

Crime and Traffic Statistics Report 2018 – Explanatory Notes and Commentary

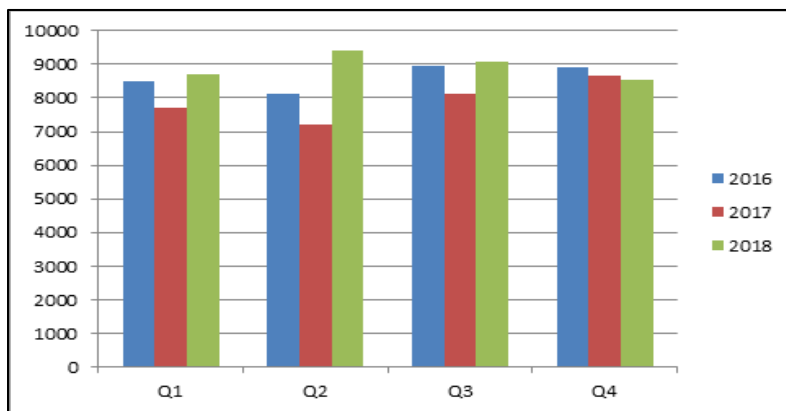
1. Introduction

The goal of RCIPS’ crime reporting is to empower the communities and government of the Cayman Islands with meaningful and accurate information with which public safety priorities can be determined. As such, the presentation of the annual crime and traffic statistics evolves as needed and in response to input from various sources, including the public. For the second year the RCIPS is presenting its annual crime statistics with a full report to provide context and perspective on the figures themselves, while also representing the scale and scope of the Service’s work more completely. This format was well-received last year, and has been adapted to address the issues and developments in 2018, with the intention of providing a better understanding of crime trends in the Cayman Islands and informing the best application of resources to address these.

2. Scope of Policing Duties and Incidence of Crime

It is important to note that crime and traffic statistics reflect only a subset of the workload of the RCIPS. Officers proactively patrol and respond to a variety of incidents, including medical emergencies, search and rescue, suspicious activity reports, false alarms and others, the overwhelming majority of which are never recorded as a crime. Graph 1 provides a sense of the overall workload of RCIPS’ frontline policing, which includes Calls for Service dispatched by the 9-1-1 Communications Centre,¹ but also non-emergency calls received by police stations,² as well as field contacts with pedestrians, vehicles and boats.

Graph 1: Overall RCIPS Calls for Service, 2016-2018



	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2016	8508	8131	8970	8911
2017	7688	7229	8104	8664
2018	8697	9395	9073	8532

¹ According to the Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) 2018 Annual Report, approximately 78% of all 9-1-1 calls for dispatch in 2018 were answered by police. Overall, police answered 28,227 9-1-1 calls for dispatch, plus 7,333 field contacts.

² Examples of non-emergency calls received by police stations include lost passports, number plates, etc.

There were **35,697** Calls for Service in 2018³, 31,685 in 2017, and 34,520 in 2016. The graph compares the last three years by quarter. In 2018, calls for service increased by 4,012 in comparison to 2017. This is a 13% increase.

Incidence of Crime

While there were **35,697** calls for service answered by police in 2018, there were **3,453** crimes across the indicated categories recorded.

When comparing 2018 with 2017 across these categories of crime, the total number of all crimes (inclusive of drug enforcement) has decreased by 3% (126).

Table 1: All Crimes by Year, 2017-2018

YEAR	2017	2018
ALL CRIMES	3,600	3,453

3. Data Collection and Interpretation

All crime and traffic statistics in this document should be interpreted taking the following as a basis:

- A *crime* is defined as an illegal/reckless act or activity for which a person can be punished by law.
- Statistical data in this document pertaining to crimes represent the substantiated principal crimes and offences that occurred in the 2018 calendar year that were actively investigated. If an incident was included here, then evidence was gathered in the course of investigative actions (crime scene investigation, collection of witness statements, forensic examinations, etc.) that reasonably indicated, at the very least, that a crime had taken place. An incident was then considered substantiated, and the incident was “crimed” -- meaning that it was added to the crime figures in the appropriate category.
- When there was insufficient evidence to substantiate crimes alleged in a report to police, then the report remained unsubstantiated, and was not included in these crime figures. It remained an incident only.
- Only **primary offences** are included in cumulative statistical data, as per UK National Counting Rules. This means that if two crimes were committed by the same person during a single incident, then the crime carrying the longest potential sentence would be included in the cumulative statistics, while the

³ This number is 137 greater than the total number of calls for service recorded by DPSC for 2018, as some calls which are canceled by 9-1-1 are nonetheless captured in the RCIPS database.

secondary offence would not (e.g., murder and possession of an unlicensed firearm);

- Crimes that occurred during the 2018 calendar year but were undisclosed or unknown to police would be reflected in these figures at a later date; therefore future slight variations in these numbers are possible;
- The rate of change referred to in the tables provided is arrived at through the following formula: *Present – Past* divided by *Past*.

