



GROUP 3 CRIME OVERVIEW

'Group 3 crime' incorporates a range of acquisitive crime / crimes of dishonesty, ranging from theft by housebreaking, theft of motor vehicle, to fraud, theft by shoplifting and common theft.

INCREASING TREND

An increasing trend has been observed in relation to the volume of recorded acquisitive crime in Renfrewshire, with 2,946 crimes in 2018/19 - an increase of 5.4% on the previous year, and 8.8% above the preceding three year average. However, it should be noted that the rate of acquisitive crime per 10k population in Renfrewshire (167) remains below the national average (177).

MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME

Motor vehicle crime has been a significant contributor to the overall increase in acquisitive crime, with the 442 recorded



crimes representing an increase of 22.4% against the previous year, and an increase of 25.8% against the previous three year average. This volume equates to a rate of 25 crimes per 10,000 population in Renfrewshire, slightly above the national average (22 per 10k). The principal issues of concern are theft of a motor vehicle (up

22.6% on the previous year) and theft from motor vehicles (up 33.5% on PYTD). This rise can be partly attributed to criminals increasingly adopting techniques which are able to overcome modern vehicles' security, such as 'skeleton keys' and devices which allow for keyless entry to vehicles. Intelligence lead operations at a local and national level have been initiated to counter this emerging issue.

HOUSEBREAKING

In addition to the loss of property and damage repair and additional security costs that often following crimes of housebreaking, this type of crime is also associated with significant psychological distress and anxiety in victims. As such, the prevention and reduction of housebreaking crimes, and the detection of housebreaking offenders, remains a local priority in Renfrewshire. This focus has contributed to a sustained decreasing trend in housebreaking crimes, with the 292



recorded crimes in Renfrewshire representing a decrease of 67 compared to the previous year (-18.7%). This figure also represents a decrease of 23% against the preceding three-year average. This equates to approximately 17 crimes per 10k population in Renfrewshire, which is below the average rate in Scotland (approximately 23 crimes per 10k). While a decrease has been recorded in relation to all categories of housebreaking (dwelling houses; sheds and other non-dwelling outbuildings; and commercial/public premises), the most significant drop relates to domestic dwelling housebreaking crimes, with 44 fewer crimes compared to PYTD (-23.3%).

BOGUS CRIME

Bogus crime, or 'doorstep crime', is the perpetration of fraudulent acts by offenders who target and pressurise victims, often older adults 'on the doorstep' to have property repairs and maintenance, often misrepresenting



themselves as skilled tradesmen, and overcharging for such work. Research indicates that older age groups are more likely to be targeted and victimised in relation to this type of criminality. This type of crime can have a profound effect on victims which go considerably beyond the (often substantial) sums of money they lose to offenders. Police Scotland continues to tackle doorstep crime within all local communities under the auspices of Operation Monarda, which brings together public, private sector and third sector organisations to help minimise risk and prevent harm to vulnerable and older people from criminals who commit bogus crime. In Renfrewshire, 13 bogus crimes were recorded in 2018/19 YTD, a decrease of 50% on the previous year.

FRAUD

The overarching category of 'fraud' encompasses a range of criminal acts, from online credit and debit card fraud and online phishing attempts, to taxi, hotel, retail and restaurant fraud. Fraud continues to follow an increasing trend, with 240 recorded crimes YTD - up 26.3% on the previous year and 37.9% above the preceding three-year average. This equates to approximately 14 crimes per 10k population in Renfrewshire, compared to a national average of 15 per 10k. The increasing volume of fraud is partly driven



by society's increasing 'digitalisation', with the internet and new and developing technologies providing criminals with expanding opportunities to commit cyber-enabled fraud. Analysis identifies that in Renfrewshire, several categories of fraud have increased, including online credit and debit card fraud, automated checkout fraud, restaurant / takeaway fraud and taxi fraud.