

Hate Crimes Reported in Grampian, 2024

Introduction

430* hate crimes were reported to police in Grampian in 2024, shifting away from a general trend of increase. For comparison, figures for 2018-24 are shown below. Across Scotland during the same period, there has been a gradual decline in the number of hate crimes reported, so Grampian now reflects this wider trend.

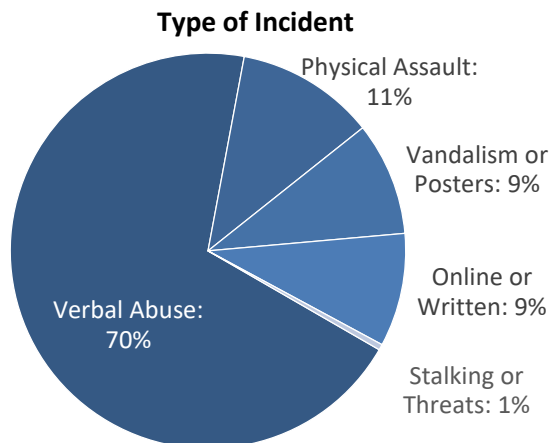
Hate Crimes Reported to Police in Grampian

Year	Grampian Total	Aberdeen City	Aberdeen shire	Moray
2024	430	302	84	44
2023	476	316	102	55
2022	452	297	89	66
2021	475	320	96	55
2020	444	279	105	59
2019	403	247	98	55

* Including 2 incidents reported in 2024 that took place earlier.

Type of Incident

Verbal abuse was the most frequently reported type of incident, with 300 recorded in 2024. Physical assault accounted for 49 incidents, 40 were based on written communications (including social media), there were 18 instances of vandalism and 22 hateful posters. There were also two reports of stalking or threats. Due to under-reporting, the actual number is likely higher.



As shown below, the proportions of different incident types has remained similar over the past several years, though 2024 saw a significant increase in the number of vandalism and posters reported, with a decrease in other categories. In particular, the number of assaults reported was the lowest since before 2019.

Type of Incident (Number & Proportion of Total)

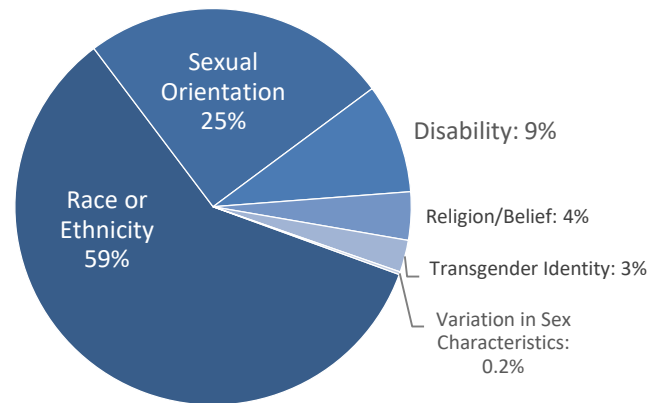
Year	Verbal Abuse*	Physical Assault	Online / Written	Vandalism / Posters
2024	302 70%	49 11%	40 9%	39 9%
2023	315 66%	92 19%	56 12%	13 3%
2022	329 73%	68 15%	46 10%	11 2%
2021	352 74%	50 11%	51 11%	23 5%
2020	327 74%	56 13%	50 11%	13 3%
2019	286 71%	66 16%	34 8%	18 4%

*Including stalking/threats

Motivation for Incident

As shown below, the main motivators for hate crime were racism and homophobia, relating to 271 and 115 incidents, respectively. 41 incidents related to disability, 18 to religion or belief, 12 to transgender identity, and one to the new category of Variation in Sex Characteristics.* These included 25 incidents where two or more characteristics were targeted.

Motivation for Incident



	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Race / Ethnicity	271	285	270	308	300
Sexual Orientation	115	126	171	145	126
Disability	41	33	18	34	18
Religion / Belief	18	8	11	13	8
Transgender Identity	12	12	9	7	8
Variation in Sex Chars	1	-	-	-	-

For the most serious incidents (assaults), 31 (63%) related to race/ethnicity, eight (16%) to sexual orientation, six to disability, three to trans identity and one each religion and variation in sex characteristics.

* Two new categories of hate crime came into effect on 1 April 2024: age and variation in sex characteristics (or intersex). gov.scot/publications/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-act-factsheet

Victim & Perpetrator Characteristics

Police Officers & Staff

In one fifth of incidents (87), the victim was a police officer. While racist and homophobic abuse are always unacceptable, it is important to consider the power relationship between law enforcement and those they are policing.