4. 2017 Cumulative Crime Totals

Figure 1 summarizes crime totals for the years 2018 vs. 2017.

The following notes explain the presentation of the cumulative stats:

- The Cumulative Statistics are grouped by “Serious” and “Other” Crimes, dispensing with earlier categories used such as “Volume” or “Violent” crime. These earlier terms carried distinctions that at times lacked clarity. Serious crimes can be defined as those that can carry significant custodial sentences, while those in the Other crimes category may carry no custodial sentence;
- Not every serious crime listed in the Penal Code is included year-to-year in the annual crime statistics, depending on the relevance and prevalence of that type of crime in the jurisdiction during the year under review;
- Summary offences, such as animal offences, are not included in the cumulative totals, but are discussed in section 5;
- Firearm and Drug Incidents are now incorporated into general crime categories, but are broken down further and explained in greater detail in sections 7 & 9;
- Domestic Violence/Assault as a separate category has been removed, since crimes that arise from or are related to domestic violence can span across different crime categories. A better indicator of the incidence of domestic violence-related crime as well as crimes involving child victims are domestic violence and child safeguarding referrals received and handled through the Family Support Unit and MASH, respectively, which are described under section 10;
- Financial crimes and Cyber-enabled crimes are often recorded as secondary offences, with their prevalence not fully captured as Cumulative Totals; therefore they are discussed solely in section 11;
- All crimes of significant public interest, such as violent crimes, burglaries, firearm and drug incidents, are analyzed further in sections 6 through 10.

Observations on Cumulative Statistics:

While the numbers of certain crimes have varied notably between 2018 and 2017 (e.g., burglaries, robberies, assault ABH), the overall cumulative incidence of crime across general categories has dropped somewhat, as such: Serious Crimes (-150, about -10%) and the Overall Total (-147, -4%), or stayed the same: Other Crimes (+ 3, or .1%).

5. Overview: Serious and Other Crimes

Serious crimes account for 38.6% (1335) of all crimes in the Cayman Islands, and some crimes within this category had no notable fluctuation across 2017 and 2018. Those crimes are manslaughter, rape and assault GBH.

Several other serious crimes did register notable decreases or increases, which can indicate crime trends. Those crimes which registered notable decreases in 2018 were burglary-related crimes (burglary, attempted burglary and criminal trespass), firearm incidents and indecent assaults. The decreases in burglary-related crime and firearm incidents are explored further under sections 6 & 7.

The following serious crimes registered notable increases in 2018, namely, murder and attempted murder (Section 7), and robbery and attempted robbery. Robberies are discussed in detail in Section 7 & 8.

Arson

Arson registered an increase in 2018 by 3 incidents, or 23%. Of the 16 arsons that took place, six involved structural fires and ten were vehicles.⁴ No one was seriously injured in these incidents. One man was arrested five times in 2017 and 2018 collectively for arson, but has not been charged in these incidents.

Assaulting Police

In 2018 fifteen (15) people were charged with Assaulting Police, while in 2017 thirteen (13) people were charged with Assaulting Police, in addition to two people charged with Assault GBH in two incidents where officers were badly beaten. These serious assaults sparked concerns among the community, government partners, the media and officers when they occurred in 2017, and has sustained public interest in this issue throughout 2018, though no further incidents with serious injuries occurred. The RCIPS maintains that assaults against officers undermine the very foundation of the relationship between the community and those sworn to protect it, and is a challenge to the overall peace and security of the islands. Therefore this behavior has not been tolerated and such offenders have been pursued to the fullest extent of the law.

⁴ On 17 April two police cars were torched in an apparent arson while parked at a site off police property. The cars were a total loss and had to be replaced.

