



BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY LAW ENFORCEMENT

14th October 2019

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Preparing for the uncertainties of Brexit, more robust crime recording, a major investigation and the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services report made it a busy 2018 for Bailiwick Law Enforcement.

In its annual report, published today, the breadth of BLEs work undertaken across the year is outlined.

New Head of Law Enforcement, Ruari Hardy – who took the position on January 1st 2019 – said he was proud to present his first report as Chief.

“This report provides evidence of another busy year for Bailiwick Law Enforcement. Every year presents challenges, and 2018 was no exception – but once again officers and staff from across the organisation went above and beyond to ensure successful outcomes and that Guernsey remains a safe place to live and work.

“It was pleasing to see HMICFRS found that the island was “very well served” by BLE”, which indeed it is. Staff work tirelessly, often in demanding situations, to provide a first-class service to the people of the Bailiwick and it has been my privilege to take up the post of Head of Law Enforcement at the beginning of the year.

“I encourage people to take the time to read the report and see for themselves just how much the organisation has dealt with in 2018 – much of which will be a surprise to them, and most of which has taken place in the background.”

Among the notable moments from 2018 contained in the report is the launch of a sudden death investigation at the beginning of the year, after a burnt out car containing human skeletal remains were found at Petit Bôt. The investigation is not yet concluded and a coronial investigation is in progress.

The report highlights the changing demand for certain services, for example the report shows that 20% of frontline police time is now spent dealing with matters directly related to mental health and safeguarding.

Import and excise duty raised £43.99m – the second largest contributor to States revenue after income tax – 853 cars were stopped as part of the Christmas anti-drink-drive campaign and 12,294 calls for police service were received (an increase of 1,728). Additionally, there were 2,108 Suspicious Activity Reports provided to the Financial Intelligence Service, and 17 terabytes of data (equivalent to 4,250 movies) were processed by High Tech Crime.

In order to highlight the importance of diversity and inclusion two Law Enforcement vehicles were branded with the Pride logo, officers took part in a charity aircraft pull (missing out on the top spot by less than one second!) and Explosive Ordnance Department dealt with more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

Among the biggest changes of the year was the more robust enforcement of victim focused crime recording – bringing the Bailiwick in line with the UK’s National Crime Recording Standard and Home Office Counting Rules. Some incidents that would not have previously been recorded as a crime are now included. For instance, in previous years, if someone had been assaulted but did not want to make a complaint, this would have been logged on the system, but would not have been recorded as a crime and show as part of our annual crime statistics. Now it is. The same is true of instances where people reported certain events to us and we logged instances for “information only”. These where appropriate will now be recorded as crimes. This means the total number of recorded crimes is slightly higher than in previous years. However to compare 2018 to previous years would be misleading as a direct comparison - the changes made to crime recording should not be taken to mean there has been an increase in crime. Also, in line with these rules, rather than listing detections, it is the outcomes of crime investigations that are now displayed. This provides a far more accurate picture of the criminal justice process.

“The figures throughout the report show Bailiwick Law Enforcement is tackling a wide variety of criminality, but as a frontline 24/7 service we are increasingly dealing with the most vulnerable in our society. We have not been immune to the States-wide efficiency drive and continue to face difficult decisions about priorities and how to make best use of our funding to meet the needs of our Island communities.”

Last year, 46 officers were assaulted while carrying out their duty.

“Violence against police officers doing their duty in the Bailiwick is completely unacceptable. Officers should not have to view being assaulted as a routine part of their job. I condemn in the strongest possible terms people who think attacking my officers is acceptable. It is not.

“In line with the UK, we are undertaking a review of officer safety and will seek to wherever possible prosecute those who threaten or use force against Law Enforcement personnel.”