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## East Lothian Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders



### Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Final year – 2023/2024

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. This report has been generated to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. 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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## **Our Vision**

Sustained excellence in service and protection.

## **Our Purpose**

To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

## **Our Values**

Integrity, Fairness and Respect.

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Lothian and Scottish Borders Division Policing Priorities

### Your local policing priorities across THE LOTHIANS AND SCOTTISH BORDERS

**Our vision**  
Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland


**Our values**  
Fairness, Integrity, Respect, Human Rights

**Our purpose**  
Working in partnership for the safety and wellbeing of communities in the Lothians & Scottish Borders


Protecting the most vulnerable people	Reducing violence & anti-social behaviour	Reducing acquisitive crime	Improving road safety	Tackling serious & organised crime
<p>Protect vulnerable people to prevent abuse, neglect &amp; exploitation.</p> <p>Implement a delivery model supporting a Violence Against Women &amp; Girls Prevention Strategy.</p> <p>Implement the National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland.</p> <p>Proactively target domestic abuse offenders.</p> <p>Develop partnership approaches to improve public confidence to report incidents of harm &amp; abuse.</p>	<p>Work collaboratively to identify and target violent offenders.</p> <p>Increase awareness of the impact of violence &amp; antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>Work in partnerships to reduce alcohol related criminality.</p> <p>Collaborate to capture the under reporting of violence &amp; explore preventative approaches (i.e. Navigator).</p> <p>Develop night time economy plans with licensed premises &amp; promote participation in 'Best Bar None'.</p>	<p>Focus on domestic housebreaking.</p> <p>Raise awareness of current crime trends &amp; prevention tactics.</p> <p>Tackle emerging acquisitive crime patterns to identify &amp; target prolific offenders.</p> <p>Work to prevent acquisitive crime.</p> <p>In partnership, maximise support for victims of acquisitive crime.</p> <p>Work with Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC).</p> <p>Use Police Scotland Youth Volunteers to deliver crime prevention information.</p>	<p>Collaborate on the engineering of the roads through our communities to improve road safety.</p> <p>Detect offenders who disregard road traffic laws &amp; endanger others.</p> <p>Support partnership driver education programmes.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the consequences of speeding, not wearing a seat belt, drink or drug driving &amp; using a mobile phone while driving.</p>	<p>Work to divert people from becoming involved in serious &amp; organised crime &amp; using its products (drugs, counterfeit good etc).</p> <p>Use social media to raise awareness and educate about human trafficking.</p> <p>Work to prosecute those involved in serious organised crime, including online, 'cuckooing' &amp; 'county lines'.</p> <p>Maximise the disruption of serious organised crime groups.</p> <p>Target the production, cultivation &amp; supply of illegal drugs.</p>

#### Police Scotland Strategic outcomes


- Threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service
- The needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery
- Public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing
- Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public
- Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges




East Lothian Council



Midlothian Council




Scottish Borders Council



West Lothian Council

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POLICE SCOTLAND  
Keeping people safe  
POILEAS ALBA

## **Introduction**

Crimes and offences are grouped under recognised categories for statistical purposes. The Scottish Government defines these categories, as follows;

- Group 1 – Non Sexual Crimes of Violence
- Group 2 – Sexual Crimes
- Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty
- Group 4 – Fire-raising, Malicious Mischief etc.
- Group 5 – Other (Pro-activity) Crimes
- Group 6 – Miscellaneous Offences
- Group 7 - Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles

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:

1. Protecting the most vulnerable people;
2. Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour;
3. Reducing acquisitive Crime;
4. Improving road safety;
5. Tackling Serious and Organised Crime.

All figures quoted in this report are for the period April 2023 to March 2024 and are compared against the five year average. Where figures are quoted on rate per 10,000 population, these are based on East Lothian's population of 107,090 in 2019 (Scottish Government figures, published April 2020).

## Performance Summary Report

### East Lothian Performance Summary Report Reporting Period: April 23 – March 2024

Total Crime: (Group1-5) 4,241

Crime Increase: 16%

#### Protecting the most vulnerable people

Domestic  
Bail Offences

26%



91 (37 > 5YA)

Missing  
Persons

17%



64 <5YA

#### Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour

Hate  
Crime

81



10 < 5YA

Serious  
Assault

49%



52 (18>5YA)

#### Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Housebreaking

14%



271 (36 > 5YA)

Acquisitive Crime

20%



2012 (234>5YA)

#### Improving road safety

Road Traffic  
Casualties  
-26%

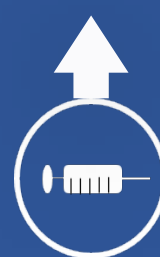


106 (31<5YA)

#### Serious Organised Crime

Drug supply

33%



47 (12>5YA)

## Executive Summary

I am delighted to present this end of year scrutiny report and my third as East Lothian Local Area Commander, which covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The year has been less marked by major events than previous years, however, it has none the less been challenging in terms of a growth in overall crime levels along with considerable financial challenges and change not least in terms of the end of funded community officers in East Lothian.

The new Chief Constable Jo Farrell has placed trust, confidence and performance in Policing as key areas of focus with operational priorities of effectively managing threat/risk/harm, officer and staff wellbeing and effective problem solving/proactivity/prevention. The Local Policing Plan 2023-2026, which was launched in April last year, remains focused on our Policing priorities and forms the summary headings for this report with a focus on managing threat/risk/harm and the “three Ps” in all areas.

