander CI 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 December 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 204 mental health related calls, around 10 missing person enquiries and approximately 84 domestic related incidents.*

*Kelso & District had 25 mental health related calls and 0 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 04/12/2024 report of 15 year old boy assaulted by male, Horsemarket, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 06/12/2024 report of female assaulted by male. Black Swan, Kelso. Male arrested and charged.

On 07/12/2024 report of female assaulted by another female. Inchmyre, Kelso. Enquiry complete.

On 18/12/2024 report of male assaulted. Eschie Court, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing. Enquiry complete.

On 20/12/2024 report of female assaulted by male. Eschie Court, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

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On 12/12/2024 report of 3 males fighting in The Square, Kelso. Police attended and spoke to all parties. No evidence of criminality, advice given.

On 15/12/2024 report of male being verbally abusive and trying to fight people. Roxburgh Street, Kelso. Male traced by Police, he was given a verbal warning. No crime recorded.

On 23/12/2024 report of youths kicking front door. The Knowes, Kelso. Area searched, no youths found.

On 27/12/2024 report of two youths in driveway. James Dickson Place, Kelso. Youths to be traced and warned regarding behaviour.

### Vandalism

On 12/12/2024 report of intoxicated male smashing window with his fists. 1905 Pub, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

## Reducing acquisitive crime

### Theft

On 14/12/2024 report of male shoplifting. Co-op, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 30/12/2024 report of theft of tree from planter in Kelso Square. Enquiries ongoing.

### Theft Housebreaking

On 16/12/2024 report of attempted break-in of shop. Bridge Street, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 17/12/2024 report of attempted break-in of garage behind shop. Woodmarket, Kelso. Enquiry complete.



## Improving road safety

On 07/12/2024 – a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Kelso

### Killed or Seriously Injured

No reports.



## Tackling serious and organised crime

### Serious and organised crime enforcement – December 2024

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 3 Drug Warrants and 6 other warrants across the command area during December, 6 were positive and 6 persons were reported for drug related offences with a further 3 reported for crimes of dishonesty.

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A number of stop and searches were also conducted in identified hotspot area where drugs misuse was prevalent across the Scottish Borders.

A number of serious crime cases have recently been widely reported in national and local media following guilty verdicts and sentencing at High Courts across the country. These sentences reflect the hard work, professionalism and commitment officers in the Scottish Borders in tackling all facets of serious and organised crime.

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.

## Campaigns

### Festive drink and drug driving campaign 2024

Police officers will be working with communities and patrolling roads across Scotland as the festive period brings a focus to preventing drink and drug driving.

This year's festive drink and drug driving campaign is happening from 1 December 2024 until 19 January 2025.

Officers will be using an intelligence-led approach and road safety data to target key areas with patrols, respond to concerns and arrest offenders. Road checks will be organised in towns and cities, and prevention messaging issued in pubs.

Chief Superintendent Hilary Sloan, head of Road Policing, said: "Our officers will be working hard to relentlessly target drivers who choose to drink alcohol or take drugs.

"It doesn't matter how good a driver you think you are, alcohol or drugs will affect your reactions and your judgement.

"It's easy to catch drug drivers because we have drug testing kits that can be used at the roadside. We will be doing everything we can to protect the public and support crucial road safety partnerships to encourage behaviour change, but we also need your help.

"The influence people can have on their family and friends can be lifesaving.

"If you know someone is going to drive after drinking alcohol or taking drugs, please speak to them.

"We all have a responsibility to improve road safety."

## CAT Update

This has been a busy month for the CAT. We have been taking part in Operation Frankincense which primarily involved foot and mobile patrols around shops to prevent and reduce shoplifting. We have also assisted with several high-profile enquiries and carried out arrests.

**ROAD SAFETY & PARKING TICKETS** – This month, the festive drink / drug drive campaign has been running. We have been targeting our static and mobile vehicle checks to try and find drivers who are intoxicated through drink or drugs.

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Officers have been carrying out high visibility enforcement across the Borders and addressing parking concerns there. Advice has been given to drivers and 55 parking tickets have been issued. Extra attention was given to Galashiels, Selkirk High Street, Knowepark Primary School in Selkirk and disabled parking spaces across the Borders following complaints.

### **RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME –**

We carry out high visibility mobile patrols across rural areas at varying times while completing static road checks.

On 18<sup>th</sup> December the CID were conducting enquiries in Selkirk into a couple of housebreakings that had occurred the previous night. They came across the 2 suspects who were highly uncooperative and called up for urgent assistance. CAT officers attended, assisted with the arrest and conveyed the suspects to the cells. The CAT later executed a stolen property search warrant at their home and recovered power tools stolen from a local business.

### **VIOLENCE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR –**

High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted as per our taskings

On 4<sup>th</sup> December a serious incident occurred in Lauder. SBCAT assisted with various urgent aspects of the enquiry. In the evening 2 SBCAT officers traced the suspect in his vehicle in an isolated location and arrested him.

On 15<sup>th</sup> December the SBCAT assisted the CID by executing a search warrant following an assault & robbery in Galashiels. The two males were arrested and various items of evidence were seized.

### **PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE –**

The SBCAT has assisted with several domestic abuse enquiries during December along with several arrests on non-domestic warrants.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December a high priority arrest warrant was issued by Jedburgh Sheriff Court for a registered sex offender. SBCAT officers traced him in about an hour and arrested him.

### **TACKLING SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME –**

The CAT have completed 4 drugs search warrants this month in addition to 2 general evidence search warrants.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> December SBCAT along with response officers executed a drugs warrant in Kelso.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of December SBCAT and the Proactive Crime Team executed another drugs warrant in Kelso. Drugs were recovered along with about £13,000 in cash.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> December SBCAT executed a drugs warrant at a property up the yarrow valley near Selkirk. A personal amount of cannabis was recovered from the property. Enquiries are ongoing into evidence that plants had been growing within.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of December SBCAT along with the Proactive Crime Team and Specialist Resources executed a drugs search warrant in Burnfoot, Hawick and recovered drugs (cannabis and Cocaine) and cash with a total value of about £5000.

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

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On 14<sup>th</sup> December SBCAT assisted SB Building Control with executing a warrant in the Melrose area.

Our speed guns had been sent away for their annual calibration but only returned towards the end of the month limiting our ability to do speed checks at schools.

### 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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