# Police Scotland launch Operation Portaledge amid surge in gang violence



Scotland is currently grappling with a surge in gang-related violence, prompting serious interventions from law enforcement officials. Chief Constable Jo Farrell of Police Scotland has announced the operational codename "Operation Portaledge," indicating a comprehensive investigation into escalating gang feuds that have plagued both Glasgow and Edinburgh. The operation has thus far resulted in the arrests of 35 individuals, the recovery of 14 stolen vehicles, and an extensive review of 3,000 hours of CCTV footage, underscoring the law enforcement community's commitment to combatting organised crime.

The violence linked to these gang wars has manifested in a series of targeted shootings and firebombings, an uptick in brutality that necessitated heightened policing efforts. Ms Farrell has characterised these attacks as deliberate and methodical, drawing attention to the urgent need for community involvement in tackling this menace. “I want to begin by condemning the actions of those involved and thanking our communities for their support,” she stated during a recent Scottish Police Authority board meeting.

The investigations initiated by Operation Portaledge come on the heels of other significant police actions in Scotland. For instance, another recent operation targeting gang activities has resulted in more than 20 arrests in connection with serious incidents in Edinburgh, including physical assaults and property crimes. These developments reflect a broader trend of increasing violence, as highlighted by Detective Chief Superintendent David Ferry, who recently described the ongoing investigation as one of the most significant in Scotland’s history.

Furthermore, random acts of violence have led to increased scrutiny surrounding the role of youth in organised crime. It has been reported that some participants in these conflicts are even teenagers. Additionally, social media dynamics are fostering environments where criminal organisations can accelerate their activities and recruitment strategies, thus complicating law enforcement efforts.

Beyond the arrests and the analysis of CCTV data, Police Scotland has executed over 100 property searches related to these investigations, yielding weapons and illicit substances. In a testing climate for law enforcement, the police are diligently exploring digital forensics and are in close collaboration with local authorities to enrich their investigative measures. The public's help has been acknowledged as crucial for these efforts, with calls for more community intel on gang activities being a central part of the strategy moving forward.

Notably, this heightened law enforcement activity has not only been a reaction to violent incidents but also a proactive measure aimed at preempting future outbreaks of gang warfare. As Scotland battles against such serious challenges, the commitment demonstrated by the police to foster a collaborative relationship with communities may prove essential in dismantling the networks that perpetuate organised crime.

Through ongoing support and vigilance, Scotland’s authorities hope to reclaim public safety and ensure that these violent confrontations do not define the community landscape. The turbulence within Scotland's urban centres emphasises the need for a united front in tackling the roots of gang violence, a necessity echoed in the voices of various law enforcement leaders and community advocates alike.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4
2. Paragraph 5
3. Paragraph 6
4. Paragraph 7

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/gangland-feud-operation-name-announced-35266538> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://news.sky.com/story/two-men-in-court-as-four-arrested-amid-major-police-probe-into-gang-feud-in-edinburgh-13341249> - Sky News reports on a major police investigation into a gang feud in Edinburgh, where four individuals were arrested following raids at five properties. Among those arrested were two men aged 28 and 38, charged with threatening behavior and reset of a stolen motor vehicle, respectively. A 16-year-old boy was also arrested in connection with a stolen vehicle and possession of an offensive weapon. The investigation involves extensive inquiries into recent incidents in and around Edinburgh, including shootings and firebombings. Detective Superintendent Paul Grainger emphasized the commitment to tackling this type of crime and urged the community to assist with any information.
3. <https://news.stv.tv/east-central/gang-war-investigation-largest-in-scotland-with-20-arrested-in-connection> - STV News covers Scotland's largest gang war investigation, with 20 arrests made so far. The feud began with shootings in Edinburgh's Niddrie Marischal Crescent and West Pilton Bank, followed by firebombings in Glasgow and other areas. A 16-year-old was charged with five alleged attempted murders. Detective Chief Superintendent David Ferry described the operation as the most significant in Scotland, highlighting the involvement of young people and social media in organized crime. The investigation continues with a focus on dismantling the criminal network.
4. <https://news.stv.tv/east-central/weapons-and-drugs-seized-amid-investigation-into-central-belt-gang-war-firebombings> - STV News reports on the seizure of weapons and drugs amid an investigation into firebombings linked to a gang feud in Scotland's Central Belt. Police have visited over 100 properties and reviewed almost 700 hours of CCTV footage. Six homes and businesses in Glasgow have been targeted, with incidents believed to be connected to shootings in Edinburgh. Detective Chief Superintendent David Ferry emphasized the importance of tracing those responsible and urged the public to provide any relevant information.
5. <https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2025/may/one-hundred-arrests-and-drugs-seized-across-scotland-as-part-of-operation-intensity/> - Police Scotland announces the conclusion of Operation Intensity, resulting in around 100 arrests and the seizure of over 200 kilograms of illegal drugs. The operation targeted a criminal network operating across Scotland, including Dumfries, Ayrshire, and Central Scotland. Forty-six search warrants were executed, leading to the recovery of large quantities of drugs, firearms, and cash. Additionally, 11 children were safeguarded after being identified as at risk from the gang's activities. Detective Superintendent Stevie Elliot highlighted the operation's success in disrupting large gangs operating across the country.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/glasgow-man-jailed-for-delivering-wages-to-gangland-figures-as-part-of-money-laundering-scheme-12935467> - Sky News reports on the sentencing of Gerard McTaggart, a 47-year-old plasterer from Glasgow, who was jailed for over four years for delivering 'wages' to gangland figures as part of a money laundering scheme. Between May and October 2019, McTaggart was observed by surveillance officers delivering carrier bags containing thousands of pounds to various locations linked to organized crime. He admitted being involved in serious organized crime after his arrest in October 2019. The case was part of Police Scotland's Operation Escalade, targeting Scotland's highest-ranking organized crime groups.
7. <https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-copfs/news/extradited-gangland-leader-jailed-for-orchestrating-south-american-drug-smuggling-operation-ordered-to-repay-125-000-under-proceeds-of-crime-laws/> - The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) reports on the sentencing of Paul Fleming, a 40-year-old gangland leader, who was jailed for nine years for orchestrating a South American drug smuggling operation. Fleming was a key figure behind a scheme to flood Scotland with cocaine from Brazil, Colombia, and Bolivia. In addition to his prison sentence, Fleming was ordered to repay £125,970.96 under Proceeds of Crime laws. The assets confiscated include cash seized from Fleming’s home, valuable watches, and other high-value goods seized by the police.