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**Retail
Crime**
TASKFORCE



POLICE SCOTLAND

RETAIL CRIME TASKFORCE

AUTUMN 2026 - RETAILER BULLETIN

**Retail
Crime**
TASKFORCE





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Contact Us

We welcome any feedback you may have. For any non-urgent queries or to provide feedback on this bulletin, please contact us at:

SCDRetailCrimeTaskforce@scotland.police.uk

Welcome Message



PI Emma Wright

Emma Wright

Inspector | Retail Crime Taskforce

Welcome to the Autumn 2026 edition of your Retail Crime Taskforce Bulletin. This is the 7th publication from the Retail Crime Taskforce (RCTF) and continues our commitment to you the retail sector in keeping you updated with the work taking place across Scotland in tackling Retail Crime in partnership with the retail industry.

We have moved to publish these bulletins every quarter, to allow us to provide deeper insights into the work of the RCTF. The bulletin compliments other methods of update and engagement with stakeholders and retailers, such as our Social Media updates, alerts via Retail Watch and regular forums for retailers of all sizes.

In this bulletin we highlight some key updates from the previous months, including: Online and Direct Reporting of Retail Crime, our performance indicator results during 2026-27 so far, part two of our guest blog for Safer Communities Scotland and a new signposting scheme working with Community Justice Scotland.

There is a spotlight on Protect and Prevention in this issue, designed to give you information on the benefits of Prevention Work and how the RCTF can effectively support businesses in this area via Crime Prevention surveys. This spotlight section also highlights how RCTF have supported Edinburgh Division in their work surrounding the month-long visit of the Knife Angel to the Leith area of Edinburgh, which includes some useful retailer resources on the safer sale of knives.

In Your Taskforce Results, there is a wide range of Pursue work to update you on, which includes further arrests by Op Dynos, collaboration with a national retailer to tackle an organised fraudulent scheme, work to disrupt Gift Card Draining and important information for retailers about this emerging trend.

I hope you find this Bulletin a useful update on the progress of the Taskforce. As always we are grateful for the support of retail colleagues, without whom this work could not be achieved. Any feedback you have on this Bulletin is welcome and we can be contacted at scdretailcrimetaskforce@scotland.police.uk.

Online Reporting – Retailer Update and Guidance Booklet

In August, RCTF Detective Chief Inspector Jordan Low and C3 Sergeant Stacey McIntyre shared an update with retailers regarding online reporting. We have been very encouraged by the uptake of the online form since its introduction in March. However, we are still seeing some instances of incorrect use that require clarification.



- **Label Switching:** Incidents where labels are switched so a customer pays less is a fraud, not a theft, and is not suitable for reporting via this form.
- **Assault or Intimidation:** If an incident involves the assault or intimidation of a staff member, do not use the form. Report these to Police Scotland via 101 (if the incident is over), 999 (for ongoing threats of harm), or our ContactUs portal.
- **One Crime per Form:** The form must be used to report an individual crime, not several grouped together. Ensure you include full details of the stolen items' values and the correct address and postcode. Incomplete information impacts our investigative and response capabilities.
- **Factual Descriptions:** While detailed physical descriptions are highly beneficial, do not speculate on an offender's vulnerabilities, background, or personality traits. These forms are subject to FOI requests, so only professional and factual information should be included.

To ensure priority calls to our control room receive the appropriate response, Police Scotland is reviewing protocols to direct all shop theft reports with no ongoing risk to the online form rather than 101.

To assist retailers, we have created a comprehensive guidance handbook for completing the online form, which can be accessed here:

www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/report-shoplifting/reporting-shoplifting-online-retailer-handbook

Your ongoing support in helping us address these offences effectively is greatly appreciated.

DRRC

Direct Reporting Retail Crime Project

Following on from Police Scotland's announcement of the project to introduce the Direct Reporting of Retail Crime, with the objective of providing retailers with a platform via 3rd party providers, for the direct reporting of retail crime, we have been engaged with various forums across the retail sector to establish what the wants and needs of the industry are when utilising this forthcoming platform.

This is a complex process, and we have spent the past 12 months understanding what our build capabilities are and how they can meet the needs of providers and retailers in respect of the platform, while also identifying any limitations or restrictions. Significant progress has been made.

