



**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
**POILEAS ALBA**

# East Lothian Police Scrutiny Report



**1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. Due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents there may be minor amendments between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. The extraction date from recording systems can also differ so it would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in the report as official statistics.

Data contained in this report should only be used to identify trends as figures are likely to change over time.

# INTRODUCTION

Crimes and offences are grouped under recognised categories for statistical purposes. The Scottish Government defines these categories. For example, 'Group 1' refers to 'Non Sexual Crimes of Violence' (such as serious assault, robbery). Group 2 refers to 'Sexual Crimes' (such as rape, voyeurism) and so on.

Police Scotland publishes management information on an annual and quarterly basis by local authority and police division, as well as at a national level. These reports are produced to demonstrate Police Scotland's commitment to transparency. Police Scotland publishes all of these reports on the 'Our Performance' section of the Police Scotland website.

The reports can be accessed here: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

The East Lothian Policing Plan uses the following Police Performance indicators, and these have been mirrored in the Scrutiny Report to maintain parity of understanding:

- *Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence (Group 1) - crimes per 10,000 population*
- *Sexual (Group 2) - crimes per 10,000 population*
- *Anti-social Behaviour Incidents (public reported) - crimes per 10,000 population*
- *Racially Aggravated Conduct - crimes per 10,000 population*
- *Crimes of Dishonesty (Group 3) - crimes per 10,000 population*
- *Proportion (%) of Domestic Abuse incidents which result in a Crime Report – total for reporting period*
- *Number of Domestic Abuse incidents recorded - total for reporting period*
- *Road Casualties - total for reporting period*

All figures quoted in this report are for the period April to September and are compared against the same reporting period from the previous year. Where figures are quoted on rate per 10,000 population, these are based on East Lothian's population of 104,840 in 2017 (Scottish Government figures)

# PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

## Non Sexual Crimes of Violence (Rate per 10,000 population)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
3.7	4.3	16%



The number of recorded crimes in this category have increased from 35 to 45. Eight more Serious Assaults and two more Robberies have been recorded during this period. This five year average is 30. The detection rate was 55%. A full analytical review of all assaults (including minor) took place in August. The findings showed there was a 50/50 split in offences occurring in public and private locations; that the offender was known to the victim in 80% of incidents; half of the crimes in private locations were of a domestic nature; and alcohol featured in approximately 1/3 of crimes. Only 2% of common assaults were on licensed premises.

## Sexual Crime (Rate per 10,000 population)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
6.4	10.6	66%



The number of recorded crimes in this category has risen from 70 to 111. The five year average is 52. The detection rate was 68.5% (up 17.1% from last year). The detection rate for rape was 95.7% (up 40.1% from last year). There have been a number of enquiries into historic abuse in East Lothian, which is attributable to these increases. One operation alone resulted in over 20 crimes being recorded against the same suspect dating over the last 20 years. At least four enquiries into historic domestic abuse have seen multiple offences recorded under both sexual crime and violence.

## Antisocial Behaviour (Rate per 10,000 population) (Public Reported)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
282	273.5	-3%



Despite the decrease in anti-social behaviour calls, a number of Problem Solving Partnerships (PSPs) have been created to target 'hot spot' locations. Musselburgh, Prestonpans, Haddington and Dunbar all have live PSPs. The number of public reported anti-social behaviour calls to the police decreased from 2940 to 2867.

# PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

## Racially Aggravated Conduct (Rate per 10,000 population)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
1.3	0.3	-77%



Incidents of racially aggravated conduct are significantly down on last year. Only 3 incidents have been recorded in comparison to 14 last year. The five year average is 12. The hate crime and offence detection rate was at 65.5% during the reporting period, however, this has since risen to over 80%.

## Crimes of Dishonesty (Rate per 10,000 population)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
99	103.7	5%



Crimes of dishonesty have increased from 1058 to 1087. Our continued effort to target shoplifting has in part driven this increase. Our detection rate for shoplifting is 78.5% (up from 48.6% last year) Only 12 housebreakings to domestic properties have been recorded during this period (down 2 on last year; and down 8 on the five year average). Housebreakings to business properties have increased from 4 to 14 and appears linked to criminals travelling between Edinburgh and the Lothians.

