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East Lothian Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders



Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Quarter 2 – 2025/2026

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

Protect vulnerable people to prevent abuse, neglect & exploitation.

Implement a delivery model supporting a Violence Against Women & Girls Prevention Strategy.

Implement the National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland.

Proactively target domestic abuse offenders.

Develop partnership approaches to improve public confidence to report incidents of harm & abuse.

Reducing violence & anti-social behaviour

Work collaboratively to identify and target violent offenders.

Increase awareness of the impact of violence & antisocial behaviour.

Work in partnerships to reduce alcohol related criminality.

Collaborate to capture the under reporting of violence & explore preventative approaches (i.e. Navigator).

Develop night time economy plans with licensed premises & promote participation in 'Best Bar None'.

Reducing acquisitive crime

Focus on domestic housebreaking.

Raise awareness of current crime trends & prevention tactics.

Tackle emerging acquisitive crime patterns to identify & target prolific offenders.

Work to prevent acquisitive crime.

In partnership, maximise support for victims of acquisitive crime.

Work with Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC).

Use Police Scotland Youth Volunteers to deliver crime prevention information.

Improving road safety

Collaborate on the engineering of the roads through our communities to improve road safety.

Detect offenders who disregard road traffic laws & endanger others.

Support partnership driver education programmes.

Raise awareness of the consequences of speeding, not wearing a seat belt, drink or drug driving & using a mobile phone while driving.

Tackling serious & organised crime

Work to divert people from becoming involved in serious & organised crime & using its products (drugs, counterfeit good etc).

Use social media to raise awareness and educate about human trafficking.

Work to prosecute those involved in serious organised crime, including online, 'cuckooing' & 'county lines'.

Maximise the disruption of serious organised crime groups.

Target the production, cultivation & supply of illegal drugs.

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

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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 – Damage and Reckless Behaviour
- Group 5 – Crimes against Society
- Group 6 – Antisocial Offences
- Group 7 – Miscellaneous Offences
- Group 8 – Road Traffic offences

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 2025 to September 2025 and are compared against the five year average.

East Lothian Performance Summary Report

Reporting Period: April 25 – September 2025

Total Crime: (Group1-5) 2,767

Crime Increase: 14.1%

Protecting the most vulnerable people

Domestic crime detections
72.9%



13% > 5YA

Missing Persons

95



26 < YTD

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour

Common Assault

16%



72 > 5YA

ASB offences

8%



33 > 5YA

Reducing Acquisitive Crime

All Housebreaking

89



27 < 5YA

Domestic Housebreaking

37



7 < 5YA

Improving road safety

Road Traffic Casualties

-2.3%



44 (2 less)

Serious Organised Crime

Drug supply

39



23 > 5YA

Executive Summary

I am delighted to present this half year scrutiny report and my sixth as East Lothian Local Area Commander, covering the period 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025. Whilst I am pleased to report that we have seen overall decreases in important areas of missing persons, domestic housebreaking and serious sexual crime including rape we have seen growth primarily in group one crime driven by increases in common assaults and in group 3 crime driven by shoplifting increases. There are also nearly 1000 more incidents reported to us than 5 years ago equating to roughly 80 incidents per day which give some perspective of the nature of the challenge that our officers face daily and is rightly something which I and the Divisional Commander are seeking to influence in terms of organisational change nationally when we take into account the fast growing population.

I will tackle the reasons behind these increases within the relevant sections of my report however I want to begin by paying tribute to the officers and staff in the county who work tirelessly in keeping people safe, often to the detriment of their own personal life and that of their families. Policing and public service is a relentless business, and this last reporting period has seen unprecedented demand with the visits of President Trump and Vice President Vance to Scotland as well as a significant upturn in protest activity nationally. All this creates demand on local Policing divisions such as ourselves and has led to officers being abstracted away from their normal duties. Despite all this your Police officers and staff continue to do a fantastic job in our communities, and this was rightly recognised in the recent Divisional Policing Awards ceremony held at Queen Margaret University where several officers in East Lothian received awards for outstanding service and bravery.

In my last report I outlined a number of upcoming changes which have now been achieved and their significance in modernising Policing in the county and nationally should not be underestimated as Police Scotland seeks to realise our 2030 vision for policing in achieving safer communities, less crime, supported victims, and a thriving workforce.

The most recent of these changes was the “go live” of body worn video for all officers in East Lothian which took place on 22nd October. This builds on the already implemented Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC) which allows us to rapidly capture and share CCTV evidence with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, with the intention of speeding up the outcomes at court and delivering system-wide efficiencies in the criminal justice system. There are many wider benefits expected from both of these changes with the key ones being reductions in officers being cited to court and therefore increases in patrol time and greater protection and accountability for officers and public alike.