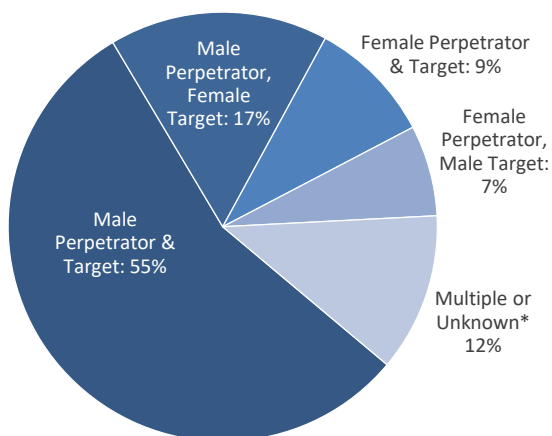
Ultimately, hate crime laws are designed to protect marginalised people from those who seek to harm them. Therefore, some sections below focus on incidents with non-police victims, where excluding police victims helps to clarify the overall picture.

Gender[†]

Where known and recorded, one-third of victims were female (135) and two-thirds male (274), including three trans men or boys and eight trans women or girls.

Around four-fifths of individual perpetrators were male (297) and one-fifth were female (77). Broadly speaking, the gender ratio of victims, perpetrators, and the dynamics between them has been stable since 2015. Excluding incidents where the perpetrator's gender was unknown, around two-thirds of female victims were targeted by male perpetrators, and 12% vice-versa. These proportions were similar whether police victims were included or excluded.

Gender Dynamics (all incidents)



**Including 31 perpetrators of unknown gender (19 female targets, 11 male targets, 1 mixed group), 15 incidents targeting both men and women (12 male perpetrators, 3 female), and one incident with both male and female perpetrators (female target).*

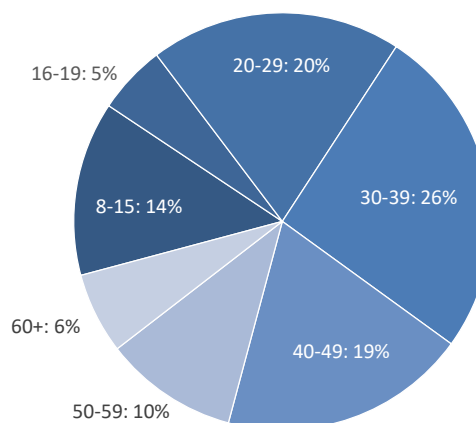
Age

Excluding incidents targeting police, victims' and perpetrators' ages (where known) are shown below. In around half of incidents where both ages are known, victims and perpetrators were similar ages (less than ten years apart, or five years for under-16s).

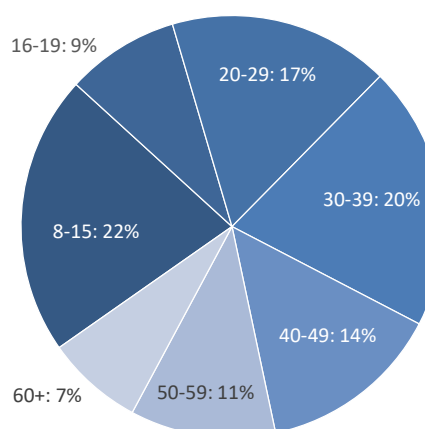
In 27% of incidents, the perpetrator was considerably younger than the victim, and in 20%, they were considerably older. There were no notable differences between these groups in motivation or incident type.

Nearly all incidents with victims under age 20 involved perpetrators in a similar age range. However, two children under 15 were targeted by adults in their 40s and 70s, and three older teenagers were targeted by adults in their 40s to 60s.

Victim Age (excluding police)



Perpetrator Age (excluding police victims)



[†] Some incidents had multiple victims, or no identifiable target (e.g. graffiti), and some had multiple perpetrators. In total, there were 409 individual victims, and 374 individual perpetrators identified.