We recognise that the Policing priorities and performance levels that we seek to achieve on behalf of our communities can only be achieved through close partnership working, and that is why an additional school link officer has been added to the existing two, with all three officers continuing the positive work in schools and participating in running East Lothian Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV). Whilst there is no longer funding for community funded officers, we have recognised the importance of maintaining a community policing presence and whilst the community police footprint will be reduced, we will seek opportunities to uplift this resource to support our Community Policing teams.

We will continue long established and close working relationships with key partners through the East Lothian Strategic Partnership and the various sub-groups beneath this. The weekly East Lothian Tactical and Coordination meeting is a central pillar in much of the partnership work undertaken in the community and the growth in membership of this meeting has been central to protecting vulnerable people. We also continue to work with East Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (ELPARC) and the National Rural & Acquisitive Crime Unit (NRACU) to deter and disrupt rural criminality and have had several successes through this network in tracing and identifying offenders who are travelling throughout the UK to commit rural crime.

A new venture this year has been the launch of Community Speedwatch which will see the introduction of speed monitoring by volunteer Community Groups supervised by Police officers. It hoped this will offer an opportunity for increased presence, monitoring and enforcement as members of the community assist local officers to enhance the safety of our roads.

Funding and resources remain a constant challenge in the face of a rapidly expanding population in East Lothian and we continue to work closely with key partners and our centralised Estates team on shaping an Estate Enablement plan for the future, which reflects the Chief Constables priorities around staff welfare. We realise consultation on proposed changes is important and will provide opportunities to do this over the coming months.

Despite the challenges of the last year, I am pleased that we have seen an overall decrease in important areas of missing persons, anti-social behaviour and hate crime, however in recognising this there is still work to be done to tackle the increases elsewhere and by working with all our partners we aim to make our communities safer, respectful and more tolerant of others.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.

Missing Persons

The Lothians & Scottish Borders (J) Division and the communities of East Lothian recognise that protecting people, particularly those considered vulnerable, is a policing priority. Within the remit of protecting people is the work and investigations carried out to trace people who are reported missing. To put the scale of this work into context, Police Scotland, on an annual basis undertake over 20,000 investigations into missing people.

In the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division this equates to the following;

- Year 2017 / 2018 – 2390 missing person investigations
- Year 2018 / 2019 – 2581 missing person investigations
- Year 2019 / 2020 – 1786 missing person investigations
- Year 2020 / 2021 – 1468 missing person investigations
- Year 2021/2022 – 1613\* missing person investigations
- Year 2022/2023 – 1690\* missing person investigations
- Year 2023/2024 – 1488 missing person investigations

\*different criteria used to count

Recognising the vulnerability associated with missing people, particularly those that are young or suffering from mental health challenges, Police Scotland has adopted a rigorous investigation structure and management approach to incidents involving missing people.

In East Lothian we review the circumstances of every missing person report to identify any vulnerability and we will then link in with partners to ensure appropriate support is provided to keep that individual safe. This approach has seen the number of missing persons within East Lothian fall to under 300, however we recognise this is still too many.

A large proportion of young people who are reported missing in East Lothian are care experienced. Many of these young people have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences which is why we have continued to work with care establishments on a daily basis to support the development of individual care plans and with statutory agencies in East Lothian and other local authority areas to ensure young people are placed in the most appropriate place.

We have continued to raise awareness of the Philomena, Herbert and Autism Missing Person Protocols to protect those individuals most at risk of going missing. These protocols apply to individuals living in a care setting and in their own homes.

During this reporting period we have been able to draw on national resources such as Dog handlers and Air and Marine Support as well as our partners including Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Her Majesty's Coastguard and Mountain Rescue teams, to safely trace a number of High Risk missing persons and are ever grateful for their continuing support.



<b>Protecting the most vulnerable people.</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse Incidents</b>
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	5yr Average	2023/24	% difference from 5yr ave
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents	1168.4	1233	5.5
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	635.6	674	7.7
Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime	40	41.4	1.4
Total crimes and offences detection rate	67.2	65.9	-1.9
Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	64	91	26.4

**Domestic Abuse definition (Taken from the COPFS joint protocol on domestic abuse).**

*Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct, and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, co-habiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere, including online.*

Tackling domestic abuse alongside Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and a commitment to the Scottish Government Equally Safe Strategy is a national strategic priority for Police Scotland and these priorities are addressed through specific local partnership forums. We have multi-agency partnership arrangements in place through MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating – Offenders) and MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing – victims) to both manage high risk offenders and provide appropriate support to vulnerable/repeat victims and survivors.

A dedicated Domestic Abuse enquiry team of 2 officers seconded from frontline duties and based at Tranent Police Station exists to ensure that any criminal incident which cannot be immediately resolved at the time is investigated promptly. Over 100 reports have been submitted by this team since they started in February last year on top of which it provides officers which a chance to develop skills in relation to domestic abuse investigation which they then take back to their response teams, further strengthening the zero-tolerance approach to domestic abuse.