Acknowledging the ongoing under-reporting of retail crime, we are committed to delivering a user-friendly platform optimised for maximum efficiency. We are working with several platform developers on a finalised product to ensure equity across the retail sector. Roll-out of the platform will be on a staged basis to allow for trial and analysis and it is envisaged that this trial phase will now take place from Q1 of 2027.

Timeline extensions have been necessary to ensure seamless integration with Police Scotland's systems.

It should be noted that the Online form remains Police Scotland's own free at point of use platform and should continue to be used to report not-ongoing, non-violent Theft by Shoplifting crimes where appropriate and this is separate from the wider DRRC project involving the 3rd party platform providers. You can find information on the C3 Online Reporting process and make a report at the following link www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/report-shoplifting/

Engagement will continue as we move to this phase with all providers. The Retail Crime Taskforce and Police Scotland remain committed to delivering the pilot phase of this project in 2027.



Spotlight on **Retail Crime Prevention**

The RCTF Protect and Prevent Team is deeply committed to reducing shoplifting, and the staff members within our team are passionate about protecting local victims and communities.

So, why should you invest in crime prevention? First, it provides you with long-term savings by cutting down on stock loss. When items are made harder to steal, thieves will usually move on to target another store. It also reduces the amount of crime your staff members are exposed to, which helps in creating a much safer working environment for everyone.

We recently saw exactly how effective this can be during a visit to a Scotmid store in Edinburgh. This particular shop had faced difficulties with high levels of shoplifting for quite some time. Our team carried out a thorough Crime Prevention Survey, pointing out what they were already doing well while also identifying some points of vulnerability and offering practical steps to strengthen them. We suggested seven specific changes, and the store quickly put six of those into action.

The results were incredibly impressive. In the six months after our survey, reported shoplifting incidents dropped by 54%. Crimes against retail workers also fell by 25%, and general anti-social behaviour reduced significantly.

The Scotmid management team was thrilled with the improvements. They told us: "The crime prevention surveys carried out through the Protect strand have provided practical, store-specific recommendations which have helped us strengthen security and reduce opportunities for offending. Combined with the wider support from the Retail Crime Taskforce, this has enabled us to move beyond simply responding to incidents and focus on preventing them. The advice and expertise provided have been invaluable, and the collaborative approach between the Taskforce, local policing teams and our own Security Support Team is already delivering positive results for colleagues and customers alike."



Spotlight on **Retail Crime Prevention**

This sustained reduction has also had an indirect benefit for the store. With reduced incidents, it has improved staff safety within the premises and reduced the impact of court appearances on staff rotas.

Scotmid have also adopted the recommendations at other stores and now factor these into new store builds to “design out crime” at the outset.

The advice provided by the Protect and Prevent Team is always proportionate to the issues the store faces. We may recommend target hardening techniques, such as Spider web wraps, bottle caps, containers, tags, garment guards and trolley guards; items that can be purchased to try and prevent loss. However, some techniques we advise can be delivered at no cost. Academic research has shown that interaction by members of staff with people attempting to steal has a higher level of deterrence than any other crime prevention technique. A simple, “Can I help you” can often be enough to deter crime.

The Protect and Prevent Team have completed a high number of Crime Prevention Surveys in the first 18 months of the RCTF being in operation. They now plan to revisit other stores where Surveys have been conducted to identify whether some or all of the Survey recommendations have been implemented. This will allow us to see if implementation of recommendations correlates with reduced crime on a wider scale. If your store has received a Crime Prevention survey from RCTF, please consider implementing any of the recommendations you can and gather any evidence you see of a positive impact on offending.

The above outlines the benefits that can be achieved by taking part in a Crime Prevention Survey and taking on board the recommendations for your store. If you are experiencing Retail Crime issues in a particular store and feel you could benefit from a Crime Prevention Survey, the team can be contacted at SCDRetailCrimeTaskForcePrevent@scotland.police.uk



Case Study

Protect Work with M&S

Our Protect and Prevent Team have also been working with M&S and have recently completed Crime Prevention Surveys in several stores. In July, they attended a regional managers meeting at Braehead, delivering our Retail Crime Prevention presentation, explaining our Police Scotland THRIVE model for prioritisation of incidents and giving an update on Online Reporting of Retail Crime.

