

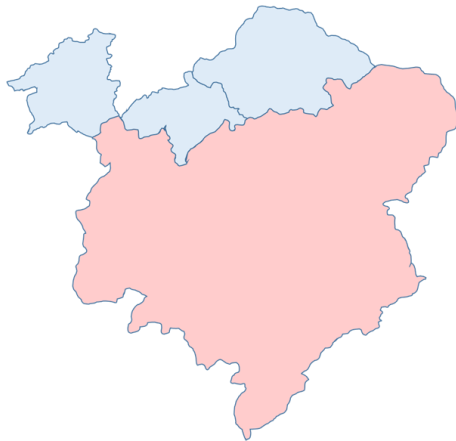
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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Selkirkshire Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for January 2024  
(1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024)



**The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Selkirkshire 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 – Selkirkshire – PS James Harrison



The image above shows the Street Pastors at a training day in Peebles. Street Pastors are trained volunteers from local churches who care about their local community. They have been active in Galashiels for a number of years now, usually patrolling late at night on a Friday or Saturday. They recently added Peebles to their list and we are pleased to support them going forward.

On a completely separate matter, this month I want to highlight the growing trend of frauds committed via social media, in particular two types of fraud called **Romance Scams** and **Sextortion**, with each seeming to have its own victim demographic.

A Romance scam is when you meet someone online through social media or a dating app. They express strong feelings for you after a few conversations, and seem genuine to try and gain your trust. They will try to enter a romantic relationship with you, but only communicate via messages (often with frequent spelling mistakes and poor grammar). After they have gained your trust they invent reasons to ask you for financial assistance, such as sending money to pay for a flight so they can visit you. The 'flight' will then be cancelled, and they will ask for more money to catch another flight. Sometimes they ask for money in other ways, such as Apple Vouchers. Needless to say the person in the images they sent is not the person you are having a conversation with, and they are trying to scam as much money as they can from you. The victim demographic for this tends to be middle aged or older persons.

**Remember; be cautious of anyone who will not meet you in person, and don't send money to anyone you don't know. Only accept friend requests from people you know, and if in doubt get a second opinion.**

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Sextortion is similar in that you meet someone online through social media or a dating app. They will also express strong feelings for you, seem genuine and gain your trust but will then go on to exchange explicit images of themselves, asking for the same in return. If you send an explicit image they will then use this to blackmail you for money, threatening to send the image to your contacts if you don't pay. The victim demographic for this tends to be young adults.

**The easiest way to prevent being a victim is not to send explicit pictures of yourself on social media.**

However, if you are a victim don't feel embarrassed! Stop all contact immediately, and if possible keep all communication. Report actual or attempted fraud to Police Scotland on 101, and if you have provided your account details contact your bank.

There is a romance fraud pdf flyer attached to this MMWR, please distribute widely.

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

## 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 January 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 204 mental health related calls, around 18 missing person enquiries and approximately 82 domestic related incidents.*

*Selkirkshire had 12 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 Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour

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### Assaults

On 01/01/2024 report of male assaulted. Cross Keys Inn, Ettrickbridge. Male did not want to make a report on Police arrival.

On 03/01/2024 report of male being assaulted. Station Yard, Newtown St Boswells. Enquiries ongoing.

On 04/01/2024 report of female punched by male. Main Road, Newtown St Boswells. Enquiries ongoing.

On 15/01/2024 report of boy assaulted by adult male. Douglas Place, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 19/01/2024 report of female assaulted by two others. Near Dyburgh Pub, Newtown St Boswells. Enquiries ongoing.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

On 02/01/2024 report of youths throwing stones at properties & banging on doors. Sprouston Road, Newtown St Boswells. Police apprehended youths and made to apologise to home owner in presence of parents.

On 08/01/2024 report of 3 male youths kicking front door. High Street, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 08/01/2023 report of youths throwing snowballs at house windows. Kirk Wynd, Selkirk. Caller given advice, enquiries ongoing.

On 09/01/2024 report of person chapping on window and running off. Dovecot Lane, Selkirk. Police attended, not trace of person. Reassurance given to caller.

On 10/01/2024 report of youths banging on door and shouting through letterbox. Sentry Knowe, Selkirk. Advice given.

On 12/01/2024 report of youths throwing water balloons at property and mucking around in the garden. Douglas Place, Selkirk. No youths traced on Police arrival.

On 24/01/2024 report of a group of youths starting a fire in the ruins of a church. Kirk Wynd, Selkirk. Police attended, one youth apprehended & parent spoken to.

On 25/01/2023 report of three youths surrounding a car, one youth has a crowbar. Market Place, Selkirk. No youths present on Police attendance and no damage to car.

### Vandalism

On 01/01/2024 report of car being vandalised. Bowden Road, Selkirk. No suspects identified.

