

# South West Fife Police Community Newsletter



## Foreword

Welcome to the November edition of your community policing newsletter.

Those of you following the news will I am sure be fully aware of a small event in the west of Scotland during early November that absorbed a fair degree of our attention (and resources).

With the policing operation around COP26 in our rear view mirrors we can dust ourselves off, reflect, and attempt to recharge our batteries.

In-keeping with the theme of the last month, this edition contains an article about the public order specialism that our very own PC Simon Large has been trained in, as well as a typical day in the life of a police officer at COP26.

We will also introduce you to the response sergeants based in South West Fife. They are behind the team of officers who answer your calls to police locally, working hard to ensure you receive the service you expect.

We will provide some information about events in recent weeks, look ahead to keeping safe during the festive period, and introduce you to our Wildlife Liaison Officer.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter! If you have had sight of it and would like to be added to our mailing list, please email us at:  
[RosythCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:RosythCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk).

**November 2021**

### **Your Area**

Our staff are deployed by wards, and for simplicity we may refer to these occasionally.

**Ward 1: West Fife & Coastal Villages** (includes Newmills, Culross, Cairneyhill, Torryburn, Low Valleyfield, Oakley, High Valleyfield, Blairhall, Kincardine, Carnock, Goukhal and Saline).

**Ward 5: Rosyth** (also includes Pattiesmuir, Limekilns, Charlestown and Crombie)

**Ward 6: Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay** (also includes North Queensferry, Hillend & Aberdour)



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## Response Sergeants

The five response teams (or groups as we refer to them now) serving the communities of South West Fife are each led by an officer of sergeant rank.

We are lucky at South West Fife to have an excellent combination of experience and enthusiasm among our sergeants, meaning that your local police officers should start each shift well prepared and motivated to deliver the best service possible.



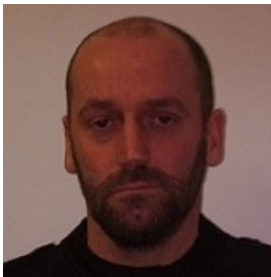
Leading Group 1 is temporary sergeant Gayle Hopton. With 8 years' service, Gayle has fulfilled a variety of roles.

Completing her probation in Glenrothes, Gayle's early potential led to roles in the Community Team, Community Investigation Unit and the Divisional Co-ordination Unit, where she had the unenviable task of coordinating Fife division's response to the early threat of COVID.

She was temporarily promoted to her current post in July 2021, and will undergo the formal promotion process in 2022. The consummate professional, we wish Gayle the very best of luck!

Heading up group 2 is sergeant Steven Leonard who transferred to P Division (Fife) from East Lothian upon promotion in May 2021.

With 18 years' service, Steven brings a wealth of experience, from his early service spent in legacy Lothian & Borders Police, to temporary promotions in Campbeltown and Bute. Steven has worked in a multitude of roles throughout central Scotland, and his specialism in public order has seen him deployed to Glasgow throughout COP26. Unafraid of new challenges, Steven has tackled the move to a new division head on.



Group 3's sergeant, Craig Abbot, has over 20 years' service, joining the same day as Inspector Rogers (no, of course there aren't any stories from college days!)

Craig has been a uniformed response officer through and through, working exclusively in Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes until he was promoted in 2018. In 2020 Craig transferred to South West Fife, bringing his calm and laid back approach with him.

Craig is a Specially Trained Officer, meaning that he carries a TASER and provides support to his colleagues across Fife.

Supervising Group 4 is sergeant Steven Begg, who brings over 17 years' service and experience in various aspects of policing to the role.

Joining legacy Lothian & Borders Police and working response and community roles in West Lothian, Stevie changed tack in 2013, moving to the Major Investigation Team. A period in investigative, public protection and intelligence roles along with several temporary promotions led to his permanent promotion in 2020. Transferring from one seaside vista (Methil) to another in May 2021, Stevie joined the team at South West Fife. Stevie still remembers his community policing days very fondly and strives to deliver a service to the area.



