

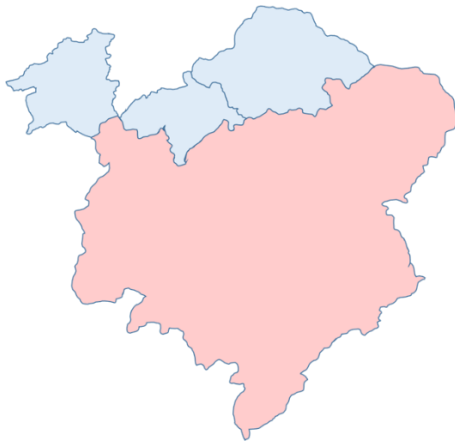
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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

### **Tweeddale East and West Community Councils Multi Member Ward Report for February 2024**



**The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Tweeddale East & West 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 Sergeant Update



# #WeSupportKeepSafe

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March is National Keep Safe Awareness Day.

Keep Safe is a partnership between I Am Me Scotland and Police Scotland, and was originally developed to support disabled to participate in community life, free from fear of harassment and abuse. However, the initiative has received wide support and has continued to evolve to become a national network with over 900 Keep Safe places throughout Scotland. The initiative is available for anyone to use if they feel lost, scared, vulnerable or simply need some breathing space.

Keep Safe places can be any places, such as, libraries, cafes, council buildings or town halls. I have put a list of Scottish Borders Safe Places below. All Keep Safe places are identified by having the Keep Safe logo displayed in their window (see logo above), on their website and the Keep Safe Scotland app. A note of participating businesses is also shared with Police Scotland control room handlers.

As part of the process to become a Keep Safe Place, staff are trained on disability awareness and how to help someone who requires Keep Safe assistance. Finally, you can find more information by clicking the link: [About Keep Safe \(iammescotland.co.uk\)](http://iammescotland.co.uk)

### **Borders College**

**CO-OPs** (Coldstream, Duns, Eyemouth, Kelso, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, Lauder, Selkirk, Kelso)

**Eastgate Theatre**, Peebles

**Milne & Pickles**, Peebles

**Police Scotland** (Duns, Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh, Kelso, Peebles)

**The Bourtree** (Weatherspoons), Hawick  
**The Cross keys** (Weatherspoons), Peebles  
**The Oven Door Tearoom**, Peebles  
**The Plough Hotel**, Kelso

#WeSupportKeepSafe

The below link gives access to the latest Police document for the Scrutiny Panel for the Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board, which sits every quarter at Scottish Borders Council.

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s75749/Item%20No.%205%20a%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20Q4%20CI.pdf>

Once you click into this link, please scroll down to read the full report. It provides progress and updates on service matters from Police Scotland as presented by the Local Area Commander CI Stuart Fletcher.

## 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 February 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 181 mental health related calls, around 23 missing person enquiries and approximately 73 domestic related incidents.*

*Tweeddale East and West had 26 mental health related calls 1 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 Anti-Social Behaviour

### Assaults

04/02/24 – report of a male being assaulted by youths in Old Town, Peebles. Officers are following a positive line of enquiry.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

15/02/24 – report of two youths playing loud music, shouting, and swearing at Hall Street/High Street, Innerleithen. As there were no further calls officers did not attend.

16/02/24 – Report of youths having kicked a door at a property in St. Ronans Terrace, Innerleithen.

16/02/24 – report of youths having stolen from Laundry in Waverley Road, Innerleithen. Parents of youths involved attended with them and apologised and paid for the items taken.

17/02/24 – report of eggs being thrown at windows of a property on High Street, Innerleithen.

### Vandalism

03/02/23 – report of a window being damaged at the Council Contact Centre, High Street, Peebles.

12/02/24 – report of a vehicle parked in Damdale between 1100 and 1645 hours having the window smashed. It is possible that this was the result of a vehicle accident.

17/02/24 – report of property being damaged in Traquair Road, Innerleithen.

18/02/24 – report of a wing mirror being damaged on a vehicle which was parked in Morningside, Innerleithen.

18/02/24 – report of a door panel being damaged at a property in Hall Street, Innerleithen.

Between 18/02/24 and 19/02/24 a vehicle was damaged whilst parked in Damdale, Peebles.

Between 1830 and 1900 hours on 26/02/24 a door was damaged at a property in Bond Street, Innerleithen



## Reducing Acquisitive Crime

### Theft by Housebreaking

05/02/24 report of a shed being broken into at Clovenfords Primary School.

### Theft

Reports of theft shoplifting were received from Sainsbury, Peebles on 12/02/24 and 15/02/24.

Between 2200 19/02/24 and 0800 20/02/24 a motor vehicle was stolen from a property in Clovenfords.



## Improving Road Safety

### Killed or Seriously Injured

About 3.05pm on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 a fatal crash took place on the A703 between Eddleston and Leadburn at Waterheads.

Road Policing officers are continuing with their enquiries and are appealing to anyone who was in the area and saw what happened or has dash-cam footage or CCTV that could help with the investigation to contact Police Scotland on 101 quoting Incident Number 2064 26/02/24.

