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KNIFE AMNESTY – ONE WEEK ON

With one week down and four to go, Scottish police forces are urging people to surrender their knives and weapons.

Speaking seven days into the nationwide knife amnesty, Chief Inspector Alex McGuire from the Safer Scotland co-ordination unit, said:

“We are now one week into the nationwide knife amnesty and we are heartened by the positive response from members of the public.

“We are not keeping a running tally of weapons being handed in, we’ll get a final figure right at the end, however, forces up and down the country are telling us that people are taking the opportunity to surrender their knives and other weapons to their local police office. “The amnesty will run until the end of June and people still have plenty of time to make that potentially life saving decision and hand in a blade.


“It’s impossible to say how many weapons will be handed in by the end of June, but there is no doubt that less knives on the streets, means a safer Scotland for everyone.”

Chief Inspector McGuire explained:

“We recognise that a knife amnesty alone cannot provide a long-term solution to tackling violence. It is part of a 12 month Safer Scotland anti-violence campaign to contain and manage the problem. However, alongside work to challenge the underlying culture and ‘acceptability’ of carrying knives among some young men, it will support our efforts to create safer daily lives for the people of Scotland.

“The Lord Advocate is making changes to prosecution policy, clamping down harder on those who persist in carrying blades. So we are saying to those who carry a knife – take this opportunity to get rid of it. Clear your conscience and help clear the streets of these deadly weapons.”

Chief Inspector McGuire, added:



“I would appeal to anyone who carries a knife or who’s considering carrying one, to think twice.

“No one leaves home with the intention of becoming a murderer, but that’s the chance you take if you carry a knife. I’d also appeal to parents – ask yourself the question – do you know if your son leaves home carrying a knife?”

The amnesty will be followed up by an intelligence gathering and, then, enforcement phase.

“We want to warn knife carriers now, that after the amnesty we will be coming after you. Then when people are caught - whether they’re engaging in violent behaviour or carrying a weapon - we will make sure they are brought before a court as quickly as possible.

“In the weeks and months ahead, we will be going after the most violent individuals who carry knives and engage in violent behaviour.

“We want to send out a strong message to individuals who engage in violent behaviour and carry weapons, that it’s no longer safe to carry a knife - because if you do, you will get stopped, searched and arrested,” said Chief Inspector McGuire.

Members of the public are being reminded that if they are handing in a weapon, it should be wrapped in cardboard and secured with tape before being dropped in the amnesty wheelie bins.