



SPARC

SCOTTISH PARTNERSHIP AGAINST RURAL CRIME

SEPTEMBER 2025 UPDATE



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September Overview

During September 2025 from RAB-PT's review of crime trends and hotspots there were a total of 43 rural crime incidents reported, a decrease from the same period last year of September 2025 (67 crimes). The most affected areas in Scotland were J division (9), A Division (8) and V Division (7)

The top 3 reported crimes this month were: Theft of farm machinery, plant and theft (22 reported incidents), Livestock Offences (11 reported incidents) and Metal Thefts/Renewables (4 incidents).

The total cost of tracked rural crime for September 2025 is **£363,960** with **£183,000** recovered. This is a decrease in monetary value of rural crime from the same period last year (September 2025) which had a total reported rural crime figure of **£407,812** with a recovered total of **£68,000**. *

Crime Prevention Site Visits

The RAB-PT team continues to provide crime prevention advice, including site surveys across the country.

A crime prevention site visit can be requested by contacting the RAB-PT team: **PolicingTogetherRABPreventionsTeam@Scotland.police.uk**

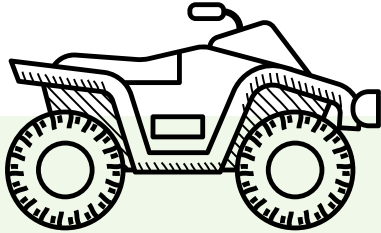
These figures are obtained for RAB-PT management purposes of reviewing Rural crime hot spots and crime trends – They are not currently PSOs reportable figures



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Machinery, Tool, Fuel and Metal/Renewables Theft

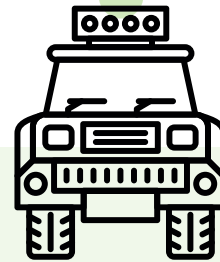


ATV/UTV

13 stolen from following locations:
Aberdeenshire, Scottish Borders,
Dumfries and Galloway, Dollar,
Lanarkshire, Lochgelly, Stranraer

Total Value - £91,150

General MO: – Left insecure, stolen from within locked garage but tracker fitted, and quad recovered, pushed from insecure barns/sheds.



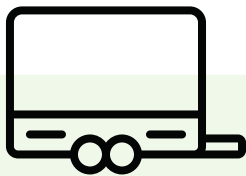
4x4

3 stolen from V division x 2 and J division

Total value: £56,000

MO: stolen by true key, either left in ignition or key stolen from premises

3 incidents of fuel thefts - white and red diesel to value of **£1,110**

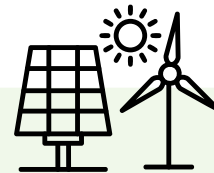


Trailers

3 stolen from following locations: West Lothian x2 and Eaglesham

Total value - £14,000

General MO: Most have been pushed from yards and hitched up and driven away.



Metal Thefts / Renewables

3 Incidents including theft of ornamental gate in Forth Valley.

Total value - £3,100+

A division recorded £1.8k cabling theft and another incident involving £1K cabling theft

Livestock Thefts



1 livestock theft
19 lambs stolen from farm at Auchterarder – value £20k

Livestock Attacks

10 Livestock attacks/worrying,
Highlands and Islands division x 2,
A division x 3, V division x 1,
U division x 1, L division x 1,
J division x 2

SPARC Enforcement

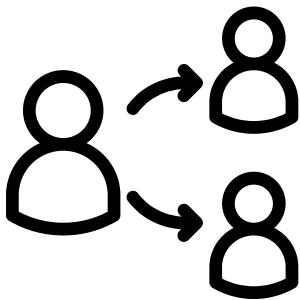
Following a series of quad thefts in the Aberdeenshire area in mid-August 2025 two members of a significant cross border OCG have been identified as responsible.

Three further separate arrests have been made for thefts of quad bikes in the Stranraer, Midlothian and Dumfries areas



Following thefts of copper cable from operational windfarms in the Aberdeenshire area during July 2025, an individual has been identified as responsible and will be reported for these offences.

This individual is assessed to be a member of a prolific cross border OCG which specialises in crimes of this nature.



Cross Border Rural Crime Intelligence

Operation Hawkeye is a Cross Border Intelligence sharing agreement between Police Scotland, Northumbria, Cumbria, Durham, Cleveland and North Yorkshire forces.

This allows for intelligence sharing in relation to travelling criminals throughout Scotland and the rest of the U.K. RAB-PT now have access to the National UK Rural Teams channel. This will enhance our ability to share crime intelligence cross border and within Scotland.

Operation Hawkeye bulletins created & circulated – 5
Operation Hawkeye bulletins received – 4

SPARC website has more information, including our 2025/2028 strategy
www.scottishparc.co.uk

or email us at
PolicingTogetherRABPreventionsTeam@Scotland.police.uk



SPARC Public Engagement

The RAB-PT team attend rural engagement events across Scotland to provide targeted rural crime prevention advice direct to rural communities around the most prevalent crime types.

National Rural Crime Week ran from the 8th 12th September 2025.

Police Scotland Divisions around the country were out and about engaging with our rural communities.

North-East Division attended at farms in the Aberdeenshire to raise awareness of Rural Crime Prevention.

Scottish Borders Division held an event at Coldstream Mains to promote to use of DNA marking kits on tools and machinery.

The RAB-PT team engages with rural communities and business throughout the year with over 18 national and regional events attended since January 2025, with Kelso ram sales attended in October 2025.



Great Scone Palace Challenge

On Saturday 13th September 2025 the RAB-PT team represented SPARC at the inaugural Great Scone Palace Challenge.

Sergeants Semple (aka SPARCI the sheep) and MacKay, along with Constables Sellars, Cowan and Brown battled their way through a number of challenging events including: orienteering, laser clay shooting, an obstacle course and a tractor pull!

The team finished a respectable 9th out of 16 and raised £1000 for RSABI.



Spotlight on... Cannabis Cultivations

Cannabis farms, or cultivations can sometimes be found hidden in rural properties. These might be privately owned/rented properties or even derelict/disused sites.

Along with causing damage to the buildings themselves, cannabis cultivations are harmful to our communities with established links to serious organised crime.

The waste products of these operations are often found dumped on our farmland and forestry areas and are expensive and time consuming to clear up. These common signs of a cannabis cultivations can help to detect them within our communities



Outside the Property:

- Windows permanently covered or blacked out
- Strong smell of cannabis
- Condensation on windows in warm weather
- Constant extractor fan noise
- Bright lights at unusual hours

Inside the Property:

- Heat and humidity much higher than normal
- Unusual wiring, bypassed meters
- High electricity usage
- Rooms cleared and filled with plant pots
- Large amounts of soil, fertilizer or chemicals
- Irrigation systems

IF YOU SUSPECT THE PRESENCE OF A CANNABIS CULTIVATION

Do NOT enter the property – Contact Police immediately.

☎ Police Scotland: 101
☎ 18000 for Deaf BSL users
🚒 In an emergency: 999
🌐 www.scotland.police.uk

Stay vigilant – Protect your community.

