



POLICE
SCOTLAND
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Leith Harbour & Newhaven Community Council meeting March 2022

compiled by Leith Community Policing Team – 21/03/22



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Welcome to our LHNCC newsletter for March 2022!

Breakdown of calls in north Leith/Newhaven area for March 2022 (approx 229 in total)*:

- 15 calls relating to public nuisance
- 0 covid-related calls
- 9 neighbour disputes
- 4 calls of theft/housebreaking
- 14 domestic-related calls
- 8 calls of other violence
- 1 incidents with hate motivation
- 11 loud noise/music-related calls
- 25 concern-for/missing person calls
- 6 drug-related call

*stats for period 21/02-21/03/22

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Coronavirus pandemic

The Police response under Operation Talla has continued in line with the updated Government regulations:

Current Government advice to stay safe in relation to COVID-19 as of **MONDAY 21st MARCH** includes:

- continue to wear a face covering (unless exempt) in most indoor public spaces and on public transport
- get the vaccine or the vaccine booster
- if you don't have symptoms, take lateral flow tests twice a week, and if visiting someone vulnerable or going to a crowded place
- if you do have symptoms, self-isolate and book a PCR test
- open windows when meeting indoors
- wash your hands regularly, and cover your nose and mouth if coughing or sneezing
- work from home as well as the office, if you can; businesses and workplaces should follow the "safer workplace guidance"
- use the apps: COVID status and Protect Scotland

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Some notable actions/events/incidents:

- Enquiries are ongoing into a spate of vandalisms across the Leith area, where Sky/Virgin broadband cables of private properties have been deliberately cut. These generally occur overnight between the hours of 2300 and 0100. **On 3rd March 2022, plain-clothes officers spotted a male who matched the suspect's description at Bonnington Road – the male was found to be in possession of a pair of wire-cutters and charged with Malicious Mischief. Further charges are expected to be libelled in due course.**
- Following the conflict in the Ukraine, Community & Response officers from across Edinburgh have been deployed at both the Russian and Ukrainian consulates in line with the Vienna Convention to prevent criminal disorder whilst facilitating peaceful protests. These 24-hour patrols are expected to continue throughout the conflict. Leith Community Officers have also been deployed at the Hibernian-Celtic, Hearts- Aberdeen & Hearts-St Mirren football matches, the 6 Nations rugby match, Yes2Indy march for Scottish independence and Anti-Vax demonstration.
- On 10th March 2022 at North Fort Street, an elderly female was returning to her home address when a young male stole her handbag through misdirection. The perpetrator later attempted to use a stolen bankcard to purchase items via contactless method, however, the card was declined. Thankfully, the complainer was physically unhurt. Police attended and conducted comprehensive enquiries, through which the perpetrator was able to be identified and will be charged accordingly. All information suggests that this is a isolated incident; however, please be vigilant as to the whereabouts of one's belongings when in close proximity with people acting suspiciously.

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Some of the local issues we have been tackling:

- Our Beat Hate campaign has continued with weekly visits to the Hub, Restalrig Road where we met with members of the Polish community to share a meal and discuss some of the issues they have come across as residents in a foreign city, as well as a chance for us all to practice our language skills!
- Operation Upcycle is our response to youth disorder and theft of pedal cycles across Leith and Craigmillar. Spearheaded by Constable Johnstone and Sergeant Sandbach, this campaign involves accompanying youths to bicycle maintenance sessions in partnership with Leith Cycles, where they will learn valuable skills as well encouraging a sense of property ownership and responsibility. The sessions have been well-attended so far and have been enjoyed by the participants and officers alike.

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Trading Standards Scotland bulletin – recent scams:

LOCAL COUNCIL IMPERSONATIONS: Doorstep scammers have been claiming to work for the local council and asking to send an agent to take a sample of cladding; asking to enter people's properties to carry out gas or smoke alarm checks; offering driveway and roofing repairs; offering new boilers, supposedly as part of a council-run funding scheme.

=> verify whether genuine by asking for identification or calling the council through a publicly listed telephone number

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: Consumers hoping to book an Easter or summer holiday are being warned to be wary of scams related to ongoing Covid and Brexit travel requirements.

▷ Don't click on links in unsolicited texts or emails about vaccine passports.

TICKETING SCAMS – “LINE OF DUTY” EVENT: A cancer charity in Port Glasgow is warning that scammers are creating fake social media profiles and trying to sell tickets for an upcoming fundraising event featuring the cast of *Line of Duty*.

=> Only buy event tickets from the venue, official promoter or agent, or a well-known & reputable ticket site.

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Trading Standards Scotland bulletin (cont.):

DOORSTEP SCAMS – DRIVEWAYS: Cold-callers have been knocking on doors and offering to replace or repair driveways.

=> Don't deal with cold callers. Always take time to think before making a decision. Sign up for Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Alerts

SAFE GIVING TO SUPPORT UKRAINE: With many Scots keen to donate time and money to help those affected by the invasion of Ukraine, the Scottish Charity Regulator, OSCR, has published advice to help you provide support in a safe manner and to avoid potential charity scams. Scammers may set up fake websites or social media profiles in an attempt to obtain people's personal and bank details.

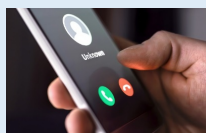
▷ OSCR advise that the best way to help the people of Ukraine is to donate to, or volunteer with, charities that are registered in Scotland or the rest of the UK that have ongoing relief operations.

"HELLO MUM/DAD" WHATSAPP SCAMS: Scammers are continuing to use WhatsApp to pose as family members in order to manipulate the recipient into sending them money, typically starting messages with "Hello Mum" or "Hello Dad" and stating that they have a "new number".

=> STOP, THINK and CALL if you receive an unexpected message asking you to transfer money or purchase gift cards. Verify that it really is your friend or family member by calling them directly or asking them to share a voice-note.

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Where to report scams:



- **Scams**
In Scotland, report all scams to Advice Direct Scotland by calling 0808 164 6000 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) or online at www.consumeradvice.scot
- **Fraud**
If you have been the victim of fraud, report it to Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency.
- **Suspicious Emails**
You can forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and send links from websites which you think are trying to scam the public to the National Cyber Security Centre's scam website reporting service at www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-this-website/report-scam-website
- **Suspicious Text Messages**
If you receive a suspicious text message you can forward it to 7726. The free-of-charge '7726' service enables your provider to investigate and take action if malicious content is found.

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About Us

Local Area Commander:

Chief Inspector Kieran Dougal

Leith Community Policing Team based at Leith Police Station:

Inspector Colin Fordyce

Sergeant Sam Rose

Your local Community Beat Officer for NL26:

Constable Chris Casselden

**Plus 8 officers dedicated to
community issues in Leith**

Contact Us:



101 for non emergencies



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Edinburgh Police Division



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