



BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY LAW ENFORCEMENT

April 17th 2020

Day 25

End of the lockdown week round up

By now you'll have heard the lockdown will continue, with different phases coming over time.

So we want to talk to you about how, from a law enforcement point of view, it has gone so far.

For the most part, very well.

As a frontline 24/7 organisation, we have noticed a distinct shift in everyone's routines: public spaces are far emptier, there's now no-such time as rush hour and when people are out, they are maintaining social distancing.

All these changes you're making each and everyday have helped to flatten the curve and save lives.

Thank you.

That being said, this week saw the first Coronavirus related prosecution – resulting in a £6,000 fine – and we have one further investigation underway, of which we cannot comment further as it is an active case.

Be under no doubt that we are policing the lockdown rules – either via what officers witness or responding to calls from the public.

Our mobile patrols are out day and night, seven days a week. We are seeking to engage, explain, educate and as a very last resort, enforce.

Beyond those two cases, we haven't had to make any arrests. In most instances words of advice around the lockdown rules suffice. Although, as ever, there are those who push the envelope and 13 people are currently on a "final warning". The pandemic is a serious matter and we are treating it as such, as you would expect.

But, those instances are clearly the minority: 99.9% of you are keeping within the rules.

Unfortunately some people are using our empty roads as race tracks, and we are taking a very proactive stance towards speed enforcement. The health service is busy enough, and the community doesn't need more tragedy. We are out and we are enforcing.

Our pursuit of domestic abusers remains relentless, Coronavirus has not and will not change that. We are starting to see an increase in calls for service. Abuse in any form – physical, emotional, financial, sexual or psychological – must be reported. Our message is simple: if you are the victim of domestic abuse, call. If you suspect you know about someone suffering domestic abuse, call. We are available on 725111, Safer can be contacted on 721999. If you are in immediate danger, call 999. To be clear: leaving the house because you're in an abusive relationship IS an essential journey. If you need to leave, leave.

With more people working from home, cyber security needs to be taken very seriously. Please visit www.getsafeonline.org/coronavirus

We want to end by taking the opportunity to say thank you to everyone for their overwhelming kindness towards our staff as they work during these unprecedented times.

Each smile and wave is highly appreciated. We've had Easter Eggs donated, and officers applauded as they patrol – even once on the beach.

As lockdown evolves we hope to have use enforcement, ideally, never.

These rules are for the safety of our community.

You owe it to everyone you have and haven't met to follow them.

So please, keep doing what you've been doing.

Stay home.

Save lives.

And, as ever, wash your hands.

Thank you.