Overview: Other Crimes

About 61% of all crimes committed in the Cayman Islands fall into the less serious category of “Other Crimes”. These statistics indicate notable increases in the number of incidents of common assault (+42%) and of motor vehicle thefts (+33%),⁵ but a decrease in theft reports overall. Damage to property, public order and offensive weapon offences varied slightly, while threatening offences in the online environment (in violation of the ICT Law) increased steadily for the fourth year in a row.⁶

Animal and Marine Offences

As summary offences, animal and marine offences are not included in the cumulative totals, but are being included separately in this report due to a high level of public interest.

The RCIPS partners with other agencies, namely the DOE and DOA, as a secondary enforcer of the Animal and Marine Conservation Laws. In 2018 there were 34 marine conservation offences recorded, which was a 62% increase over the 21 offences recorded in 2017. Generally, Joint Marine Officers enforce marine conservation laws during their water patrols, but uniform officers also make arrests on shore around replenishment zones or when witnessing the taking of marine life out of season. The Cayman Islands Coast Guard (CICG) is expected to operationalize within the next year with renewed capacity to take up the marine side of this enforcement function in partnership with the DOE.

With respect to animal offences, in 2018 the RCIPS stepped up its enforcement and partnership to tackle animal control and abuse in close collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. As a rule the RCIPS takes a lead investigative role in animal incidents where owners have failed to control their animals, while the Department of Agriculture takes a lead role in animal cruelty complaints; however both departments collaborate together on these investigations. In 2018 the DOA supported RCIPS officers during several operations targeting gambling and cockfighting, which resulted in 14 arrests (up from 3 arrests in 2017). Following articulated priorities from the National Security Council, anti-gambling operations were prioritized in 2018.

The most common type of animal offence addressed by DOA and police officers is that of ferocious dogs at large, and dogs dangerously out of control. In 2018 the RCIPS received 194 ferocious dog and dangerous dog complaints, which was a slight increase (5%) over 2017. When responding to these complaints the police also facilitate the seizure of animals by DOA Animal Welfare Officers when necessary. However, the RCIPS and DOA also joined forces to address this island-wide problem through public awareness as well as enforcement. Throughout the year CPD officers conducted

⁵ The RCIPS notifies the public of each vehicle reported stolen, in an effort to both locate stolen property but also deter the use of the vehicle to commit other crimes. Older Hondas, especially Honda Civics, were stolen frequently throughout 2017 and continued to be the main make of vehicle stolen in 2018.

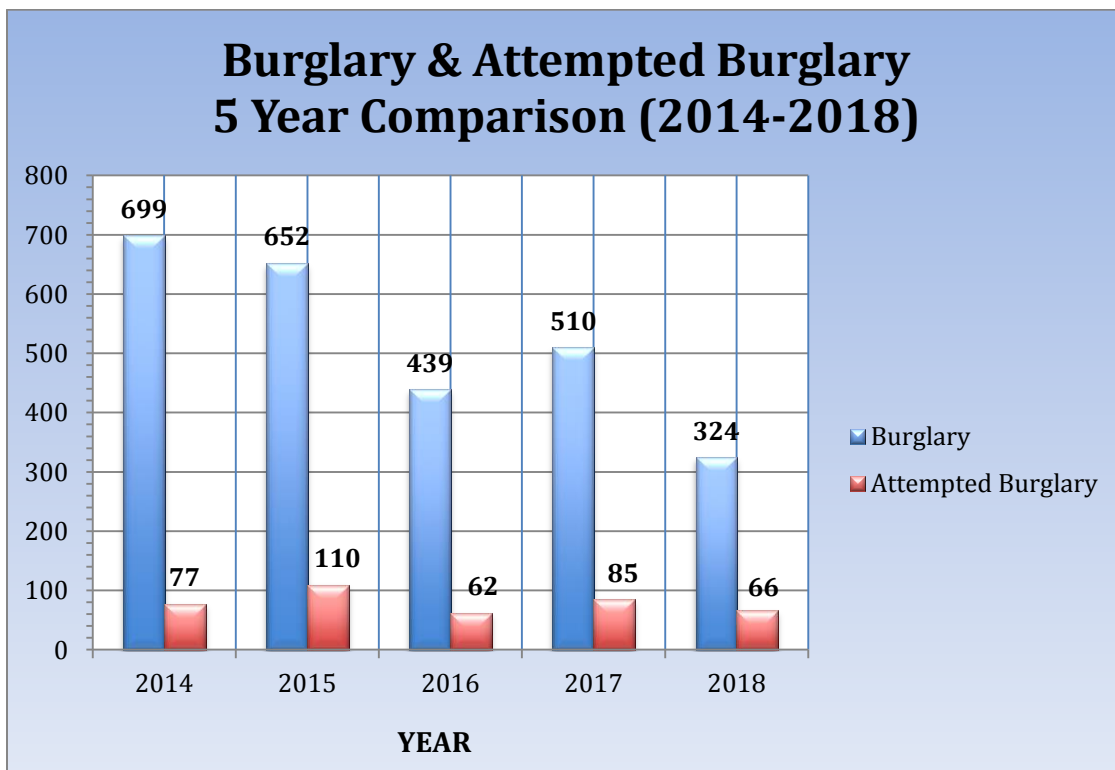
⁶ 30 (2015); 50(2016); 71(2017); 85(2018)

