

# Acquisitive Crime Strategy

2023 – 2028





**SCOTTISH PARTNERSHIP AGAINST ACQUISITIVE CRIME**

# Our partners

**CrimeStoppers.**  
Speak up. Stay safe.



HM Revenue  
& Customs



Neighbourhood  
Watch SCOTLAND

**PCPI**  
Police Crime Prevention Initiatives



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe  
POILEAS ALBA



RetailersAgainstCrime

**SCOTSS**  
Trading Standards



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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Police Preferred Specification



# Welcome :: Fàilte

Welcome to the first strategy to prevent and tackle acquisitive crime across Scotland. The Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime **SPACE** recognises Scotland is a diverse mix of people and geography.

The partners bring a range of expertise to tackle acquisitive crime with the joint aim of reducing the risks our communities face from acquisitive crime and the associated financial loss.

**SPACE** puts early prevention opportunities at the core of what we do, aiming to reduce the likelihood of harm for vulnerable people in our communities from the very outset. This goes hand in hand with positive action to mitigate the factors we know can cause long lasting harm.

**SPACE** will adopt a whole system approach, working collaboratively and in partnership with each other to positively contribute to the lives and wellbeing of our communities.

**SPACE** recognises that the true cost of acquisitive crime is felt emotionally as well as financially. There is also a wider environmental impact from crime and its carbon footprint. Every step we take to minimise the instances of acquisitive crime will have a positive effect on individuals, local communities and the environment.

**This strategy outlines how we will work in partnership to tackle acquisitive crime throughout Scotland**

**SPACE** is a multi-agency partnership involving key organisations collectively working together to tackle acquisitive crime. Providing strategic focus, SPACE co-ordinates a committed and sustained approach of crime prevention advice across Scotland's communities.

We will develop collaborative approaches with partners to raise awareness, share intelligence and information relating to emerging acquisitive crime trends.

We will use this collaborative approach to deliver best practice and reduce harm by raising public awareness through national campaigns.



## Vision

**Prevent acquisitive crime** having an impact on our communities



## Aim

**Work with our partners** to reduce the opportunities for acquisitive crime



## Objectives

- **Minimise opportunities for acquisitive crime** and reduce the harm it causes to our communities
- Develop our nationwide approach to **reduce doorstep crime** and the harm it causes
- Work with partners to tackle acquisitive crime and **protect individuals and businesses** from this threat
- Deliver a **clearer reporting mechanism** for advice and guidance
- Build upon **community and business resilience**



# What is Acquisitive crime?

Acquisitive crime is a high volume crime accounting for a substantial number of all crimes reported in Scotland often targeting the most vulnerable in our society.

**SPACE** priorities aim to minimise the opportunities to commit acquisitive crime whilst maximising the impact of acquisitive crime prevention campaigns across Scotland. Tackling acquisitive crime represents a challenge for the police and partner agencies. Effective, long term reductions will only occur by working together sharing and implementing good practice to keep pace with this constantly evolving form of criminality.

**Building on work previously undertaken coupled with recent consultation involving partners, SPACE has set 7 priorities:**





# The Strategy

Crime prevention is a broad and complex concept. Policing will only ever be one part of a successful prevention approach. Trading Standards Scotland, Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland, Local Authorities' and a host of other public and third sector services will be even more important than policing in achieving successful outcomes long-term. The responsibility for crime prevention needs to be shared across agencies with Police Scotland being an active and enthusiastic partner in a co-ordinated approach.

Crime prevention is about understanding and addressing both the cause and the crime. It is:

Any intervention which prevents or reduces a crime that would have occurred without that intervention;



Police and partners working together with communities, learning about shared problems, and jointly designing unique solutions;

When we initiate crime responses before there is a significant problem as opposed to reacting to crime matters on an incident by incident basis



# Prevention Intelligence Enforcement Reassurance

**SPACE** seeks to provide a co-ordinated, focused and pro-active approach through effective partnerships coupled with increased visibility to reduce opportunities for those that commit crimes causing the greatest threat, risk or harm to our communities.

**SPACE** aims to ensure that Scotland's communities are aware of the work being done on their behalf to improve their sense of wellbeing and safety and reduce the fear of crime.

**SPACE** is committed to preventing crime and reducing the fear of crime through communication, education, innovation and partnership working to empower communities and individuals.





# Acquisitive Crime Prevention and Education

All activity and campaigns to address these priorities will have a supportive thread through them provided by Scottish Government, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and relevant partners. Activity will be subject to ongoing review and we will act upon any lessons learned as they develop keeping us agile and relevant.

## Theft



### **Bike theft • Metal Theft • Theft by Shoplifting • Plant Theft • Fuel Theft**

The lead partners addressing these areas will be Police Scotland, Trading Standards Scotland and Retailers against Crime. Scottish Plant Owners Association, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Local Authority Trading Standards, National Infrastructure Crime Reduction Forum (UK) and Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (UK).

## Itinerant Doorstep Crime



### **Bogus Worker • Cold Callers**

Activity will flex with the current trends supported by Trading Standards officers in Local Authorities', Trading Standards Scotland, Police Scotland and HM Revenue & Customs.

## Illicit Trade



### **Counterfeit Goods • Illicit Trade**

Activity will be driven by current trends highlighted through the Scottish Anti Illicit Trade Group supported by the Business Crime Prevention Unit in Police Scotland, Trading Standards Scotland, Local Authority Trading Standards Officers and COPFS.

## Vehicle Crime



### **Theft of Motor Vehicle • Theft From Motor Vehicle**

Activity will be intelligence led by Police Scotland and relevant partners additionally supported by prevention schemes such as ParkMark and Secured By Design.

