



BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY LAW ENFORCEMENT

2016 Annual Report

The 2016 Law Enforcement Annual Report has been published.

Below is a brief commentary on some aspects of the report:

Reduction in crime reports

The total number of reported crimes fell by 138 (1,527 in 2015 down to 1,389 last year).

Detection rates remain largely on a par with previous years at 48%, which is testament to the consistency of our investigatory service.

While the falling rates of recorded crime do provide a measure in terms of the Bailiwick remaining a low crime jurisdiction, it does not fully reflect the complex and changing demands faced by Guernsey Law Enforcement, particularly in areas which are not necessarily visible, such as mental health, vulnerability, child welfare and public protection.

Targeting Public Order Offences

The number of disorderly offences dropped by 84, while the number of people found drunk reduced by 70 in comparison to the 2015 figures.

Guernsey Law Enforcement has worked closely with Licensed Premises in the island to deter and prevent trouble before it happens and an increased visible Police present in busy areas, targeting the night time economy has also helped.

Cyber-Enabled Crime

Cyber-enabled crime is one of the biggest emerging challenges for Law Enforcement. Growing sophistication means the challenges are constantly evolving.

Education and information are two key ways in which we are tackling the issue, with regular awareness campaigns through the media and our social media pages.

The High Tech Crime Unit was involved in 202 separate investigations in 2016, which was a slight increase on 2015. However, the number of devices that required examination increased significantly – up by 140%.

Sex Offences

Reported incidents of indecent assault (36), indecent images of children (5) and rape (16) all increased in 2016. This mirrors the trend being seen across the UK.

While some of these increases can be attributed to a single offender being found guilty of multiple offences, positive reporting of successful prosecutions leads to more confidence from victims to come forward and engage with the Police

Growing audiences on Social Media

Our Facebook page now has an audience of 16,400 with Twitter having 5,000+ followers. Both saw steady increases in audience during 2016 (1,300 new 'likes' on Facebook, 500 more followers on Twitter)

Social media is used to;

- alert islanders in quick-time to incidents or issues that could affect them,
- issue advice about areas of policing such as scams, road safety or cyber-crime,
- engage - by answering specific questions posed and encouraging an open dialogue with the community on relevant subject matters
- put out appeals; for crimes being investigated or missing persons

GBA Stats

Drugs seizures remained on a par with 2015. 76 seizures were made, totalling a street value of £929,000

There were 5 deportations in 2016, again largely in line with the previous year. The majority of deportations involve non-British citizens who have been convicted of an offence and recommended for deportation as part of their sentence.

Economic Crime

Fraud convictions in the Royal court were up, with three people convicted in 2016. These included a director of a business group who move large sums of money between clients without their knowledge, one man who abused his position as a trustee to defraud his clients and another for fraud by false representation involving the unlawful sale of shares.

There was a continued rise in Suspicious Activity Reports with a total of 1,368 received by the Financial Intelligence Service, an increase of around 40% on 2015. Analysis shows that 90% of those reports related to trust and company service providers, and 60% related to the suspected criminality of tax evasion.

These increases can be attributed to a greater awareness of the requirements to disclose through outreach to the industry and stronger regulation.

Money

Law Enforcement had a budget of £18.2m and remained within that budget.

The Guernsey Border Agency collected £40.8m in import and excise duties, which is the second biggest income stream for the States of Guernsey after Income Tax.

Personnel

Head count, including the Police and Border Agency, including civilians decreased by two last year. The total (276) is on a par with 2014. Bailiwick Law enforcement remains a disciplined organisation that reviews every job and determines if there is a business case before replacing staff.

The number of Police Officers reduced by three in 2016 to 144. However a significant drive recently has resulted in seven transferees joining Guernsey Police from the UK, and a further eight local new recruits currently undergoing initial training.