

MARINE POLICING REPORT 2022

Marine Policing has had yet another extremely busy year in a number of high-profile operations around the country.

We started this reporting period with the G7 Conference in Cornwall. A number of our members from the three units volunteered to provide the Marine Policing requirement.

The deployment didn't start well due to accommodation issues, but these were partially ironed out, compensated for, and the members continued in their usual professional manner.

We moved onto COP26 in Glasgow, again a tri-unit deployment providing the entire waterfront armed Policing for all the world leaders and for a period of three weeks.

This also led to involvement with climate change protestors in other areas of water on the West of Scotland, but these additional challenges were met with complete success, much to the satisfaction of the host force, Police Scotland.

These commitments were all carried out in conjunction with our normal operational requirements at the three ports we police.

Moving onto early 2022 and the HMS Queen Elizabeth arrived in Scotland for an operational loading. Again, this was a tri-unit deployment and again it was a successful mission due to the contributions of our members working in the various craft deployed to protect this asset.

If that wasn't enough, our members almost hitched a ride down to Liverpool to provide policing support and protection when the carrier docked there immediately after it left Scotland.

So, whilst all of this sounds exciting and a variance of work in different locations, it also highlights the sacrifices our members make when having to work away from home for sometimes lengthy periods. They then return to their respective units and continue to work locally and to continue to meet their additional training requirements that is continually necessary for Marine Policing.

The replacement craft project is still on course to deliver the first of our new vessels towards the end of 2022. It's a credit to all involved that this project hasn't been subjected to any cuts or assessment of absolute need. This should future proof the craft and equipment for many years to come.

As the DPF Marine Policing portfolio holder, I am continually grateful for the advice and support I receive from the unit reps. As time moves on, with the new craft, equipment, and clothing, that subject matter expert knowledge will be even more invaluable.

John Colvan
Marine Policing Portfolio Holder.