

Police Update - JCC for Ethnic Minorities Meeting December 2015

General Performance, (up to 01/12/15)

Crime Type	Offences	Difference from Previous 12 months
Total Crime	11696	+7.7%
Residential Burglary	949	-18.2%
Personal Robbery	238	-13.5%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	902	-18.2%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	384	-0.3%
Non DA Violence with Injury	827	+18.5%
Domestic Violence with Injury	451	+7.9%

Crime overall is up compared to the previous twelve months. This can be attributed to a rise in low level, high volume crime such as criminal damage and minor theft. On a more positive note priority crime such as burglary, robbery, theft from and theft of motor vehicle have all seen reductions. Violent crime is still in an increase but the increase has now been stemmed. In December 2014 violence resulting in injury crime for domestic violence and non-domestic violence were up 31.3% and 17.3% respectively. As above, these are now down to 18.5% and 7.9% respectively. Much of this rise can be explained by changes in recording standards and how we classify violent crime. What used to be recorded as 'actual bodily harm', is now regularly classified as 'grievous bodily harm'.

The MOPAC 7 target for reducing key crime types by 20% by 31/03/2016 is well on track and currently the reduction is sitting at 22.3% against the 2011/2012 baseline.

Hate Crime Performance, (up until 26/11/15)

Hate Flag	MPS		Merton	
	Offences	SDs	Offences	SDs
Racist and Religious	9458	25.2%	183	23.5%
Racist	9009	25.8%	173	27.2%
Faith	1068	18.4%	20	15.0%
Anti-Semitic	298	15.8%	1	0.00%
Islamaphobic	647	19.0%	17	17.6%

Hate crime has increased across the MPS. The increase in race and religious crime in Merton is comparable within the MPS at 26%, understandably with a significant spike in recent weeks following terrorist attacks in Paris. The police in Merton continue to visit all vulnerable religious premises at least once in every shift. There are no particular

trends or areas of high concern for the borough and the vast majority of reports are limited to name calling.

Challenges

- **Murder.** Ongoing problems between the organised crime groups from the Tamil Community in Mitcham. This escalated to violent disorder on 23/11/15 from which three people suffered serious injuries, one of which proved fatal. The matter is being actively investigated by our Homicide Teams. To date one person has been charged and remanded with murder and other offences.
- **Fire.** As you will have seen a significant part of the estate at the Baitul Futuh Mosque was ravaged by fire following a suspected arson at the premises in September 2015. Two young men were arrested and bailed on suspicion of committing the offence. This is almost certainly not a hate crime and the community have shown tremendous resilience in a prompt return to business as usual.
- **Austerity.** Although no further cuts are now planned, the MPS has already had to make savings of £600m and depending on the result of a review on police grants, it is anticipated that a further £200m of savings may need to be found for 2016/17. Change processes are therefore likely to continue. No decisions have yet been made on police officer numbers, supervision ratios or the future of PCSOs.
- **Terrorism.** The MPS remains at a threat level of 'severe'. There is no intelligence to suggest that the threat is increased locally but the police remain on high alert.

Mark Lawrence
Chief Inspector
01/12/15