Managing Group 5 since April 2021, temporary sergeant Gordon Stanford has quickly established himself as a popular member of the team. With his temporary promotion due to conclude in August, his team raised a petition to keep him, and he earned a reprieve. Gordon passed the promotion process earlier this year and we are delighted that it has been decided that he will be formally promoted and stay in his current post.

"Stan" has 12 years' service, spending his early service in North East Fife before moving to the bustle of Glenrothes where he had a number of investigative roles. Progressing through CIU and CID, Stan made his way to the Major Investigation Team based in Fife, and ultimately back to divisional CID. Stan takes his work very seriously and prides himself on the performance of his team.

## Wildlife Crime Introduction



My name is Ben Pacholek and I am a full time Wildlife Liaison Officer, based in Fife. I am attached to the Pro-Active CID unit at Glenrothes HQ. Prior to my current post I spent a number of years in the dog section as both a general purpose police dog handler and specialist victim recovery dog handler.

Before joining Police Scotland, I attained a variety of wildlife management qualifications and gained a wealth of practical experience working in both the conservation and agricultural sectors, which I find to be of great benefit to my current role.

I will provide occasional inputs on a variety of topics for the SWF Community newsletter.

Wildlife Crime is a term which covers a broad range of criminality that I have involvement in investigating, and my enquiries include crimes against wildlife from all over the world.

The key priorities for Wildlife teams set by UK National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) are:

- Badger Persecution
- Bat Persecution
- CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) (illegal trade)
- Cyber Enabled Wildlife Crime
- Freshwater Pearl Mussels
- Poaching
- Raptor Persecution

Wildlife Crime prevention is also a key area of my role and in South West Fife, we have some very special migratory visitors that have already begun to return!



*Humpback whale, Dalgety Bay*



Humpback whales were first sighted in the Firth of Forth in 2017 and 2018. The same individual humpback whale was photographed in the Firth of Forth in both 2017 and 2018, providing evidence of a whale returning to the Firth of Forth in consecutive years. The whales are thought to be using the Firth of Forth for foraging or recovery, either as a stopover or as an alternative destination for whales not making a full migration.

The Forth Marine Mammal Project (FMMP) is a grassroots community project established in 2017. The FMMP is largely facilitated by the use of social media, predominately Facebook (Forth Marine Mammal Project) and uses these platforms to promote live sightings information to its members.

Understandably, the arrival of the Humpback whales and other migratory cetaceans in the Firth of Forth is generating a huge amount of public interest and many people are keen to observe the whales in their natural environment from both the land and at sea.

Boat owners need to adhere to the Marine Code of Conduct <https://www.nature.scot/marinecode> at all times when watching cetaceans at sea. Please note it is a criminal offence to deliberately or recklessly harass or disturb any whale, dolphin or porpoise. Concerned members of the public can report incidents by calling Police Scotland on 101.

Those watching from land are requested to adhere to the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code at <https://www.nature.scot/.../scottish-marine-wildlife...>

When out looking for whales and dolphins, PLEASE park your vehicle sensibly and have respect for other road users at all times. There have been some instances where passing places and turning areas have been blocked and vehicles obstructed. These sort of situations become Police matters, so please do consider your actions. Please also adhere to the countryside access code. Please also take care on the cliffs and especially on rocks at sea level. As tempting as it is to try and get close, the last thing we want is a serious accident. Your personal safety and that of others is of paramount importance, so please adopt a common sense approach at all times.

Sadly the whales' visits to our coastal waters do not always end well. Earlier this month a Sei whale was discovered beached at North Queensferry. Despite the best efforts of rescuers the whale was later beached at Dalgety Bay and did not survive. In such events please allow rescuers access and stay away from the animal. Please do not be tempted to collect souvenirs.



**End Wildlife Crime.**

Keep your eyes open;  
report any suspicious activity.