## Domestic Abuse (% of incidents resulting in crime report)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
42.4%	38.7%	-4.6%



Domestic abuse remains a key policing priority, with all incidents subject to rigorous scrutiny to ensure no opportunities are missed to protect victims. Victims will often contact police in relation to domestic related matters, such as child custody concerns and verbal arguments, which may not meet the threshold for them being recorded as crimes.

# PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

## Domestic Abuse Incidents

2017/18	2018/19	Change
474	576	21.5%



The overall number of domestic abuse incidents have increased during the reporting period, with a link to the increase in reported violent and sexual crimes. Although there has been an increase in incidents, there has not been the same percentage increase in domestic crime, thus suggesting victims have been reaching out more to the police for assistance regarding non-criminal matters. Significant changes in legislation next year will see the introduction of psychological offences, so an increase in recorded incidents and crime can be expected.

## Road Casualties

2017/18	2018/19	Change
114	111	-3%



	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Fatal	2	0	-100%
Serious	22	19	-14%
Slight	92	92	0%

# ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

## Making East Lothian an even safer place

The following examples illustrate some of the police activity during the reporting period to help tackle local policing priorities to make East Lothian an even safer place to live, work and visit.

### Fearless

In September, local officers, in partnership with East Lothian Council Education Department and Crimestoppers, launched the 'Fearless' programme at the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh. Minister for Community Safety, Ash Denham, MSP, officially opened the event. Two students from all East Lothian secondary schools were identified to become Fearless Ambassadors and to promote anonymous crime reporting in their schools and community. The goal of this programme was to ultimately give young people the confidence to recognise crime when they see it or experience it, and to provide a safe platform for them to report any concerns they have. Several follow-on workshops are planned for Preston Lodge High School, Knox Academy, Ross High School and North Berwick High School in the coming weeks.

### Best Bar None

This is a national initiative supported by the Scottish Licensed Trade Association, alcohol industry, and partner agencies such as Business Improvement Districts, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Local Authority Safer Communities Department. The scheme acknowledges and rewards well-run licensed premises and aims to reduce alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour. After it's success last year, in which 19 venues from East Lothian participated, 12 of which received 'Gold' awards and one venue receiving a finalist place in the National Best Bar None Awards, the local Community Safety officer has visited all venues in East Lothian in recent weeks to launch the 2018-2019 scheme. Currently there are 21 licensed premises that have signed up to participate, and the assessments will be taking place later this year.

### Pubwatch

Currently the community officers in the Dunbar area are starting up a Pubwatch scheme for the town and there are plans to organise an operation between police and partner agencies in relation to complaints made by licensees relating to an increase in the number of fabricated identification documents being used.

# ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

## Educational Inputs

East Lothian's two dedicated Youth Community Officers have spent a large amount of time within the primary and secondary schools across the county delivering educational inputs to pupils of all ages, ranging from Drugs Education, Child Sexual Exploitation and alcohol, as well as continuing to support the work of the 'Risk Factory' - a purpose built venue that allows children to learn about safety and crime prevention by involving them in various practical scenarios, in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and East Lothian Council Education Department. "No Knives Better Lives" is now embedded within all East Lothian secondary schools with all S1 and S3 pupils receiving inputs about knife crime, its effects and consequences. The 'Fearless' programme, complements this by giving students a mechanism to report concerns. Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre have also been visiting schools to deliver presentations on the prevention of sexual offending.

## Operation Monarda

In May, there were a number of events run to support Operation Monarda, which aims to raise awareness of doorstep crime. Officers from East Lothian, in partnership with East Lothian Council Trading Standards, held a drop in surgery at Haddington Citizens Advice Bureau. In addition to this, the East Lothian Community Safety Officer held Crime Prevention talks at Day Centres across East Lothian.

## Bystander Training

The East Lothian Community Safety Officer is tasked with co-ordinating and delivering prevention activity within East Lothian. This officer has delivered Bystander training to two groups of students from Queen Margaret University and there are plans to do more sessions in November 2018 and January 2019. The aim of these sessions is to reduce violence and sexual crime by challenging attitudes around consent. The Bystander approach encourages people to react to warning signals and to provide them with the confidence and the tactics to intervene.

# ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

## Problem Solving Partnerships

In the months since the last reporting period, Problem Solving Partnerships (PSPs) have been initiated in Haddington, Musselburgh, Prestonpans and, just recently, in Dunbar. These have been introduced in response to complaints made by local residents and business owners regarding antisocial behaviour and crime. The focus of the PSP's is partnership working and tactics include: an increase in community warden and police foot patrols; the taking of joint police / council action against those identified as behaving in an antisocial manner; pro-active monitoring of public space CCTV cameras; the deployment of the council's CCTV van; and ongoing engagement with young people via the council's Community Learning and Development Team and schools.

## Post-Exam Patrols

In previous years, East Lothian has experienced issues, including disorder and assaults, following post-exam parties in June. Working with local schools and the Safer Communities Team, community officers (including the East Lothian Community Action Team) carried out plain clothes and high visibility patrols at 'hotspot' locations. 'Bullet Hill' at John Muir Country Park has become synonymous with such gatherings and this year saw significant amounts of alcohol seized from people aged 14 to 21.

## Third Party Reporting

In early September, East Lothian's Community Safety Officer delivered Third Party Reporting training to accommodation staff from Queen Margaret University, and in doing so raised awareness of Hate Crime. Staff from East Lothian Council's Safer Communities Team have also been trained. Further expansion of the Third Party Reporting network is planned to encourage the victims of this under reported crime to come forward.

## Reducing Re-offending – 'Transform'

The Reducing Re-Offending Group, established as part of the East Lothian Community Justice Partnership, has recently implemented 'Transform'. This is an intensive, multi-agency approach to supporting individuals from re-offending and antisocial behaviour. Since April 2018, three individuals have agreed to take part in 'Transform' which has seen two of them commit no further crimes and one charged with only two shopliftings. This is a significant reduction to their previous offending.



# ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

## “Ask Angela”

‘Ask Angela’ is a national campaign that Police Scotland are promoting through the licensed trade locally. It works for patrons frequenting a pub, bar or club, where they may feel intimidated by a person they have met with for a date or who is aggressively trying to get their attention. They can then approach bar staff and ask for “Angela”. Using the simple code-word will alert staff that there is an issue being experienced and they will help the person get out of the situation safely and discreetly. A poster campaign is being used to advertise this in premises.

## Rural Crime Partnership

The East Lothian Rural Crime Partnership was set up in August and consists of representatives from Police Scotland, East Lothian Council, National Farmers Union Scotland, Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and other rural crime partners. The main aims of the group are to engage with rural communities and to address and tackle rural crimes, with a focus on prevention. This will be achieved by the creation and development of the East Lothian Rural Crime Plan 2018/19 which focuses on theft, hare coursing, off-road biking, fly-tipping and poaching. There will also be an official launch of ‘Ruralwatch’ on 23 January 2019.

## Shopwatch and Neighbourhood Watch

Shopwatch has been successfully delivered in the Musselburgh, Preston, Seton and Gosford areas and has helped drive the positive detection rates in respect of shoplifting incidents. Community officers in Tranent and Dunbar have started engaging local businesses to seek their views in establishing similar plans in their areas.

During the reporting period, a Neighbourhood Watch scheme has started in Ormiston, with similar plans to introduce further schemes within Longniddry and Tranent.

## Construction Site Theft

In response to reports of numerous thefts from construction sites throughout East Lothian, a building site security initiative has been conducted throughout the county. The East Lothian Community Safety Officer, in conjunction with the community officers for each area, produced a crime prevention and security advice document for site managers, to heighten their awareness regarding this recent crime trend.

# ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

## Off-Road Motorbike Thefts

Following several thefts of off-road motorbikes in East Lothian, officers from the East Lothian Community Action Team recently attended two 'Enduro' motorbike events at Whitekirk. They attended on the newly acquired all-terrain vehicles (quad bikes), jointly purchased by East Lothian Council and Police Scotland, where they engaged with motorbike owners and provided them with crime prevention advice. They also offered reassurance as there were concerns in the biking community that these events were being targeted.

## Road Safety

**2Morrow's Driver** - In August, local roads policing officers and the East Lothian Community Safety Officer joined colleagues from East Lothian Council Transportation and partners in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, to run '2morrow's Driver' at the Brunton Theatre in Musselburgh, educating senior school pupils on the dangers of being new drivers.

