



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA

Marr Community Policing Team Summer 2026

Birse & Ballogie | Finzean | Feughside | Banchory | Inchmarlo | Torp

Sergeant Sean Tait

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Marr Community Policing Team (CPT) News

Summer
and late
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on Deeside has brought the expected surge of visitors, outdoor events evening activity across Banchory, Torphins, Lumphanan, Inchmarlo and communities of Birse, Ballogie, Finzean and Feughside.

Key focuses over the summer months have included keeping the A93 corridor safe, supporting local events, tackling anti-social behaviour in parks/town centres and protecting homes and farms from opportunistic rural thefts.

We remain committed to listening to our residents and communities and deploy Officers to where they will make the greatest impact. During Summer it is common for expensive garden equipment, bicycles and tools to be more visible resulting in more thefts. If you own an outbuilding, please ensure it is kept locked and valuables remain out of sight.

Recreational traffic and motorcyclists have seen a large uplift during the summer months with the increase in tourism and events, particularly on the A93. As a result, Officers have been actively carrying out targeted speed checks and patrols throughout the busy period.

The lighter summer months and schools being off has attracted larger groups of young people into Bellfield Park, High Street, Banchory, and other gathering points. As a result, Officers have been conducting enhanced roaming patrols and foot patrols in the areas of known hotspots.

As always, please keep reporting concerns on 101, or 999 in an emergency. For non-urgent matters, the online reporting form can also be used at:

www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/

We also saw the closure of Braemar Police Station at Ballnenan Road, Braemar, and the royal opening of the new Police station at the Braemar Mountain and Rescue Centre.

Distress plays a major factor in daily Officer demands. Deeside Officers trained to carry out distress brief intervention have continued to utilise their skills throughout the summer, allowing for wellness planning and supported connection for individuals in a state of distress and seeking support.

Additionally, we congratulate Police Inspector McAndie, who will be moving on from his Banchory Sergeant Posting, and welcome Police Sergeant John Walker, who brings a wealth of shire and city experience to the Local Community Policing team.

Banchory Police Station continues to enjoy the provision of a front counter service which is open on a 2-week rotational basis as follows:

<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>
Mon 0800 – 1700	Mon 0800 – 1600
Tue 0800 – 1700	Tue Closed
Wed 0800 – 1700	Wed 0800 – 1700
Thurs Closed	Thurs 0800 – 1700
Fri Closed	Fri 0800 – 1600
Sat 0800 – 1700	Sat Closed
Sun 0800 – 1700	Sun Closed

In addition to the front counter, you can continue to contact us via the following methods.

- Calling 101
- Reporting online via the [Police Scotland website](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/c3/)

- Email to your local CPT inbox
BanchoryMidDeesideCPT@Scotland.pnn.Police.uk

Proactive Work

In June, our Banchory Officers concluded a dedicated parking operative on Banchory High Street, organised by Police Constable Meston, in response to long-standing community concerns about dangerous and inconsiderate parking. Over the month more than 100 verbal warnings were given and more than 60 parking restrictions were enforced by means of fixed penalty notice.

Feedback from residents and partners has been positive, with better turnover of short-stay spaces and clearer access to taxi ranks and disabled bays. We will continue to monitor the High Street, Banchory, whilst visitor numbers remain high. Officers have also concluded the speed checks at the Bridge of Canny and the approaches to Torphins, Lumphanan, and local schools following complaints.

Before the school holiday our Officers visited primary schools across the division, speaking with children about water safety on the River Dee, online safety during the long break and being a good neighbour within parks and play areas.

Officers have also been attending at various farms and rural properties following a wider North-East rise in heating oil/diesel thefts, with a clear correlation/increase resulting from the global uplift of fuel prices. Officers have been providing practical advice regarding tank security, lighting, CCTV and the reporting of suspicious vehicles.

Officers have also been involved in a large variety of successful events, including the World Cup, the Braemar Games, Explorr festival and the Tarland Show.

Violence

Domestic Abuse remains a priority, including incidents that have involved visitors to the area.

During this period Officers have dealt with multiple Domestic Incidents, made arrests and signposted victims to support services and partner agencies.

If anyone is concerned that their partner, or the partner of someone they know, may be a Domestic Abuse Offender, they can apply for information under the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS).

Further information on DSDAS, and how to apply, is available here:

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

Incidents of Domestic Violence included:

- Individual arrested for assaulting partner.
- Individual arrested and charged for breaching bail conditions.
- Individual arrested and charged for making threats to partner.

Serious Violence remains uncommon across Marr. Of note this summer, a man was arrested and charged following an assault at a licenced premises in Banchory, during a busy weekend, and a separate youth was charged following a disturbance in the town.

