Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Impact of police reform on local policing

Written submission from David Porter

You ask for feedback on changes to police forces since the merger, I give you the following examples from the last seven days in the North-east of Scotland:

Two hundred people have been swabbed for drugs during a weekend crime crackdown in Fraserburgh.

Extra officers were brought in over the weekend to tackle drug use and drinking on the streets.

They targeted pubs and clubs with drug itemisers and screening devices.

Twelve people were arrested - the charges include assault and drink driving.

From Police North Twitter feed-

Another drink driver caught last night in the Broch. If convicted it's a minimum 12 month ban.

3 people in the Broch yesterday given £40 on the spot fines for urinating in the street. One actually on someone's door!

Two drink drivers caught over the weekend in the ?@ShireNPolice area. Both now face a minimum 12 month ban if convicted. ?#DontRiskIt

Call 2nite about a driver in Rosehearty with no licence. Banff + Broch Officers caught him and car has been seized.

Three folk in the Broch given £40 on the spot fines for drinking in the street yesterday after complaints from the community- #101 with info.

To put it quite simply what was Grampian Police has now become an enforcement agency under House’s control, not a police force.

Gone is the community aspects that led to good communications, local led initiatives and partner agencies supporting the work, instead there has been a rapid change to focus on any and all aspects of areas covered by powers that generate income, with the exception of parking enforcement, which to put it mildly has become a farcical situation.

With Moray council set to remove parking wardens and Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council likely to do the same (if Moray can get away with it), this is untenable.
The desire to centralise the criminal detection services, while in many forms a positive move, is however a continued pull of power to the central belt area.

On the subject of centralisation (or Housing as we should now call it), has anyone looked at the finances and statistics from the Trunk Roads Patrol Group to measure its effectiveness?

The decline in support and confidence from the public has been all too rapid and unfortunately was entirely expected.

David Porter
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