Partnering with communities and the public is at the heart of all we do, and I am grateful for the support of all our partners in East Lothian which continues to benefit from strong links and cooperation at all levels of partnership working. There are numerous success stories whether it is initiatives involving local farmers and members of East Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (ELPARC), Police Scotland Young Volunteers (PSYV) supporting speeding, events and ASB, Community Speedwatch Patrols and more recently the deployment of 16 Special Constables on one evening under the Special Initiative Team (SIT).

Looking ahead to the next period I hope that the new ASB Strategy currently being agreed with key partners will bring increased early intervention and preventative approaches problems of ASB and substance misuse which are often at the heart of problems associated to crime within communities. I am also encouraged by the creation of a third Community Sergeant post along with three Constable posts within East Lothian as part of a new Service Delivery team which is being created to support Response and Community teams workloads with the investigation of volume crime and repeat offenders. This should be in place by the end of the year and will add some additional capacity to investigating crime trends and hotspot locations as they develop.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Missing Persons
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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 undertook 6,907 investigations into missing people in the period to Q2 2025/6.

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. The table below is a breakdown of the missing persons reported in East Lothian over the last 12 months when compared with last year.

Q2	Total missing persons	Adult	Child	Care Experienced Child	Cared for adult	Deceased
2024/25	121	32	55	32	2	0
2025/26	95	25	57	12	0	0
Change	-26	-7	+2	-20	-2	0

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 again through quarter 2 which builds on the consistent progress we have made in the area over the last 2 years. Missing persons in East Lothian are missing for an average 16 hours which when multiplied at numerous ranks and officer time is a huge amount of resource so it rightly remains an area of focus.

It is notable that a large proportion of the young people who are reported missing in East Lothian are being reported missing from home. Our Missing Person Coordinator undertakes a review of repeat absences and offers support to parents and carers in addition to multi-agency work which is ongoing with many of these children and this will be an area of focus for us for the next period.

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. In addition to this we are working with Education establishments to ensure a clear understanding of the definitions of truanting and missing persons.

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 I am grateful for their continuing support.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Domestic Abuse Incidents
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	5yr Average	Q2 2025/26	% change from 5yr average
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents	616.4	687	11.5
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	242.6	265	9.2
Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime	39.4%	38.6%	-0.8
Total crimes and offences detection rate	64.4%	72.9%	13.2
Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	37.4	28	-25.1

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 MATAAC (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.

Tackling domestic abuse is everyone’s business and the multi-agency East Lothian Equally Safe group seeks to take further proactive steps to preventing and eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls in East Lothian. The primary goal of the Equally Safe group is to create culture and environments where women and girls can live free from the fear, threat, or experience of violence, abuse and exploitation.

Key priorities in the strategy include:

- Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically.
- Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people; and

- Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.

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 taking into account recent changes to legislation around what can be used to corroborate the account of victims and ensure offenders face the consequences of their actions.

This year to date we have seen a slight rise in the number of domestic incidents coupled with an associated rise in crimes recorded against the 5-year average. Detection rates have improved markedly and reflects the maximising of opportunities to prosecute offenders through legislative changes as well as the priority which this receives on a day to day basis.

We continue to promote the use of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) which marked its 10 year anniversary this year. The scheme 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 a vital tool in the prevention of domestic violence, giving people the knowledge to protect themselves from entering into risky relationships.

Officers from across East Lothian supported the recent “16 days of action” campaign for Violence Against Women and Girls and in addition to this we 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	Q2 2025/26	% change from 5 year average
Hate Incidents	13.4	6	-55.2
Hate Crimes	55.8	60	7.5
Hate Crime Detection Rate	64.5	55	-9.5

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.

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.

With the changes in the law to widen the definition of hate crime now 18 months old we are starting to see higher numbers of incidents categorised as hate crimes however this also needs to be set in the context of what has been a period of heightened tension over immigration issues and global events such as the war in Gaza which have undoubtedly played a part in raising the presence of different races in the consciousness of our communities. Uniting communities together and being tolerant of the diversity which exists within them is a key goal in Policing and we will do all we can to ensure zero tolerance to those who commit hate crimes amongst our communities.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Sexual Crimes (Group 2)
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Crime Type	5 Year average	Q 2 2025/26	% change from 5 year average	% Detection Rate
Group 2	124	122	-1.8	41
Rape	24	19	-20.8	78.9
Attempt Rape	1.4	1	-28.6	32.1
Indecent/Sexual Assault	42.8	53	23.8	32.1
Indecent photos of children	7.6	10	31.6	80

Overall, group 2 sexual crimes have decreased slightly and encouragingly there is a more noticeable fall in the number of rape offences being reported. The increase of rape offences in the past few years was primarily driven by non-recent reports which are categorised reports occurring a year or more after the offence was perpetrated so whilst it is positive that less crimes have been reported we are always mindful that it is a case of striking the right balance with people having the confidence to come forward and report crime. I am confident that this is being maintained with a dedicated team of detective officers working to investigate these crimes and provide support to victims so that they feel encouraged and supported to come forward.