On 08/01/2024 report of vehicle being set on fire. Waverley Place, Newtown St Boswells. Enquiries ongoing.

On 27/01/2024 report of male ripping door handle off car. Bridge Street, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

## **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

### **Theft by Housebreaking**

On 04/01/2024 report of unsecured garden shed broken into and items taken. Shawpark Road, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

On 31/01/2024 report of attempted break-in of property. Bridge Street, Selkirk. Enquiries ongoing.

### **Theft**

On 04/01/2024 report of theft of parcel from letterbox. Dickson Drive, Newtown St Boswells. Enquiries ongoing.

## **Improving Road Safety**

On 14/01/2024 - a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Selkirk

On 16/01/2024 – a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT on the B6359

On 24/01/2024 – a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Selkirk

On 29/01/24 – a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Selkirk

### **Killed or Seriously Injured**



## **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

### ***Serious and organised crime enforcement – January 2024***

*The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 5 Drug Warrants across the command area during January, four were positive and 4 persons were charged with drug related offences.*

*County lines nominals and rural acquisitive crime are still prevalent in some areas of the Scottish Borders and we are working closely with colleagues in England and local partners to detect and identify offenders in this area of criminality.*

*Two warrants were also executed in conjunction with other departments in relation to serious crime inquiries.*

### ***Cannabis Cultivations***

*Pro-active CID would again 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.*

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*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

### 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 \(iammescotland.co.uk\)](https://iammescotland.co.uk)

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

### Divisional Domestic Abuse campaign

Regular social media posts highlighting local (DAAS) and national helpline contact details and reporting mechanisms

Ongoing engagement with main local employers to share campaign messages, information in relation to local support services and charities and prevention messages targeting perpetrators directly.

### Rural

Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) the partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year.



- We continued to distribute free Selecta DNA forensic marking kits & signs 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.



### No Cold Calling Zones

- A new Zone has been set up in Eddleston covering 120 Houses – Road signs and house-packs have been provided.
- Implementation work is ongoing with Bowden and Newtown St Boswells community councils for zones in these areas.
- Any community organisation wishing to refresh their zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or interested in setting up a new zone 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 7 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 and 1 driver was reported for driving with no insurance. Throughout January 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.



**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 177 tickets have been issued. In early January a female was knocked over and injured by a person driving a vehicle that had been illegally parked in Peebles town centre. Over the following days the SBCAT targeted area for parking offences and issued a total of 64 tickets in the Peebles area. On multiple occasions the officers were approached by members of the public thanking them for their efforts. On 16/01/24 – during one shift 2 CAT officers issued 20 parking tickets in Eildon while completing other duties. 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, which was also carried out as a result of requests made at the previous meeting. Following a report of illegally and poorly parked vehicles within Duns Industrial Estate Business owners and staff were spoken to and the parking regulations were explained to them. They all moved their vehicles to suitable places. Regular checks are being completed but no further parking issues have been identified.

**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. 34 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in January along with numerous hi-visibility patrols of rural areas. On 24/01/24 two officers conducted a patrol of Monynut on quadbike. Other regular patrols have been completed 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. 16 youth warning letters were issued during the month of January in relation to youths. On 6/1/24 following an enquiry a youth was traced and C/C'd for vandalising a shop window in Selkirk. On 24/1/24 following a report that youths had set a fire in Selkirk, officers attended and after confirming it was a small controlled fire their presence resulted in a male youth being identified and his parents having to be spoken to.

**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 11 people were arrested on warrant. This includes 2 high priority warrants whereby the 2 individuals were remanded at court the following Monday due to the risks they posed to the public. On 12/1/24 officers reported a male for warrant after he was found to be in breach of his curfew. On 12/01/24 – CAT officers observed two people wanted on high priority warrants. They ran off from the officers but following a foot chase they were both arrested. Due to the risk they posed to the public they were both remanded at court



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**DRUG ENFORCEMENT** – SBCAT officers have taken part in 1 drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders. On 13/1/24- CAT officers carried out a drug search on a male found in a car in the Selkirk area. He subsequently failed a roadside drug wipe and was arrested (enquiries ongoing). On 17/1/24- CAT officers executed an MDA warrant in Peebles which resulted in the recovery of a personal amount of cannabis and a male being charged and reported. (approx. 22g est value, £330.00)

**OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE-** On 11/1/24- CAT officers arrested a person in relation to a reported Fraud. Following interview they were charged with Fraud and reported to the PF. On 18/01/24 - Following an invite from a young pupil of Drumlanrig Primary School in Hawick CAT officers attended at the school. They explained the role of the police and the actions that young children can do to help their community.

### 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:

[SelkirkshireCPT@scotland.police.uk](mailto:SelkirkshireCPT@scotland.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.