



PROJECT VECTOR

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INTRODUCTION:

Project Vector was launched on Monday 6th April 2026 as a direct response to a significant increase in acquisitive crime across the Stirling Rural (Forth & Endrick, Trossachs & Teith and Dunblane and Bridge of Allan) areas. Initial data shows the increase to be around 9 times more than the first quarter of 2025.

The reason for a specific project is to collect, collate, analyse and investigate this increase in crime with a view to Deter, Disrupt, Divert and Detect criminals and bring acquisitive crime levels back to a state of normality or further reduce where possible.

Project Vectors remit is, but not limited to the theft and attempt theft of:

Farming equipment, Plant machinery, Tools, Fuel, Trailers, Jet ski's and the use of drones to conduct hostile reconnaissance



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COLLECT, COLLATE AND ANALYSE:

Under Project Vector, analysis into current and previous data held on Police systems have taken place and has to date taken 20 Crime Reports from 2024 to present day into consideration as the Modus Operandi (Method/Pattern) has been assessed to be similar in nature. It is likely this number will continue to grow as we analyse more previous data.

The majority of the crimes recorded and assessed under Project Vector are that of theft or attempt theft of motor vehicle, with the vehicle of choice being Quad Bikes.

There is ongoing analytical work being carried out to ascertain why quad bikes are the vehicle of choice, and where these vehicles are being transported and for what purpose.



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INVESTIGATE:

The investigation is ONGOING, therefore there is limited information that can be released at this point to protect the integrity of the investigation, safeguard a suspect's right to a fair trial and prevent any contamination of evidence.

What can be said is a number of the crimes being investigated under Project Vector have been detected and suspects have been charged with a variety of offences.

It is now a job for the Project to further investigate these individuals' movements and links to specific areas with a view of linking them to further crimes.

We understand the frustrations at the length of time these investigations take to complete, however to ensure a safe prosecution, the method and tactics involved in this process cannot be discussed to protect the integrity of the investigation.



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NEWS/UPDATES

On 27th February 2026 a Quad Bike was STOLEN from a working farm near Fintry. On Sunday 1st March 2026 a vigilant member of the public observed the stolen quad bike to be driven on the road, not far from the locus it was stolen from. Police were contacted and attended the area. The quad bike was abandoned by the rider who unfortunately made good their escape and the quad bike was recovered and returned to it's rightful owner. The investigation into this Theft of Motor Vehicle is ONGOING and there are still Positive Lines of Enquiry.

On 19th February 2026 a member of the public contacted an off-duty Police Officer to advise of suspicious activity on a site near to Crianlarich. It was reported that an excavator was removed from the site which appears closed down for the day and a vehicle towing a trailer with said excavator was headed toward Callander. The Community and Response Policing Teams from Balfron and Callander immediately responded to the area and traced the suspect vehicle. Further enquiry has revealed the trailer used in the commission of this crime was also stolen from within the Stirlingshire area. Two persons were arrested and charged for a number of Road Traffic and Dishonesty Offenses.



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PREVENTION:

What can we do to help you whilst this investigation is ongoing.

- There has been an increase in Police patrols within the Rural Section of the division in an effort to deter thefts from occurring.
- We have procured a marked Police vehicle fitted with ANPR cameras to assist officers in checking vehicles whilst on mobile patrol.
- A number of officers have attended a training event hosted by CITS (Core Industry Theft Solutions) for a better understanding of issues faced in rural communities and given access to crime prevention tools/systems.
- The introduction of SELECTA DNA marking kits (pictured) to mark vehicles and/or equipment as a method of identification.
- We have provided advice to affected parties in relation to CCTV, lighting and other preventative methods.



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National Rural, Acquisitive & Business Preventions Team (RAB-PT)

Update YTD 1st Jan – 15th May.

ATV/UTV:

Total incidents: 63 stolen across Scotland.

Total Value - £450,060

MO: Left unattended with the keys in the ignition remains frustratingly high. Stolen from insecure shed/outbuilding or stolen from a locked / secured shed remains. Force applied to security measures on shed/outbuildings.

MAKE/MODEL: All major manufacture brands were reported stolen including Honda, Can Am, Suzuki and Yamaha.

4x4:

Total incidents: 6 stolen from across border regions and central belt

Total value: £95,500

MO: Overcome the security and drive vehicle away from various location around rural property undetected.

MAKE/MODEL: – Toyota Hilux and Landrover Discovery.

These figures are not official Police Scotland figures, however work has been done to provide accuracy to them.

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National Rural, Acquisitive & Business Preventions Team (RAB-PT)

Update YTD 1st Jan – 15th May.

Fuel

Total Incidents: 112 incidents of fuel theft

Total Value: unknown upwards of £50,000

All but 4 of our Divisions reported theft of Fuel during this period, exceptions being Edinburgh City, Fife, Ayrshire and Renfrewshire.

Type: Red and white diesel, Domestic Heating Oil.

M.O – Syphoning from tanks predominantly.

Trailers

Total incidents: 42 from locations across Scotland

Total value: £199,620

M.O: Most have hitched up

and driven away, one was unhitched from a parked vehicle outside a hotel.

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National Rural, Acquisitive & Business Preventions Team (RAB-PT)

Update YTD 1st Jan – 15th May.

Infrastructure and Metal crime

Total incidents: 60 across Scotland

Total value: £230,966

Type stolen: Copper cabling, wires, pipes and fuel. lead, solar panels, tools and equipment.

Livestock:

Total incidents: 87

Locations Include : Ballater, Haddington, Inverurie, Alexandria, Skye, Invergordon, Shetland, Kinfauns, Inverbervie, Bathgate, Thurso
33 confirmed fatalities, several sheep injured, several chickens attacked.

Total Value: £4,450

Livestock thefts:

40 Black Faced ewes stolen, valued at **£50000** stolen in U Div (Ayrshire) & 11 Jacob lambs stolen again in U Div (Ayrshire) 1 month old, valued at **£2500**.

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National Rural, Acquisitive & Business Preventions Team (RAB-PT)

RAB-PT engagement

RAB-PT have attended a number of public and partner engagement events across Scotland and engaged with Priority Working Groups.

Since last PWG We have been involved in CITS (combined industry theft solutions)

126 police officers were trained 57 in the north and 69 in the south

16 police officers have been trained in use of the RAPID system

Our team have continued ongoing work as part of Operation Hawkeye sharing intelligence with forces in the North of England to tackle travelling cross border rural crime.



DRONES



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