Non-contact sexual offences perpetrated over the internet or through communications devices used by young people continue to be reported with suspects coming from out with East Lothian which does pose a challenge in terms of identifying and bringing offenders to justice and emphasises the need for ongoing prevention and education in this area.

We will continue to work closely with all our partners through the Violence Against Women and Girls Working Group and the newly formed Equally Safe Group, to encourage and support victims to report sexual crimes.

The Community Safety partnership group uses its network to disseminate various prevention measures and messages to the community in terms of avoiding being the victim of this type of crime and in September we heard from Headteachers about the work that is ongoing in schools to educate and endorse a healthy culture around relationships and respect for gender in our young people. Our three school link officers are also a vital part of prevention work and continue to provide inputs on healthy relationships and internet safety to our young people to raise awareness and keep them safe.

Protecting the most vulnerable people.	Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation
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Drugs Supply	5 year average	Q2 2025/26	% Change from 5 year average	% Detection Rate
Drugs Supply (including possession with intent)	16.2	39	140.7	92.3

Drug supply charges have retained the higher numbers seen over the previous year which is again reflective of the hard work of both our Proactive Crime Team based at Musselburgh and our Community Action Teams based at Tranent and Haddington. The presence of illicit substances in our communities remains one of the biggest threats the health and wellbeing of both young people and more established users and remains a priority for us.

The figures demonstrate the resource commitment and success of tactics committed to preventing the harm caused by the misuse of drugs through a combination of effective enforcement and preventative measures. We have continued to refer individuals who have taken a near or non-fatal overdose to support services within 24 hours of police contact and are engaged with all our partners to try and reduce the harm caused by drug misuse.

Overall numbers of stop and searches completed have decreased, perhaps owing to some of the abstraction of our community teams to Police national events and VIP visits over the summer however this remains an effective tactic and one which we will continue to deploy around ASB, drugs and acquisitive crime. Positive searches account for just over a third (28) of the total (65).

We continue to share information from our Vulnerable Adult Database with substance misuse services in NHS Lothian, on those most at risk of harm through addiction to drugs and alcohol and are engaged with NHS Lothian and other partners on both operational and strategic levels to ensure a partnership approach is developed in order to tackle the harm caused by drug and alcohol addiction as well as the causal factors of poor mental health, poverty and deprivation.

Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Crimes of Violence (Group 1)
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Crime Type	5 year average	Q2 2025/26	% Change from 5 year average	Q2 2025/26 Detection Rate
Group 1	546	641	17.2	58.5
Serious Assault	20	25	25	76
Robbery	8.8	8	-9.1	62.5
Common Assault	425	497	16.7	55

Group 1 crime trends have increased in a number of areas when compared against both the 5 year average. Both robberies and serious assaults are tracking slightly above the 5 year average. There is no causal link between serious assaults however in the case of robberies the motivation for carrying out this type of crime has been commonly associated to drug debt which reinforces the need for substance use services being closely aligned with Policing which is the case in East Lothian through the weekly multi-agency Tasking and Coordination Group.

The rise is primarily driven by an increase in common assaults of which 157 of the total are domestic related. 17 are related to assaults on retail staff which is an area of concern given its association to increased levels of shoplifting.

Assaults on emergency workers have slightly reduced and with the use of body worn video by Police officers, the expectation is that this will further reduce when combined with a higher percentage of officers undergoing the Act Don't React training which is seeing the levels of assaults against officers receiving this training markedly reduce.

21 crimes of threats and extortion were recorded driven primarily by "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. The age profile of victims continues to be mainly between 13-18 and this age group are the focus of local prevention and education resources both at school and university as well as a focus for national campaigns.

Crimes of violence within licensed premises continue to be monitored and we do not have any monitored Licensed Premises in East Lothian. 84 of all group 1 crimes were linked to alcohol which again will be the subject of local and national campaigns to encourage responsible consumption. Where appropriate we took enforcement action against licensees failing to comply with legislative requirements.

