

TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

20 August 2001

Report by the Chief Constable No. PB 32/2001

**SUBJECT: TAYSIDE POLICE HIGHLIGHT REPORT
PERIOD 21 APRIL 2001- 23 JULY 2001**

Abstract: This report provides an update on Crime Initiatives and includes a selection of incidents which have taken place in the force area together with various comments received from members of the public.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 The Board is requested to note the terms of the report for its information.

2. CRIME HIGHLIGHTS

Drugs

Operation Jaguar, is the on-going initiative within the Force area to tackle drug crime and there has been a 4% increase in seizures of controlled drugs during the period covered by this report.

In particular the following significant seizures of controlled drugs have recently taken place:-

- In July a number of co-ordinated searches under Operation Jaguar were carried out in houses across Tayside and in licensed premises in Dundee which resulted in thirteen people being reported for serious drug offences. This included the recovery of 28.5 kilos of Cannabis Resin, 1000 ecstasy tablets and personal amounts of cocaine and amphetamine recovered in a house in Whitfield, Dundee. Total value £220,000.
- ½ kilo of cocaine recovered in a joint operation between Tayside and Strathclyde Police which resulted in the arrest of a Dundee man in Glasgow. Value £30,000.
- 29 kilos of Cannabis Resin found in possession of two men travelling Northwards on the M90 at Kinross returning to Dundee. Value £193,000.
- Following a search of a room at the University of Dundee, 143 MDMA tablets and 254.6 grams of Cannabis Resin recovered. One person was charged with various drug offences. Value £2,000.

- 4 kilos of Cannabis Resin recovered during a house search near to Kinross. Value £27,000.
- 3.5 kilos of Cannabis Resin found in possession of two men travelling towards Kirriemuir from Dundee. Value £23,000.

Whilst crimes recorded in relation to seizures of heroin have more than doubled the amounts recovered increased more than fourfold in line with present policy to actively target dealers.

During the first four months of this year, Tayside Police have recovered in excess of £500,000 worth of drugs.

Vehicle Crime

Operation Valiant continues to be the force's high profile response to vehicle crime and has contributed to a 4% decrease in reported offences on the previous year, including a decrease in vehicle thefts of 16.2%. Central Division (Dundee) in particular has seen a particularly significant fall of almost 28% in this category.

This has been attained through improved intelligence gathering and analytical techniques being employed, resulting in a series of measures including strategic placement of roadblocks and pro-active targeting of known offenders.

Housebreaking

Domestic Housebreaking has increased slightly (4.6%) compared to the equivalent period last year. The Force will shortly be running an anti – housebreaking initiative which will be intelligence led and backed up with analytical support. Resources such as divisional proactive teams will be extensively deployed in various capacities during this operation.

Violent Crime

Crimes of violence within the force area have decreased by 11.8% since last year.

In particular, despite an increase in person searches conducted through the national Safer Scotland Campaign, the most noticeable drop in a specific crime type was that for possession of offensive weapons which is down 34.7%. This is very encouraging and clearly demonstrates the value of initiatives like the Safer Scotland Campaign.

Overall Crime

In general reported crimes have overall fallen by almost 4% compared with the same period last year.

3. T in the Park at Balado

This annual pop music festival was again held at Balado by Kinross over the week-end of 6 to 9 July 2001 and was the fifth occasion on which the event has taken place in the Force area.

A total of 55,000 people attended the event on each of the two days of the festival. Some 500 police officers and members of support staff were deployed in a variety of roles including traffic control duty and custody handling in addition to the general policing of the venue and its associated campsite. The event, certainly in policing terms, was a great success and once again demonstrated the strengths of Tayside Police, working in partnership with other agencies, in managing major events. Arrests and other incidents were low given the numbers attending and perhaps the largest statistic was the enormous volume of lost and found property generated over the week-end.

4. INCIDENTS DURING PERIOD 21 APRIL – 23 JULY 2001

The following are a flavour of the range of incidents that have occurred across the Force during the period 21 April - 23 July 2001.

Recovery of High Value Stolen Vehicles

Two JCB diggers valued £50,000 originally stolen from Fife were recovered in Perth. One person was apprehended. The theft of high value vehicles and plant, much of which goes abroad, is of major national concern.

Robbery

An elderly woman was walking in an underpass in Dundee when a man approached from behind, grabbed her and made off with her bag. The woman, who was thrown to the ground, suffered a fractured right knee and torn shoulder ligaments and was detained in hospital.

Stolen Vehicle and Theft

A vehicle was stolen in Angus (Eastern Division) and used in connection with a series of thefts in Perth and Kinross (Western Division). Later the vehicle was spotted on the A923 Dunkeld to Blairgowrie Road and the driver failed to stop for officers. Officers followed and the stolen vehicle was abandoned in a field near Perth and two men made off into the nearby woods. After a two hour search of the area two men were apprehended.

Fatal Road Traffic Accident

Occurred on the A9 in Western Division when a southbound vehicle collided with a northbound minibus and as a result four people were fatally injured. The Police, two Air Ambulance crews, Fire Brigade and the local Doctor were in attendance. The A9 was closed for five hours with light traffic being diverted locally and HGVs being parked up or diverted via Aberdeen.

Police Assault

In Dundee, one man, whilst being arrested on a warrant, struggled violently with officers, resulting in minor injuries to a number of officers and a double fracture to the hand of one officer.

Fatal Industrial Accident

Occurred on the Tay Wastewater Project site at Broughty Ferry, when a trench collapsed killing a workman. The trench flooded at high tide and as a result the Fire Brigade could not commence recovery of the deceased until 0200 hours the following morning. An enquiry team of four Constables and a Detective Sergeant was established and they worked for two weeks alongside the Health and Safety Executive. The HSE were supplied with videos, photographs, police reports and statements.

Climber Injured

A climber was seriously injured in a fall while climbing with four others in the Red Craig area of Glen Clova (Eastern Division) The victim fell approximately 40 feet and sustained serious head, hand and spinal injuries. The Search and Rescue Unit attended together with Paramedics and the climber was air lifted to Ninewells Hospital.

This was one of five occasions when The Search and Rescue Unit were called out but two were cancelled prior to deployment. There were two incidents of suicide and 2 missing persons.

Vulnerable Missing Person Traced

An elderly dementia sufferer was reported missing from a home in Dundee. There was considerable concern for his safety and a search of the home and the surrounding area was mounted. He was traced safe and well, seven hours later in the area.

5. SELECTION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING THE PERIOD 2 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2001

"The officers in attendance were extremely helpful and reassuring. Subsequently the aftercare my staff and myself have received from the Force has been excellent".

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his speedy response and for his warm and friendly manner. He put my mind at rest and has been extremely helpful".

"The officer carried out his duty with the greatest tact, sympathy and consideration".

"I do not wish their courtesy and consideration to pass unnoticed and would wish you to extend to them both, our profound gratitude".

"Please convey to the two constables concerned my heartfelt thanks for the manner in which they helped as much as for the actual assistance given".

"I have to report that the recent support from the police has been extremely positive and much appreciated".

"The calm, considerate and efficient way in which the police dealt with the matter was a great help to us and much appreciated".

"In these times when people so readily "knock" our police force, they should remember all the other duties you perform".

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