M&S shared details of the input with their wider team, highlighting that our Crime Prevention officers had provided useful insights into the current retail crime landscape and practical prevention measures for their stores. M&S were able to tell colleagues about the Taskforce's four-strand approach: Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue, and emphasise that the strongest deterrent to shoplifting remains positive human interaction - acknowledging and engaging with customers. They valued hearing about ways M&S colleagues can work with Police Scotland and how we could support their stores through the community police network and the specialist support of the RCTF.

Small Retailers Webinar

Are you an independent or small chain retailer? Your voice is vital in the fight against retail crime.

Join Police Scotland's online webinar at 11am on **19th November 2026** to connect directly with the Retail Crime Taskforce.

This is your opportunity to share your experiences, raise concerns, and help shape how we protect businesses in your community.



Safer Retailing of Knives

During the month of September, the Knife Angel has been on display in Edinburgh. To coincide with the visit, officers in Edinburgh's Prevention, Intervention and Partnerships team have been undertaking work with retailers to raise awareness of the safer retailing of knives. Unfortunately, knives are quite often brandished or verbally threatened in offences against retail workers and as such, a responsible approach to the sale of knives can help reduce these offences.

The RCTF Protect and Prevent team have supported colleagues in Edinburgh with this initiative by developing resources to help retailers understand the legal requirements and offer guidance on the sale of knives. A poster for shop display and a guidance booklet have been produced by the RCTF that can be shared with retailers who stock knives. These resources can be obtained via your local policing area or directly from the RCTF.

Please contact SCDRetailCrimeTaskForcePrevent@scotland.police.uk if you are interested in obtaining posters/booklets for your business.



It is an offence to sell to a person under the age of 18 any knife or knife blade (except if the person is aged 16 or over and the knife or blade is designed for domestic use).

It is also an offence to sell to a person under the age of 18 any razor blade, axe, sword or other article which has a blade or is sharply pointed and which is made or adapted for use for causing injury.

A customer may be asked to provide details of his/her age and identity (which may be recorded or copied and kept for inspection for up to 3 years).

This guidance is produced by the Retail Crime Taskforce (RCTF) to offer guidance to retailers on the sale of knives in their stores, on both legislative requirements and safety advice.

Retail Guidance on Safer Sale of Knives





Your Taskforce in Action – Operation Dynos

The Operation Dynos Team are part of the Central RCTF, they lead our response to High Harm young people involved in Crime. In Year One of the Taskforce their work was directed towards an Organised Retail Crime Group who were exploiting vulnerable young people to steal alcohol, which those exploiting the youngsters would then sell on for financial gain.

In year two, their remit has expanded to cover High Harm young people across the West Region of Scotland, who are heavily involved in Retail Crime. They work alongside our Protect and Prevent Team and the West Working Group to investigate adults exploiting vulnerable young people to steal and adopt a contextual safeguarding approach to try to divert individuals away from Retail Crime.

As part of their approach Operation Dynos regularly support local Retail Crime initiatives and conduct patrols to engage with young people, deter and detect crime and to reassure retailers who are being targeted most frequently.

Further Exploitation Arrests

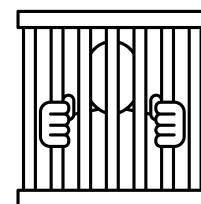
A man and woman, both aged in their 60s have been arrested and charged by RCTF Operation Dynos officers in connection with an ongoing operation to tackle Retail Crime. Following enquiries, officers believe that vulnerable young people are being targeted and exploited by the adults to steal alcohol from stores across the west of Scotland. The adults would then sell on the alcohol for their own financial gain. On 3 September 2026, the man and woman were arrested and charged in connection with human trafficking offences in the Greater Glasgow area.

Constable Paul Steel said: “We remain committed to tackling retail crime, while continuing to safeguard young people from harm and coercion into criminal behaviour. We will continue to gather evidence and use all resources at our disposal to tackle this type of crime.”

The arrests take the number of adults arrested in connection with the criminal exploitation of children and young people, as part of Operation Dynos, up to 7 since the start of the Operation in April 2025.

Court Outcomes

Prolific retail crime offenders



A 32-year-old male from the Edinburgh area was jailed for 30 months after committing 51 Theft by Shoplifting offences since January 2026.