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Reducing Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Reducing Antisocial Behaviour			
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Indicator	5 Year Average	Q2 2025/26	% Change from 5 year average	Q2 2025/26 % Detection Rate
Antisocial Behaviour Offences	387.0	420	8.4	
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)	365	386	5.5	18.6
Fire-raising	23.8	27	13.8	25.9
Breach of the Peace	10	16	60	100
S38 CJ&L(S) A 2010	345	378	9.5	63.7

The number of anti-social behaviour incidents is running at slightly above that of last year and the figures presented above show increases across the board however I would highlight that the in three out of the five measures, this is sign of patrolling, active enforcement of ASBOs and action against those found committing ASB such as street drinkers.

The summer months provided the usual seasonal increase in visitors to East Lothian and despite some increases in the volume of calls and demand on Policing resources for events including Fringe by the Sea, Scottish Golf Open and Gala days, the summer season appears to have been successful from a Policing perspective. Throughout the summer we continued regular operational meetings and patrols with countryside and coastal partners to address seasonal issues such as wild camping and parking.

The ASB strategy currently being revised will be a cornerstone of how ASB is managed over the next few years, emphasising the need for a joined up approach based on early intervention. I hope this will build on what is reported from the Community and Police Partnerships in identifying and addressing ASB before it becomes a long-term problem. It will recognise the fact that many of the repeat locations for ASB revolve around individuals who have complex needs either in terms of health, poverty or lack of employment. In conjunction with our partners we have already taken steps to either support these individuals in addressing the alcohol and drug addiction which exacerbates their behaviour or provide enforcement action against them through the use of ASBOs but equally we all recognise that more can be done through the many multi-agency responses planned through the East Lothian Poverty Plan, Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Community Learning Development Plan. The contribution of the Community Protection Team from East Lothian Council in this should not be underestimated and there are several examples of successful joint enforcement against repeat ASB offenders.

In relation to ASB committed by young people all Police officers whether that is at Area Commander level or below work closely with partners to support young people and their families to improve their behaviour and reduce vulnerabilities. This is never more so than during key events in the calendar such as Halloween and Bonfire

night and whilst the statistics from these dates are not contained in this report, I am pleased to report that we have seen an improvement in both behaviour and the number of calls received over the same period this year.

We continue to work across the partnership to increase provision for recreation, youth work and diversionary projects and promote responsible behaviour and tolerance across our communities.

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. It is vital that there are adequate recreational facilities for young people across East Lothian and we are committed to supporting this particularly in the Musselburgh area.

All incidents of ASB continue to be brought to the attention of the weekly tasking and coordinating group undertaken with our partners every Wednesday and through the Community and Police Partnership meetings (CAPPs). The support of elected members in attending CAPPs along with local Community officers is greatly appreciated and this is an area of community engagement which we would seek to strengthen.

Finally and to end on a positive note, in my last few reports I have reported positively on progress to form a Street Pastors Group, and I am pleased to report that this has now been established and is in the process of formal application for charitable status and training of volunteers. I would regard organisations such as Street Pastors as vital in our efforts to provide help and support for those on the margins of society and would hope that 2026 sees the first patrols by Street Pastors in East Lothian streets. My thanks goes to Paul Thomson as chair and to the other volunteers for getting this off the ground.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime	Dishonesty (group 3)
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Crime Type	5 year average	Q2 2025/26	% change from 5 year average	Q2 2025/26 Detection Rate
Total Group 3	889	1070	20.3	23.8

Overall, we have seen an increase in Group 3 Crimes reported this year compared to the 5-year average. This is despite falls in housebreaking overall and is in large part driven by a continuing growth in shoplifting. Shoplifting is a crime linked to both socio-economic deprivation and addiction and the higher levels of this crime are seen in the more deprived areas of the county.

Shoplifters can be professional thieves which is why the [Retail crime Taskforce](#) was set up earlier this year to tackle this type of problem which sees the criminals concerned travelling vast distances through many of our towns and cities to commit crime.

More locally and this is the case in East Lothian local people shoplift because they cannot afford food or because of their need to fund drug or alcohol addiction which is no less desperate and why we as Police and our partners are working collectively to offer support to these individuals in the hope of reducing their offending through Restorative Justice and other rehabilitation programmes.

We all have a role to play as too often within communities, shoplifters are taking their stolen goods and selling them whether that is to family, friends, in the pub or close by to where they have stolen the goods from. Accepting this or turning a blind eye to this undermines all our efforts.