For more information on how to report Wildlife Crime  
visit [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)

@PoliceScotland Police Scotland

POLICE SCOTLAND

101

wildlife crime

## Local News

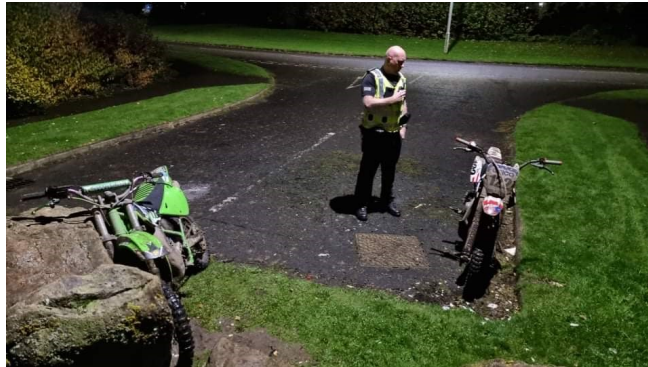
### Off-road Motorcycles Seized in Rosyth

Following concerns from local residents, Ward Officers PC's Large and McGuire have carried out a number of patrols in the Rosyth area in an attempt to identify persons riding off road motorbikes. Whilst carrying out a foot patrol in the Camdean area of Rosyth, both Officers became aware of the sounds of bikes coming from nearby. A short time later, the Officers observed two motocross style bikes being driven off road in the fleet grounds next to Admiralty Park, Rosyth and executed a perfect pincer movement to capture the riders.

The bikes were initially seized and the 17 and 15 year old riders charged with a number of offences including driving with no insurance, and driving an unregistered motor vehicle.

PC's Large and McGuire are continuing their attempts to trace further people responsible for similar dangerous and antisocial behaviour, specifically in the area of Camdean Primary School.

Any related information can be sent to [RosythCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:RosythCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)



### Antisocial Behaviour St Ninians



Staying on the theme of off-road motorcycles, the former opencast site at St Ninians is under new ownership. The new owners are keen to point out that whilst they want the site to remain accessible to the public for their recreation, the site must be used responsibly. Motor sports, including off-road motorcycles, are prohibited. This is clearly signposted around the site and repeated breaches will result in enforcement action..

Police will continue to patrol and provide assistance to site security as appropriate.

Any related information can be sent to [WestFifeCoastal-VillagesCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WestFifeCoastal-VillagesCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

For more information on plans for the site visit [National Pride](#)

### VIP Protection

Last weekend Louis and Simon had an extremely important job in having to escort Father Christmas and his reindeer safely through a baying mob armed with swords (and a variety of other colourful glow in the dark toys) in Dunfermline High Street.

There aren't many perks to the job, but grabbing a fan picture with Santa is one of them!





## Local News

### Safe Roads For Schools

With our team returning en masse from duties at COP26 and the darker mornings and evenings, we immediately got to work ensuring the safety of children arriving at our local primary and high Schools.

Local Community officers frequently deploy with speed detection equipment, particularly around schools, in an effort to keep people safe.

Engagement and education are always our aims, but there is no place for excess speed around our schools.

As well as speeding, a common complaint is inconsiderate parking causing a danger to children arising at school.

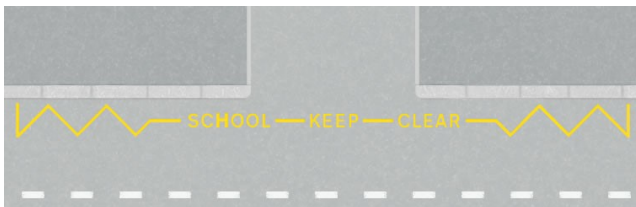
This month, following complaints from parents and staff, the team have deployed to schools in Inverkeithing, Rosyth and Saline, where we worked alongside Fife Council Parking Enforcement Officers.



*"Hawkeye" Hollie*

Several drivers were stopped and advised about the manner of their driving in the vicinity of the schools. Tickets may follow if this advice goes unheeded...