### Road Traffic Offences

10/02/24 – a driver was issued with a fine for having no MOT when stopped by officers on the A72 near the Nest roundabout.

22/02/24 – a driver was issued with a fine and penalty points for having no insurance when stopped by officers on the A72 at Innerleithen Road, Peebles

## Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

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

*The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 2 Drug Warrants across the command area during February, both were positive and 2 persons were charged with drug related offences. This included another large / industrial scale Cannabis cultivation which had a potential street value of £500,000.*

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*They would also 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. 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 \(iammesotland.co.uk\)](http://iammesotland.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 11 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.

Throughout February numerous hi- vis speed and static road checks have been carried out a schools throughout the Scottish Borders at dropping off and picking up times.

On 10/02/24 officers on mobile patrol found a crashed vehicle in Hawick. Following enquiries, a male was arrested and later charged with driving whilst under the influence of alcohol along with other



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offences. No one was injured. A second male was charged with taking the vehicle without permission of the owner.

On 28/02/24 officers SBCAT took part in Operation Checkpoint which is a Multi force Operation targeting travelling criminals operating between counties in the North of England and Scotland. SBCAT conducted road checks on the A68, A7 and A1 targeting vehicles coming into Scotland from England. About 70 vehicles were stopped, 12 drivers were warned regarding minor offences for lights and tyres and one was issued a ticket for no MOT. A driver of an HGV was stopped and searched due to the smell of cannabis. He was found to be in possession of cannabis and under the influence of drugs. He was arrested and blood samples have been sent away for analysis prior to prosecution.

**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 131 tickets have been issued.

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 along with Duns Industrial Estate (no issues).

We've also received new complaints of cars parking in ambulance spaces outside the 2 of the health centres in Hawick. We have spoken with the staff in the nearby businesses and reminded them of the parking restrictions. Regular checks are being made and parking tickets have been issued.

**RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME** – We continue to carry out static road checks in rural areas at all times of day to deter and detect rural acquisitive crime. 21 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in this month along with numerous hi-visibility patrols of rural areas.

On 18/02/24 Officers on quadbikes at Monynut found a male in a van. It was strongly suspected the male had transported off road bikes to Monynut and friends of his were out on the bikes. The male was issued a ticket for an unrelated offence and left Monynut

Several other quad bike and vehicle patrols were completed on weekends 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.

3 youth warning letters were issued during the month of January in relation to youths.

Extra patrols have been completed in the areas identified in the tasking as well as Burnfoot in Hawick due to ongoing issues with youths at the Primary School. They have also been doing foot patrols outside Jedburgh Sheriff Court on court days due to several altercations that have occurred between people attending court.

On the evening of Saturday 17/2/24 – The Specials Initiative Team (SIT) which is a team of 6 Special Constables joined the SBCAT for patrols in Hawick. The first couple of hours was spent dealing with youths committing ASB at Morrisons. They completed detailed checks at 3 licensed premises, using plain clothes officers. 2 traffic tickets were issued and several drivers were given warnings. The public noticed the extra officers and were keen to engage. The team received a lot of positive feedback. CI Fletcher is arranging for the SIT to return and work with the SBCAT in other parts of the Borders.



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On 23/2/24 whilst SBCAT officers were on foot patrol in Galashiels they carried out a drug search of a male. Although this search was negative subsequent enquiries established that he had committed a shoplifting nearby. As a result he was arrested, charged and reported for theft.

On 24/2/24- Following a report of anti-social behaviour at Morrison's, Hawick. Officers attended where it was established that a 12-year-old girl had spat at a member of staff and also thrown a cardboard sign at another. Subsequent enquiries identified the girl and she was thereafter traced and charged with 2 x Assaults and threatening and abusive behaviour.

On 24/2/24- During patrol in Newton St Boswells, two female youths had alcohol seized from them. Youth warning letters issued.

**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 10 people were arrested on warrant.

On 06/02/24 – After 3 weeks of checks for a priority warrant CAT officers found the suspect hiding in bathroom. The suspect was also found to be in possession of multiple different types of controlled drugs.

On 20/02/24 – CAT officers arrested a male wanted on a high priority warrant.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT** – SBCAT officers have taken part in 1 drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders.

On 1/2/24- CAT officers executed an MDA warrant in Galashiels which resulted in the recovery of a personal amount of cannabis and over £1,000 in cash being seized. Enquiries are ongoing (approx. 36g, value £550.00)

*Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February CAT officers assisted in the recovery of approximately £500,000 worth of cannabis from a cultivation found in Berwickshire*

### OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE-

On 13/2/24- Whilst on patrol CAT officers were approached by a members of the public who informed them that they had been threatened by a male brandishing a knife towards them and that he was holding a person against their will was in fear. The CAT officers attended, supported by other colleagues, at which time the person was found safe and well, however a male was arrested. He was subsequently found in possession of a personal quantity of cocaine, was charged for both offences and held for court.



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[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:

[TweeddaleEastCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TweeddaleEastCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

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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.