multiple walkthroughs with DOA Animal Welfare and Control officers in different neighbourhoods of West Bay, George Town, Bodden Town and East End to distribute a joint informational brochure on responsible dog ownership, and speak to residents about how to properly license and care for animals.

6. Burglary

The serious crime with the greatest number of victims in the Cayman Islands is Burglary. In 2018 the total number of burglaries was 324, and the total number of other burglary-related offences was 181. In comparison with 2017, Burglary and related offences fell notably in 2018, as follows: Burglary (-36.5%), Attempted Burglary (-22%), Criminal Trespass (-25.5%). Graph 2 below provides a context for burglary figures for the last five years, showing a decline in burglaries overall. The number of burglaries in 2018 is the lowest in eighteen years, since 2000.

Graph 2. Incidence of Burglaries and Attempted Burglaries, 2014-2018



Typically, residential burglaries outnumber commercial burglaries; however, greater losses on average are reported in commercial burglaries. **Figure 2** shows that residential burglary decreased by 36% and commercial burglary decreased by 31% in 2018.

Burglaries affect all districts throughout the islands, and the decline in burglaries in 2018 was shared across all districts, with Bodden Town experiencing the steepest decline of 57% over last year.

Detectives credit part of the substantial decrease in burglary during 2018 to the imprisonment for all or part of the year of several known recidivist offenders with a record of committing multiple burglaries. While some of these offenders may have been arrested and charged in relation to one burglary only, they were strongly suspected of others; in the wake of their arrest and remand, the incidence of burglaries in certain neighbourhoods ceased altogether. Altogether 40 (forty) people were placed before the court on burglary charges during 2018.

The RCIPS also believes that community efforts across the islands to come together for the collective safety and security of their neighbourhoods played a significant role in the drop in the incidence of burglaries. The RCIPS relaunched its Community Policing Department in February 2018 with support from the Cayman Islands Government, which dedicated funding for several new constable positions over a three-year period, from 2017-2019. Over the past year these new Community Police officers have worked closely with residents on their beats to initiate neighbourhood watches and community Whatsapp groups through which neighbours can instantly communicate, share information, and alert neighbours to suspicious activity. Community Police officers also participate in these groups,⁷ share crime prevention advice, and conduct follow-up visits to the residences of burglary victims. Altogether, there are currently 31 active neighbourhood watches in the Cayman Islands, several of which were initiated in 2018.

Despite the encouraging drop in burglary in 2018, the RCIPS believes that even the 2018 figures burglary are too still high for a population of 60,000. For those victims of the 324 burglaries that did take place, the statistical fact of a burglary drop across the islands is cold comfort. Furthermore, as the analysis of detectives suggests, the lower incidence of burglary could be short-lived if largely dependent on the imprisonment of repeat offenders, who are released and paroled on an ongoing basis. Therefore, if a decrease in burglaries is to be sustainable, enforcement and community prevention efforts cannot lose momentum, and must be reinforced by strengthened home and personal security measures by residences, as well as wider efforts to address the social issues and drug abuse that often drive burglary recidivism and are outside the scope of policing alone.

7. Firearm Crimes and Firearm Recoveries

In 2018, there were 10 confirmed firearm crimes recorded, which was a decrease of 62% (16) compared to 2017. **Figure 3** provides a breakdown of these offences.

However, given that firearms crimes are recorded as secondary offences when committed alongside more serious offences, such as murder or robbery, a fuller picture of firearm crime emerges when examining these primary offences along with firearm

⁷ In April 2018, Crime Stoppers donated 22 smart phones to the RCIPS Community Policing Department, which facilitated the participation of Beat Officers in community Whatsapp groups.

crimes as secondary offences. In that vein, there were 3 murders in 2018 with the use of a firearm, in comparison to 1 in 2017 and 2 in 2016. However, in 2018, one person was shot and injured with a firearm, in comparison with 5 in 2017 and 3 in 2016.