Fraud continues to fall back as an area of growth with 107 crimes reported however keyless thefts of vehicles by criminals with access to scanning devices and other modern technology continues to be seen at times throughout the county. Certain makes and models of vehicle are more vulnerable to this crime type than others and again the crime is usually committed by organised groups who possess the technical expertise to overcome vehicle security. We have been encouraging owners of these vehicles to take additional security measures to prevent their vehicles being stolen.

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. We also provided preventative support and messaging both locally and in support of national campaigns in an effort to continue to reduce the number of victims.

Reducing Acquisitive Crime	Housebreaking
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Crime Type	5 Year Average	Q2 2025/26	% Change from 5 year average	Q2 2025/26 Detection Rate
Dwelling HB	44.2	37	-16.3	35.1
Non Dwelling (Sheds, garages) HB	35	22	-37	4.5
Other (Business) HB	36.6	30	-18	13.3

*All crime types include attempt thefts.

Housebreaking as a collective has again reduced from the same period last year and in relation to the 5 year average and it is particularly encouraging to see its reduction in all areas including domestic, business and non-dwelling premises such as garden sheds. We have also had success in reducing trends in housebreakings involving young people stealing vapes and alcohol.

It is however important not to remain complacent in this area as we recognise that having your house or business broken into is possibly the single most likely incident that law abiding members of our community will face in terms of being a victim of crime. Simple measures such as protecting high value cars with steering locks, securing your vehicle keys overnight and ensuring robust building security in the form of alarms, CCTV and locks which are not able to be overcome through “lock snapping” techniques go a long way to preventing housebreaking.

A number of our community officers have been trained in conducting crime prevention surveys and I would advocate requesting one of these to anyone requiring further support as well as signing up to the Scottish Neighbourhood Watch scheme as this allows real time alerts to be issued in relevant areas.

All trends are subject to continual analysis and intelligence gathering and we continue to participate in the National Acquisitive Crime group where information and good practice are exchanged across all areas of the country.

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Improving road safety	Road Casualties
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	Q2 2024/25	Q2 2025/26	% Change
Fatal	1	0	-100%
Serious	17	13	-24%
Slight	28	31	11%
Total	45	44	-2.3%
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	-
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	2	0	-100%

	5 Year Average	Q2 2025/26	% Change from 5 year average
Dangerous driving offences	34.6	39	12.7
Driving carelessly	68.8	93	35.2
Speeding offences	37.2	75	101.6
Unlawful use of a motor vehicle	266.2	301	13.1
Seat Belt offences	9.2	9	-2.2
Mobile Phone offences	15.4	22	42.9
Driving under the influence	52.8	68	28.8

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

There have been no fatalities over the last 6 months and the number of collisions has remained broadly static which is testament to the partnership work that goes on across the road network both locally and nationally.

We have seen growth in the number of section 3 careless driving offences recording and part of the reason behind this has been the increased ability to process footage of driving provided by members of the public on the new DESC system which ultimately enables us to pursue motorists who are putting cyclists and other vulnerable road users in danger.

Making our roads safer remains a key priority and our specialist Road Policing officers continue to be 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. In addition to this we work with our partners to improve road layout and signage particularly in areas of new housing as well as supporting active and safe travel plans for schools.

Community Speedwatch has been up and running for over a year in Inveresk in Musselburgh and we have several other several other groups in the final stages of launch. The use of Community Speedwatch in Inveresk has seen 107 drivers warned regarding their speed and analysis of the speeds recorded shows those caught exceeding the 20mph limit have been doing an average of 27.5 which is below the key threshold of 30mph for serious injury.

Local authorities created widespread 20 mph limits to: reduce collisions and injury severity and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists all of which is occurring in East Lothian.

Community Speedwatch 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 communities to take this up as it adds value both in terms of deterrent and intelligence gathering as well as providing an outlet for communities to take active steps to keep their roads safer.

Moving forward we will continue with a number of road safety initiatives with a current focus on the Festive Drink Drive Campaign. 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 continue to implement 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">• Divert: To divert people from being involved in SOC• Deter: To deter SOC by supporting private, public and third-party organisations to protect themselves• Disrupt: To disrupt SOC Groups.• Detect: To identify, detect and prosecute those involved in SOC <p>The main focus of the plan is around Divert and Deter however there are also a number of live investigations into SOC which support the Disrupt and Detect strands of this strategy and we are supported by national teams of officers in these investigations.</p> <p>County lines intelligence and opportunities for enforcement remains an area of focus and we recognise that deterring this sort of criminality from obtaining a foothold in our communities is vital and we must utilise tactic's under all 4 "Ds" to ensure this continues to be the case. County Lines drug dealers from larger cities expand their criminal activity into smaller communities to exploit young and vulnerable people to sell drugs, carry cash and weapons – bringing violence, coercion and abuse. They can also take over a vulnerable person's house – known as cuckooing.</p> <p>The National County Lines Intensification Week took place between Monday 23rd - 30th June 2025. This saw us safeguard a number of known vulnerable people in our communities who were being exploited by drug dealers with extra patrols and safeguarding checks along with our partners during the week.</p> <p>More recently we were part of a national campaign known as Operation Machinize which targeted high street premises involved in money laundering and other criminality.</p>	

