

NCA Operational Performance: Scotland

April – July 2024

Statistics in this report reflect activity undertaken by the NCA that is assessed to have had an impact in Scotland



Introduction

Material contained in this report is provided for the Scottish Police Authorities (SPA) Policing Performance Committee (PPC), recognising the PPCs role of reviewing performance, in advance of consideration at the Board. The NCA provides a written report to the SPA Board every six months. The next one, covering the period April 2024 – September 2024, will include more detailed analysis along with the corresponding performance data.

Performance data, relating to the NCAs impact in Scotland for the period April 2024 – July 2024 is provided at Slides three and four. Key highlights are set out below.

Key Highlights

- NCA Performance in Scotland has increased by around 7% compared with the same period last financial year (FY). There has been a significant increase (around 31%) in NCA lead disruptions. Drugs (32%), Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) (13%) and Cyber (12.5%) threat areas have the highest outputs for this period.
- Compared with the same period (April-July) last FY there has been a significant increase (36 in 22/23 and 52 in 23/24) of major and moderate disruptions, where NCA is the Lead Agency. This demonstrates NCAs ongoing commitment to operate at the high end of high harm of serious and organised crime (SOC) and tackle the most significant threats facing the public in Scotland.
- In NCAs last six-monthly report (covering October 2023 – March 2024) to the SPA Board we reported a high (18) number of Border referrals (15 class B and class A) at Scottish ports or airports. The majority were detected at airports. Detections have increased to 20 during this four-month period (April 2024 – July 2024). A more detailed summary is at Slide five.

NCA Impact in Scotland– April 2024 to July 2024

Disruptions

In the four-month period of April 2024 to July 2024 there were 112 NCA disruptions impacting on Scotland. This consisted of 85 lead and 27 support disruptions.

When considering all NCA disruptions in the same period last FY there has been an increase of 8 in comparison to 2023/24. This growth has been seen largely in lead disruptions with an increase of 23 this year.

	Apr – Jul 2023/24			Apr-Jul 2024/25			Change
	Lead	Support	Total	Lead	Support	Total	
Major Impact	9	2	11	9	4	13	+2
Moderate Impact	27	12	39	43	6	49	+10
Minor Impact	26	28	54	32	17	49	-5
Total	62	42	104	85	27	111	+8

Disruptions by Threat

The table shows how NCA disruptions impacting on Scotland are distributed across threats impacted.

The totals are those achieved in between April 2024 and July 2024 based on their level of impact.

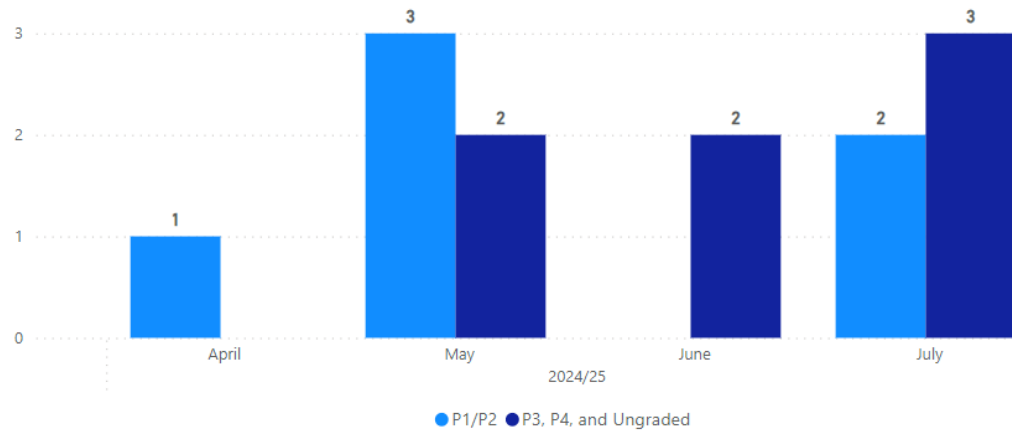
Denoted in brackets is the number of tilt disruptions within overall totals.

Threat	Major Impact	Moderate Impact	Minor Impact	Total Apr 24 – Jul 24
Child Sexual Abuse	1	10	4	15
Cross Cutting	0	1	1	2
Cyber	5 (1)	6	3	14 (1)
Drugs	3 (2)	11 (2)	22	36 (4)
Firearms	0	8	1	9
Fraud	1	2	3	6
Illicit Finance	1	3 (1)	1	5 (1)
Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	0	5	6	11
No Threat Identified	0	0	3	3
Non-National Control Strategy	0	3	2	5
Organised Immigration Crime	2	0	3	5
Total	13 (3)	49 (3)	49	111 (6)

NCA Impact in Scotland – April 2024 to July 2024

Major/Moderate Lead Pursue Disruptions Impacting Scotland

Tilt Disruptions



The chart identifies the number of NCA lead major or moderate pursue disruptions (by month), delivered by the NCA which had an effect in Scotland. This includes those delivered by OCP Scotland. It separates those which are recorded on a P1 or P2 investigation and therefore 'tilt disruptions'.

The NCA has delivered a total of 6 tilt disruptions that had an impact in Scotland between April 2024 and July 2024.

In the same period in 2023/24 the NCA achieved 12 tilt disruptions in Scotland.

For the entirety of 23/24 (April 2023–March 2024) the NCA achieved a total of 382 tilt disruptions, 39 (10%) of which were attributed to NCA activity in Scotland.

NCA Operational performance in Scotland

Borders	<p>Within this period, there have been 21 Air couriers arrested for importing herbal cannabis (HC) in their luggage through Scottish International airports. A total of 479 kg of HC was recovered, estimated to be valued at around £2 million, 49KG of cocaine was also recovered (£1 million). There is a marked increase in detections compared with the same period in 2023 with 3 arrests and 70 kg of HC recovered. Most flights arrive from Southeast Asia or North America with the nationalities of the couriers including citizens from the UK, Malaysia, Netherlands and North America. Several couriers have already been convicted including two Canadian females sentenced to 20 months and nine months respectively with a Malaysian male receiving a three-year custodial sentence. This type of activity is not exclusive to Scotland and with couriers being promised up to £100k per courier, they are being actively recruited by crime groups for this type of criminality.</p>
CSA	<p>The NCA's CSA Referrals Bureau is responsible for disseminating industry referrals relating to online child sexual abuse. These referrals mostly originate via the US National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). This year, disseminations to UK Police Forces is estimated to increase incrementally. Continued joint working and positive collaboration between NCA and Police Scotland ensures mitigations are in place to address such increases.</p> <p>Actual numbers of disseminations will be reported as part of the NCA's six-monthly report to the SPA Board.</p>
SCPO	<p>The NCA recently published the latest list of ancillary orders, used to support the lifetime management of serious criminals and prevent future offending. Ancillary orders include Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPOs), Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders, Financial Reporting Orders and Travel Restriction Orders. Designed to frustrate criminality, the orders not only limit opportunities for criminals to engage in illegal activity, but also make offenders less attractive to organised crime gangs looking to re-recruit or work with them after they have served prison sentences. Over the last year, 23 NCA managed SCPOs have been granted, many of which will come into force once the offender has left prison. As of early September 2024, the NCA are currently managing 136 SCPOs.</p>