Another statistic that can be indicative regarding firearm crime is armed robberies. However, it is important to consider this statistic with the understanding that robbers can pretend to be armed when they actually are not, and depending on the evidence available this fact may never be clear. Therefore, unless it can be demonstrated otherwise, the secondary offence in these incidents remains possession of an imitation firearm. As a result, the number of armed robberies can be less instructive regarding the prevalence of actual firearms than numbers of murders and other crimes with firearm injuries, although it is still somewhat indicative. In 2018 there were eighteen (18) robberies recorded with the use of firearm or imitation firearm, while in 2017 there were thirteen (13).

In 2018 nine (9) firearms were recovered by police; two of these were recovered in marine drug interdictions. In 2017 twenty-nine (29) firearms were recovered.

Of the 9 firearms recovered by police in 2018, all were manufactured firearms. Of the 29 firearms recovered in 2017, 19 were manufactured firearms and 10 were imitation or modified flare guns or air pistols.

During June 2018, in an effort to remove as many firearms from our communities as possible, the RCIPS partnered with Crime Stoppers and the Cayman Ministers Association to conduct the first firearms amnesty in several years. For a period of 30 days, firearms could be turned in to police at local police stations, through pastors or through Crime Stoppers, with no questions asked. This amnesty enjoyed the support of the Office of the Director for Public Prosecutions, as well as several businesses and local organizations, which sponsored an active media campaign promoting the amnesty.⁸ Altogether, 18 firearms and 896 rounds of ammunition were handed in during the amnesty; seven of the firearms were handguns. These results were considered a tremendous success.

Overall, the statistics overall present a mixed picture. Far fewer stand-alone firearms incidents were recorded during 2018, but the number of firearms-related crimes was maintained or increased. Information available to police, however, suggests that access to firearms is more restricted; this conclusion is supported by the decrease in stand-alone firearm incidents, and the facts that weapons like flare guns continue to be modified for lethal use and individual guns continue to be linked to several different crimes. Patterns of illegal firearm use are analyzed regularly in order to advance gun recovery efforts and firearm crime prevention.

⁸ All three Rotary Clubs (Sunrise, Central and Grand Cayman), the Cayman Islands Sports Shooting Association, Superior Auto and the Lions Club sponsored the media campaign, which ran on the DMS, Hurley's Media, Star 92.7 and Radio Cayman radio stations, in the cinema and also in online advertising.

8. Robbery

Figure 4 analyzes robbery offences by the target of the crime. Robberies rose by 33% across the Cayman Islands in 2018, while attempted robberies nearly doubled.

Combined robbery and attempted robbery figures of commercial premises (establishment or institution and cash/goods in transit) remained about the same as last year; in 2018 robberies of food trucks/food stands accounted for four (4) of the eleven (11) commercial robberies, making this type of business the most targeted for this crime. Only one injury was reported in any of these incidents of an employee who was struck in the head with a gun.

In contrast to commercial robberies, robberies of individuals spiked in 2018, with both minor and serious injuries reported. Overall there were 26 incidents of this type of robbery, nearly double the number in 2017. In contrast to commercial robberies, injuries were reported in 30% (8) of these incidents, three (3) of which were categorized as serious.

As of April 2019 ten people have been charged in relation to nine of the robberies that occurred in 2018.

9. Drug Interdictions, Seizures and Arrests

During 2018 there were 6 major marine drug interdictions, resulting in the seizure of approximately 2,250 lbs. of ganja, twenty-four (24) arrests and the recovery of two illegal firearms. The value of ganja in the Cayman Islands varies widely depending on quality and availability,⁹ but a conservative estimate of the ganja seized during these interdictions is \$1,125,000.

While marine drug interdictions account for a large amount of the drugs seized by police throughout the year, there are also regular seizures during the course of police operations and patrols on land. The total amount of drugs seized by RCIPS in 2018 is shown in **Figure 5**.

The total amount of ganja seized in 2018 of 2,489lbs. far surpasses the 2017 total of 1,635lbs., and represents a 52% increase. The RCIPS credits this significant success to increasingly streamlined and coordinated efforts with partner agencies such the CI Customs and Border Control within the Crime Task Force established in 2017, as well as the proactivity and diligent investigative efforts by officers across the service, including those officers in the Crime Task Force, CID, Joint Marine Unit, Air Operations Unit, Community Policing, and others.

