

TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

12 November 2001

Report by the Chief Constable No. PB 42/2001

**SUBJECT: TAYSIDE POLICE HIGHLIGHT REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD JULY – OCTOBER 2001**

Abstract: This report provides an update on Operation Outreach, 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

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

2. OPERATION OUTREACH

- 2.1 During the period the Force launched Operation Outreach, part of our commitment to enhancing contact between the public and the patrolling officer. The Force is very aware of the reassurance that the public take from the very act of seeing an officer on patrol, it also provides a vital opportunity for contact outwith the crisis or confrontation situation, as well as a physical deterrence to offenders. Whilst we need to balance the demand for routine patrol visibility with the requirement to respond promptly to calls and thoroughly investigate crimes we are committed to doing more to provide that important reassurance element.
- 2.1 Operation Outreach is designed to profile our strategy and complement the day to day activities being implemented across the Force by local commanders. Already we have had two Operation Outreach days, one in September and one in October, where local officers have been joined by others from Specialist and Headquarters Departments to provide a highly visible presence on the streets in towns right across the Force area. The patrols and visits have been carefully planned to produce maximum impact and effectiveness, for example near schools at opening / closing times, at supermarkets during evening shopping peaks and on commuter routes during rush hour. During the October day there was also emphasis placed on the inappropriate selling of fireworks and in providing enhanced reassurance to the ethnic communities in this difficult time.
- 2.1 Feedback from the public after each day has been extremely positive and we are currently planning a number of similar events.

3. CRIME HIGHLIGHTS

a) Drugs

Operation Jaguar continues as the main focus for all aspects of drugs enforcement. As part of that activity Tayside Police made a significant contribution to the “*Safer Scotland*” - ‘*Know the Score*’ drugs campaign. Activities during this campaign included taking the anti-drugs message into schools, colleges, community centres, shopping areas and various other public places. Although the national campaign ended at the end of August Tayside Police is committed to continuing its drugs education campaign under the ‘*Know the Score*’ banner. Operation Jaguar will continue to target “the dealers”, those individuals and groups behind the supply of illegal drugs across the Force area.

Notable recoveries of drugs in recent months include:

July	Two men arrested in Dundee in possession of three and a half kilos of Cannabis Resin valued at £23,000.
August	<p>A woman arrested visiting Perth Prison in possession of 5.5 grams of Diamorphine. Potential illicit value is £4,700.</p> <p>A man arrested in the Perth area in possession of 20 kilos of Cannabis Resin with a potential street value of £114,000.</p> <p>A local couple arrested in Dundee in possession of 9.3 grams of Diamorphine with a potential illicit value of £1,000</p> <p>Three men arrested in Dundee in possession of an ounce of Cocaine with a potential illicit value of £1,700.</p>
September	<p>A man arrested in Dundee in possession of 17.5 grams of Cocaine with a potential illicit value of £1,000</p> <p>A Dundee man arrested on the A9 road near Perth in possession of 102.5 Kilograms of Cannabis Resin with a potential illicit value of £585,000.</p> <p>A man arrested in Dundee in possession of 532 grams of Diamorphine with a potential illicit value of £88,500.</p> <p>A man arrested close to the wall of Perth Prison in possession of a tennis ball containing 11.4 grams of Diamorphine, 7 grams of Cannabis Resin, 90 Dihydrocodeine tablets 95 Diazepam tablets.</p> <p>Two men arrested in Arbroath in possession of 198 Methylenedioxymethylamphetamine (MDMA) tablets and 3/4 Kilo of Cannabis Resin. Value £6,265.</p>

b) Vehicle Crime

Operation Valiant is the Forcewide activity against vehicle crime.

Comparison of recorded crime shows a slight increase from 2582 crimes recorded for the period April-September 2000 to 2596 for the same period this year. The detection rate has fallen slightly from 17.4% to 15.9% over the same period.