This year we have seen the overall number of domestic incidents and crimes recorded increase slightly against the 5-year average driven in large part by an increase in domestic bail offences. We have also seen an increase of

4% in detection rates compared to the same reporting period last year which is encouraging and more in keeping with overall levels of performance on the 5-year average.

In East Lothian we have robust scrutiny arrangements in place with every domestic incident reviewed on a daily basis by the Local Area Commander and Detective Inspectors from the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit and Public Protection Unit so every opportunity to detect the crime is maximised.

We continue to proactively target offenders who breach bail conditions set for domestic abuse cases and we have seen a sizeable increase of such detections compared to the same reporting period last year. It should be noted that this continues to be in line with more offenders being on bail and a backlog of cases going through court.

We continue to promote the use of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) which gives people the right to ask about the background of their partner to see if they have been abusive in the past. It also allows concerned families, friends and professionals such as midwives and social workers to make a referral to the scheme. DSDAS gives Police Scotland the power to tell people they may be at risk even if they have not asked for the information themselves. The numbers of referrals to the DSDAS scheme have increased year on year and are managed by our Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Unit.

Later this year officers from across East Lothian will support the 16 days of action for the Violence Against Women and Girls and in addition to this we will continue to support other national campaigns such as "DON'T BE THAT GUY" aimed at encouraging peers to challenge abusive and unacceptable behaviour as well as carrying out prevention and education work in our schools and higher education establishments.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Hate Crime
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East Lothian			
	5-year average	2023/24	Per 10,000 population
Hate Incidents	112.8	110	10.3
Hate Crimes	91.2	81	7.6
Hate Crime Detection Rate	67.8	65.4	

The new Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 is defined below and went live on **1st April 2024**.

**HATE INCIDENT** - Any incident which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a characteristic group, but which does NOT constitute a criminal offence (non-crime hate incident).

**HATE CRIME** - Any crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (either wholly or partly) by malice and ill will towards a characteristic group listed in the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021

In Scotland, prior to April 2024, the law recognised hate crimes as motivated by prejudice based on:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity

From 1st April 2024, this was extended to include Age and Variations in sex characteristics.

This period has seen an overall decrease in both the numbers of hate crime and hate incidents compared to the 5-year average. This reflects the positive work undertaken by local Community officers to respond quickly to reports of hate crime and take robust action around perpetrators.

Every hate incident and hate crime reported in East Lothian is subject to intense scrutiny with the Local Area Commander having overall responsibility for this. This ensures that incidents and/or crimes are not treated in isolation and processes are in place to identify repeat victims, locations and offenders. We investigate all such reports robustly to bring perpetrators to justice whilst working with partners to support victims.

We continue to implement “Keep Safe” which is a partnership initiative developed with Police Scotland and “I Am Me” community led charity to raise awareness and increase reports of Disability Hate Crime.

<b>Protecting the most vulnerable people.</b>	<b>Sexual Crimes (Group 2)</b>
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Crime Type	5 Year average	2023/24	Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	2023/24 Detection Rate
Group 2	222	249	12%	23.3	45.4%
Rape & Attempt Rape	40	44	10%	4.1	38.6%
Indecent/Sexual Assault	87.6	81	-7.5%	7.6	42.0%
Other Group 2	104.3	124	29.2%	11.6	50%

Overall, group 2 sexual crimes have increased in the area of non-contact offences however serious contact offences such as rape have remained stable and most positively indecent and sexual assaults have fallen when compared to the 5-year average.

Many of the other group 2 crimes recorded are non-contact offences perpetrated over the internet or through communications devices used by young people. Often suspects are from out with East Lothian which poses its own challenges in terms of identifying and bringing offenders to justice however we recognise that in the case of our own young people there is work to be done in partnership with schools.

Our school link officers are a vital part of prevention work and continue to provide inputs on internet safety to our young people to raise awareness and keep them safe. The You, Me, Together approach which was part of a pilot undertaken in Dunbar High School, raising awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls, is now live across the country and our school link officers are concentrating their efforts in line with the style of offences being reported.

We recognise that sexual offences continue to be under reported and will continue to work closely with our partners through the Violence Against Women and Girls Working Group and the Equally Safe Group, to encourage and support victims to report sexual crimes.

We have worked in partnership with Queen Margaret University to support the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda and continue to provide “by-stander” training to licensed premises.

<b>Protecting the most vulnerable people.</b>	<b>Drug Supply, Production &amp; Cultivation</b>				
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<b>Drugs Supply</b>	<b>5-year average</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>YTD Per 10,000 population</b>	<b>2023/24 Detection Rate</b>
Drugs Supply, Production and Cultivation	35.4	47	32.8%	4.4	91.5%

There has been an increase in drug supply charges labelled this year which is reflective of the renewed activity of our Proactive Crime Team based at Musselburgh and our Community Action Teams based at Tranent and Haddington following some excellent proactive work in the county.

We have doubled our number of stop and searches (205) with equivalent rises in positive searches which goes to show that an intelligence led Policing approach targeting the right people in the right place at the right time brings positive results.

We remain committed to preventing the harm caused by the misuse of drugs through enforcement and preventative measures and have continued to refer individuals who have taken a near or non-fatal overdose to support services within 24 hours of police contact.

