

British Transport Police

British Transport Police is the national police force for the railways, providing a policing service to rail operators, their staff and passengers throughout Scotland, England and Wales. Policing railways is an integral part of policing the community generally and forms part of the national policing structure that safeguards the citizen.

British Transport Police activity within Aberdeenshire is the responsibility of the North East Sector Commander, Inspector Colin Munro. Serious crime within the Aberdeenshire Rail network is rare and BTP officers focus much of their effort on providing a 'Safe Railway Environment' and a 'Railway environment free of disruption'. BT Police is an 'intelligence led' organisation which is always prepared to direct efforts in response to local issues and concerns.

Links with local community groups have been established to encourage residents to assist BTP in responding to such local issues.

The information provided from British Transport Police was for the past three financial years, from 1st April 2001 to 31st March 2004. It is important to note that these offences do not include crimes reported within Aberdeen Railway Station, which constitute a significant proportion of all reported crime.

Location of Total Reported Offences within Aberdeenshire for 2001/02 – 2003/04

2001/02 – 2003/04	Crime	Detected Crime	No Crime
Stonehaven	48	13	0
Portlethen	42	0	0
Insch	41	15	0
Inverurie	31	8	0
Huntly	16	1	0
Kintore	4	0	0
Newtonhill	3	0	0
Laurencekirk	3	0	0
ABERDEENSHIRE TOTAL	188	37	0

Source: British Transport Police

The table above shows that there are more offences in Stonehaven and Portlethen than in any other area of Aberdeenshire. Stonehaven accounts for **25.5%** of all reported crime, whereas Portlethen represents **22.3%**, accounting for a combined total of **47.8%** of all reported offences in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period. There were also a significant number of reported offences in Insch, which accounted for **21.8%** of all reported offences during the period. Kintore (**2.1%**), Newtonhill (**1.6%**) and Laurencekirk (**1.6%**), had the lowest number of reported offences during the three-year period. In total, there were **188** offences reported as occurring in the Aberdeenshire area during the three-year period.

Yearly Breakdown of Reported Offences in Aberdeenshire for 2001/02 – 2003/04

Aberdeenshire	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	TOTAL
Line of Route Offences (including trespass)**	27	34	28	89
Z28 Railway Trespass*	16	24	17	57
Public Order Offences	19	7	5	31
Other Offences	7	12	8	27
Criminal Damage/Malicious Mischief	4	6	7	17
Theft of Passenger Property	5	4	4	13
Theft of Railway/Commercial Property	0	3	0	3
Violence Against the Person	1	2	0	3
Fraud Offences	1	0	1	2
Motor Vehicle/Theft of Cycle Offences	1	1	0	2
Sexual Offences	0	0	1	1
Drug Offences	0	0	0	0
Robbery Offences	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	65	69	54	188

*Figures for Z28 Railway Trespass are included in the Line of Route Offences category and therefore do not appear in the Total.

**Line of Route Offences (including trespass) are offences that affect the line and disrupt train services. They range from offences of trespassing and stone throwing to Malicious Mischief /Culpable and reckless conduct e.g. by placing obstructions on the line.

Source: British Transport Police

There was an increase in reported offences (6.2%) between 2001/02 and 2002/03. This was followed by a decrease of 21.7% between 2002/03 and 2003/04. During the three-year period analysed in the Audit, it is encouraging to note there was a decrease in the total number of reported offences in Aberdeenshire by 13.5%.

