

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	POLICE, FIRE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	14 January 2026
<b>BY:</b>	Head of Communities and Partnerships
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Tackling Antisocial Behaviour
<b>REPORT STATUS:</b>	Public

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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the number, type and location of antisocial behaviour complaints received by East Lothian Council during the reporting period (1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025) and to advise on actions taken in response to same.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the terms of the report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The number of antisocial complaints received by East Lothian Council during the reporting period was 997; this compares to a figure of 986 received during the analogous period in 2024.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 provides a linear analysis of antisocial behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council from 2021 / 2022 to the end of the current reporting period.
- 3.3 Appendix 2 provides a linear analysis of the number of antisocial behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council, per 100 000 of the population, from 2021 / 2022 to 30 September 2025.

- 3.4 Of the aggregate 997 complaints received, 449 related to noise, 110 were youth related, 70 were categorised as “neighbour disputes”, with the remaining 368 consisting of, *amongst other things*, shouting, swearing, drug related complaints, harassment and verbal abuse. The diagram at Appendix 3 offers a visual representation in terms of case type.
- 3.5 In terms of *loci*, 32% of the complaints were from Musselburgh and the surrounding environs, 20% from Tranent, 9% from Dunbar, 23% from Prestonpans, 9% from Haddington and 7% from North Berwick. The diagram at Appendix 4 offers a visual representation in terms of geography.
- 3.6 During the reporting period, 41 mediation referrals were received. Throughout that period, the Council employed one full-time Mediation Officer; however, in January 2026 a second officer will join the service. This will afford an opportunity for the service to be more widely promoted. Mediation is widely recognised as an effective way of diffusing tensions that have arisen between parties in dispute and an effective way of diverting them away from traditional enforcement interventions.
- 3.7 There are 29 live Antisocial Behaviour Orders in East Lothian. The Antisocial Behaviour Case Monitoring Group continues to meet on a four weekly basis to ensure that the more serious, complex, and persistent cases are addressed from a multi-agency perspective; there are currently 76 cases being so monitored.
- 3.8 During the reporting period the responsibility for the strategic oversight of antisocial behaviour transferred from the Antisocial Behaviour Overview Group to the Community Safety Sub-Group of the Community Safety and Justice Partnership, the rationale being that antisocial behaviour should be strategically considered alongside other broader community safety issues.
- 3.9 The weekly Tasking and Co-ordinating Group, met throughout the reporting period; continuing to direct the deployment of Police Officers, Neighbourhood Outreach Youth Workers, and mobile CCTV cameras, of which there are 6, to antisocial behaviour “hotspots”, with said deployments being made on an analysis of complaint levels and received intelligence. The group now includes representatives from Health and Social Care and the Midlothian and East Lothian Drugs and Alcohol Partnership to help inform discussions pertaining to individuals who have come to the attention of Police Scotland and other agencies and who are affected by mental health and substance and alcohol issues.
- 3.10 In November 2024 the Independent Working Group on Antisocial Behaviour established by the Scottish Government published its report entitled “Antisocial Behaviour – Whose responsibility? Towards a more effective response for addressing antisocial behaviour in Scotland”. Contained within were a suite of recommendations, including, the establishment of an independently chaired oversight board “to support a

whole system approach to drive change and to ... provide leadership to the sustainable delivery of upstream prevention and achieve effective partnership working.” The report also called for, *amongst other things*, “the development of a preventative framework outlining the supports and resources within public services to achieve upstream prevention”. The report called for a review and revision of the existing legislation and guidance relating to antisocial behaviour. A full copy of the report can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/report-independent-working-group-antisocial-behaviour/>. At the time of writing, the Scottish Government had yet to issue its response.

- 3.11 Officers continued to participate in the national Antisocial Behaviour Officers Forum, the Scottish Community Safety Network, the National Dog Warden Association and the Scottish Mediation Network during the reporting period.
- 3.12 The aforesaid Antisocial Behaviour Overview Group instructed a review of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy in December 2022; a cross-service working group consisting of senior officers and police representatives met twice during 2023. Following upon those discussions and having received initial feedback from the East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel, management of the consultation process was outsourced to Green and Burton ASB Associates whom, following upon extensive consultation with local partners, produced a report. Officers are currently preparing a draft Strategy predicated upon said report that will be issued for comment to statutory consultees and the wider public in early 2026 with a final publication date scheduled for the early spring.
- 3.13 During the reporting period, 33 joint Police / Council letters were sent to the parents of children whom the police had identified as being present in instances and areas affected by antisocial behaviour; all such letters were copied to Education, Children’s Wellbeing, Police Scotland’s Youth Justice Officer and to the relevant Area Housing Office where the child formed part of council tenancy household.
- 3.14 There are 2 Senior Community Protection Officers employed within the Community Protection Team; one covering the East of the county, the other, the West. Their caseload consists of *serious and persistent* cases passed to them by the Local Area Housing Teams and Housing Associations. Those officers also manage cases emanating from the private sector.
- 3.15 The Community Protection Officers continued to investigate complaints of low-level antisocial behaviour, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, unauthorised Traveller encampments, littering, graffiti, dog fouling and out of control and stray dogs. At the date of the report, there are 3 full-time Community Protection Officers covering the East side of the county with 3 full-time and one part-time officer in the West. There is also one part-time dedicated Dog Control Officer who deals exclusively with out-of-control and aggressive dogs in accordance with the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The multi-signatory Antisocial Behaviour Policy remains the primary document for determining the course of all antisocial behaviour investigations.