Numerous drivers were warned about their parking and given the opportunity to reflect on their behaviour and the risk that it could present to their children.



### Football 5ives

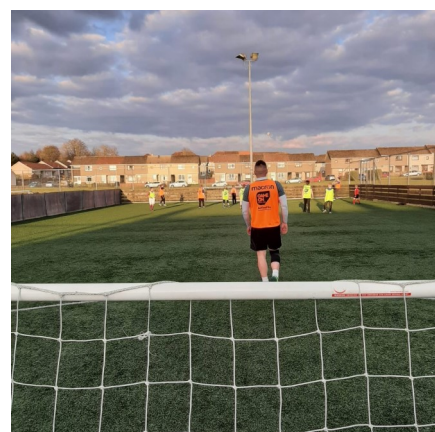
As touched on last month, this year has seen Sandy Thomson and Kev Chandler involved in the delivery of Football 5ives, a sporting initiative run by Game On Scotland, part of Coalfields Regeneration Trust sports for change programme. The trust supports former coalfield communities across Scotland, and this particular initiative provides free sporting and recreational opportunities to young people in South West Fife by way of organised football sessions run by dedicated professional coaches. Sandy and Kev have also laced their boots up, impressing/ amusing the young people in attendance!

The sessions commenced in April 2021, and to date 25 sessions have been delivered. The sessions are two hours long and take place during Friday evenings in an effort to divert young people from some of the other choices available to them on a Friday night! So far the sessions have recorded almost 50 separate participants, with a total of over 500 sessional visits.

The sessions are open to young people aged between 11 and 17, with sessions running at the Astroturf pitch at Wardlaw Way at 7pm every Friday. The last session of 2021 will be Friday 17th December, with coaching recommencing on Friday 14th January 2022.

The initiative has been supported by Greggs unsold food donations, so as well as getting the heart pumping and meeting other like minded people there could be an occasional treat in store. There is no need to register, and all are welcome to attend. Just dress for the weather!

For more information visit <http://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk> or search @gameonscotland



## Information Sought

This month we are seeking information from the community in relation to various matters across the area. We can be contacted via any of the usual means highlighted on the back page of the newsletter, or via Crimestoppers.



We are seeking information after a series of three thefts by housebreaking at SPAR, Link Road Oakley between late September and early November 2021. While there is no confirmation that these incidents are linked, there are similarities. A significant quantity of tobacco and alcohol products were stolen.

These follow a break-in at Oakley Café, Station Road on 22nd August 2021.

We would appeal for anybody with any information about the break-ins, or anybody who has been offered property for sale that they believe may have come from these break-ins, to get in touch with us in confidence.

After several reports of antisocial behaviour in Blairhall in recent months, particularly around the primary school, a fireraising was committed at the Rintoul Avenue around 8.05pm on Wednesday 3rd November.

Equipment was set alight within the play park, with a baby swing being destroyed.

Two boys aged between 12-15 years were seen in the area and work is ongoing with local CCTV to identify them.

Do you know where your kids were when this was happening? Can you provide any information about who is responsible for this and ongoing antisocial behaviour?