Victim & Perpetrator Characteristics

Race, Ethnicity & Nationality

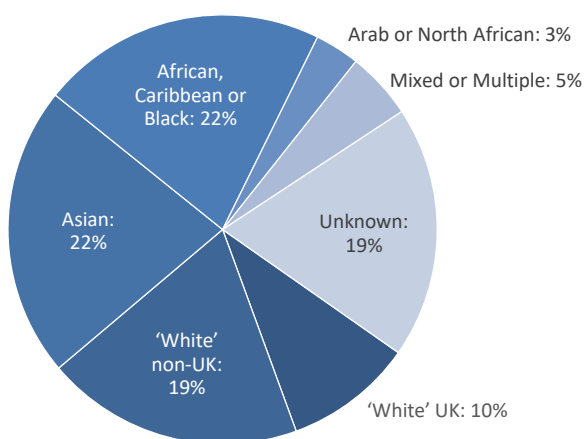
Racially-motivated hate crime can target several aspects of a person's identity: 'race' includes skin colour, ethnic origins and nationality. So, for example, a Polish immigrant and a British citizen with Asian ancestry may both be targeted in racist incidents, and both would be considered ethnic minorities. In 2024, 225 racist incidents with specific targets were reported, affecting 237 victims (excluding police).

As shown below, nearly three times more non-UK nationals were targeted than UK nationals (144 vs 53), although ethnicity/nationality data were not available for nearly one-fifth of victims (45). Where ethnicity was recorded (192), almost two-thirds of victims (123) were from racialised (non-'White') ethnic backgrounds.

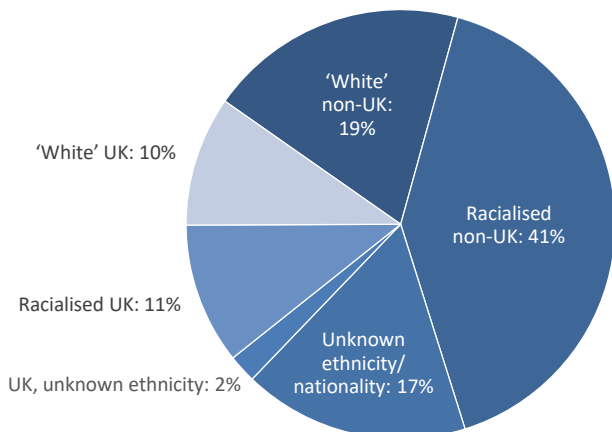
Victim Ethnicity & Nationality

Excluding police, victims' ethnicity and nationality in racist incidents are shown below.

Victim Ethnicity
(racist incidents, excluding police victims, total 237)



Victim Ethnicity & Nationality
(racist incidents, excluding police victims, total 237)



Note: 'White' UK includes 1 Gypsy/Traveller victim.

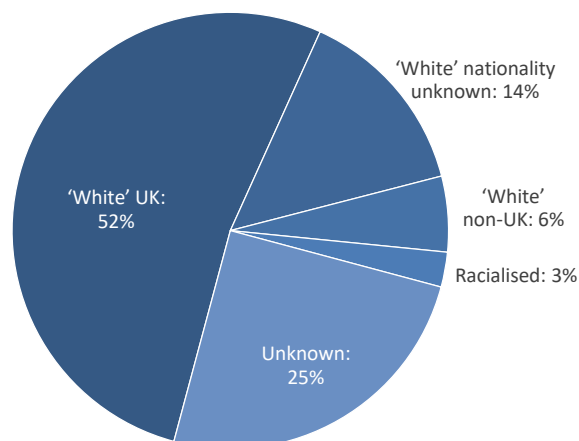
Victim Ethnicity & Nationality
(racist incidents, excluding police victims, total 237)

Ethnicity	Nationality	#	%	% of total
'White' (69)	UK	23	33%	10%
	Non-UK	46	67%	19%
Asian (52)	UK	9	17%	4%
	Non-UK	43	83%	18%
African, Caribbean or Black (51)	UK	8	16%	3%
	Non-UK	43	84%	18%
Arab or North African (8)	Non-UK	8	-	3%
Mixed (12)	UK	8	67%	3%
	Non-UK	4	33%	2%
Unknown (45)	UK	5	11%	2%
	Unknown	40	89%	17%

Perpetrator Ethnicity & Nationality

Excluding incidents targeting police, perpetrators' ethnicity and nationality in racist incidents are shown below. The details for a quarter of perpetrators (58) were not identified; nearly all the rest (168) were 'White' – 33 with no nationality listed, 79 Scottish, 36 British, and seven from other UK nations. 13 were from other countries, and alongside racialised perpetrators (6), nearly all targeted other ethnic minorities.

Perpetrator Ethnicity & Nationality
(racist incidents, excluding those with police victims, total 232)



Note: Racialised includes 1 perpetrator from the UK and 5 from other countries; 'White,' nationality unknown includes two 'groups of youths.'

For non-racist incidents (96 total), the nationality of only two perpetrators were listed (both UK), and the only ethnicity recorded was 'White' (for 66 incidents). This included two 'groups of youths.' For incidents targeting police (87 total), all perpetrators with recorded ethnicity were 'White' – 21 UK nationals, four non-UK nationals, and 61 of unknown nationality.

Victim & Perpetrator Characteristics

Ethnicity & Nationality Dynamics

As shown below, there were very few incidents where both victim and perpetrator were ethnic minorities (12), or where 'White UK' victims were targeted by ethnic minority perpetrators (1).

Conversely, more than half of all ethnic minority victims of racist incidents (131) were targeted by 'White' or 'White UK' perpetrators.

		Perpetrator			
		Ethnic Minority	'White' UK	'White' (nationality unknown)	Unknown
Victim	Ethnic Minority	12	107	24	26
		5%	45%	10%	11%
	'White' UK	1	8	6	8
		0.4%	3%	3%	3%
Unknown		4	7	5	26
		2%	3%	2%	11%

'Ethnic minority' includes racialised UK and non-UK nationals, 'White' non-UK nationals, and 'White' Gypsy/Travellers.

'White Scottish/British' Victims of Racism?

At first glance, it may be surprising that 10% of racist incidents targeted 'White' UK nationals, including eight where both victim and perpetrator were 'White Scottish' or 'White British' (17 if we include racist incidents targeting police officers or staff). However, there are several points to consider here:

- When police respond to a conflict, a prejudice-related 'aggravation' is recorded if racist language is used (even between people in the same ethnic group). Without context, it is impossible to know how many incidents were part of other conflicts, rather than racism being the main motivation.
- 'White Scottish/British' may include European ethnic minorities with UK citizenship, who are often still perceived as outsiders.
- In incidents with multiple victims, one person may be 'White British,' with racist abuse directed at their ethnic minority partner, child, friend or colleague.
- In the most serious racist incidents (assaults), less than 1% of victims were 'White Scottish/British.'

Time & Place of Incidents

Incident Days & Times

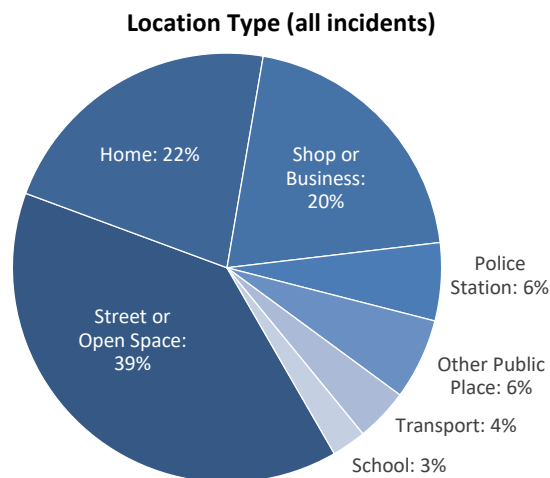
In 2024, the days and times with the highest concentration of incidents were Friday evenings (33), Thursday afternoons and evenings (27 each) and late Saturday night/early Sunday morning (25). Overall, there were 162 incidents between 6pm on Friday and 6am on Monday.

	Midnight to 6am	6am to Noon	Noon to 6pm	6pm to Midnight	Total
Monday	9	7	20	17	53
Tuesday	5	10	20	10	45
Wednesday	4	13	23	16	56
Thursday	10	11	27	27	75
Friday	5	17	24	33	79
Saturday	12	7	18	16	53
Sunday	25	6	17	19	67
Total	70	71	149	138	

**three incidents took place over several weeks, so are not included here.*

Location Type

Where known/recorded, incidents took place in the types of locations indicated below.



For assaults, most took place on the street (20) or in shops/businesses (14). The rest occurred in homes (6), other public places (4), schools (3), or on transport (1).

Time & Place of Incidents

Geographic Location

The most common locations for hate crimes were in Aberdeen city centre, and in deprived residential areas throughout Grampian. As can be seen from the maps below, nearly all areas had at least one or two incidents. Most areas had similar numbers of incidents in 2022 and 2023, with a few exceptions.

While the number of incidents to the east and north of Union Street (AB1101 and AB115) remained high (26 and 30 in 2023), those south of Union Street (AB116) decreased from 32 to 21.

