



SAFER SCOTLAND – PUBLIC REASSURANCE WEEKEND

Police forces across Scotland will be uniting for a massive high visibility policing operation this weekend.

To coincide with the first weekend of the nationwide knife amnesty, officers will be out in force providing reassurance to local communities.

The amnesty is part of a year-long Safer Scotland anti-violence campaign which aims to tackle weapons carrying, alcohol, gangs and violence.

During the holiday weekend (Friday 26 and Saturday 27 May) forces will be using every tool at their disposal from conventional beat officers to the mounted branch.

Strathclyde Police will be utilising its helicopter to disperse gang fighting, while Central Scotland Police will be running a Safer Central reassurance operation. In Lothian and Borders, officers will be targeting known knife carriers in hot spot areas. Elsewhere, Dumfries and Galloway will be running Operation Seesit, which aims to tackle alcohol related youth disorder.


Chief Inspector Alex McGuire from the Safer Scotland co-ordination unit, said:

“This is just a selection of the many operations which are being run across Scotland this weekend. We hope this not only reassures law-abiding members of the public, but sends out a strong message to those who engage in violence and disorder, that this type of behaviour is no longer tolerated on the streets of Scotland.”

Chief Inspector McGuire explained:

“This is the first weekend of the knife amnesty and we felt it was important to reassure our communities that we are serious about tackling violence on our streets.

“Forces are running a host of operations to tackle local problems which are relevant to their area. Clearly, not every area has an issue with knife crime or street violence, however, every community has concerns about alcohol-related disorder. Our aim - not just this



weekend - but throughout the campaign, is to build a Safer Scotland.”

The five week knife amnesty will be followed up by an intelligence gathering and enforcement phase.