⁹ The street value of a pound of ganja in the Cayman Islands is estimated to be between 400KYD and 1000KYD.

Over the next year the new Cayman Islands Coast Guard is envisioned to become fully operational and work closely with the RCIPS, Port Authority, and Customs and Border Control to build on these successes and strengthen our marine borders further against drugs and firearms trafficking, while improving marine safety throughout the jurisdiction with increased inland patrolling and expanded search and rescue capacities.

Figure 6 provides drug crimes across several categories and notes an increase overall of 14%. The majority of drug offences reflected in this table generally resulted in arrests which stemmed from proactive policing and police operations. The category with the highest number of crimes, and therefore, arrests, is simple ganja possession. However, very few of these resulted in actual imprisonment and some were dealt with by way of Police Caution, which began to be implemented in 2018 as a result of the passage of the 2017 Cautions (Adult) Bill. Simple ganja possession rarely results in custodial sentences; as of 30 April 2019 only one person is currently imprisoned at HMP Northward on simple possession.

10. Domestic Violence and Child Safeguarding Referrals

Presenting accurate statistics regarding crimes that occur within the home or involve children victims can present a challenge, since such violence or abuse does not typically fall neatly within the parameters of specific offences, but may span across different offences, depending on the circumstances. It is instructive in this regard to recall the definition of domestic violence as "the physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse of one person by another who is in or has been in a personal relationship with them. The relationship may be between partners or ex-partners or other family members."¹⁰ Therefore, it is not possible to look to one offence, e.g., Threats to Kill, as an indicator of domestic violence, when not all such threats are domestic in nature, and domestic violence in many situations may not include threats at all. Therefore, a statistical indicator *specific to domestic violence* must be used to obtain figures that illustrate the amount of this type of violence or abuse being reported.

Within the RCIPS, this indicator takes the form of a *referral* from police officers or civilian intake staff to the Family Support Unit (FSU). If a 9-1-1 call for service or report is taken at a police station which indicates that individuals are at-risk for domestic violence, a domestic violence (DV) referral is generated to the Family Support Unit for its information, guidance, and investigation if necessary.

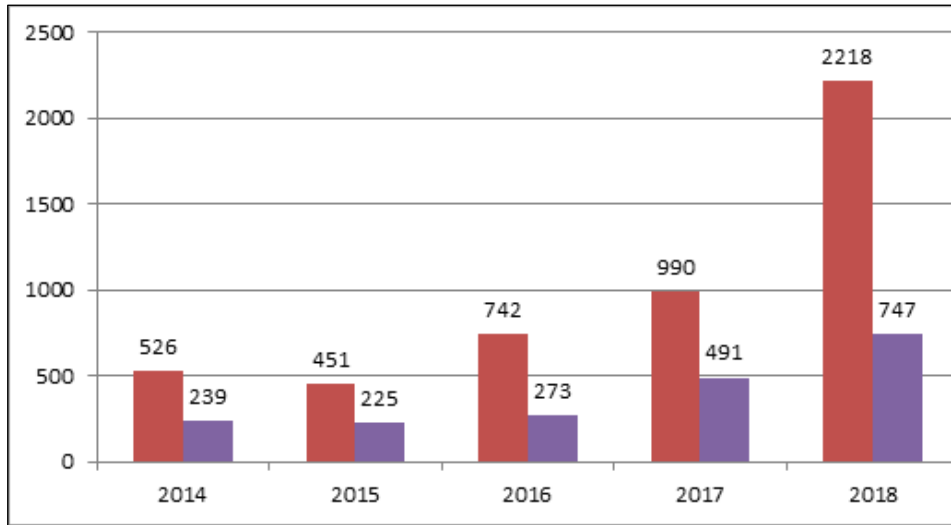
A similar process is in place for Child Safeguarding (CS) referrals to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), and while these referrals are made by police officers as well, they can also come from counselors, teachers and any other mandated reporters who are required by law to make an official referral if a situation involving a child meets certain criteria. These referrals are received and evaluated by DCFS and police officers in the MASH, and then referred to detectives in the Child Safeguarding Investigations Unit, which works alongside the MASH in the same office.

¹⁰ Per the RCIPS Domestic Violence Policy.

