

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Alan Hardwick

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Quarterly Force Performance Update – April 2013

Foreword from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

A key aspect of my role as your Police and Crime Commissioner is to hold the Chief Constable to account. I am committed to reporting results back to you, and I will publish information about how well the Force is performing on a quarterly basis through my website, available at: www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk/Policy/Performance.aspx.

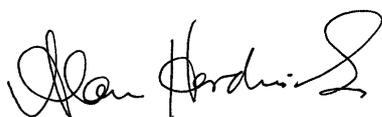
From the performance statistics overleaf, you can assess how well Lincolnshire Police is performing in key areas such as reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, solving crime, how satisfied victims are with the services they receive and how confident people are with the police service in Lincolnshire. I will also highlight areas of performance that are exceptionally good and also those areas that need further work.

Overall, as you will see, the Force's performance in 2012/13 is good in comparison to previous years and in national rankings (i.e. in comparison with all other forces). The overall crime rate is down by 14.2%, which equates to **6,250 fewer crimes; this means 6,250 fewer victims**. I will continue to work with the Force and partners to ensure that the number of victims is reduced even further.

The Force has recorded significant successes in relation to 'theft of motor vehicle' crimes and anti-social behaviour incidents. I'm also particularly pleased to report that serious sexual offences are down 12.3% (60 fewer crimes) as this is an area that the Force has focussed on through the 'No Means No' campaign. My update includes two case studies which demonstrates the real difference the Force is making to people's lives – one in relation to a victim of a house burglary and the other relating to a serious sexual offence.

Recorded crime continues to decrease and the overall detection of crime is up. However, I will continue to push for improvements in detecting and solving crime and in levels of victim satisfaction. I will maintain my pledge to ensure that we get the best value for money from every pound spent.

I will issue my next quarterly update in July 2013. You can find local crime rates and trends via the crime mapper website available at www.police.uk.



Alan Hardwick
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Quarterly Force Performance Update (April 2012 – March 2013)

Recorded Crime

All recorded crime is down 14.2% with 6,250 fewer crimes in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year. In February 2013, Lincolnshire was nationally ranked 14th out of 43 forces.¹ This is an improvement from 21st position in February 2012.

Violence against the person² crimes are down 7.5% with 567 fewer crimes in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

Burglary dwelling offences are down 4.3% with 94 fewer crimes in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year. The Force has continued to make significant reductions in burglary dwelling crimes over the past few years; reporting a 10.3% reduction (250 fewer crimes) in 2012/13 compared to 2005/6.

Case Study - Dwelling Burglary

In the summer of 2012, Lincolnshire Police were actively investigating a series of house burglaries in Lincoln and West Lindsey, where the unknown offender(s) were predominantly targeting houses by sneaking in via unlocked windows or doors.

As a result of enquiries by CID Officers and PCSOS, some CCTV footage was obtained of a man using the cycle path from Lincoln to Saxilby who matched the description of the offender. This was circulated to all staff, but no identification was made of the suspect.

On 3rd July 2012, whilst engaged on enquiries in relation to another matter, officers spotted a man who they believed was the burglary suspect they had seen on the CCTV footage.

All available Officers from all departments attended the area of Saxilby. The suspect was seen but made off from Police and was lost for some time.

Nottinghamshire Police contacted Lincolnshire Police to report a burglary in Harby which is approximately four miles from Saxilby. The circumstances being that at 1220 hours that same day, an elderly victim found a man inside his home and when he challenged the man, he said he had come to do the gardening. The victim had not contacted anyone to do his garden, however, he gave the man a drink of water and went to check if anyone else was in the house. As he did this, the victim, heard the engine of his Land Rover start up, and he then saw it being driven off his driveway, smashing through his garden gates and heading toward Saxilby. The victim found that items in his bedroom had been disturbed and searched.

At approximately 1300 hours, Officers on Carholme Road in Lincoln saw a man fitting the description of the man seen earlier in Saxilby, and officers from Operation Fusion (a dedicated Burglary Team) attended. They stopped the suspect who identified himself as Kevin TALBOT date of birth 04/01/1966 and stated he had gold in his pocket which he had just stolen in a burglary in Lincoln. TALBOT was searched and gold jewellery was recovered from his jeans pocket. TALBOT was arrested on suspicion of burglary and conveyed to Lincoln Police Station.

¹ National rankings in this update give the national position of Lincolnshire Police for December 2012.

² This crime category includes common assault, assault with injury, harassment, wounding, death by driving, manslaughter and murder.

TALBOT was interviewed by Operation Fusion Officers and during the interview he admitted committing the burglary at Harby and also one on Long Leys Road, Lincoln which had not been reported to Lincolnshire Police.

TALBOT stated he cycled to Saxilby earlier in the day, however on seeing the Police in the village, he made off from them and cycled to Harby. He stated that he saw lots of police activity so decided to hide in a house in Harby. He stated the occupant was in the garden and the door to the house was open. He went in and went to the bedroom. He states he was in the house for twenty to thirty minutes before he was confronted by the occupier where upon he stated he was the gardener. He then left the house, picking up a set of car keys from a table next to the door. On leaving the house he locked the door leaving the occupier inside. He then stole the Land Rover from the driveway, driving it through the wooden garden gates as he left.