OFFICIAL

Complaints	Executive Summary
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Table: Complaints and allegations received in the East Lothian Council area, by period ¹

	TOTAL COMPLAINT CASES RECEIVED			TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED		
	YTD	LYTD	% Change	YTD	LYTD	% Change
East Lothian Council	35	71	-50.7%	52	117	-55.6%

The breakdown above details the total number of Complaints about the Police, received in relation to the East Lothian area command as of 30 September 2025.

The breakdown below provides further detail on the Allegation Category and Type. As can be seen there has been a 55.6% decrease in the overall number of Complaints about the Police when comparing PYTD and YTD.

Table: Allegations received in the East Lothian Council area, by category, type and period ¹

Allegation Category and Type	YTD	PYTD	<i>% change from PYTD</i>
<i>On Duty - TOTAL</i>	32	74	-56.8%
Assault	2	3	-33.3%
Discriminatory Behaviour	0	1	-100.0%
Excessive Force	4	5	-20.0%
Incivility	8	24	-66.7%
Irregularity in Procedure	17	35	-51.4%
Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	0	1	-100.0%
Other - Criminal	1	4	-75.0%
Other - Non Criminal	0	1	-100.0%
<i>Quality Of Service - TOTAL</i>	20	43	-53.5%
Policy/Procedure	4	6	-33.3%
Service Delivery	7	10	-30.0%
Service Outcome	9	27	-66.7%
Grand Total	52	117	-55.6%

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	Q1 & Q2 2025-26	% Change against 5 year average	Detection Rates 2025/26
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	3,087.8	3,211	4.0%	59.7%
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	1.4	1	-28.6%	100.0%
Culpable homicide (at common law)	-	-	-	-
Culpable Homicide (other)	2.8	2	-28.6%	50.0%
Attempted Murder	10.2	9	-11.8%	77.8%
Serious Assault (of an emergency worker)	0.2	1	100.0%	100.0%
Serious Assault (Incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct – causing injury)	137.4	89	-35.2%	75.3%
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	232.4	229	-1.5%	99.6%
Common Assault	2,373.2	2,470	4.1%	55.8%
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	51.6	44	-14.7%	56.8%
Domestic Abuse (of male)	2.8	6	114.3%	100.0%
Domestic Abuse (of female)	76.8	131	70.6%	73.3%
Stalking	50.8	54	6.3%	74.1%
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	34.8	44	26.4%	79.5%
Threats and extortion	84.8	95	12.0%	5.3%
Other group 1 crimes	28.6	36	25.9%	69.4%
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	631.6	676	7.0%	53.6%
Rape	117.4	149	26.9%	51.0%
Attempted Rape	7.4	8	8.1%	112.5%
Sexual assault	215.8	235	8.9%	58.7%
Crimes associated with prostitution	0.4	-	-	-
Indecent photos of children	38.0	29	-23.7%	82.8%
Communicating indecently	59.4	45	-24.2%	53.3%
Causing to view sexual activity or images	96.8	103	6.4%	47.6%
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image	45.0	39	-13.3%	48.7%
Other Group 2 crimes	51.4	68	32.3%	33.8%
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	4,121.6	4,906	19.0%	29.2%
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	170.8	217%	27.0%	28.6%
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	108.6	82	-24.5%	3.7%
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	134.4	97	-27.8%	17.5%
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	89.4	74	-17.2%	10.8%
Theft of a motor vehicle	204.8	247	20.6%	39.7%
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	162.2	173	6.7%	11.6%
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	20.2	36	78.2%	50.0%
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	60.4	88	45.7%	13.6%