Two key areas outside of Aberdeen City Centre also saw decreases: Northfield/Cummings Park (AB167) from 22 to 12 and Mastrick/Sheddocksley (AB166) from 10 to 4. Notable increases during this period included Bucksburn (AB219) from 5 to 14, and George Street/ Hutcheon Street (AB251) from 7 to 15.

Outside of Aberdeen City, incidents in Ellon (AB419) decreased from 9 to 3, and in Buckie (AB561) from 10 to 3. In Stonehaven (AB392) incidents increased from 2 to 8.

Location of Incidents by Postcode Area

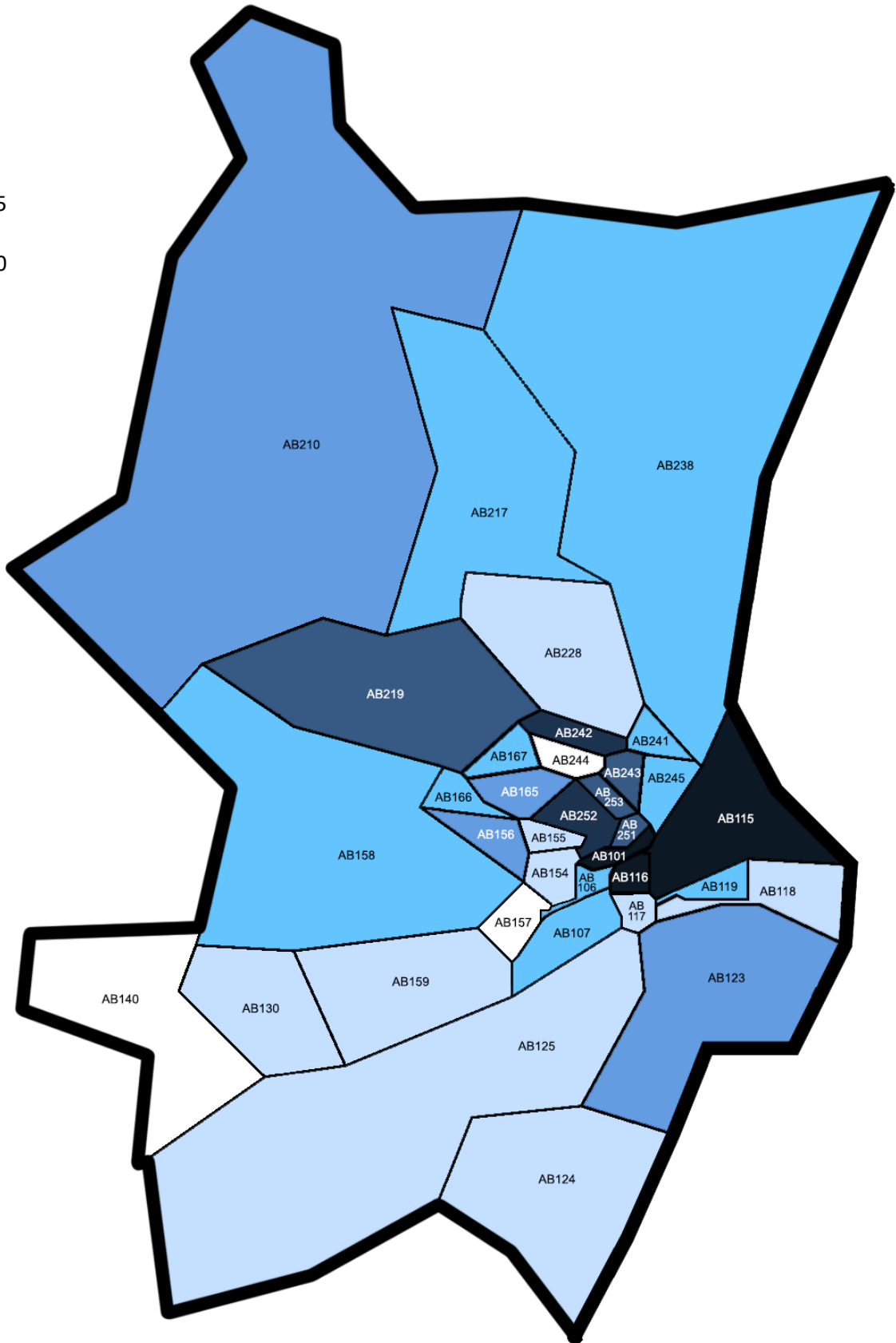
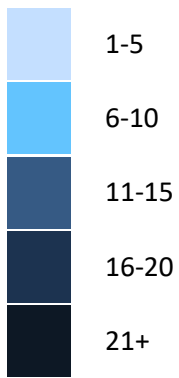
Postcode	Aberdeen City	2023	2024	Postcode	Aberdeenshire	2023	2024	Postcode	Moray	2023	2024
AB101	Union St / north	26	23	AB315	Banchory	2	1	AB389	Aberlour	-	1
AB106	Holburn St, Mannofield	2	10	AB326	Westhill	-	4	AB554	Dufftown	-	1
AB107	Garthdee, Ruthrieston	11	6	AB327	Dunecht / Westhill	-	1	AB555	Keith	4	1
AB115	Union St / east, docks	30	25	AB338	Alford	-	1	AB561	Buckie	3	4
AB116	Union St / south	21	29	AB355	Ballater	-	1	AB565	Portgordon	1	1
AB117	Ferryhill	1	1	AB392	Stonehaven	8	4	IV301	Elgin*	14	16
AB118	Torry	10	3	AB393	Newtonhill	-	3	IV304	Bishopmill	5	3
AB119	Torry	4	7	AB398	Stonehaven	-	1	IV305	Lossiemouth	1	1
AB123	Tullos	10	9	AB419	Ellon	3	8	IV306	New Elgin	9	4
AB124	Portlethen	4	4	AB420	Hatton, Cruden Bay	-	1	IV308	Elgin	1	2
AB125	Kincorth	1	4	AB421	Peterhead North	8	12	IV316	Lossiemouth	4	2
AB130	Milltimber	-	1	AB422	Peterhead South*	8	11	IV327	Fochabers	6	1
AB154	Rubislaw	2	3	AB423	Peterhead outlying areas	2	2	IV361	Forres	4	4
AB155	Midstocket	2	2	AB439	Fraserburgh	17	14	IV363	Kinloss	-	1
AB156	Summerhill, Woodend	7	8	AB441	Macduff	2	1				
AB157	Broomhill	-	1	AB451	Banff	4	5				
AB158	Hazlehead, Kingswells	3	7	AB452	Portsoy	3	1				
AB159	Cults	1	1	AB510	Kintore, Oldmeldrum	5	5				
AB165	Cornhill, Cairncry Rd	9	10	AB513	Inverurie, Pt Elphinstone	8	1				
AB166	Mastrick, Sheddocksley	4	6	AB515	Kemnay	5	1				
AB167	Northfield, Cummings Pk	12	9	AB534	Turriff	1	1				
AB210	Dyce	1	2	AB548	Huntly	2	2				
AB217	Dyce	5	6								
AB219	Bucksburn	14	11								
AB228	Bridge of Don	7	5								
AB238	Bridge of Don	4	8								
AB241	Seaton, Aberdeen Uni	11	9								
AB242	Tillydrone, Woodside	11	17								
AB243	Kittybrewster, Powis*	35	27								
AB245	King St / east to Beach	19	6								
AB251	George St, Hutcheon St	15	13								
AB252	Rosemount, ARI area*	13	16								
AB253	Froghall, Westburn	8	12								