Increase in Referrals

The graphs below refer to the totals of these types of referrals in recent years, and illustrate a stark increase in both types of referrals in 2018.

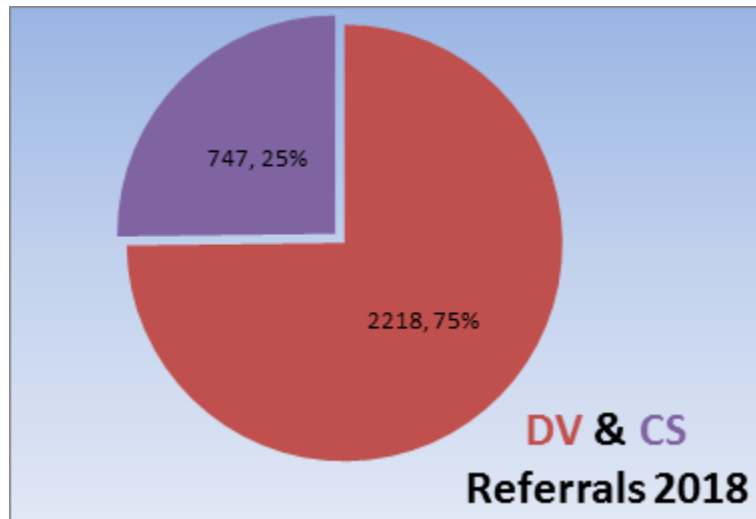
Graph 3: Domestic Violence and Child Safeguarding Referrals, 2014-2018



Red indicates domestic violence referrals, while *purple* indicates child safeguarding referrals.

Graph 3 shows that DV referrals more than doubled in 2018 over the year 2017, which was already a steep increase over 2016. Altogether there has been a steady increase in both DV and CS referrals since 2015, with sharp increases in 2018 of 124% and 52%, respectively.

Graph 4 illustrates the share of CS and DV referrals that form the workload of the MASH/FSU.



About three DV referrals are received for every CS referral. On average, there are 62 CS referrals received every month, while there are 185 DV referrals.

Domestic Violence

As discussed above, domestic violence encompasses many different types of violence, and therefore results in various types of offences. *Table 3* provides a breakdown of the 2,218 DV referrals received in 2018. *Selected Offences* refers to the offences that were most frequently indicated in these referrals; nearly half were categorized outright as civil disputes because no criminal offence was described. *Serious offences* are the raw numbers of very serious crimes that occurred during the year and fit the criteria for domestic violence. These numbers are included in these offence categories for the yearly cumulative totals provided in Figure 1. (next page)

Table 3. Breakdown of 2018 DV referrals

Selected Offences (DV)	#	%
Civil Dispute	992	45%
Assault ABH	256	12%
Common Assault	268	12%
Causing Fear or Harassment	135	6%
Criminal Damage	86	4%
Harassment/Alarm/Distress	80	4%
Serious Offences		
Murder	1	
Att. Murder	1	
Assault GBH	13	
Rape	6	
Att. Rape	1	

It is important to remember that anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, and that the definition extends beyond violence in intimate relationships to include physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse in the family setting. The breakdown of gender information below shows that nearly one in three people complaining of domestic violence are male.

Offenders/Suspects	Gender	Victim/Reporting Person
74%	< Male >	31%
26%	< Female >	69%

Child Safeguarding

Unlike DV referrals from 2018, over half of which related some kind potentially criminal behavior of varying degrees, the majority of child safeguarding referrals may not indicate criminal behavior at all but are still pursued and investigated as a matter of child safety. Table 4 provides a general breakdown of the kinds of referrals received by the MASH in 2018. *Serious offences* are the raw numbers of serious crimes that occurred

during the year involving child victims. These numbers are included in these offence categories for the yearly cumulative totals provided in Figure 1.

Table 4. Breakdown of 2018 Child Safeguarding referrals

Referral Category	#	%
General child welfare	351	47%
Physical Abuse	89	12%
Sexual Abuse	67	9%
Missing Person/Neglect	149	20%
Unruly Behavior	75	10%
Serious Offences		
Att. Murder	1	
Rape	7	
Youth Cruelty	31	
Youth Neglect	27	

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was established in new offices at Anderson Square in March 2017 and has been engaged in active outreach to partners, the media and the larger community since that time. Certain high profile cases involving child victims have also been covered intensively in the local media and have generated a high degree of public interest over the last two years. While the outreach of the FSU and MASH, as well as authoritative verdicts in high profile court cases, could have given people more confidence to come forward in 2018 and report domestic violence or child safety matters, it is not clear that behavior change on the part of victims alone can account for the dramatic increase in referrals. An improvement in the consistency of referrals from front line police officers could have partially contributed to this increase, as well as the execution of comprehensive training for all mandated reporters throughout 2017 and 2018 which more fully integrated them into the child protection process.