In addition to this, we have also pioneered the sharing of information with NHS Lothian on those most at risk of harm through addiction to drugs and alcohol, which has seen 56 referrals sent via our Vulnerable Person Database over Q4. This is an area of work which we hope to expand through partners and via the partnership forums such as Community Safety and Justice Partnership and Mid and East Lothian Drugs and Alcohol Partnership.

<b>Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour</b>	<b>Crimes of Violence (Group 1)</b>
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Crime Type	5-year average	2023/24	% Change	YTD Per 10,000 population	2023/24 Detection Rate
Group 1	104.8	192	83.2%	17.9	55.2%
Serious Assault	34.8	52	49.4%	4.9	88.5%
Robbery	17.2	23	33.7%	2.1	60.9%
Common Assault	769	894	16.3%	83.5	62.1%

\*Common assaults are not recorded as group 1 crimes.

We have again seen an increase in group 1 crime with more crime than the 5-year average however it should be borne in mind that this still includes COVID years which does distort the average somewhat. Encouragingly our solvency in many of these areas is improving and is even higher in regard to more extreme crimes of violence such as robbery and serious assault which provides confidence that the more violent offenders are being brought to justice.

Similar to the previous year the increase in group 1 crime can mainly be attributed to an increase in threats and extortion which has nearly doubled from 32 to 59. The vast majority of threats and extortion crimes are “sextortion” offences whereby victims are encouraged to share intimate images or videos with individuals they have met online and are then threatened that these will be distributed to friends and family unless monies are paid. These generally involve victims living locally with the perpetrator often operating from abroad. These crimes are difficult to solve due to the different social media platforms and jurisdictions involved. Our focus is on providing support to victims and raising awareness through social media campaigns which we do in partnership with both national (National Crime Agency) and local partners such as local authority education and student bodies to tailor and deliver messages to the demographic groups most impacted (currently ages 18-25).

Both robbery and serious assaults have increased which although concerning on the face of initial statistics, does not necessarily mean the wider public or public spaces are any less safe. Most of this crime occurs has occurred in private space and involves repeat offenders who are often victims themselves due to involvement in other criminality such as low-level drug dealing. Despite these increases our detection rate for serious assaults remains very high at 88.5% meaning that perpetrators face the consequences of their actions.

Crimes of violence within licensed premises continue to be monitored and we do not have any monitored Licensed Premise in East Lothian.

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<b>Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour</b>	<b>Reducing Antisocial Behaviour</b>
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Indicator	5 Year Average	2023-24	% Change	Per 10,000 population	2023/24 %Detection Rate
Antisocial Behaviour Incidents	5555.5	4742	-14.6		
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)	711	725	2	67.7	22.2
Fire-raising	38	46	21	4.3	23.2
Breach of the Peace and S38 CJ&L(S) A 2010	661.1	671	1.4	62.7	74.1

We have again seen a significant decrease (813 less) in incidents recorded as ASB in comparison to the 5-year average which reflects positively on the hard work done by the Community and Police Partnerships in identifying and addressing ASB before it becomes a long-term problem and emphasised by the fact that we do not have any live Problem-Solving Partnerships (PSPs) currently.

Despite the withdrawal of funding for community officers in East Lothian we remain hugely committed to tackling the criminal elements of ASB through the weekly tasking and coordinating group undertaken with our partners and through the Community and Police Partnership meetings. Growing the services and activities available for young people is a vital element of this and we have supported a number of projects through our Community Partnership Fund.

In addition, our school link officers work closely with partners to support young people and their families to improve their behaviour and reduce vulnerabilities.

As we move towards the summer months when we expect an increase in visitors to coastline of East Lothian, we are increasing our joint action with the countryside rangers and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to target ASB and accidental fires associated with wild camping.

We continue to advocate around responsible use of the bus network and are engaged with bus companies, local community councils and elected members around concerns over free travel connected to ASB on the bus network as well as disrupting travel into the county by exchanging information on young offenders with Edinburgh Policing division and the utilisation of the team of Special Constables under the Special Initiative Team (SIT).

SIT has deployed across East Lothian to provide a high-profile patrol capability in response to reports of young people causing antisocial behaviour in Dunbar, Tranent, Haddington and Wallyford. On high profile routes around Musselburgh and Prestonpans, the team have carried out road checks resulting in drugs recoveries and numerous items of intelligence being gathered.

The team have worked to assist Community officers to carry out bail checks on well-known criminals in the area to ensure that curfew conditions are rigorously enforced, and ongoing risk to the community is mitigated.



<b>Reducing Acquisitive Crime</b>	<b>Dishonesty (group 3)</b>
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5 Year Average	2023/24	Change	Per 10,000 population	2023/24 Detection Rate
1778.8	2012	20%	187.9	30%

Overall, we have seen an increase in Group 3 Crimes reported this year compared to the 5-year average. Detection rates have increased alongside of this which is reflective of the fact that much of the growth in this area has been through shoplifting and domestic housebreaking which are 2 areas of focus for enforcement.

Shoplifting is a crime linked to both socio-economic deprivation and addiction and it is no surprise that the higher levels of this crime are seen in the more deprived areas of the county. We are working with partners to enforce; target harden and encourage reporting from local businesses as well as divert shoplifters to addiction services and will continue to monitor this crime trend.