**Junior Road Safety Officers** - Roads Policing Officers and the East Lothian Community Safety Officer, supported the launch of the Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO's) in September at Port Seton Community Centre. The scheme, which is focused on primary school children, aims to heighten children's awareness of road safety by encouraging the JRSO's to organise events and initiatives within their respective schools.

**Motorcycle Safety Campaign** - A motorcycle safety campaign ran through the summer period targeting popular biking routes on the A198 and A199 and also on race days at East Fortune.

**Operation Alternate** – This operation specifically targets commercial vehicles and consists of local Road Policing Officers conducting regular multi-agency road checks in East Lothian along with the Driving Standards Agency and other Government agencies.

**Operation Close Pass** – Operation Close Pass is focussed on educating drivers about safely passing cyclists. Plain clothes officers on pedal cycles, with bike-mounted cameras liaise with colleagues in vehicles when they are passed too closely by motorists. The motorist is then stopped, given advice and any offences dealt with. The offending driver stands on a specially designed mat, allowing officers to show them how closely they passed the unmarked bicycle and how much space they should give. A similar initiative, "**Lose the Blinkers**" has also been run in East Lothian, to educate drivers in relation to safely overtaking and passing horse riders.

**A1 Wind Management Plan** – Following two separate incidents of vehicles blowing over at the Tyne Bridge, between Haddington and Dunbar, plans are currently being developed between Police Scotland, East Lothian Council, Amey Highways and Transport Scotland to devise a wind management plan. The plan will also extend to looking at another vulnerable site near Torness. The aim of the plan is to maximise safety and to limit the impact of wind related incidents on a critical infrastructure to East Lothian.

# LOOKING AHEAD

## Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, will be brought into force around February 2019, and represents a significant change in legislation specific to domestic abuse. For the first time, it will criminalise the abusive, controlling and coercive behaviours commonly present in abusive relationships. To ensure we effectively equip our officers and staff to fully understand these abusive behaviours, and to use the legislation to best effect, it is necessary to invest in a detailed training programme. The programme focusses not only on the teaching of the legislation, but also on practical aspects of our approach to Domestic Abuse, bringing to life the 'victim's voice' and demonstrating how perpetrators seek to manipulate not only their victims, but also the policing response. All East Lothian officers will receive this training before February next year.

## Licensing

Over the last six months, the East Lothian Licensing Officer has been working closely with the Licensing Board and Licensing Standards Officer on the renewal of the 'East Lothian Licensing Board Policy Statement', which will come into effect November 2018 and will carry through to 2023.

With bylaws having been in existence for ten years, and due for renewal, an opportunity now exists to standardise the content of the bylaw across the whole of the county to ensure consistency and understanding.

## Fireworks and Festive Plans

In the run up to Bonfire Night, local officers with colleagues from East Lothian Council and Scottish Fire and Rescue service, will visit shop premises selling fireworks and engage with staff to ensure legislation is understood. Patrols will also be undertaken to look for dangerous bonfires and to take action if they are found.

Plans are also being developed to cover the festive period, with a particular focus on ensuring police visibility across all towns in an effort to prevent shoplifting and crimes connected with the night time economy, which are known to rise at this time.

# OTHER MATTERS OF NOTE

## Police Scotland Youth Volunteers

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) have had a busy summer putting in volunteering hours at events such as Iron Kids, The Queen's Garden Party, The National Museum of Flight Air Show, the Scottish Open Golf, the Senior Scottish Open Golf and The Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Two East Lothian PSYV volunteers were also privileged to attend at a Scottish Parliamentary Reception held by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Humza Yousaf, MSP at Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh. Seven new recruits have joined in recent weeks, taking the group size to 21.

## Special Constabulary

East Lothian currently has 12 Special Constables. In the last six months those officers contributed 655 hours towards local policing.

## Unauthorised Encampments

In recent months there have been several unauthorised encampments set up in the East Lothian area. Police work very closely with East Lothian Council and private landowners to manage these matters, taking cognisance of the rights of all parties and government policy. Discussions between senior management at East Lothian Council and the Local Area Commander are to take place to review current practice based on learning from recent occurrences.

## Road Policing Base – Dunbar Police Station

As part of a national review of Road Policing, a team of Road Policing officers will now be based at Dunbar Police Station. These officers will be covering East Lothian and parts of the Scottish Borders. It is anticipated that this change will improve policing visibility and make this specialist area of policing even more accessible to East Lothian.