

National Divisions

F Firearms

M “Policing Together”*

‘Policing Together’ is the division responsible for hate crimes.

R Custody Division

Specialist Crime Division: W

- Major Crime
- Organised Crime
- Counter Terrorism
- Intelligence



Operational Support Division: S

- Public Order
- Air Support
- Marine
- Dogs
- Mounted Branch
- Roads T
- Firearms F



Public Order Command Structure & Roles



Bronze Commander*



Operational Support Unit Commander



Operational Support Unit Sergeant



Tactical Advisor



Police Medic



Evidence Gathering Team (EGT)

*Gold & Silver Commanders are usually in the control room

**Public order police also wear hats that match the colour of their epaulette!

Frequently Used Statutory Offences

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

s.53 - **Obstruction by pedestrians.** The offence of preventing the lawful passage of others

s.54 - **Playing instruments, singing, playing radios, etc.** If you are making noise that could annoy a ‘reasonable’ person, you commit an offence if you don’t stop when asked to do so by a police officer.

s.65 - **Holding a procession without notice.** Note: It is not explicitly an offence to *take part* in a procession without notice but you do commit an offence under this act if a police officer orders you to stop and you refuse.

Criminal Law (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 1995

s.52 - **Vandalism.** The offence of intentionally or recklessly causing damage without a reasonable excuse.

Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010

s.38 - **Threatening & Abusive Behaviour.** The offence of behaving in a threatening or abusive manner that would likely cause a reasonable person to suffer fear or alarm. This can be reckless or intentional.

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

s.68 - **Aggravated Trespass.** You commit an offence if a senior police officer believes you are on land for the purpose of intimidating/disrupting/obstructing lawful activity, and you do not leave when instructed to (or you return within 3 months)

Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022

s.35 - **Prohibition of pyrotechnic articles in public places.** This includes flares.

Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

s.90 - **Assaulting or impeding police.** The offence of assaulting, obstructing, resisting, or hindering a police officer. This includes going floppy, de-arresting someone, or refusing to provide details when legally required.

Terrorism Act 2000

s.12 - **Showing support for a proscribed organisation**

s.13 - **Uniform & Publication of images.** The offence of wearing or displaying something that suggests you’re a member of a proscribed organisation

Scottish Community & Activist Legal Project

Cop-spotter's Guide

2nd Edition



A helpful guide for identifying & monitoring police in Scotland

@activists_legal



Police Ranks



Constable



Sergeant



Inspector



Chief Inspector



Superintendent



Chief superintendent

Regional Divisions

B Aberdeenshire & Moray	G Greater Glasgow
L Argyll & W. Dunbartonshire	N Highlands & Islands
U Ayrshire	Q Lanarkshire
V Dumfries & Galloway	A North East
E Edinburgh	K Renfrewshire & Inverclyde
P Fife	D Tayside
C Forth Valley	J Lothians & Scottish Borders

Other Specialist Police



Police Liaison Officer (PLO)



Public Order Officers (riot cops)



Forward Intelligence Team (FIT)

UK-Wide Police Operating in Scotland



Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC)



Ministry of Defence (MOD)



National Crime Agency (NCA)



British Transport Police



Metropolitan Police*

**The Met is not a UK-wide force but occasionally operates in Scotland during large events/protests or when accompanying royals & senior politicians.*

Police Vehicles



Drone Unit



Dog Van



Riot Van & Officer Transport Van



Police Helicopter



Custody Van

Police Scotland also use unmarked vehicles!

Police Powers

Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995

s.13 - Powers relating to suspects and potential witnesses. You are legally required to provide your name, address, date of birth, place of birth, and nationality if the police believe you have committed or witnessed a crime, or have information about a crime.

Public Order Act 1986

s.12 - Power to Pose Conditions on a Route. A senior officer can impose conditions on a procession route to prevent disorder, damage, disruption or intimidation. It is an offence if you did not know that the conditions were in place.

s.14 - Imposing Conditions on a Public Assembly. A senior officer can impose conditions on an assembly (inc. location, duration, max. number of attendees) to prevent disorder, damage, disruption or intimidation. It is an offence if you did not know that the conditions were in place.

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

s.60 - Powers to stop and search in anticipation of [or after] violence. This section gives police the power to stop and search people without suspicion in a designated area for up to 24 hours due to the anticipation of violence. It does not allow them to ask for personal details. When a s.60 order is in place, police can demand removal of anything worn 'solely or partly for disguise'.

Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012

s.20 sets out the duty of police officers to prevent and detect crime, maintain order, and protect life and property

Frequently Used Common Law Offences

Assault: The offence of deliberately causing someone physical harm. Assault cannot be accidental or verbal. It can be a defence if you can prove you were acting in self-defence or in defence of someone else.

Breach of the Peace: The offence of behaving in a way that could reasonably cause alarm to ordinary people and threatening serious disturbance to the community.

Culpable and Reckless Endangerment or Injury: The offence of recklessly putting another person, the public, or yourself in danger.

Malicious Mischief: The offence of deliberately or recklessly damaging property (or causing financial loss).

Theft: The offence of appropriating another person's property without their consent with the intent to deprive them of that ownership.