

Man injured in plunge while 'fleeing police'

Incident: Streets sealed off after casualty taken to hospital

BY ASHLEIGH BARBOUR AND NEIL JOHNSTON

A man has suffered serious head injuries after plunging over a wall in Aberdeen as he tried to escape police.

The 25-year-old fell from a 15ft embankment at Marischal Court on to Commerce Street early yesterday morning while he fled officers who had been called to a "disturbance" in the area.

Last night - as the man was treated at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary - prosecutors ordered the independent watchdog which monitors police conduct in Scotland to investigate the incident.

The northbound lane of Commerce Street was shut for more than 15 hours while officers made in-



SCENE: A police officer stands guard while investigations are carried out. Photographs: Kami Thomson

"I'd urge anyone who witnessed it to contact the police"

quiries and scoured the area around Marischal Court and Virginia Court.

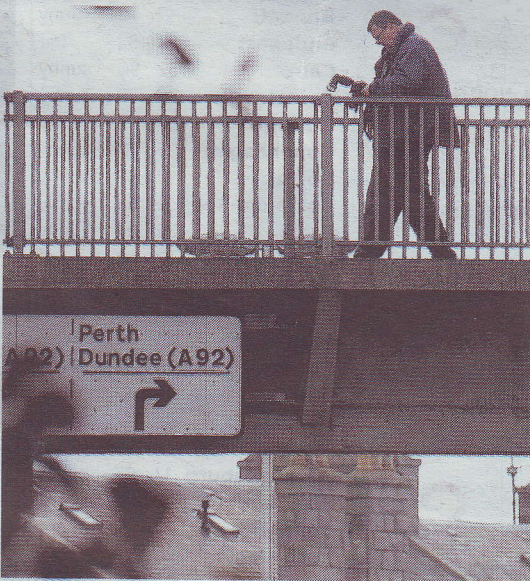
Horrified residents who live in the high-rise flats - and who had been woken by the "commotion" outside - said they watched as police worked through the night, taking pictures and gathering evidence.

One man, who did not want to be named, said the man had run off when police officers arrived.

Yesterday, a patch of sand could be seen covering a stain in the middle of Commerce Street, marking the spot where it is understood he landed.

Police Scotland confirmed it was called to the Marischal Court area yesterday morning after receiving reports of a "disturbance".

However, a spokeswoman for the force could not confirm if police had been pursuing the man be-



A police photographer on Castlehill footbridge

fore he fell. She added that a second man was assisting them with the "disturbance" they were initially called out to, and appealed for anyone who saw either incident to contact police.

"Police Scotland are appealing for any witnesses or persons who have informa-

tion in relation to the incident and ask they contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111," she said.

Councillor for the area, Jean Morrison, said it had been an "unfortunate incident".

"I'd urge anyone who

witnessed it or who has information about it to contact the police if they haven't already done so," she said.

City-centre councillor, Nathan Morrison, who lives at Castlegate and heard the officers arrive, said he trusted that police had acted "appropriately".

A spokesman for the Crown Office confirmed it had asked the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner - the body that looks into the most serious incidents involving officers - to launch a probe.

"We can confirm that the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) has instructed the Police Investigations & Review Commissioner to carry out an independent investigation into an incident in Commerce Street, Aberdeen just after midnight on Monday, July 21," he said.

"A report will be submitted to the COPFS in due course."

Charity for v

WALK

BY JESSICA M

A north-east charity is calling out for more than 100 volunteers and volunteers for a charity walk.

Clan Cancellor needs helpers for a regular walking event being held next month.

Participants are invited to take part in a 10-mile or 7.8-mile walk which will take place in the grounds of King's College, Machar's Cathedral and the church.

Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of activities during the September 21st event, which include covering points and manning points to hand out goody bags and to greet walkers at the finish.

Susan Crighthead, fundraising manager, said: "Last year, we were incredibly grateful for the hundreds of people who stepped forward to help with the volunteering. We are looking forward to a number again this year."

HALF PRICE
SUMMER
FRAME & SUNGLASSES
SALE
ALL STOCK HERE

Rayban, Jimmy Choo, B...

Aberdeen Belmont St. 01224 644927	Westhill 01224 745888 Banff	Fraserburgh 01346 519269 Huntly
---	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------