* AB243 included 19 incidents at Kittybrewster Police Station in 2024, 25 in 2023. AB252 included 9 incidents at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary in 2024, 8 in 2023. AB422 included 9 incidents at Peterhead Prison in 2024, 5 in 2023. IV301 included 5 incidents at Elgin Police station in 2024, 4 in 2023.

Areas with incidents in 2023 but not 2024:			
Postcode	Area	2023	2024
AB140	Peterculter	3	-
AB244	Woodside, Hilton	5	-
AB301	Laurencekirk	4	-
AB314	Torphins	1	-
AB344	Tarland	2	-
AB345	Aboyne	2	-
AB368	Strathdon	1	-
AB387	Rothies	1	-
AB418	Collieston	2	-
AB425	Mintlaw, Stuartfield	2	-
AB436	Strichen	1	-
AB511	Inverurie	1	-
AB514	Inverurie	2	-
AB518	Rothienorman	1	-
AB538	Fyvie	1	-
AB544	Huntly	1	-
AB546	Huntly	1	-
AB564	Cullen	2	-
IV362	Near Forres	1	-

Note: There were three incidents associated with postcodes containing typos.

Map of 2024 Incidents by Postcode Area (5-digit), Aberdeen City



Map of 2024 Incidents by Postcode Area (5-digit), Grampian