A 39-year-old male from the Edinburgh area received a 6-month prison sentence for committing 62 Theft by Shoplifting offences.

A 40-year-old male from the Dundee area was jailed for 21 months after committing 23 retail crime offences, including Theft by Shopliftings and Retail Worker offences.

A 32-year-old male from the Dundee area received a 19 month prison sentence after committing 19 retail crime offences, including Theft by Shopliftings and Retail Worker offences.

A 44-year-old man from Glasgow pleaded guilty following an investigation into his exploitation of vulnerable children to steal alcohol from stores across the west of Scotland. He is due to be sentenced for the offences next month.



Case Study

Prolific offender jailed after knife threats

A 32-year-old man has been jailed after pleading guilty to assaulting a police officer and breach of the peace offences following an incident in Glasgow City Centre.

The male, who was a known prolific offender, targeted the officer from Police Scotland's Retail Crime Taskforce within a shop on Buchanan Street, as he was carrying out enquiries into a number of shoplifting incidents on Tuesday, 4 August 2026. The officer was from the Taskforce's Op Dynos Team and was in the store engaging with the retailer and carrying out other enquiries.

The male had entered the store and attempted to leave without making payment for items. The officer identified himself to the male, who was initially compliant but then his demeanour changed and he became angry and aggressive. He threw an object at the officer and threatened him with a knife before making off from the scene.

He was subsequently traced the following day in the city centre (by officers from the Op Dynos Team) and arrested. He admitted the charges at the High Court in Glasgow on Monday, 31 August 2026 and was sentenced to nine months in prison.

Chief Inspector Stephen McManus said: "Violence and abusive behaviour are not part of the job for our officers – these are criminal offences and will not be tolerated. "I would like to take this opportunity to commend the professionalism and bravery of the officer involved.

"We will continue to have dedicated patrols within Glasgow City Centre to deter and detect criminality and would encourage anyone with information or concerns to approach our officers or call 101." Retailers can also report Theft by Shoplifting via Police Scotland's Online Reporting mechanism or if they wish to provide information anonymously they can do so via Crimestoppers.

Your Taskforce in Action

Joint Operation to Tackle Tyre Theft

In June this year, the Taskforce were contacted by the Fraud Investigation Team at Halfords via Operation Opal. Halfords had detected the theft of tyres from one of their stores in the Greater Glasgow area, which were being resold via an online marketplace. They were seeking police support to carry out a proactive investigation and apprehend the offenders.

Halfords had identified that potentially over £150K of stock had been removed from their business via fraudulent orders and was being offered for sale online. They were confident of a location where stock was being stored but were seeking police assistance to try and recover stock and get evidence to confirm the identity of the offender(s).

The Taskforce were able to assess the initial referral and put the retailer's Fraud Investigation Team in direct contact with colleagues within our Criminal Investigation Department in Greater Glasgow. They worked with Halfords colleagues to develop action, that led to the recovery of £82,000 worth of stock and two males being charged with being concerned with a fraudulent scheme.

Detective Chief Inspector Lesley-Ann McGee, of Greater Glasgow's Criminal Investigation Department said, "This is an excellent example of how the RCTF structure can facilitate connecting national retailers with appropriate colleagues in Police Scotland to allow us to work collaboratively on Retail Crime investigations and effectively tackle organised retail criminality."

Matt Laycock, Head of Group Profit Protection at Halfords, said "Our Fraud Investigations Team identified suspicious activity and worked closely with Police Scotland to support its investigation. We're grateful to the officers involved for their swift response and recovery of stock. This case shows the value of retailers and police sharing information to tackle organised retail crime."

Your Taskforce in Action

Disrupting Gift Card Draining Fraud

The Retail Crime Taskforce is highlighting an increasing trend: Gift Card Draining. In this fraud, offenders target gift cards displayed for sale using two main methods.

Method 1: Steal and Monitor

- **The Theft:** Criminals remove physical gift cards from retail displays.
- **The Tampering:** They expose and record the card numbers and secret PINs.
- **The Return:** They meticulously reseal the packaging and return the cards to the shelf.
- **The Drain:** Software continuously monitors the stolen numbers. When a customer loads cash at checkout, criminals instantly spend or transfer the funds.