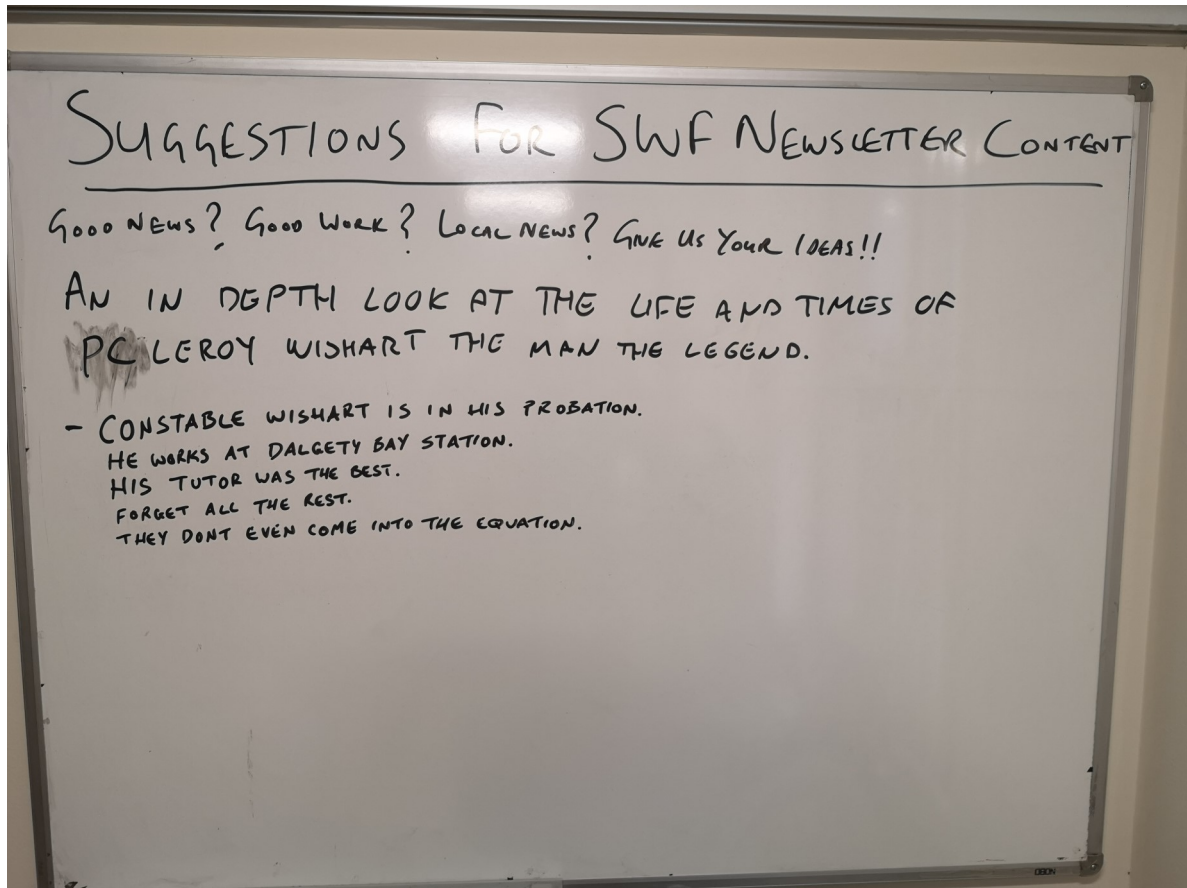
October and November have seen issues with groups of youths being antisocial in the area of Parkgate Community Centre and behind nearby Queen's Buildings, Queensferry Road, Rosyth.

The group described as aged between 12-17 years of age have been variously described as throwing eggs and stones, and kicking footballs against properties, causing damage.

If anybody has any information about who may be responsible we would appreciate if this could be passed in confidence by the usual means to Rosyth Community Officers.



## Cop(s) of the Month



In a rare glimpse into the inner workings of a police station, and the high tech press office we are running for our community newsletter, I can bring you our ideas board! The first idea to make its way to the board may have done so with somebody's tongue firmly in their cheek, but we are going to bring you a short piece about our first Cop of the Month, PC Leroy Wishart.

It is always going to be difficult to single somebody out for specific praise. Just like in any other workplace, "you are only as good as your last fish supper", and there are a number of worthy candidates. But seeing as an anonymous colleague chose to highlight Leroy, here goes...

Leroy joined the police in March 2020 and attended the Scottish Police College amidst the full restrictions of the first COVID lockdown. Perhaps this added to his resilience, because Leroy has been a stalwart on Group 4, a team that has been plagued by illness and injury over recent months. A number of experienced officers have been absent, and while a great loss, this has been easier to bear owing to the ever-present PC Wishart coping admirably with everything that has been thrown at him (and there's been a lot!)