On the way back to Lincoln he could still see police activity in the area so he decided to abandon the vehicle. He parked it up on a street, got out and saw a house nearby with its first floor windows wide open. He decided to burgle the house so he climbed up to the first floor window, through the window into the bedroom and stole some jewellery. He then climbed back out the window and headed across the West Common in Lincoln. At this point he threw the car keys he had into the undergrowth. A short time later he was stopped by police. TALBOT stated he was committing burglaries to feed his drug habit.

A Detective attended the address with the jewellery recovered from TALBOT. The occupants were completely unaware that they were the victims of burglary, however they identified the jewellery as theirs, and it included items of sentimental value that could not have been replaced.

TALBOT assisted the Police in the recovery of other property that he had discarded which meant that the Officers could reunite the victims with their personal effects, some of which was of sentimental value and could not have been replaced. The victims were very thankful that it had been recovered and returned, and it gave them some comfort that the person who had entered their homes was in custody.

TALBOT also admitted burgling a home for children with learning difficulties and asked that the cycle he had used to commit some of his offences was given to the home by way of some sort of apology.

TALBOT was also wanted in three other force areas and Lincolnshire officers worked with colleagues from other forces to identify and detect over 45 offences, including 25 in Lincolnshire. He received a six year prison sentence pleading guilty to all offences.

Theft from motor vehicle crimes are down **3.7% with 104 fewer crimes** in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

Theft of motor vehicles crimes are down **19.2% with 150 fewer crimes** in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

Serious Sexual Offences are down **12.3% with 60 fewer crimes** in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

Case Study – Stranger Rape

The Emerald Team dealt with a “Stranger Rape”, assault and theft of mobile phone which are extremely staff intensive investigations and difficult to detect.

The offence was committed in the early evening during daylight hours in August 2011 a woman was raped and assaulted behind some flats in Lincoln. The offender threatened to kill her if she told anyone but she sought help from a nearby resident.

The Emerald Team became involved at the start. A detailed first account was recorded from the victim. Evidence was collected from the victim and the scene was identified. The scene was forensically examined and house to house enquires were carried out. Officers from the Emerald Team began conducting intelligence checks on information received from a witness, which led to the arrest of the offender within four hours of the initial report. This swift and effective arrest allowed intimate swabs to be taken from the offender hence maximising the forensic evidence available to assist the prosecution case.

Emerald Officers interviewed the suspect. A custody extension was also applied for via a Superintendent owing to the complex and investigative nature of the enquiry. The suspect made no comment throughout all interviews and CPS advice was sought he was charged with all three offences and remanded to court. The officers worked tirelessly preparing a detailed and first class court file. The quality of this file was commented on by the prosecuting barrister.

Whilst the above was ongoing a sexually offence trained officer (SOIT) from the Emerald Team was dealing with the victim. The police process was fully explained at Spring Lodge Sexual Assault Referral Centre. She was provided with reassurance and the relevant support and she was also allocated an independent sexual violence advisor (ISVA). The victim was provided with support and advice throughout the enquiry and during the subsequent court case, where she gave evidence via screens. Since the trial the victim has participated in a promotional video to raise awareness of rape as per "The No Means No Campaign" for Lincolnshire Police as she wanted to share her experience and comment on the support she received both from the police and Spring Lodge encouraging other rape victim's to come forward.

The case was heard at Lincoln Crown Court on the 20th February 2012 and at the end of the week long trial the jury found the offender guilty of all charges and he was sentence to nine years imprisonment.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Criminal damage crimes are **down 25.1% (2,043 fewer crimes)** in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

Incidents that cause fear and concern are **down 16.5% (1,606 fewer incidents)** in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

Other Anti-social behaviour incidents are **down 15.9% (3,478 fewer incidents)** in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

Solving Crime

The Force is achieving the **overall sanction detections** (including Restorative Justice³) target set in the Policing Plan 2012 – 15 (meeting the England and Wales national average of 29.5%). The actual Force rate for the period April 2012 to March 2013 is 30.7%. Lincolnshire was nationally ranked 22nd out of 43 forces in February 2013, compared to a ranking of 28th in February 2012.

Satisfaction with Service

A telephone survey is carried out on a monthly basis that assesses the proportion of victims of burglary, vehicle crime and violent crime who answered that they were fairly, very or completely satisfied with their experience of the police.

Latest data (rolling 12 month to March 2013) shows that 83.4% of victims surveyed are satisfied with the service they received compared to 82.8% during the same period last year.

Confidence in local policing

The nationally run Crime Survey for England & Wales reports on the public's confidence in their local police service. The latest percentage of people surveyed (to Sept 2012) who agreed or strongly agreed with the following question: Taking everything into account, I have confidence in the police in this area is 70.3%. The next release of data is expected towards the end of April 2013, this will cover the period to December 2012.

Ends

Note:

Section 11 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act requires a local policing body to publish the information which the body considers to be necessary to enable the persons who live in the body's area to assess:

- (a) the performance of the body in exercising the body's functions; and
- (b) the performance of the relevant chief officer of police in exercising the chief officer's functions.

Such information will be published on the Commissioner's website at the end of each quarter.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/enacted>

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³In some cases, community resolutions known as Restorative Justice can be used. Restorative Justice gives victims the chance to tell offenders the real impact of their crime, to get answers to their questions and to receive an apology. It gives the offenders the chance to understand the real impact of what they've done and to do something to repair the harm. Restorative Justice holds offenders to account for what they have done, personally and directly, and helps victims to get on with their lives.