OFFICIAL

Common theft	1,096.6	1,010	-7.9%	16.9%
Theft by shoplifting	1,169.0	2,007	71.7%	43.3%
Fraud	636.2	618	-2.9%	12.3%
Other Group 3 Crimes	269.0	257	-4.5%	30.7%
GROUP 4: DAMAGE AND RECKLESS BEHAVIOUR	2,003.6	1,992	-0.6%	26.7%
Fireraising	141.0	149	5.7%	28.9%
Vandalism (including reckless damage etc)	1,729.2	1,723	-0.4%	25.2%
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	2.4	1	-58.3%	-
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	125.2	109	-12.9%	48.6%
Other Group 4 Crimes	5.8	10	72.4%	10.0%
GROUP 5: CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	2,131.6	2,239	5.0%	92.2%
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (not used in crime)	9.2	7	-23.9%	57.1%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	4.4	2	-54.5%	100.0%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	6.4	43	571.9%	97.7%
Possession of a corrosive substance (not used in crime)	-	-	-	-
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	155.8	117	-24.9%	94.0%
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (used in criminal activity)	3.4	3	-11.8%	66.7%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	1.8	2	11.1%	100.0%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (used in criminal activity)	1.2	2	66.7%	100.0%
Possession of corrosive substance (used in criminal activity)	-	-	-	-
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	148.2	242	63.3%	66.9%
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	25.8	20	-22.5%	75.0%
Supply of drugs (incl possession with intent)	94.6	160	69.1%	95.0%
Bringing drugs into prison	14.0	18	28.6%	44.4%
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	8.2	10	22.0%	40.0%
Possession of drugs	721.2	522	-27.6%	101.9%
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	4.8	5	4.2%	100.0%
Bail offences (other than absconding)	521.6	572	9.7%	94.9%
Other crimes against public justice	404.4	501	23.9%	93.2%
Other crimes against society	6.6	13	97.0%	92.3%
GROUP 6: ANTISOCIAL OFFENCES	2,117.2	2,074	-2.0%	70.1%
Breach of the Peace	54.4	68	25.0%	89.7%

OFFICIAL

Threatening & abusive behaviour	1,913.0	1,896	-0.9%	68.6%
Hate aggravated conduct (incl stirring up hatred)	65.6	62	-5.5%	77.4%
Drunk and incapable	13.6	7	-48.5%	100.0%
Consume alcohol in designated place (local by-laws)	15.8	7	-55.7%	100.0%
Other alcohol related offences	18.2	15	-17.6%	93.3%
Urinating	36.6	19	-48.1%	78.9%
GROUP 7: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	679.8	745	9.6%	50.7%
Wildlife offences	24.4	15	-38.5%	40.0%
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	61.2	74	20.9%	37.8%
Community and public order offences	477.2	575	20.5%	49.0%
Environmental offences	16.0	15	-6.3%	86.7%
Licensing offences	55.0	41	-25.5%	80.5%
Other misc. offences	46.0	25	-45.7%	64.0%
GROUP 8: ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES	3,749.8	3,913	4.4%	79.3%
Dangerous driving offences	141.6	204	44.1%	76.5%
Driving carelessly	337.6	363	7.5%	79.1%
Driving under the influence	286.2	335	24.0%	99.7%
Speeding offences	237.2	176	-25.8%	100.0%
Seatbelt offences	77.0	51	-33.8%	98.0%
Mobile phone offences	88.2	98	11.1%	100.0%
Unlawful use of a motor vehicle	1,382.2	1,305	-5.6%	98.6%
Vehicle defect offences	127.2	256	101.3%	99.2%
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	211.2	48	-77.3%	7.9%
Road traffic offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	4.2	6	42.9%	50.0%
Other Group 8 offences	857.2	1,051	22.6%	37.2%

East Lothian Recorded Crime Overview

East Lothian	5 Year Average	Q1+Q2 2025	% change against 5 year average	Detection Rates 2025/26
GROUP 1: NON SEXUAL CRIMES OF VIOLENCE	546.80	641	17.3%	58.03%
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	0	0	0	0
Culpable homicide (at common law)	0	0	0	0
Culpable Homicide (other)	0.20	0	-100%	0
Attempted Murder	2.6	1	-61.5%	100%
Serious Assault (of an emergency worker)	0	0	0	0
Serious Assault (Incl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct – causing injury)	20	25	25.0%	76
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	39	36	-7.7%	100%
Common Assault	425.8	497	16.7%	55.13%
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	8.8	8	-9.1%	62.5%
Domestic Abuse (of male)	0.6	2	233.3%	100%
Domestic Abuse (of female)	11	22	100.0%	59.0%
Stalking	10.2	12	17.6%	66.6%
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	7.6	12	57.9%	83.3%
Threats and extortion	15.2	21	38.2%	0
Other group 1 crimes	5.8	5	-13.8%	80.0%
GROUP 2: SEXUAL CRIMES	124.20	122	1.77%	40.9%
Rape	24	19	-20.8%	78.9%
Attempted Rape	1.4	1	-28.6%	0
Sexual assault	42.8	53	23.8%	32.1%
Crimes associated with prostitution	0	0	0	0
Indecent photos of children	7.6	10	31.6%	80%
Communicating indecently	11.8	6	-49.2%	33.3%
Causing to view sexual activity or images	18	20	11.1%	15%
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image	7.8	6	-23.1%	33.3%
Other Group 2 crimes	10.8	7	-35.2%	42.8%
GROUP 3: CRIMES OF DISHONESTY	546.80	641.0	17.2%	23.8%
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	44.2	37	-16.3%	35.1%
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non dwelling	35	22	-37.1%	4.5%
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	36.6	30	-18.0%	13.3%
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	19.4	17	-12.4%	5.8%
Theft of a motor vehicle	39.8	45	13.1%	28.8%
Theft from a Motor Vehicle (Insecure etc.)	38	42	10.5%	4.76%