11. Financial Crimes

Financial Crimes include a wide range of offences that include the categories of forgery, money laundering and deception. In 2018 the Financial Crimes Investigation Unit investigated ninety-three (93) reports of money laundering, fraud and other financially-related offences, in comparison to one hundred nine (109) reports received in 2017. In addition, the FCIU in 2018 led investigations into one hundred and forty-eight (148) Suspicious Activity Reports received from the Financial Reporting Authority (FRA) and thirty-six (36) counterfeit currency reports. Thirty-eight (38) parallel financial

investigations were also undertaken in support of pro-active operations by CID and the Crime Task Force. Several of these investigations involved money-laundering offences and led to asset and cash seizures.

In 2018 the FCIU notably increased its seizures of criminal proceeds through the use of civil in addition to criminal powers. For example, detectives successfully seized an asset valued at \$23,700KYD for the predicate offence of drug importation that was subject to the civil recovery. This was the first time that proceeds of crime have been seized without a criminal conviction.

Leveraging these additional civil powers, detectives and prosecutors successfully seized KYD\$260,000 and US\$65,000 in 2018, up from KYD\$110,000 and US\$12,000 in 2017.

Cyber Crimes and Incidents

Cybercrime incidents are not included in the overall crime figures due to their variance and complexity. However, **Figure 7** provides a breakdown of the types of scams tracked by the Cyber Unit in 2018.

Business Email Compromise (BEC) has been a main scam of choice for cyber-criminals, and was the primary cause for the rise in cyber-crime from 2014 to 2016. The criminal objective behind BEC is to hack or spoof the email accounts of businesses with suppliers abroad, and then conduct fraudulent wire transfers. Even though BEC reports held steady in 2018, spoofing and phishing decreased, indicating that BEC scams may be waning as businesses improve email security and BEC awareness, and newer scams emerge.

The scams that saw the greatest increase in 2018 were Sextortion with Password Email and Social Media Impersonation/Fraud. Online investment scams and “smishing”¹¹ attempts via texts and live phone calls were also reported to the Financial Crime Unit throughout the year.

13. Traffic Collisions and Enforcement

Traffic statistics for 2018 reflect a stark increase in traffic enforcement across a number of categories, and a corresponding drop in the overall number of road traffic collisions. However, the number of road deaths climbed. **Figure 8** provides a breakdown of collisions and enforcement statistics in 2018.

The total number of traffic collisions throughout the islands registered a decrease of approximately 14%, or 379 collisions, with the largest percentage drop in the category

¹¹ Smishing is defined as “the fraudulent practice of sending text messages purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords or credit card numbers.”

of collisions causing slight injuries. However, collisions causing more serious injury increased during the year. During 2018 eight (8) fatal collisions caused eight (8) road deaths, whereas in 2017, only three (3) collisions caused six (6) road deaths. Nonetheless there has been a welcome downward trend in numbers of road deaths in recent years from a high in 2015, when thirteen people lost their lives on the road.

The overall 14% decrease in the total number of traffic collisions on the islands occurs alongside a whopping 49% increase in overall traffic enforcement. Speeding enforcement contributed significantly to these numbers, with a 226% increase in speeding offences over 2017. DUIs also increased noticeably by almost 30%. Enforcement of excessive tint, which is not included the table, was nearly seven times as high, with 1,583 tickets in 2018 issued over just 227 in 2017.

While the Traffic and Roads Policing Unit was re-launched in 2017, in 2018 it enjoyed full staffing and was equipped with new radar equipment. This new resourcing had a clear and positive impact on the overall level of enforcement taking place around the islands. It also appears to be reflected in the gradual decrease in collisions across all categories in the quarterly numbers throughout the year, as the effect of this intensified enforcement and visibility took hold. Nonetheless, as stated above, the number of collisions causing death or serious injury still increased in 2018, indicating that enforcement efforts may need to be reinforced by other initiatives to achieve a sustainable reduction of the most dangerous types of behavior on the road.