Leroy never (rarely) grumbles and has remained cheerful and professional through rain, hail and shine.

It would be unfair to mention Leroy without highlighting the other half of the dynamic duo, PC Gary McManus. Gary has a similar level of service as Leroy, and while nobody has seen fit to write his name up on the ideas board, he has also been ever-present this year and is equally deserving of plaudits.

Both officers have performed with ability and maturity beyond their experience in the job, and have drawn praise from everyone from their colleagues and local supervisors to the Divisional Commander. They were recently recognised for their lifesaving efforts in providing first aid to an unconscious casualty for over an hour. They will no doubt be a bit embarrassed to read this, but they should be very proud. Very well done guys!





## Public Order Cops 24/7 at COP 26

As we highlighted in last month's newsletter our team have been extensively involved in the policing operation around COP26 during late October and November. Our very own Simon Large was trained in Public Order policing earlier this year specifically for deployment to the event, and we have asked him to provide some insight into the training and equipment related to the role as well as summarising a typical day of a public order officer at COP26.

### The Training

Training for Public Order policing begins with a fitness assessment for this demanding role. The course itself is an intensive five days spent becoming familiar with the equipment, tactics and legislation involved. From the basics of learning to get dressed **quickly** and how to march as a unit, through to ground tactics and deploying along with horses and other specialist resources; how to enter and exit buildings and vehicles correctly; how to safely and methodically clear buildings, and how to deal with armed threats, this course has it all.

Perhaps the signature moment of your initial Public Order course is petrol reception training. This is where you receive petrol bombs, giving you confidence in your kit, definitely sorting out those who can listen and follow instructions and those who can't!!



### The Equipment

The kit provided to public order officers is extremely important, because this is what keeps them and their colleagues safe. From flame retardant underlayer and two piece overalls, full kit goes on to include protective boots; foot covers; shin and thigh pads; groin guard; protective vest; shoulder and arm pads; protective gloves; flame retardant balaclava; and helmet with neck protection, visor and light attached. They will also wear a belt carrying baton, handcuffs, PAVA, fire extinguisher, water bottle and numerous other miscellaneous items. Fully kitted officers are known as wearing "Code 1" and may end up looking something(!) like the picture opposite, an artist's impression of Inspector Rogers by his then six year old son while he was undergoing training several years ago.



While offering a high level of protection, the kit is heavy and cumbersome and it is clear why public order officers are expected to maintain excellent physical fitness.

### The Deployment

Simon had his first significant Public Order deployment during COP26 when he formed part of a PSU (Police Support Unit) comprising of an inspector, 3 sergeants, 18 officers, 3 drivers and two medics. Their remit was to patrol the road network in the east of Scotland, providing a contingency for protest activity on the road network or at iconic sites, facilitating safe and peaceful protest. This coverage was replicated round the clock across Scotland, in addition to staffing specific venues. Here Simon describes a typical COP26 day for him:



"Throughout COP26 I worked a pattern of four 12 hour shifts followed by two days off, but the story didn't end there. I worked most of my rest days, and our 12 hour shifts were typically longer. We worked 0500-1700 dayshifts, meaning a 3am rise and drive to our parking facility at Ingliston for a 0420 shuttle bus to our staging post. Here we received a welcome cooked breakfast to set us up for the day, after which we got kitted up in Code 2 light. This means that we wore overalls etc, but no protective pads or helmets. This made for more comfortable days while patrolling, but meant that we could quickly kit up fully. At 0530 we had an intelligence briefing where we learned about planned and potentially unplanned events during the coming day, and then around 0600 we were on the road, allowing our nightshift colleagues to return and de-kit.

The days were spent patrolling throughout east and central Scotland and protecting iconic sites and infrastructure. We did not experience a lot of disruption, and the vast majority of protesting was facilitated peacefully and within the confines of the law. I enjoyed meeting and working with colleagues from across the UK, learning from their experiences. Our shifts were punctuated by sandwich packs which got less appealing as the event continued!