OFFICIAL

Attempt theft of motor vehicle	5.2	3	-42.3%	33.3%
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	18.6	23	23.7%	8.70%
Common theft	231	239	3.5%	16.3%
Theft by shoplifting	214	431	101.4%	36.4%
Fraud	133.2	107	-19.7%	6.5%
Other Group 3 Crimes	74.2	74	-0.3%	20.2%
GROUP 4: DAMAGE AND RECKLESS BEHAVIOUR	414.80	435	4.8%	20.0%
Fireraising	23.8	27	13.4%	25.9%
Vandalism (including reckless damage etc)	365.8	386	5.5%	18.6%
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	0.4	0	-100.0%	0
Culpable and reckless conduct (not with firearms)	23.2	19	-18.1%	36.8%
Other Group 4 Crimes	1.6	3	87.5%	33.3%
GROUP 5: CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	450.20	499	10.8%	96.5%
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (not used in crime)	0	1	0	100%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	0.4	2	400%	100%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	1.4	15	971.4%	100%
Possession of a corrosive substance (not used in crime)	0	0	0	0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	38.8	33	-14.9%	93.9%
Possession firearm/offensive weapon/knife in prison (used in criminal activity)	0.2	0	-100.0%	0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	0.4	1	150.0%	100%
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (used in criminal activity)	0.2	0	-100.0%	0
Possession of corrosive substance (used in criminal activity)	0	0	0	0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	23.4	35	49.6%	80%
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	3	0	-100.0%	0
Supply of drugs (incl possession with intent)	16.2	39	140.7%	92.3%
Bringing drugs into prison	0	0	0	0
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	2	2	0.0	50%
Possession of drugs	169.6	140	-17.5%	105.7%
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	0	0	0	0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	100.6	120	19.3%	99.1%
Other crimes against public justice	93	107	15.1%	88.7%

OFFICIAL

Other crimes against society	1	4	300.0%	125%
GROUP 6: ANTISOCIAL OFFENCES	387.40	420	8.4%	66.9%
Breach of the Peace	10	16	60.0%	100%
Threatening & abusive behaviour	345.2	378	9.5%	63.7%
Hate aggravated conduct (incl stirring up hatred)	11.4	10	-12.3%	80.0%
Drunk and incapable	2	3	50.0%	100.0%
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	6.8	5	-26.5%	100.0%
Other alcohol related offences	5.8	4	-31.0%	100.0%
Other Group 6 offences	0	0	0	0
Urinating	6.2	4	-35.5%	100%
GROUP 7: MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES	104.60	147	40.5%	53.7%
Wildlife offences	7.0	3	-57.1%	66.6%
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	5.80	20	244.8%	30.0%
Community and public order offences	80.20	117	45.9%	53.8%
Environmental offences	1.80	1	-44.4%	100%
Licensing offences	8.80	6	-31.8%	116.6%
Other misc. offences	1	0	-100%	0
GROUP 8: ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES	692	907	31.1%	80.8%
Dangerous driving offences	34.6	39	12.7%	82.0%
Driving carelessly	68.8	93	35.2%	74.1%
Driving under the influence	52.8	68	28.8%	105.8%
Speeding offences	37.2	75	101.6%	100%
Seatbelt offences	9.2	9	-2.2%	100%
Mobile phone offences	15.4	22	42.9%	100%
Unlawful use of a motor vehicle	266.2	301	13.1%	98.1%
Vehicle defect offences	23.2	70	201.7%	100%
Drivers neglect of traffic directions (NOT pedestrian crossings)	11.2	5	-55.4%	100%
Road traffic offences (involving bicycle/tricycle)	1.8	1	-44.4%	100%