Fraud has fallen back as a growth area which is reflective of the multi-agency prevention work however this area of crime remains at around 300 of the reported overall acquisitive crime with most of it being cyber-enabled. We have continued to promote national fraud awareness crimes through our social media accounts. We have provided face-to-face fraud prevention inputs to elderly residents, both in their own homes and in care settings. We visit all victims of high value frauds and those who we deem may be vulnerable to carry out crime prevention surveys and provide advice and reassurance.

We continue to work locally with Trading Standards and Trusted Traders to provide residents with advice re bogus workers and signpost them to Trusted Traders.

<b>Reducing Acquisitive Crime</b>	<b>Housebreaking</b>
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Crime Type	5 Year Average	2023/24	Change	Per 10,000 population	2023/24 Detection Rate
Dwelling HB	83.8	163	94%	15.2	20.2%
Non Dwelling (Sheds, garages) HB	75.4	35	-54.5%	3.3	11.4%
Other (Business) HB	82.4	79	-4.1%	7.4	44.3%
All HB	241	277	14.7%	25.9	26%

Housebreaking as a collective rose which was primarily driven by a sizeable increase in domestic housebreaking despite encouraging drops in both non-dwelling and business housebreakings. This sizeable increase is primarily driven by offenders in their late teens and early 20s who are often not resident in East Lothian and have targeted domestic houses to steal high value cars and more recently jewellery.

We continue to follow a number of positive lines of enquiry in relation to these after recent enforcement activity but backlogs and delays over mobile phone examination and forensic analysis mean further detections are still outstanding.

Trends in housebreakings are subject to continual analysis and increasingly where they develop there continues to be a cross-boundary element to the offending which takes place over a number of different local authority areas. There is a National Acquisitive Crime group which the division attends, and this allows trends to be highlighted and good practice exchanged across all areas of the country.

Participation in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme is encouraged and something we would ideally like to see more of as this allows real time alerts to be issued in relevant areas. We are continuing to promote the alerts system to have more communities signed up and are participating in a Quad Bike alert scheme which was initially piloted in Midlothian and again alerts those registered to real time criminal activity in their neighbourhood.

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<b>Improving road safety</b>	<b>Road Casualties</b>
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	2022/23	2023/24	Change
Fatal	2	4	100%
Serious	40	27	-36%
Slight	95	75	-21%
<b>Total</b>	137	106	-26.2%
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	-
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	2	1	-50%

	5 Year Average	2023/24	Change
<b>Dangerous driving</b>	54.6	44	-19.4%
<b>Speeding</b>	64.8	37	-42.9%
<b>Disqualified driving</b>	20	18	-10%
<b>Driving Licence</b>	99	77	-22.2%
<b>Insurance</b>	260	241	-7.3%
<b>Seat Belts</b>	11	25	127.3%
<b>Mobile Phones</b>	21	31	47.6%
<b>Drink/Drug Driving Detections</b>	102	99	-3.1%

Sadly, there have been 4 fatalities this year however on review of the site visits and investigations to date there is nothing to indicate any trend in causation factors or that the road layout at these locations requires any immediate improvement.

Making our roads safer is a key priority and our specialist Road Policing officers are tasked on a daily basis to patrol routes on the A1 and other fast roads, with our community officers focussed on our towns and villages, specifically around our schools.

We continue to work closely with Community Councils and Community and Police Partnerships with the recently launched Community Speedwatch initiative which is a national initiative designed to assist Police and local communities in problem solving around speed awareness and we would want to support and encourage all 6 Community wards to take this up.

Roads Safety Strategy continues to prioritise enforcement around the FATAL 5:

- ☒ Careless driving
- ☒ Drink & drug driving
- ☒ Not wearing a seatbelt
- ☒ Speeding
- ☒ Using a mobile telephone while driving.

Our detection rates have increased in line with this strategy which is reassuring and demonstrates we are deploying officers in the right place and the right time.

Moving forward we will continue with a number of road safety initiatives including National Close Pass to protect cyclists and National campaigns on issues such as mobile phone and drink driving enforcement campaigns will continue throughout the year with the current focus being on a National Seatbelt campaign. As ever these campaigns will focus on casualty reduction on our priority routes.

Tackling Serious & Organised Crime	Tackling Serious & Organised Crime (SOC)
<p>The National Terror Threat level is currently SUBSTANTIAL meaning an attack is likely.</p> <p>We have recently revised the Serious Organised Crime Multi-Agency Action Plan 2024-2027 in conjunction with the East Lothian Council (ELC) and other law enforcement and regulatory bodies.</p> <p>This plan shows we are committed to keeping people safe and disrupting organised crime groups within our community. This Action Plan is based on the revised national strategy to tackle SOC across Scotland. This strategy is about all of Scotland working together to reduce the harm caused by serious and organised crime and has many overlaps with the national CONTEST strategy of which all parties are committed to fulfilling their obligations under that strategy.</p> <p>The action plan is aligned to the four priority themes of the national SOC strategy (2015) which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Divert: To divert people from being involved in SOC</li><li>• Deter: To deter SOC by supporting private, public and third-party organisations to protect themselves</li><li>• Disrupt: To disrupt SOC Groups.</li><li>• Detect: To identify, detect and prosecute those involved in SOC</li></ul> <p>The main focus of this Action Plan is on Prevention, and both we and ELC accept that SOC within our communities may not be easily identifiable as it comes in many forms and guises, and before we have the opportunity to react or respond, it has infiltrated our communities and caused harm.</p> <p>To ensure greater awareness of the SOC within our communities, and how best to move towards early and effective intervention, we will develop an evolving training and awareness programme over the lifetime of the Action Plan, for all Police, ELC and East Lothian Health and Social Care (HSCP) staff. ELC's Safer Communities Team will take the lead in facilitating training within ELC and HSCP.</p> <p>This will bring enhanced awareness and ensure that all staff are aware of the existence of the Action Plan and how they can contribute effectively to its success and reduce the harm caused by SOC within the communities of East Lothian.</p> <p>Every elected member in East Lothian continues to be offered crime prevention surveys of their home and offices which have been widely taken up.</p>	

