# Detecting crime – Transcript

***How does Police Scotland detect crime?***

**Sir Stephen House**: We’re very keen on a high detection rate for the more serious crimes so for example for homicide, the detection rate for murder hovers between 97 and 100% and it’s very, very rare that we don’t catch a murderer. It’s very rare. It does happen but it’s rare.

It is important also I think to say that if more evidence comes forward on a murder case that we haven’t solved, we will consider that evidence even years afterwards and with advances in science, particularly in DNA, we regularly review cases that took place a few years ago to see is there more that we can do? If we do another public appeal, can we get more evidence, would somebody come forward? Is there scientific evidence available that would help us detect the crime.

CCTV, closed-circuit television is also incredibly important in detecting crime. That is where it is mainly used by policing. It’s a very important aspect of all major crimes and there won’t be a homicide investigation, or indeed a serious investigation in Scotland that there isn’t a CCTV element to the investigation.

***How does Police Scotland prevent crime?***

**Sir Stephen House:** When it comes to things, obviously we detect crime when it happens and it’s reported to us but it’s far better for everybody involved, and for the country in general, if we prevent crime in the first place.

So our main aim is to reduce crime. So we will detect it and try and detect it when it happens, but really we would much prefer if we could reduce the volume completely and prevent crime happening in the first place.

One of the interesting areas we work with a number of councils and education departments and head teachers is in the Campus Cop area where at a certain number of schools across the country we have police officers, uniformed police officers, deployed full time into schools. We think that’s a pretty successful model.

There has been independent evaluation of those and that evidence tends to suggest that where Campus Cops exist, people feel safer, pupils feel safer, the teachers feel more confident, there are less reports of problems in schools themselves, there is less evidence of theft in the schools and in general it helps.

We also have examples of where pupils have come forward to the cops and told them about things that are happening at home that they’re not happy with and that lets us deal with things at a very early stage.

***How does Police Scotland protect the public?***

**Sir Stephen House**: Obviously, one of our general roles in society is to protect the public and our strapline, our motto as an organisation which we take very seriously is “Keeping People Safe” so we aim to keep people safe from criminals, but also on the roads, to try and make sure that people aren’t victims in traffic collisions; keeping people safe in the countryside, on the mountains, lots of officers are involved in mountain rescue and we coordinate mountain rescue across Scotland.

So keeping people safe is something that we work on in general. I think people would often think about big public events and some of those are obviously sporting events and football matches so we provide a police presence at the bigger football matches.

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