



BAILIWICK OF GUERNSEY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Annual Report 2019

Strictly embargoed until 00.01 1st July 2020

Preparations for Brexit, a major investigation with international focus, working through the recommendations set by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary & Fire Services (HMICFRS) and significant success in border seizures were dealt with by Bailiwick Law Enforcement during 2019.

Published today, the annual report shows the sheer breadth and scale of what is dealt with by the organisation across the year.

Head of Law Enforcement, Ruari Hardy, said:

"2019 proved to be a busy and complex year on multiple fronts. Staff across the organisation have once again provided a first class service to the people of the Bailiwick, often in challenging conditions. It was my first full year of leading this extraordinary group of individuals as they work hard each and every day to ensure the Bailiwick remains a safe place to live and work.

"I would like to take this opportunity to publically thank all staff across Law Enforcement for going above and beyond to deliver the successful outcomes, for the hours they work and for the dedication they have shown by carrying out their duties.

"I would encourage people to take the time to read the report and see for themselves just how much the organisation dealt with during 2019 – much of it takes place in the background, and will come as a surprise to the reader.

"Next year's report will look very different because of the pandemic, but for now, this is an opportunity for us to look back at 2019."

Among the notable moments contained within the report was at the beginning of 2019 when a light aircraft with two people on board crashed in into the English Channel, North West of Alderney. One of the largest search and rescue operations in recent times in and around our shores was initiated. It was co-ordinated by the Joint Emergency Services Control Centre and the world's media focused on the unfolding circumstances.

Guernsey Police adopted a similar model to UK crime recording standards in 2018. Figures contained within this report can be directly compared to the year before, which does shows a rise of 7.7%,

"Although a rise can be viewed in a negative light I would seek to highlight a move to a more victim focused and comprehensive crime recording system and I had expect to see a small rise in the number of crimes recorded. A full digest of crimes recorded forms part of this report. An important factor of this process is in terms of recorded outcomes with respect to crime recording. This allows us to be more focused on working with partner agencies in preventing crime and understanding demand management and resource allocation".

Brexit planning took up a significant proportion of the year, with staff from across the organisation busily engaged in making and putting place contingency arrangements to deal with the impacts of the UK's exit from the EU, this work is clearly on going into 2020. Political uncertainty in the UK and Europe, shifting timescales and a lack of clarity has made planning somewhat difficult. Areas of work for this included implementing the EU Settlement Scheme, planning to meet the requirements of the new Customs Arrangement with the UK and making developments to the Guernsey Electronic Manifest System (GEMS).

Customs and Excise collected £44.46m. through import and excise duties – the second largest revenue stream for the States of Guernsey.

The statistics contained with the report show BLE is tackling a wide variety of criminality, but as a 24/7 organisation is also dealing with the most vulnerable in our society in terms of safeguarding across the community. Once again our care and compassion in the space of mental health has been a significant call for service and we continue to work with our partners in Health & Social Care to meet the risks faced by our community.

With the island's economy financed focused, financial crime has remained an area Law Enforcement has sought to focus upon and during 2019. Considerable work was undertaken in partnership with key stakeholders to plan and prepare for increased demands in this key area of investigation. The development and enhancement of this critical area of work will take time but is receiving attention.

Highly trained firearms officers were deployed 77 times throughout the year. Tasers were operationally deployed on 29 occasions with the devices actually being discharged twice. All such deployments are reviewed under strict governance procedures as part of our standard operating model and both incidents were concluded safely and appropriately.

Last year, 37 officers were assaulted while carrying out their duties.

“Violence against my staff when they are carrying out their duties is completely unacceptable. Although this figure is a decline on 2018, it is still 37 times too many. Being assaulted is not something that should ever be considered a routine part of the job and I condemn in the strongest terms those who think it is acceptable to assault Law Enforcement staff. It is not. We can and will provide the tools and equipment necessary to keep members of the public and our staff safe from those who wish to cause harm.”