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Complaints	Executive Summary
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*Table: Complaints and allegations received in the East Lothian Council area, by period <sup>1</sup>*

	TOTAL COMPLAINT CASES RECEIVED			TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED		
	YTD	LYTD	% Change	YTD	LYTD	% Change
East Lothian Council	91	98	-7.1%	139	158	-12.0%

The breakdown above details the total number of Complaints about the Police, received in relation to the East Lothian area command as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The breakdown below provides further detail on the Allegation Category and Type. As can be seen there has been a 33.5% decrease in the overall number of Complaints about the Police when comparing LYTD and YTD.

*Table: Allegations received in the East Lothian Council area, by category, type and period <sup>1</sup>*

Allegation Category and Type	PYTD	YTD	<i>% change from PYTD</i>
<b>On Duty - TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
Assault	2	1	-50.0%
Discriminatory Behaviour	1	3	200.0%
Excessive Force	4	6	50.0%
Incivility	34	22	-35.3%
Irregularity in Procedure	40	46	15.0%
Neglect of Duty	0	2	x
Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	0	1	x
Other - Criminal	0	2	x
Other - Non Criminal	1	2	100.0%
Traffic Irregularity/Offence	3	2	-33.3%
Unlawful/Unnecessary Arrest or Detention	0	1	x
<b>Quality Of Service - TOTAL</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-30.1%</b>
Policy/Procedure	14	7	-50.0%
Service Delivery	23	15	-34.8%

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Service Outcome	36	29	-19.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>-12.0%</b>

1. Data is based on the case received date.

Police Scotland’s ability to function effectively is reliant upon the trust of the public and their belief that we can carry out our duties in a fair and impartial manner. It is accepted that on occasions things may go wrong and mistakes will be made. Police Scotland’s national Professional Standards Department oversee all complaints made against officers in East Lothian with robust processes in place to ensure that when members of the public wish to raise a concern or make a complaint about either the quality of the policing service provided or the actions of an officer, their concerns will be listened to, and appropriate action taken. In Lothians and Borders Division there is a focus on learning from complaint investigation to ensure that we can continuously improve our service.

## Appendix: Lothian and Scottish Borders Divisional Crime Overview

Lothian and Scottish Borders Division	5 Year Average	2023/24 Q4	Per 10,000 Q4 2023/24	Detection Rates 2023/24
<b>GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE</b>	<b>676.2</b>	<b>1 032</b>	<b>20.72</b>	<b>57.1</b>
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	2.6	1	0.02	100.0
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0.6	-	-	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	4.4	2	0.04	100.0
Attempted murder	20.6	10	0.20	90.0
Serious assault	258.0	276	5.54	76.8
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	94.8	130	2.61	66.2
Domestic Abuse (of female)	96.2	183	3.67	76.0
Domestic Abuse (of male)	3.0	8	0.16	50.0
<b>Domestic Abuse (Total)</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>3.83</b>	<b>74.9</b>
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	62.2	86	1.73	108.1
Threats and extortion	95.8	287	5.76	4.2
Other group 1 crimes	38.0	49	0.98	63.3
<b>GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES</b>	<b>1 114.6</b>	<b>1 384</b>	<b>27.78</b>	<b>51.6</b>
Rape	202.0	211	4.24	53.1
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	9.6	5	0.10	60.0
<b>Rape and attempted rape - Total</b>	<b>211.6</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>4.34</b>	<b>53.2</b>
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	14.0	13	0.26	38.5
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	313.2	396	7.95	47.0
Lewd & libidinous practices*	92.2	73	1.47	60.3
<b>Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total</b>	<b>419.4</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>9.68</b>	<b>48.8</b>
<b>Prostitution related crime - Total*</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>50.0</b>
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	58.4	80	1.61	82.5
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	102.2	129	2.59	62.0
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	21.6	26	0.52	46.2
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	32.4	49	0.98	65.3
Public indecency (common law)	9.4	6	0.12	100.0
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	168.4	267	5.36	42.7
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	17.2	26	0.52	69.2
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	73.2	101	2.03	34.7
Other Group 2 crimes	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Group 2 crimes - Total</b>	<b>482.8</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>13.73</b>	<b>53.1</b>
<b>GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY</b>	<b>8 489.4</b>	<b>8 634</b>	<b>173.32</b>	<b>27.2</b>
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	376.0	545	10.94	22.4
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	290.4	152	3.05	11.8
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	347.6	242	4.86	39.7
<b>Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total</b>	<b>1 014.0</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>18.85</b>	<b>25.1</b>
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	193.0	171	3.43	9.9
Theft of a motor vehicle	443.8	407	8.17	33.2