## **5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Finance: None.
- 5.2 Human Resources: None.
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): None.
- 5.4 Risk: None.

## **6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken, and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

## **7 APPENDICES**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 - Graph showing Antisocial Behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council from 2021/2022 to 30 September 2025.
- 7.2 Appendix 2 – Graph showing the number of Antisocial Behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council per 100K of the population (2021/2022 to 30 September 2025).
- 7.3 Appendix 3 - Chart showing breakdown in complaint type (1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025).
- 7.4 Appendix 4 - Chart showing geographical breakdown (1 April 2025 –30 September 2025).

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None.

## **9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS**

**Report Author(s)**

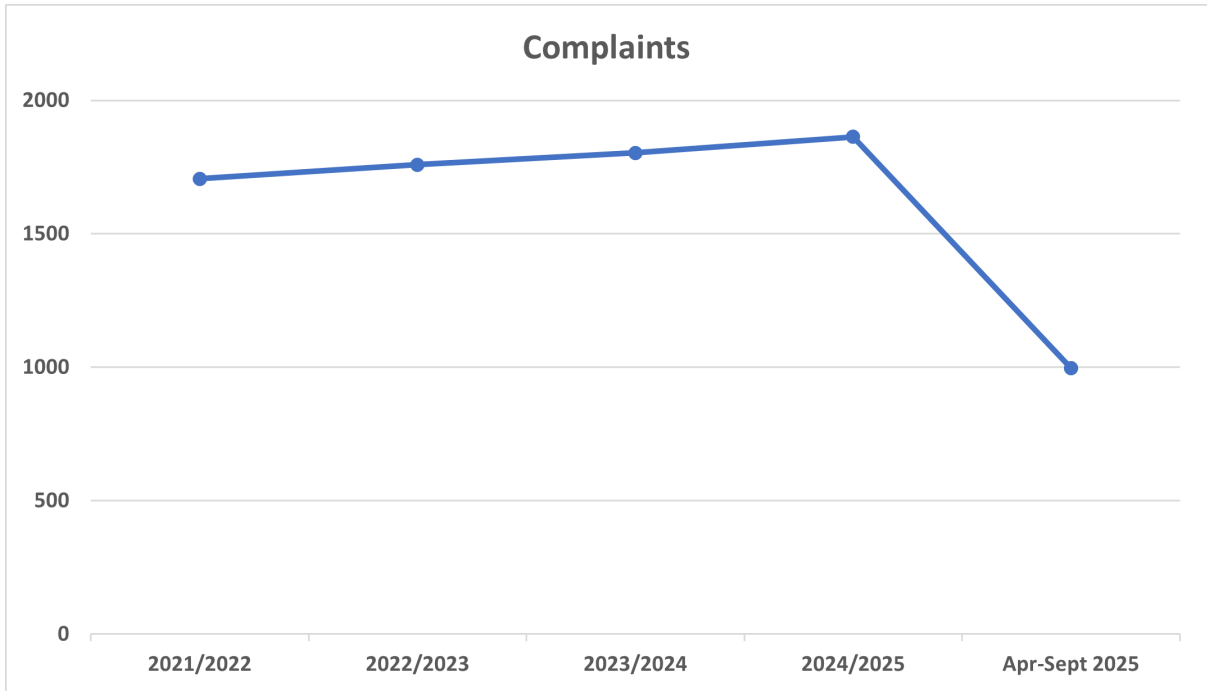
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**Head of Service Approval**

<b>Name</b>	Eamon John
<b>Designation</b>	Head of Communities and Partnerships
<b>Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed</b>	Confirmed.
<b>Approval Date</b>	24 December 2025

