



## **POLICE SCOTLAND – MESSAGE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

### **Message from Deputy Chief Constable Ruairaidh Nicolson QPM:**

Police Scotland is saddened by the tragic events and loss of life over the past week in Germany. The criminal activity of the individuals involved appears to have a variety of motives however media reports have highlighted the perpetrators to be either of migrant heritage, refugees or asylum seekers. These events have followed other tragic attacks in recent months in many different countries where innocent civilians of all backgrounds have been targeted.

It is clear however that the perpetrators, as individuals or as groups have deliberately targeted communities in an attempt to cause harm, division and fear in society. We strongly condemn this and any other acts of violence and our thoughts are very much with the victims, their families and wider communities.

I would like to reassure you that there is no known threat or link between Scotland and these latest events in Germany. It is important however to emphasise that the threat level for the United Kingdom remains at severe and I encourage all communities to remain vigilant and raise any concerns about suspicious activity or behaviour to Police Scotland.

My message is for local communities to continue to work together in ensuring that no individual or community in our diverse and multi-cultural country feels isolated, including refugees and asylum seekers. We must challenge those who seek to divide us and spread messages of hatred, and you have my firm commitment that Police Scotland will not tolerate such behaviour and any incidents will be robustly investigated.

I would ask communities across the country to report all incidents of hate or any concerns they may have regarding suspicious activity to Police Scotland on 101, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or in an emergency dial 999. Hate Crimes or Incidents can also be reported via the on-line reporting form available on the Police Scotland web-site or through one of the Third Party Reporting Centres available across Scotland.