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Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	456.4	270	5.42	14.4
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	34.2	37	0.74	18.9
<b>Motor vehicle crime - Total</b>	<b>1 127.4</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>17.77</b>	<b>22.4</b>
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	136.4	163	3.27	14.1
Common theft	2 374.4	2 110	42.36	19.2
Theft by shoplifting	2 191.6	2 644	53.08	43.0
Fraud	1 093.0	1 445	29.01	12.0
Other Group 3 Crimes	552.6	448	8.99	39.7
<b>GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.</b>	<b>4 035.2</b>	<b>3 936</b>	<b>79.01</b>	<b>26.3</b>
Fireraising	230.4	285	5.72	18.9
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	3 547.4	3 345	67.15	25.7
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	4.6	2	0.04	50.0
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	242.8	259	5.20	46.3
Other Group 4 Crimes	10.0	45	0.90	4.4
<b>GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES</b>	<b>4 172.4</b>	<b>4 256</b>	<b>85.43</b>	<b>93.5</b>
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	155.0	184	3.69	84.8
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	162.6	154	3.09	97.4
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	131.8	266	5.34	67.3
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	73.8	140	2.81	75.7
<b>Total offensive/bladed weapons</b>	<b>523.2</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>14.93</b>	<b>79.4</b>
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	58.6	51	1.02	84.3
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	202.6	203	4.07	87.7
Bringing drugs into prison	19.2	14	0.28	28.6
<b>Supply of drugs - Total</b>	<b>280.4</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>5.38</b>	<b>84.0</b>
Possession of drugs	1 744.8	1 182	23.73	96.6
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	12.0	4	0.08	100.0
<b>Total drugs crimes</b>	<b>2 037.2</b>	<b>1 454</b>	<b>29.19</b>	<b>94.3</b>
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	1.4	14	0.28	92.9
Bail offences (other than absconding)	858.6	1 203	24.15	99.3
Other Group 5 crimes	752.0	841	16.88	96.6
<b>GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES</b>	<b>9 951.4</b>	<b>10 576</b>	<b>212.30</b>	<b>67.3</b>
Common Assault	4 246.2	4 942	99.21	62.1
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	416.4	456	9.15	99.8
<b>Common Assault - Total</b>	<b>4 662.6</b>	<b>5 398</b>	<b>108.36</b>	<b>65.3</b>
Breach of the Peace	117.0	114	2.29	95.6
Threatening & abusive behaviour	3 484.8	3 405	68.35	72.6
Stalking	100.4	95	1.91	82.1
<b>BOP, S38 &amp; S39 Crim Just &amp; Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total</b>	<b>3 702.2</b>	<b>3 614</b>	<b>72.55</b>	<b>73.6</b>
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	119.6	112	2.25	89.3
Drunk and incapable	36.4	29	0.58	100.0
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	28.6	22	0.44	104.5
Other alcohol related offences*	37.4	32	0.64	106.3
<b>Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)</b>	<b>102.4</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>103.6</b>
Wildlife offences*	37.6	43	0.86	44.2

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Other Group 6 offences	1 327.0	1 326	26.62	55.3
<b>GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES</b>	<b>7 062.8</b>	<b>8 242</b>	<b>165.45</b>	<b>84.4</b>
Dangerous driving offences	250.6	226	4.54	81.0
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	544.6	585	11.74	99.0
Speeding offences	491.2	252	5.06	98.8
Driving while disqualified	109.0	76	1.53	98.7
Driving without a licence	528.6	455	9.13	100.7
Failure to insure against third party risks	1 378.2	1 276	25.61	99.5
Seat belt offences	122.0	155	3.11	99.4
Mobile phone offences	162.0	155	3.11	95.5
Driving Carelessly	624.0	695	13.95	87.3
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	213.4	1 310	26.30	99.8
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	737.2	683	13.71	100.1
Other Group 7 offences	1 902.0	2 374	47.66	52.3