Local Breakdown of Reported Offences in Aberdeenshire for the three-year period

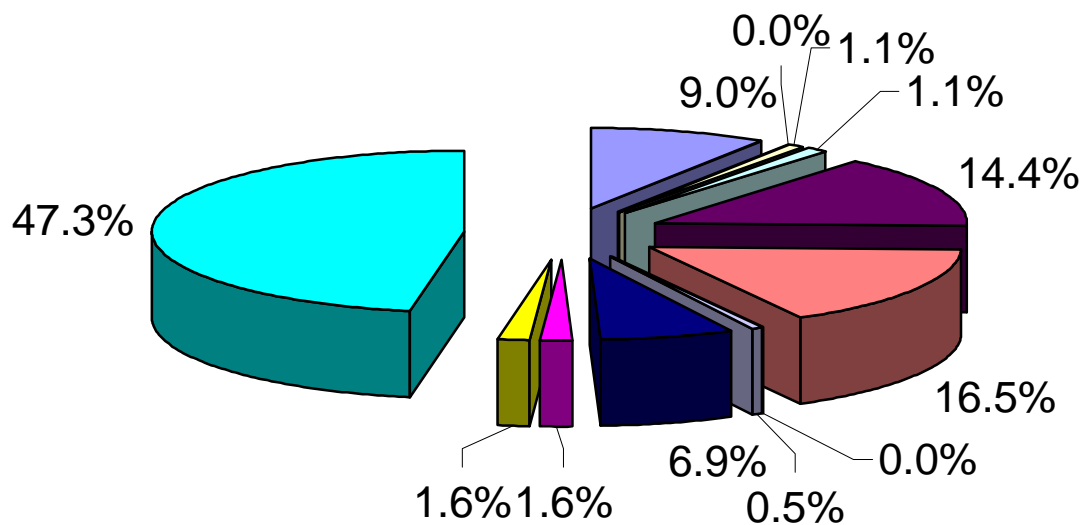
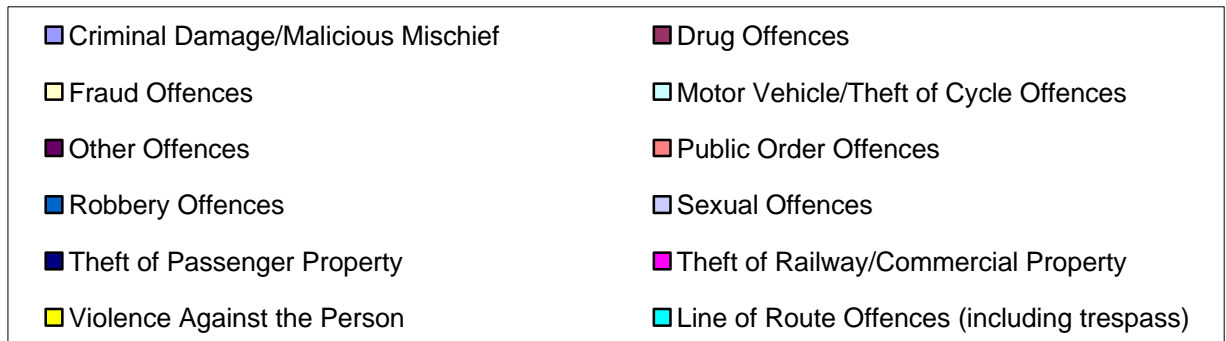
Three-year Period 2001/02 – 2003/04	Huntly	Insch	Inverurie	Kintore	Laurencekirk	Newtonhill	Portlethen	Stonehaven	TOTAL
Criminal Damage/Malicious Mischief	3	1	3	1	0	0	2	7	17
Drug Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Motor Vehicle/Theft of Cycle Offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Other Offences	2	18	0	0	0	0	1	6	27
Public Order Offences	4	7	3	0	0	0	4	13	31
Robbery Offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Offences	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Theft of Passenger Property	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	9	13
Theft of Railway/Commercial Property	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Violence Against the Person	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Z28 Railway Trespass*	2	8	18	2	0	3	18	5	56
Line of Route Offences (including trespass)**	4	13	22	3	3	3	34	7	89
TOTAL	16	41	31	4	3	3	42	48	188

*Figures for Z28 Railway Trespass are included in the Line of Route Offences category and therefore do not appear in the Total.

**The Line of Route Offences (including trespass) is an offence that affects the line and disrupts the trains. This can include offences from trespassing and stone throwing to Malicious Mischief and placing obstructions on the line.

Source: British Transport Police

Percentage Total of Reported Offences in Aberdeenshire for the three-year period



Source: Grampian Transport Police

As can be seen from the above chart, the most common type of offences committed in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period were '**Line of Route Offences (including trespass)**', '**Public Order Offences**' and '**Other Offences**'. Line of route offences (including trespass) accounted for **47.3%** of all reported offences, with public order offences accounting for **16.5%** of all reported offences and other offences accounting for **14.4%** of all reported offences during the three-year period. There was also a significant number of reported criminal damage/ malicious mischief and theft of passenger property, which accounted for **9.0%** and **6.9%** of all reported offences respectively.

The installation of CCTV cameras at Stonehaven Station has led to an increased awareness of minor disorder and damage, which might otherwise have gone unreported. The evidential value of the cameras however has led to the detection of offences, which might similarly have gone undetected. The main value of the cameras however has been in reassuring passengers and staff.

It is intended to extend CCTV coverage to other Stations within Aberdeenshire, with Dyce Station due for completion in August 2004.

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

- There are more offences in Stonehaven than in any of the other stations in Aberdeenshire area.
- The offence that is most often committed is 'Line of Route Offences (including trespass)'.
- There are other offences that are significantly higher than the rest and these are 'Public Order Offences', 'Criminal Damage/ Malicious Mischief' and 'Theft of Passenger Property'.