



## **VIOLENT OFFENDERS TARGETED IN WARRANTS BLITZ**

Hundreds of Scots wanted on warrant for violent offences have been traced by police.

Over the last four weeks, a total of 772 warrants for violent offences have been executed by the Scottish Police Service. The month-long blitz is part of a 12 month Safer Scotland anti-violence campaign. Launched on Monday 3 April, the warrants initiative, was the first phase of the year-long crackdown on violence.

Forces were encouraged to prioritise and target their most violent offenders wanted on warrant for murder, attempted murder, serious and petty assault (including police assault) and weapons carrying. On Monday 3 April, 1,431 warrants for violence were outstanding in Scotland – as of Sunday 30 April 54 per cent of these warrants have now been executed and police plan to continue the clean up.

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

“The warrants crackdown is only one element in our year-long anti-violence campaign. Police execute warrants for all types of crimes on a daily basis, however, for the last four weeks we’ve asked them to focus on outstanding warrants for the most violent offences. Now 772 people are being dealt with by the criminal justice system.

“However, this doesn’t mean that forces have been neglecting warrants for other offences, we’ve simply been asking them to prioritise their warrants system and where possible, to dedicate extra resources to it.

“We will continue to target these warrants in the run up to the nationwide knife amnesty, which will run from May 24 to the end of June. We are committed to making the streets of Scotland safer for everyone.”

Breakdown of Scottish figures for April 2006 – murder/attempt murder – five warrants executed, serious assault – 86 warrants, other assaults (including police assault) 551 and knives/weapons carrying – 130.