

**Report of the Chief Constable to the Chair and Members
of the Professional Standards Panel
28th January 2010**

Executive & Presenting Officer: Mr Derek Bonnard, Deputy Chief Constable

Status: For information

Deliberate Damage Statistics

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Members of the cost to the Force of deliberate damage by way of forced entry into premises for the period 1st October to 31st December 2009.
- 1.2 To inform Members of the operational results achieved through such forced entry and other premises searches.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the content of the report.
- 2.2 To note that the operational benefits accruing to the Force in terms of property, drugs and cash seized, outweigh the cost of the damage claims.

3 Reasons

- 3.1 Police Officers are lawfully entitled to forcibly enter private premises for a number of reasons. The main reasons are:
 - to effect an arrest
 - to conduct a premises search subsequent to an arrest
 - to execute a warrant or
 - to save life or property.
- 3.2 It is important that the exercise of these powers is subject to scrutiny.

4. Implications

4.1 Finance

The figures show that during the quarter, the Force has paid out **£12,871** in compensation for acts of deliberate damage. This compares to £12,110 paid out in the same period in the previous year. Whilst 2640 searches were conducted, only 273 (**10.3%**) resulted in deliberate damage, compared to 8.85% in the previous year. The value of property, cash and drugs seized totals **£1,397,383**, and this compares to £1,801,060 seized during the same period in 2008.

4.2 Diversity & Equal Opportunities

There are no diversity or equal opportunities implications identified by the data contained in this report.

4.3 Human Rights Act

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

4.4 Sustainability

There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

4.5 Risk

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The report confirms that the value of property, cash and drugs recovered continues to exceed the cost of any damage caused by forced entry.

Sean Price
Chief Constable

House Search Stats Summary October - December 2009

District	Number of Searches	Damage Caused ⁽¹⁾	Arrests	Save Life / Property	Property ⁽²⁾ Recovered	Cash	Drugs
H	577	54	104	7	£46,850	£3,920	£18,581
R&C	740	53	192	11	£21,813	£219,872	£13,670
M	681	82	168	11	£26,450	£4,214	£70,940
S	642	84	242	25	£81,466	£21,692	£867,945
Total	2640	273	706	54	£176,549	£249,698	£971,136

(1) Number of premises searched where damage was caused. Please include damage caused to all properties, whether a positive or negative outcome.

(2) Property includes evidential property and property seized.

Boarding Up / Damage Payouts for October - December 2009

District	Number of Claims ⁽¹⁾	Number Finalised ⁽²⁾	Number Resulting in Payment	Sums Paid Out	Average Payment
Hartlepool	49	46	31	£3,145	£149.76
Redcar & Cleveland	31	22	18	£1,002	£55.66
Middlesbrough	59	62	32	£3464	108.25
Stockton	35	35	35	5260	£150.29
Total	174	165	106	£12,871	£121.42

(1) Claims opened in the above period

(2) Claims closed within the above period, regardless of when they were opened

Boarding Up/Damage Claims: Analysis of Claims Settled October - December 2009

District	S.17 PACE ⁽¹⁾	S.18 PACE ⁽²⁾		S.23 MDA ⁽³⁾		Other ⁽⁴⁾	Misc. Payouts ⁽⁵⁾	Total
		Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative			
Hartlepool	17	1	1	7	5	1	17	49
Redcar & Cleveland	5	1	-	2	-	1	13	22
Middlesbrough	14	2	1	9	3	-	30	59
Stockton	-	-	-	5	2	-	28	35
Total	36	4	2	23	10	2	88	165

(1) For purpose of arrest

(2) Entry and search after arrest

(3) Drugs warrant

(4) Section 32 (upon arrest), Section 8 (with warrant), Section 26, Section 2 (search of vehicle)

(5) Voluntary boarding up, fire, derelict property, welfare