

Crime and Community Tensions (1/2)

The following assessment is taken from the weekly COVID-19 Crime Monitoring Report covering the 4 week period to the end of 17 May and is supplemented by daily operational updates from Op TALLA:

Overall crime is significantly lower than the same period last year. While it is difficult to draw firm conclusions from the data, there are early indications of trend normalisation in some areas of police demand that have been suppressed during the pandemic restrictions. Overall crime has started to increase week on week and arrests are approaching similar volumes to those recorded in 2019.

Acquisitive crime:

- NPCC data shows continued significantly lower levels of acquisitive crime than in the same period in 2019. We are confident that this represents a fall in prevalence. **Suppression of this demand is expected to continue as long as restrictive measures are in place.**

Domestic abuse:

- Data continues to suggest that calls to some helplines are higher than before lockdown **whilst reporting to Police has remained similar to levels last year throughout the lockdown period, however over the last four weeks have seen consistently higher reported incidents volumes than were recorded in 2019.**

Homicide:

HOAI analysis shows the number of homicides in the lockdown period appears to be around the same as the pre-lockdown period but the number of domestic homicides in 2020 is now slightly higher than the same period in 2019. Due to the relatively low numbers of such homicides, there is fluctuation and it remains too early to suggest this is the start of an increasing trend.

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB):

- Recorded anti-social behaviour is significantly higher compared to the same time last year but appears to be falling after an Easter weekend peak. It is judged that ASB increases are partly due to increasing reports of people contravening lock down measures.

Assaults on emergency workers:

- are **27%** higher than in the same period last year. HOAI analysis suggests that this is driven by assaults without injury on officers. Anecdotal evidence suggests a driver of the increases in assaults without injury on officers is a rise in COVID-19 related common assaults (e.g. officers being spat on by those claiming to be infected with COVID-19). Officers may also be less tolerant of such behaviour and in turn are more willing to ensure such incidents are recorded.