Method 2: Barcode Overlay Criminals place their own barcode over the original. When an unsuspecting customer loads funds at the till, the altered barcode diverts the money directly to an account controlled by the offenders. The criminals are alerted and quickly drain the funds before the fraud is discovered. **The Impact** This fraud is incredibly difficult to spot, as the packaging usually appears genuine until the customer tries to use the card. Retailers are also victims here; to maintain customer trust, businesses often reimburse the customer for the stolen funds, resulting in a direct financial loss.

Recent Police Action

The RCTF Pursue Team is actively disrupting this activity. On 27 July, acting on RCTF intelligence, Fife Division Roads Policing stopped a vehicle, arresting and charging two individuals with fraud. Officers recovered a large quantity of gift cards with a potential value of £250,000 to £2 million.

This marks our third successful intelligence-led vehicle stop linked to organized gift card draining. We are currently issuing guidance to officers and raising retailer awareness to increase vigilance and disrupt this crime.

Reporting If you have any information about suspected gift card draining, please report it to Police Scotland via your usual channels, directly to us at scdretailcrimetaskforce@scotland.police.uk, or anonymously via Crimestoppers.



Taskforce Funding in Action

Glasgow West End Day of Action.

On 8 September a joint day of action was carried out in Glasgow's West End by officers from Partick Community Policing Team and the RCTF (and a couple of big horses!) in collaboration with Retailers Against Crime (RAC) and local retailers.

Officers in uniform, plain clothes, on e-bikes and on horseback worked together with local shop staff and security to tackle a rise in retail crime. The e-bikes were supported by funding from the Taskforce and carry RCTF branding. They will be a significant asset for the community policing team to get about the area and patrol larger areas/respond more promptly to retail crime incidents.

On the day 13 arrests were made for offences including theft by shoplifting, reset of stolen goods, breach of bail and possession of controlled drugs, with approximately £580 worth of stolen goods recovered and returned to retailers.

Local Area Commander, Chief Inspector Karen Cameron said, "We know that Retail Crime involves more than just "shoplifting". These incidents often come with threats, intimidation and violence, and it is unacceptable that retail workers in the community are faced with this on a daily basis. We will continue to work hard to ensure that the West End continues to be a safe and vibrant place to live in and visit. I'd like to thank RAC for the work they do daily and for their assistance in organising this day of action, but I'd particularly like to thank the local retailers, shop staff and security for their efforts in making this day a success".



During the day, officers from the Greater Glasgow RCTF were, were instrumental in the arrest and charge of a male in connection with theft by shoplifting offences. Officers were also able to trace where the goods had been taken and subsequently arrested and charged a female in connection with reset offences, which is knowingly buying stolen goods. Stolen goods were recovered and returned to the retailer.

Officers from our Protect and Prevent Team also engaged with retailers on the day, offering crime prevention advice and completing Crime Prevention Surveys.

The day was made possible utilising additional funding made available to Greater Glasgow Division from the RCTF funding, which is available for all local policing areas to bid into and utilise.

RCTF Updates

Safer Communities Scotland Guest Blog – Part 2

In our last Bulletin we shared part one of a guest blog for Safer Communities Scotland (SCS) by Kevin Chase, the National Architectural Liaison Officer for the RCTF Prevent and Protect Team. In his first blog Kevin shared his perspective on the scale of the issue of Retail Crime, its impact across Scotland and the work underway to address it.

SCS have now published part two of Kevin's blog, which focusses on the concept of the prevention of retail crime being a more effective measure than simply pursuit and punishment of offenders after the event.

Read part two of the series – [Can I help you? Prevention, prolific offenders and the future of retail crime in Scotland | Guest Blog \(Part 2 of 2\) | SC Scotland](#)

Looking for support in your community?

Scan the QR code to access our national
support directory

- Advocacy
- Recovery
- Financial Inclusion
- Peer Mentoring
- Mental Health and more

Or visit www.communityjustice.scot



Working in partnership



The Retail Crime Task Force, in partnership with Community Justice Scotland, has launched a QR code card scheme to provide individuals with accessible information on local support agencies covering a wide range of vulnerabilities, including substance misuse, mental health, homelessness, and more.

Operational police officers can issue these cards to members of the public who may be experiencing, or know someone affected by, vulnerabilities that contribute to offending. Scanning the QR code directs the user to the Community Justice Scotland website, where individuals or their families can explore local support services and self-refer. Whilst the card scheme has been designed with Retail Crime offenders in mind, it may be used for any offence type where support services may benefit the individuals involved.

- **Self-Referral:** Accessing services is strictly on a self-referral basis by the recipient or their family.
- **Vulnerability Reports:** Handing out a card does NOT replace the requirement for officers to submit a Vulnerable Persons Database (VPD) or Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) report where appropriate.
- **No Recording Required:** Officers do not need to log recipient details or track the number of cards distributed. Community Justice Scotland will monitor directly and report back to RCTF on use of the QR code.

A number of cards have been ordered by RCTF and will be distributed to Policing Divisions for onward sharing with frontline officers. We look forward to seeing how these cards work and hope they will provide appropriate early signposting so that those involved in retail crime can easily find out where to seek the intervention and support they need.



Your Taskforce Results

April to September 2026 and Forthcoming RCTF 18-Month Snapshot

We will shortly be publishing an 18-Month RCTF Snapshot from the RCTF internally across Police Scotland and sharing this externally to all our stakeholders and partners. This will contain some of the key work undertaken by both the Taskforce and Local Policing divisions in conjunction with our retail sector partners since the creation of the RCTF 18 months ago. We anticipate this will be published by the start of November this year.

The figures below show the support the RCTF provides targeting retail crime via resource and funding. Local Policing continue to arrest and charge retail crime offenders every day on top of these specific RCTF related figures.

3,285 Shoplifting Charges/Detections

818 Intelligence Logs Submitted

130 Retail Worker Offence Charges

869 Arrests Made

57 Post-Conviction ASBOs Sought

1,235 Suspects Identified by RCTF

262 Electronic Briefings Disseminated

1,452 Retailer engagements for Protect support/advice

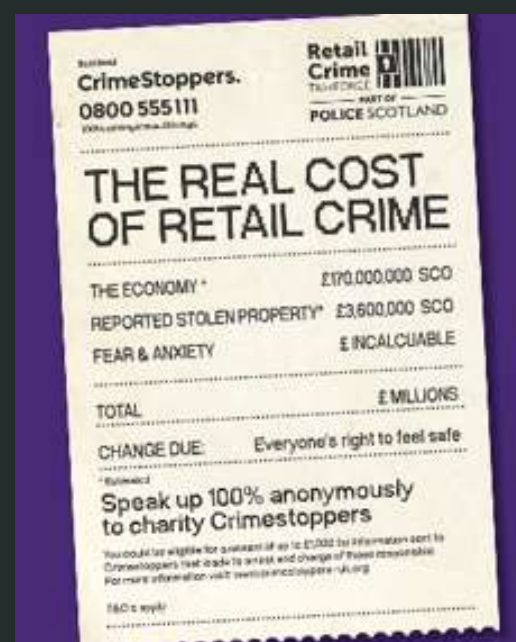
(1 April 2026 – 17 September 2026)

In The News

Our work continues to gain media attention across Scotland. You can follow our work and join the conversation on social media.

Search for **#retailcrimetaskforce** and **#notavictimlesscrime** to see the latest updates, and feel free to use these hashtags when posting about your own work to tackle retail crime.

This quarterly publication will provide updates to retailers on the work of the RCTF. Please share our bulletin widely with your stores and colleagues



In The News

Police Scotland Edinburgh 16 Aug

Almost 50 people have been arrested by officers from our new City Centre Policing Unit during their first month of operations.

From 1 to 31 July, a total of 49 individuals were arrested and 114 charges brought against them for a range of offences within the city centre during proactive patrols and reactive responses undertaken by the unit.

The CCPU officially launched on 2 July 2026, supported by funding from the City of Edinburgh Council's Visitor Levy.

Over the last month over 2,300 hours of patrols by CCPU officers have taken place to engage with members of the public and businesses within the city-centre, respond to intelligence relating to criminal activity and provide a high-visibility presence to deter offending.

In addition to the arrests, two Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for antisocial behaviour and a further 20 Recorded Police Warnings were handed out for incidents that did not require arrests to be made.

A total of 208 youth interactions were carried out to engage with young people visiting the city centre and build strong relationships with this demographic to help deter offences such as antisocial behaviour.

Police Scotland Tayside 3d

On Wednesday 19th August 2026, officers from the Community Investigation Hub worked collaboratively with officers from the Retail Crime Task Force to carry out enforcement on high harm retail offenders in the Arbroath area. Five persons were traced and arrested, Two 39-year-old males, a 39-year-old female, a 37-year-old female and a further 34-year-old female were all arrested and charged for a total of 32 retail offences. The offences occurred between 2nd July and 15th August 2026 at the Coop, Mayfield Terrace in Arbroath and Tesco, Stobcross in Arbroath. All five were kept in custody to appear at Forfar Sheriff Court on Thursday 20th August 2026.

Constable Crangill from the Community Investigation Hub stated " This was a targeted day of enforcement resulting in five individuals being arrested. The operation focused on tackling outstanding offenders and supporting local communities and retailers affected by crime. Police will continue to target offenders who repeatedly commit retail crime, using proactive policing and enforcement to provide respite to retailers and help protect staff, businesses, and communities. It further demonstrates the continued commitment of Police Scotland working together to identify, trace and bring offenders to justice.

#retailcrimetaskforce #notavictimlesscrime

A 13-year-old female has also been charged with a number of high-value Theft by Shoplifting offences and has been reported to the appropriate agencies.

We will continue to work with partners to tackle organised retail crime and protect local businesses and communities.

This incident is a clear example demonstrating the benefits of working with members of our communities to achieve strong, positive, results. If it wasn't for the quick thinking and action from the staff who alerted police to these individuals, they may have continued offending in and around, not only our local community, but the country as a whole.

Constable McCaw of Newton Stewart Police Station made the following, brief, appeal: If you believe you may have any further information relating to this group, or similar circumstances, please contact us via 101, quoting incident number:

1444 of 15/08/2026.

Police Scotland Dumfries & Gallo... 16 Aug

On Saturday 15 August 2026, police officers in Newton Stewart were alerted to members of a potential Organised Retail Crime Group operating in shops in the town.

Within the hour, police officers in Stranraer traced the same five individuals, resulting in a number of arrests. Local officers then worked with colleagues across Police Scotland to identify links to a number of outstanding thefts across the country, as well as liaising with Cumbria Constabulary to identify offending in their region. In every instance identifiable CCTV footage was able to demonstrate involvement from one, or more, of the individuals we traced spanning back to March of 2026 and accumulating a value of stolen goods exceeding £3,500.

As a result of our enquiries, a 20-year-old male and 32-year-old female have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with a number of high-value theft related charges and will appear at Sheriff Court.

Two further males, aged 21 and 18, have been charged with Attempted Theft and will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Police Scotland Edinburgh

problems.

"We're under no illusion that more work needs to be done and we will continue to build on the success of our first month as we strive to make Edinburgh's city-centre as safe as possible for all of those who live, work and visit the area."

Police Scotland Edinburgh

Extensive work has also been done to tackle street drinking in the Hunters Square area, with alcohol seized on 47 occasions.

Throughout August, CCPU officers will play a pivotal role in policing the Edinburgh International Festival and Fringe to offer reassurance to the increased number of people within the city-centre and respond to any incidents that arise during this time.

Inspector Stephen Quinn, who leads the City Centre Policing Unit, said: "Our first month has been immensely challenging but extremely rewarding, as CCPU officers set about providing benefit to Edinburgh's city centre,

"Extensive support from the CCPU was provided to staffing the cordons required to keep the public safe following the significant fire on Princes Street and this meant that resources that would previously have been required from other parts of the city were able to continue with their normal duties.

"Despite the demands of the fire, we have also been successful in tackling some of the key issues affecting the city-centre, including shop theft, antisocial behaviour and disorder.

"Working alongside key partners such as our colleagues at the Retail Crime Taskforce, Simon Community Scotland, Street Assist and representatives from the night-time economy, we continue to tackle hotspot areas and improve confidence in the policing response to ongoing

Police Scotland Greater Glasgow

Across Scotland, shoplifting happens 145 times a day.

That's once every 10 minutes.

Contact Crimestoppers. 100% anonymous. Always.

In The News



Police Scotland Greater Glasgow 9 Sep · 🌐

Officers from the Greater Glasgow Retail Crime Task Force have been targeting offenders within the city centre and the west end area.