We have worked with licensees on the High Street, Banchory, around security, last-entry times and the risk of under-age drinking/fake ID's, which has been raised locally within the community in connection with licenced premises.

Road Safety

Road safety has been a dominant demand this summer. Visitor traffic on the A93 increased sharply from June, compounded with heavy rain that caused subsidence on the A93 Station Road in Banchory. The road was closed for weeks, resulting in extra volume onto Raemoir Road, Banchory, and the Hill of Banchory. Officers supported the diversion and reminded drivers that a signed alternative is not an excuse for speeding through residential streets.

Police also attended a number of RTC's involving injuries, damage only and sadly a fatal incident. Our thoughts remain with the family involved in such incidents and we will continue to support the community at keeping our roads safe.

Local Officers and specialist Road Policing colleagues have continued joint patrols on the A93, A980 and B974. Drivers have been charged with a range of offences including:

- Speeding
- Careless Driving
- No MOT
- Disqualified Driving
- No Insurance
- Drink/Drug Driving

Offenders have been dealt with by report to the courts, conditional offers or fixed penalty notices (points and/or fine). Short term safety cameras have also been getting deployed across Aberdeenshire this year so that enforcement can follow seasonal traffic effectively.

If you have a stretch of road you are concerned about, please advise us so it can be considered for targeted checks.

Seasonal Advice

Water Safety remains relevant into the autumn months. The River Dee is cold and fast moving, even after a milder spell. Please ensure children are monitored at the riverside, do not jump from bridges or unknown banks and call 999 immediately if someone is at risk.

The seasonal Fire Byelaw in the Cairngorms National Park remains in force from 1st of April to the 30th of September. Campfires, open fires and charcoal barbecues are not permitted in the park. Rangers can issue a £500 fixed penalty.

Gas camping stoves are the safe alternative if you need to cook outdoors, being mindful and careful of CO emissions.

A temporary UK-wide restriction on the sale of disposable barbecues was introduced in August, during tinderbox conditions. Please do not light fires on the Deeside or in the hills.

Rural & Agricultural Crime

Visitor numbers on farm tracks, pathways and forest trails has been high, particularly around Scolty and the Explorr route. Livestock worrying remains a risk into autumn. After the lamb death previously reported our advice to walkers and event organisers remains unchanged:

- Keep dogs on leads around livestock.
- Use signage on Farmland.
- Report incidents immediately.

Autumn and Winter Safety on Deeside

As we move into the autumn and winter, Officers will keep a close eye on the A93 as visitor traffic eases but farming vehicles, schools runs and darker evenings combine.

We will continue high street parking patrols, weekend foot patrols and speed enforcement campaigns.

Bonfire night and Halloween planning preparations are taking place with partners, and we remind the Community that fireworks and bonfires must be carried out lawfully, safely and well away from livestock and forestry.

The clocks change on **25th of October 2026** and evenings will draw in quickly after that. Please plan journeys so that children walking to/from school or bus, and anyone on rural roads, are wearing something bright and reflective. Drivers should anticipate wet leaves, standing water, early frost and deer moving at dusk. Slow down, leave a greater gap and clear frost from every window prior to moving off.

Prepare your vehicle now before the first hard frost. Check tyre treads, sidewalls, pressure (including the spare). The legal minimum is 1.6mm, however 3+ gives far superior grip in rain, slush and ice. Carry out car checks including wipers, screen wash and oil levels.

Last January, Aberdeenshire saw some of the heaviest snow in years, with Snow Gates closing routes such as Cairn O'Mount. Never drive around a closed gate.

High winds are a regular autumn hazard. Storms in recent seasons have brought trees down, caused traffic collisions, blocked main hospital routes and left properties without power/heating.

Report trees, flood water and debris on public roads through Aberdeenshire Councils 'Fix My Street' Service: fix.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

The June rain that caused subsidence on the A93 Station Road, Banchory, is a reminder that high water on the River Dee and Feughside Burns can close routes with little/no notice.

If local rivers look likely to flood, leave vehicles on higher ground and ensure you follow MET Office and SEPA Warnings.

Bogus Callers & Rogue Traders

Heating season also brings the familiar risks. When oil tanks are filled, ensure they are secured as soon as delivery is made and treat unexpected calls offering cheap fuel, boiler repairs or free energy checks as you would any Rogue Trader.

Conclusion

Thank you to all residents, businesses and the community Councils across Deeside, who have spoken with Officers over the summer, whether it has been out and about on their patrols, at high profile events or community Council meetings. Please keep using 101, the Police Scotland Website, CPT inbox or 999 in an emergency.

Yours Truly,

Sean Tait
Banchory CPT Sergeant



14/09/2026



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