When all went to plan we were off-duty by around 1720hrs, driving home and getting ready to do it all over again the next day! It was hard work, but a great experience to be part of such a large policing operation."

# How to Have a Safe Night Out

If you're going on a festive night out then have fun and enjoy yourself. Unfortunately, even at this time of year people can be victims of crime. Here are some steps to follow to stay safe:



- Plan your night out and how you will get home
- Take your mobile phone with you and make sure it's fully charged
- Stay with friends and don't leave with strangers
- Be sensible about how much alcohol you drink because a drunk person is much more vulnerable and criminals may target you
- Watch your drinks, don't give anyone the opportunity to add anything to it
- If you leave a drink unattended don't go back to it
- If you feel very drunk or unwell after a small amount of alcohol then ask a trusted friend or a member of the club / pub management for help
- Don't take drugs or new psychoactive substances (sometimes misleadingly called 'legal highs')
- Don't have sex with anyone who is too drunk or under the influence of drugs as this means they can't give consent and in Scots Law this is rape
- Look after bags and valuables
- Keep enough money to pay for your journey home
- Use a trusted taxi company that you have used before
- Stay alert at cash machines, be aware of who's behind you and keep money and your PIN out of view
- If you've had too much to drink please don't use cash machines, you could be more vulnerable to robbery.

## Drug Spiking

On 20th October 2021 Assistant Chief Constable Judi Heaton, Police Scotland, said:

"We continue to investigate a number of reports across the country from people who report having been "spiked" either with a needle or in their drink.

"We are also aware of posts referring to spiking incidents circulating on social media.

"Our enquiries are ongoing and at this time we do not believe that these reports are linked.

"Each year we receive a small number of reports of what can be termed spiking, with a small but notable increase in October.

"We are not always able to determine the reasons why a perpetrator carries out an assault in this way, and it may not always be for a sexual purpose. It can put people at significant risk of harm. We will take every report extremely seriously and investigate robustly.

"Women, and men, should be able to go out for a night out without fear of being spiked. We are working with a range of partners, locally and nationally to ensure pubs and clubs are safe spaces for all. This includes working with licensees.

"Anyone who reports having their drink spiked or has been assaulted by whatever means, will be taken seriously. We would encourage anyone who believes they have had their drink spiked or been assaulted in this way to contact Police Scotland on 101 or in an emergency 999."



## How Should You Contact Us?

Always dial 999 in an emergency. The calls are free from any phone.

An emergency is when:

- Someone's life is at risk
- Someone is injured
- There is a fire
- Offenders are nearby
- Immediate help is needed

101 is the number to contact the police when it's less urgent than 999.

The 101 non-emergency number makes it quicker and easier for you to contact the police when you don't need an emergency response, for example to:

- speak to your local police officer
  - report a crime that's already happened, such as a theft or damage to property
  - get crime prevention advice
  - make us aware of any policing issues in your area
- 101 provides one easy-to-remember number to contact the police wherever you are in Scotland, or elsewhere in the UK.

The 101 non-emergency number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When you dial 101, the system will determine your location and connect you to the service centre covering your area.

**In an emergency always dial 999 - when a life is in danger, a crime is in progress or a suspect is nearby.**

## South West Fife Community Team

Dalgety Bay Police Station  
Regent's Way  
Dalgety Bay  
Fife  
KY119UY

Email (Ward 1): WestFifeCoastalVillages-  
CPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Email (Ward 5): RosythCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

Email (Ward 6): Inverkeithing-  
DalgetyBayCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

**\*\* The above email addresses are not monitored 24/7 and should be used for routine contact with your community officers. Please do not report crime via these emails. \*\***

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/>

Twitter: @policescotland  
Twitter: @SWFifePolice

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/policescotland](https://www.facebook.com/policescotland)



**CrimeStoppers.**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.



*Keeping People Safe*

**\*\*\* If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter please email RosythCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk \*\*\***