On Tuesday, 8 September, 2026, officers arrested and charged a 54-year-old man on Great Western Road, in connection with shoplifting offences. He is due to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court on Wednesday, 9 September, 2026.

Further action in Elderslie Street resulted in a 41-year-old woman being arrested and charged in connection with an outstanding warrant. She is also due to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court today.

Officers also arrested and charged a 50-year-old woman in connection with reset offences, which is knowingly buying stolen goods. She has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.



Police Scotland Highland & Islands 28 Aug · 🌐

On the morning of Tuesday 25th August Officers from the Prevention & Interventions Unit attended at the Co-op in Nairn. Officers spoke with staff members offering security advice and identified opportunities for crime prevention. Officers engaged with customers to discuss the impact retail crime can have on a community and businesses, highlighting anonymous reporting through Crimestoppers.

Retail crime is not a victimless crime. It affects shop owners, staff, and the wider community – driving up costs, creating fear, and threatening livelihoods. Every theft, act of abuse, or instance of anti-social behaviour has a real impact.

We want all businesses and members of the public to feel safe, supported and encouraged to report any instances of retail crime.

"These proactive operations help to strengthen our existing links with our retail colleagues as well as providing reassurance to the public.

"We know there is still work to be done but rest assured we are not complacent and will use all available resources to deter and prevent this crime.

"We recently rolled out a new online reporting form for retailers to report incidents of shop theft where there was no ongoing risk of harm, and we are really encouraged with the uptake this is receiving."

Anyone with any concerns is encouraged to speak with officers or report incidents to Police Scotland on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Police Scotland Greater Glasgow 🔍

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On Saturday, 5 September, 2026, officers carrying out proactive patrols within the St Enoch area of Glasgow arrested a 28-year-old man in connection with outstanding warrants. He was due to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court on Monday, 7 September, 2026.

Last month, officers arrested a 33-year-old man in Glasgow city centre, and a 44-year-old man was arrested in Paisley. Both men were charged in connection with up to 17 shoplifting offences and were due to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court.

Constable Jack Scott said: "Our commitment to tackling retail crime will continue with enforcement and partnership work in local communities, while seeking to arrest and charge where appropriate.

If you are a retailer and would like support or advice on retail crime prevention methods, please get in touch with the local Crime Prevention Officers.

Retailers Against Crime can also provide education to retailers includes advice, tips and methods used that will assist in the detection and prevention of crime – <https://orlo.uk/9A1hD>

You can help fight retail crime by reporting information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or reporting online - <https://orlo.uk/SGvnO>



Police Scotland North East 3 Sep · 🌐

On Tuesday the 1st of September 2026, officers of the Community Action Team in Aberdeen, with the assistance of Police CCTV operators, traced a shoplifter in the city centre of Aberdeen who, over the weekend, had been advertising on their social media pages to steal goods to order.

On being traced they were found to be in possession of a number of stolen goods and were arrested, charged and kept in custody to appear at court the following day.

A warrant was craved for their home address and executed on the morning of Wednesday the 2nd of September, with goods worth in excess of £860 being recovered.

#RetailCrimeTaskforce

Watch this SPACE

Our Taskforce has made a good initial impact on retail crime. However, there is a significant amount of work still to be done. Expect updates on the following in coming editions of this Bulletin:

- RCTF work with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) – we are working in collaboration with COPFS to tackle Retail Crime. We are focussing work on how we effectively deal with the highest harm offenders and the tools available to us. We hope to run a feature on our progress in a future issue.
- A new partnership between Victim Support Services and the Retail Trust to better support Retail Workers who are victims of crime.
- Publication of our 18-Month RCTF Snapshot Report – find out what we have achieved so far alongside our partners and stakeholders.
- Information about our One-Day Retail Crime Prevention Course to assist community and city centre officers in their daily roles when dealing with Retail Crime. Plus, our plans to potentially develop this further into a Retailer Course.

In line with our new publication schedule, the next RCTF Retailer Bulletin will be our Winter Edition, which will be published at the end of December 2026.

Contact Us

We welcome any feedback you may have. For any non-urgent queries or to provide feedback on this bulletin, please contact us at: **SCDRetailCrimeTaskforce@scotland.police.uk**