In order to address this situation the Force has undertaken a variety of initiatives under Operation Valiant and a number of prolific and active car thieves have been arrested. As a result, other crimes have also come to light during the Operation adding to the impact on crime in Tayside. It has been found however that a significant number of those involved in car crime are juveniles and because of their age they are released back into the community after a relatively short period of time. Operation Valiant offers a range of tactical options to impact on this criminality including working with the local authorities, targeting car thieves and providing crime prevention advice to car owners whose vehicles have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to this type of crime

c) Housebreaking

Operation Viper will be launched on 12 November 2001. It will last for three months and be in line with the Force commitment to tackle domestic housebreakings. It will focus on areas where the crimes occur and on the persons who are known to commit them. It is recognised that the courts do not always acknowledge the impact on the victim and the suffering can often be compounded by the fact that many housebreakings are carried out by individuals on bail for similar offences. Such instances will be vigorously reported to the relevant prosecuting agencies.

Using analysis crime prevention will be centred on areas where vulnerability has been identified. To this end the local authority liaison officers will link in to their respective authorities to ensure that there is a common prioritisation and action. A proactive approach will be taken in respect of the second hand dealers who often benefit to the detriment of others while every effort will be made to co-ordinate action and resources across the Force to achieve maximum results.

d) Violent Crime

Violent crime in Tayside is decreasing and a comparison of recorded crime shows a drop from 324 crimes recorded for the period April-September 2000 to 283 for the same period this year. There has also been a welcome, significant rise in the number of these crimes being solved, with success in a number of incidents from early in the calendar year.

e) Overall Crime

Reported Crime has risen very slightly from 14708 to 14921 between April to September 2000 to 2001, although our own success in the arrest of those involved in drugs contributes to this increase.

Detection rates over the same period have fallen from 41.3% to 37.5%, a position we are confident, through a range of measures, will improve during the second half of the year.

In particular, a review of our systems for the management of the crime recording process has resulted in new guidance and administrative arrangements being introduced. These changes bring a sharper focus to the whole process from the initial capture of the crime report, through the subsequent management of the enquiries and concludes with a structured audit to ensure the system fully reflects all crimes reported and those which have been solved and those not.

4. INCIDENTS DURING THE PERIOD

The following are a flavour of the range of incidents that have occurred across the Force during the period.

(a) Murder Enquiry

One of the largest murder enquiries in recent years was launched following the discovery of a woman's body on Dundee Law. Officers from right across the Tayside Police area were involved in this case. A person has been arrested and the case is awaiting trial.

(b) Hoax Calls

Officers attended three separate hoax bomb calls in the same day, one in Perth and two in Dundee. These malicious incidents caused some disruption locally and diverted officers from important work.

(c) Use of CS Spray

When the driver of a motor vehicle was being detained in Eastern Division (Angus) for a number of road traffic offences, he began to struggle violently with the officers and attacked one of the officers with a screwdriver. CS spray was used to subdue the man who was later found to be wanted on 4 apprehension warrants.

(d) Fatal Road Accident

A collision occurred between a van and a lorry on the M90 near the Friarton Bridge (Western Division) as a result of which the van driver was fatally injured. The road was closed for several hours to allow a detailed examination of the scene by a Traffic Accident Investigator and for the recovery of the vehicles.

(e) Fatal Fire

Police officers in Perth investigated the tragic death of five people in a house fire.

(f) High Value Theft

In Central Division (Dundee) a plant operator's yard was broken into and in an unusual theft, a large excavator value £24,000 was stolen.

5. SELECTION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING THE PERIOD.

"We did want to thank everyone involved for coming out to our house yesterday and to congratulate you all on your efficiency".

"I write to express our very grateful thanks for the efficiency, conduct and level of care your officers showed to the injured. All reports we have received are full of praise for their actions".

"I would like to give my thanks to all officers concerned on that day for their co-ordination and efforts, a job well done".

"I wish to record the appreciation of all of us in this area for the sterling work carried out by your officers".

"Please convey my sincere thanks to the officers concerned who demonstrated diligence and an eagerness to assist in the true spirit of the Scottish Police Service".

"He is a credit to Tayside Police and we wish to place on record our very grateful thanks for all his hard work on our behalf".

"The issue was a relatively minor one but brings to light two dedicated officers who got a result in the end to make my call worthwhile".

"Your officer showed a great deal of sympathy and portrayed Tayside Police in a very positive manner".

"I cannot speak highly enough about the professionalism of this officer. His conduct was exemplary and worthy of significant note".

"If all incidents in your area are handled this way, you have a Police Force to be very proud of".

JOHN D VINE
Chief Constable

Police Headquarters
4 West Bell Street
Dundee
DD1 9JU

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