

RESPONSE TO OPCC PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY

Q2 – SEPTEMBER 2020

Q1. It would be of value to have an assessment from the Chief Constable as to the prevalence of the criminal use of firearms in our communities. Also, to understand how the risk is being effectively identified and addressed?

From a numbers perspective recorded in this quarter 1 performance report April to June are pretty similar in terms of total possession offences to Quarter 4 2019/20 (July – 49, August – 49, September – 42). The % which are possession of firearms (10A, 10B) is actually lower this quarter (17%) compared to the previous quarter (22%).

The Force has seen a slight increase in incidents that have been assessed as requiring firearms officer to deploy which we are predicting will be up by approx. 10% by the end of this crime year. All firearms deployments are reviewed as part of the Firearms Policy Group with capabilities and capacity determined through the APSTRA.

The force as an importer of county lines is working closely with West Midlands ROCU County Lines Task Force of which it is known drugs, firearms and the exploitation of the vulnerable is part of this level of offending. Proactive activity has been stepped up with the newly formed Protective Services departments moving out of the alliance with West Mercia of which we are seeing the benefits from.

Q2. Is this figure for the proportion of racially or religiously aggravated public order crimes correct? If so, how does this impact on the recording and management of Hate Crime?

It is an error and came across wrong within the report. Correct figures are as below:

	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21
	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20
9A - Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	218	215	210
9B - Rac. or Religi. Aggr. Fear, Alarm or Distress	33	30	36
62A - Violent Disorder6	6	6	5
66 - Other Off (Against The State & Public Order)	46	41	28
Total	303	292	279

Q4. Give the scale and varied nature of repeat victimisation across TRC, it is acknowledged that it is a challenging area to broadly address and reduce. However, the force's response to those victims that are considered at high risk and / or the victim of multiple crimes is of particular concern. It would therefore be of value to better understand the force's management of these particular cases and the challenges and success achieved in reducing their repeat victimisation.

The Victim Management Unit which forms part of the Harm Hub are responsible for the coordination and oversight of repeat victimisation of the most vulnerable within our communities. The Harm Hub are provided data from ASI concerning repeat victims which they assess and apply a vulnerability threat matrix to in order to seek to identify those victims that are perceived to be at the most risk. Any repeat victim relating to a domestic abuse incident are passed directly to the Domestic Abuse Unit for further assessment and any necessary further action or support.

All other victims are assessed for allocation to the Victim Management Unit problem solving officers who develop a problem solving plan (PSP). This plan will involve either creating or adopting an existing PSP, liaising with the officer in the case, partners and other agencies involved and the victim themselves to focus on any specific problem solving activity to reduce the risk or (if possible) resolve the problem. The PSP officers support the officers in the case (OIC's) to find a resolution and take on the ownership for the problem and put in the necessary time and engagement required.

We are continuing to work through and resolve the way that repeat victims are identified and ensure that the data is cleansed in a way the identifies the true level of repeat victimisation particularly in relation to DA. One report from a victim can result in multiple crimes and can identify on first report a repeat victim.

Q5. Is the reason for the recent spike in Hate Crime in Warwick District known? What action is being taken to address this increase?

We have reviewed the data for September and nothing stands out as to why there is an indication of a spike. One of the reasons may be due to the fact that our OCC is based within the Warwick District and there have been some reports of abuse against our OCC operatives.

Nationally there does appear to be an increase in the reporting of Hate Crime which is believed to be associated to the ongoing situation with the coronavirus pandemic. Figures for October have also been reviewed and they now appear to be back to previous reporting levels.

This is something that we will continue to monitor.

Q6. A summary of Operation Scorecard, where the Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) recently executed search warrants across the county, would be of value in achieving a better understanding of this area of operation.

Operation Scorecard has been an operation being run by our Serious and Organised Crime Team. The investigation has resulted in 3 days of enforcement activity in October where 16 search warrants were executed and 19 suspect arrested.

All suspects have been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A and/or Class B drugs and 5 of the 18 charged with additional firearms possession offences.

4 defendants were remanded in custody with the remainder being bailed to appear at Court on the 6th and 11th November.

During the course of the investigation the below items were recovered:-

- 9kg cocaine
- 15 viable firearms and 100's of rounds of ammunition
- 4kg heroin
- 15kg amphetamine
- 20kg compressed cannabis
- 2x 9 bars of cannabis resin
- 2.5 kg skunk
- 2kg MDMA tablets
- Plus cash and watches

Q7. It would be of value to have an assessment from the Chief Constable as to the causes of the current Action Taken rates for both TRC and DA, together with an understanding of what action is / will be taken by the force to improve this position.

Nationally the trend for action taken rates is falling from the high of lockdown's during April, May and June when crime rates were lower. Whilst the action taken rate fell in August, in comparison to our MSG we actually improved in August.

Notwithstanding this, outcomes are high on the agenda at the Investigations and Performance Boards and we have now developed an outcome dashboard at officer level to enhance our understanding.

Post the regulations and restriction changes as we moved out of the lockdown in the summer we have seen an increase in overall demand back to and slightly above pre COVID19 levels. In conjunction with this increased demand and change in crime profile this has coincided with the realignment of some of our officers from patrol as they complete their initial training periods and either become confirmed as officers or complete tutor periods and become independent.

Q8. What action is the force taken to provide officers with appropriate training and equipment to minimise the risk of physical harm to both the officers and the public.

It is disappointing to see that we have experienced increases in officer's assaults which does include hate, racial, violence without injury and violence with injury. Some of this is believed to be as a result of less tolerance within the general public and during a time where we have seen increased levels of protests over the summer months and restrictions being placed on individuals' lives.

Officer assault data is discussed weekly at the Chief Officer Meeting and feeds into the Force Health and Safety meetings to review any trends and organisational learning. Use of Force data is reviewed at the legitimacy board again in order to identify any trends or organisational learning.

A newly formed Uniform and Equipment committee is responsible for reviewing all proposals for new or additional kit and equipment which is chaired by a Chief Officer.

The Force has strong monitoring and scrutiny over officer safety training to ensure officers receive the appropriate training within identified timescales. COVID19 restrictions has had an impact on some of the training delivery albeit processes are in place to ensure training can be delivered safely and this is now being worked through.

The Force sought to benefit from the Government grant in order to uplift Taser equipment last year and has purchased an additional 72 devices. A training plan is underway to increase Taser officers across the force by 2022 which is being focused towards patrol and front line officers.