## Robbery



Activity will be driven by current intelligence picture by Police Scotland and relevant partners in Cash Valuables in Transit, Retailers against Crime and the Business Crime Prevention Unit in Police Scotland.

## Housebreaking



### **Theft HB • Attempt Theft HB • Commercial and Domestic**

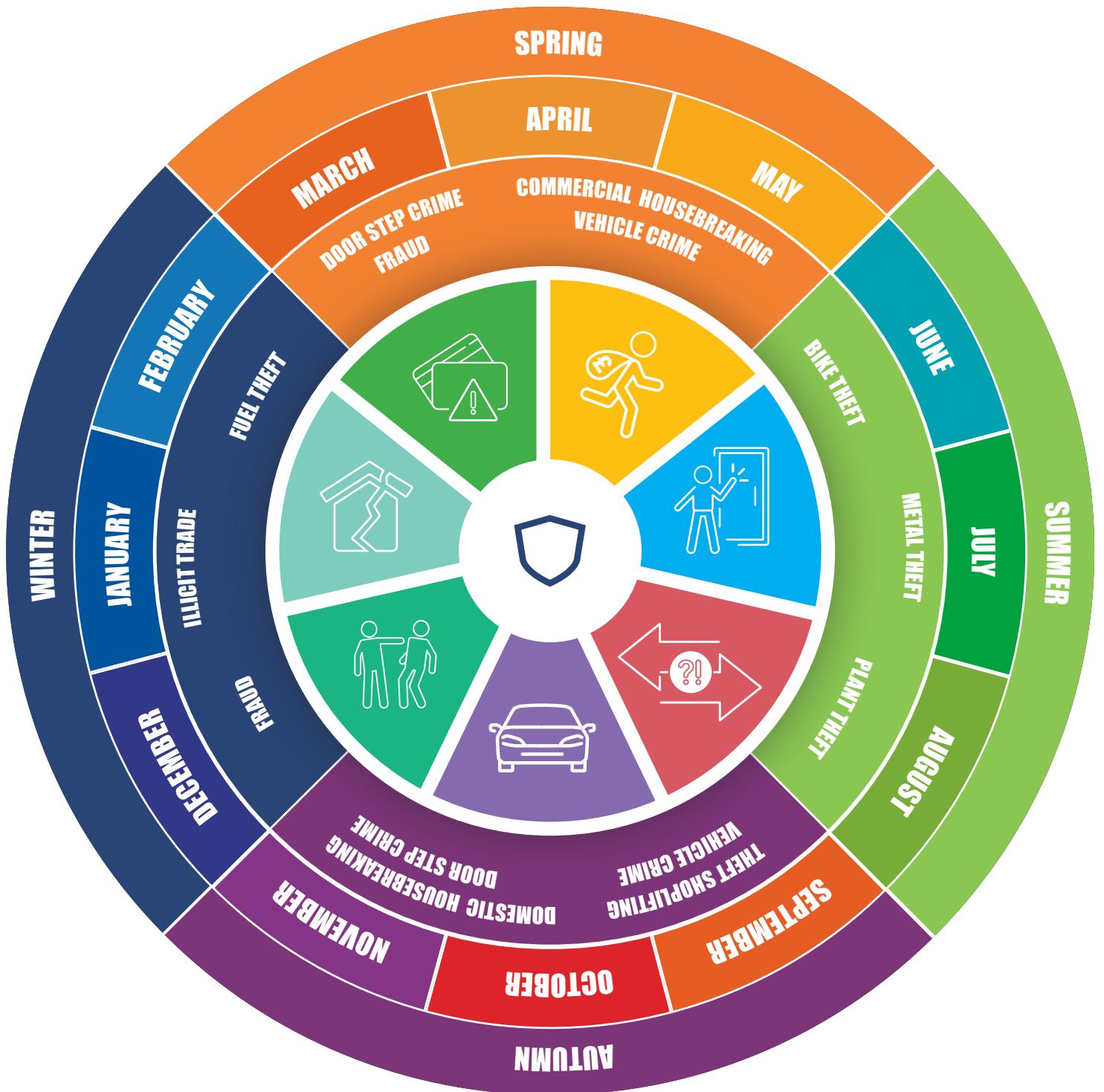
Prevention activity will be lead by Police Scotland supported by partners including Neighborhood Watch Scotland and Secured By Design.

## Fraud



Prevention activity will be delivered throughout Scotland, lead by the Cybercrime Harm Prevention and Business Crime Prevention Unit in Police Scotland. Supported by partners in OPAL and UK Finance - Take 5 to stop fraud.

# Acquisitive Crime Campaign Calendar





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We need everyone to make a positive change such as signing up to [Construction Watch Scotland ALERTS \(Scan QR code below\)](#) , making that phone call when you observe a vehicle acting suspiciously or installing prevention measures no matter how small.

Together we will collectively prevent, reduce and tackle acquisitive crime in Scotland, protect our communities through strong partnerships and ultimately ensure regardless of geographical location, communities feel safe!

Always dial **999** in an emergency, dial **101** for non-emergencies or go online to report incidents of a non-serious nature via [www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact](http://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact)

If you know or suspect someone who is involved in acquisitive crime contact the independent charity Crimestoppers - they are 100% anonymous on **0800 555 111**

If reporting an incident and not sure where you are, remember Police Scotland Area Control Rooms accept the terms used in location sharing app 'What3Words'

**Thank You**  **Tapadh leat**



**Construction  
Watch** SCOTLAND

Delivered by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland