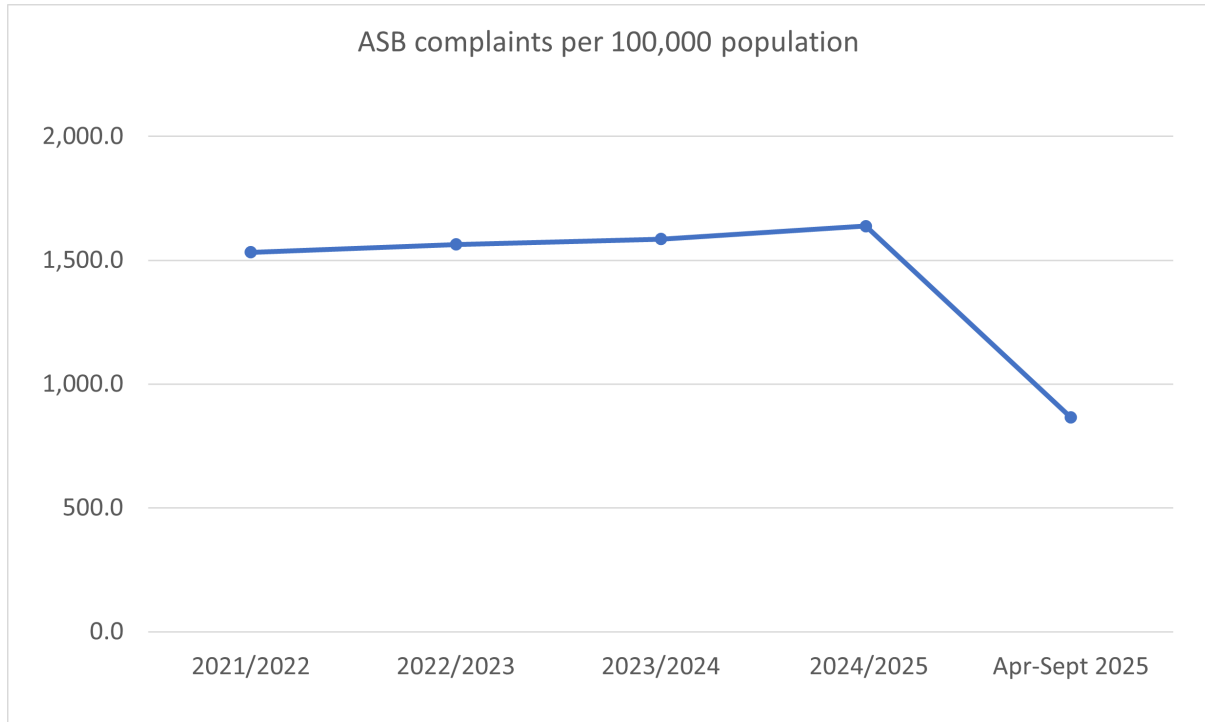
## Appendix 1

### Number of Antisocial Behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council 2021/2022 – 30 September 2025



## Appendix 2

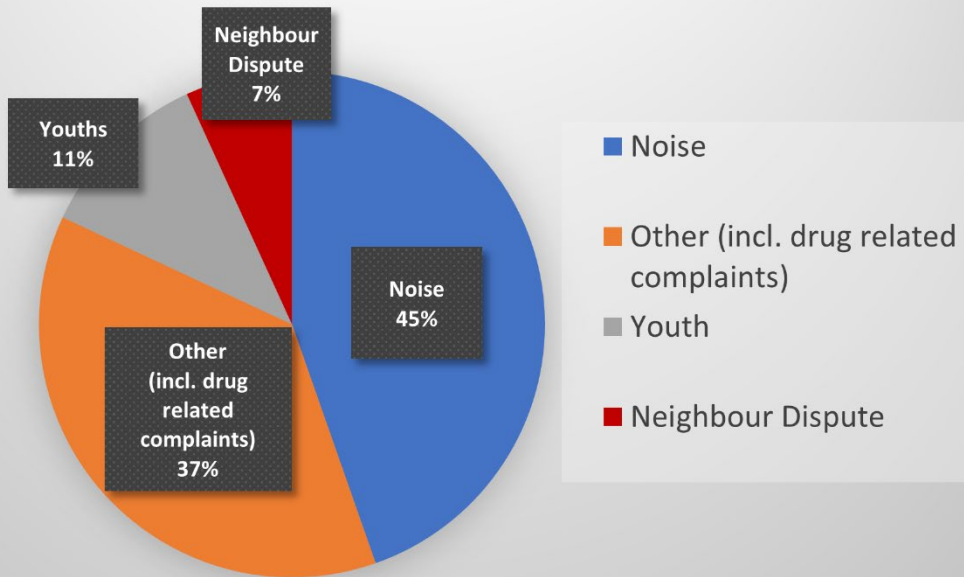
### Number of Antisocial Behaviour complaints made to East Lothian Council (per 100k of population) 2021 / 2022 – 30 September 2025



	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>Apr-Sept 2025</b>
ASB Complaints	1706	1759	1803	1863	997
Estimated mid-year population	111,350	112,460	113,740	113,740	115,180
ASB complaints per 100,000 population	1,532.1	1,564.1	1,585.2	1,637.9	865.6

### Appendix 3

**Complaint type %  
1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025**



## Appendix 4

**Geographical breakdown of antisocial behaviour cases %  
1st April 2025 to 31 September 2025**