## East Lothian Recorded Crime Overview

East Lothian	5 Year Average	2023/24 Q4	Per 10,000 Q4 2023/24	Detection Rates 2023/24
<b>GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE</b>	<b>104.8</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>17.93</b>	<b>55.21</b>
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0.2	1	0.09	100
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0.2	0	-	-
Culpable homicide (under statute including RTA, sec. 1)	0.4	0	-	-
Attempted murder	2.4	2	0.19	0
Serious assault	34.8	52	4.86	88.46
Robbery and assault with intent to rob	17.2	23	2.15	60.87
Domestic Abuse (of female)	x	30	2.8	70
Domestic Abuse (of male)	x	0	-	-
<b>Domestic Abuse (Total)</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>70</b>
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	8.2	14	1.31	92.86
Threats and extortion	15.8	59	5.51	8.47
Other group 1 crimes	7	11	1.03	54.55
<b>GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES</b>	<b>222.4</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>23.25</b>	<b>45.38</b>
Rape	38.4	43	4.02	39.53
Assault w/i to rape or ravish	2	1	0.09	0
<b>Rape and attempted rape - Total</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>38.64</b>
Sexual assault (pre-SOSA 2009)*	4.8	5	0.47	60
Sexual assault (SOSA 2009)*	64.6	64	5.98	42.19
Lewd & libidinous practices*	18.2	12	1.12	33.33
<b>Indecent/Sexual Assault - Total</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>7.56</b>	<b>41.98</b>
<b>Prostitution related crime - Total*</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children	9.4	10	0.93	90
Communicating indecently (SOSA 2009)*	21.8	30	2.8	70
Communications Act 2003 (sexual)	4.2	3	0.28	33.33
Sexual exposure (SOSA 2009)*	6.8	10	0.93	60
Public indecency (common law)	1.2	0	-	-
Other sexual crimes (SOSA 2009)*	32.2	51	4.76	31.37
Other sexual crimes (non-SOSA 2009)*	2.8	5	0.47	80
Threatening / Disclosure of intimate image*	15.8	15	1.4	33.33
Other Group 2 crimes	0	0	-	-
<b>Other Group 2 crimes - Total</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>11.58</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY</b>	<b>1778.8</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>187.88</b>	<b>30.02</b>
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	83.8	163	15.22	20.25
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	75.4	35	3.27	11.43
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	82.4	79	7.38	44.3
<b>Housebreaking (incl. Attempts) - Total</b>	<b>241.6</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>25.87</b>	<b>25.99</b>
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	44.4	32	2.99	18.75
Theft of a motor vehicle	95.4	74	6.91	27.03

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Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	92.6	75	7	18.67
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	8.4	9	0.84	0
<b>Motor vehicle crime - Total</b>	<b>240.8</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>17.74</b>	<b>21.05</b>
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	35	42	3.92	26.19
Common theft	459.2	470	43.89	22.55
Theft by shoplifting	429.6	591	55.19	50.25
Fraud	229.6	298	27.83	10.4
Other Group 3 Crimes	143	144	13.45	32.64
<b>GROUP 4: FIRE-RAISING, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF etc.</b>	<b>804.2</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>78.53</b>	<b>22.95</b>
Fireraising	38	46	4.3	23.91
Vandalism (including malicious mischief)	711	725	67.7	22.21
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1.6	0	-	-
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	50.2	51	4.76	41.18
Other Group 4 Crimes	3.4	19	1.77	0
<b>GROUP 5: OTHER (PRO-ACTIVITY) CRIMES</b>	<b>832.4</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>88.43</b>	<b>96.52</b>
Carrying offensive weapons (incl. restriction)	28	31	2.89	87.1
Handling bladed/pointed instrument	32.6	30	2.8	106.67
Offensive weapon (used in other criminal activity)*	17.8	35	3.27	77.14
Bladed/pointed instrument (used in other criminal activity)*	11.6	32	2.99	68.75
<b>Total offensive/bladed weapons</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>11.95</b>	<b>84.38</b>
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	6	8	0.75	87.5
Supply of drugs (incl. possession with intent)	35.4	47	4.39	91.49
Bringing drugs into prison	0	0	-	-
<b>Supply of drugs - Total</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>5.14</b>	<b>90.91</b>
Possession of drugs	367.2	276	25.77	97.46
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	2.4	0	-	-
<b>Total drugs crimes</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>30.91</b>	<b>96.37</b>
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0.2	0	-	-
Bail offences (other than absconding)	159.6	302	28.2	100.33
Other Group 5 crimes	171.6	186	17.37	98.92
<b>GROUP 6: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES</b>	<b>1762.8</b>	<b>1919</b>	<b>179.2</b>	<b>66.81</b>
Common Assault	769	894	83.48	62.08
Common Assault (of emergency workers)	61.4	73	6.82	98.63
<b>Common Assault - Total</b>	<b>830.4</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>64.84</b>
Breach of the Peace	16	21	1.96	100
Threatening & abusive behaviour	626.6	631	58.92	73.53
Stalking	19	19	1.77	63.16
<b>BOP, S38 &amp; S39 Crim Just &amp; Lic (S) Act 2010 - Total</b>	<b>661.6</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>62.66</b>	<b>74.07</b>
Racially aggravated harassment/conduct*	20.8	21	1.96	104.76
Drunk and incapable	4.6	9	0.84	100
Consume alcohol in designated place local bye-law	13	6	0.56	100
Other alcohol related offences*	8.4	10	0.93	100
<b>Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct (TOTAL)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>100</b>
Wildlife offences*	8.8	9	0.84	44.44

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Other Group 6 offences	<b>215.2</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>47.35</b>
<b>GROUP 7: OFFENCES RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES</b>	<b>1236.4</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>119.99</b>	<b>84.12</b>
Dangerous driving offences	<b>54.6</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>86.36</b>
Drink, Drug driving offences incl. Failure to provide a specimen	<b>102.2</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>9.24</b>	<b>106.06</b>
Speeding offences	<b>64.8</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3.46</b>	<b>94.59</b>
Driving while disqualified	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>94.44</b>
Driving without a licence	<b>99</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>7.19</b>	<b>101.3</b>
Failure to insure against third party risks	<b>260</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>100.41</b>
Driving Carelessly	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>100</b>
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	<b>21</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2.89</b>	<b>96.77</b>
Using a motor vehicle without test certificate	<b>113.2</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>88.97</b>
Other Group 7 offences	<b>15.8</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>96</b>