



New Metropolitan Police Commissioner appointed

Sir Paul Stephenson has been appointed Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Sir Paul said: "My agenda for the coming years is straightforward – it's about cutting and solving crime, securing our streets, convincing all our communities that we are on their side and delivering the policing they want, and being intolerant of violence in any form."

Latest crime figures for the MPS (statistics cover the period January to December 2008, compared to January to December 2007)

- ⇓ Total crime has fallen by almost 26,000 offences or 3% and is at its lowest level in 10 years
- ⇓ Most serious violence and assault with injury has fallen by nearly 2,400 offences or 3.2%
- ⇓ Robbery is down by almost 7,000 offences or 17.6%
- ⇓ Motor vehicle crimes are down by over 8,200 offences or 6.8%
- ⇓ Knife crime is down by nearly 1,350 or 12.6%*
- ⇓ Gun crime has fallen by over 750 offences or 26%

Total crime in London at 10-year low

Latest figures reveal that crime in London is continuing to fall, with reductions in knife and gun crime, robbery, and hate crime such as racist and homophobic crimes. Overall crime has fallen for the sixth consecutive year and is now at the lowest level for ten years. Londoners and those who visit London can be reassured that the capital is continuing to get safer, with gun crime down by 26% in 2008 compared to 2007 and knife crime down by over 12% over a nine-month comparison. Furthermore, robbery has been reduced by more than 17% with over 6,900 fewer robberies compared with 2007. For full details of the figures, visit: www.met.police.uk/crimefigures.

Operation Spotlight targets burglars

A Met operation to target burglars has led to the arrest of almost 1,500 people since it began last November. Operation Spotlight targets known and wanted burglars across the capital through policing operations, alongside an advertising campaign to remind Londoners of simple steps they can take to make their home secure. In two months, officers have arrested 1,457 people, 624 of whom have been charged with residential burglary. A further 608 were charged for other offences.

Met launches cycling-safety initiative

The Met kicked off the first day of its 2009 cycling-safety programme by teaming up with a host of partners in the largest ever awareness day on 20 January. Officers from the Traffic Unit, supported by London Mayor Boris Johnson, TfL and the London Cycling Campaign (LCC), worked simultaneously across four popular cyclist routes in London during morning rush hours to educate lorry drivers and cyclists and raise awareness of the dangers of collisions between these two groups of road users.

*Over a nine-month comparison