

Police Update - JCC for Ethnic Minorities Meeting December 2014

General Performance, (up to 24/11/14)

Crime Type	Offences	Difference from Previous 12 months
Total Crime	11603	-5.8%
Residential Burglary	952	-16.8%
Personal Robbery	277	-39.8%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	1093	-15.3%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	383	+32.1%
Non DA Violence with Injury	687	+17.3%
Domestic Violence with Injury	420	+31.3%

Crime overall is down. There have been some very pleasing reductions in burglary, robbery and theft from motor vehicle. Burglaries involving Asian Jewellery remain a problem but have fallen. The Merton Crime Squad has been pro-active in bringing some prolific offenders to justice. Theft of motor vehicle has risen significantly owing primarily to an increase in the theft of mopeds. Many of these are believed to have been stolen for parts. Violence is discussed later in the report.

Hate Crime Performance, (up until 20/11/14)

Hate Flag	MPS		Merton	
	Offences	SDs	Offences	SDs
Racist and Religious	7525	28.7%	131	32.8%
Racist	7289	29.3%	114	18.4%
Faith	796	16.7%	23	47.8%
Anti-Semitic	242	14.0%	1	0.00%
Islamophobic	453	19.4%	20	55.0%

Race and religious crime is defined as any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person, or any offence where the offender demonstrates hostility based on the victim's membership of a racial or religious group. Some crimes will be double counted, for example, some crimes are flagged as both racist and religious and therefore the sum of racist crimes and faith crimes exceeds the number of overall offences.

The data provided did not provide a comparison with last year's reported offences, however, it does appear that there has been an increase in racist and religious crime, which is partly attributable to events in Syria and increased terrorist threat levels. The data does provide a comparison in sanction detection

rates, (SDs). These show a decrease of 18.6% sanction detections for race hate crime but an increase of 38.7% for faith hate crime.

Confidence

Confidence in policing in Merton has decreased by 2% compared to the same period last year but remains 7% higher than the MPS average. Confidence is measured through the Public Attitude Survey. This shows that people think the police are doing a better job, are more visible, more respectful and treat people more fairly. The decrease is because people in Merton perceive that crime and ASB are more of a problem than they did in the previous year.

Satisfaction

User satisfaction is measured through the User Satisfaction Survey which is a survey of victims of crime for burglary, motor vehicle crime and violence. This has fallen by 2% in the last year. In January 2014 Merton was first in the MPS but possibly owing to an influx of new and less experienced officers, (85 since July 2013), Merton currently sits at ninth best.

The gap between white and BME victims of crime has grown. Satisfaction for white victims of crime is currently 85% compared to 76% for BME victims of crime. Merton was previously best in the MPS by a considerable margin and some months saw BME victims more satisfied than white victims. The drop is believed to be linked to violent crime where victims are not satisfied with the overall result of the criminal investigation.

Challenges

- **Violence.** The priority for the MPS is currently offences of violence causing injury. There has been an increase across London in both domestic and non-domestic violence. There continues to be a drive to tackle domestic abuse where violence occurs and there is a new focus on non-domestic violence with injury under the banner of Operation Equinox. Operation Equinox provides the same enhanced level of primary investigation that is afforded to domestic violence, namely a statement taken from the victim at the time, photographs of all injuries and sustained efforts to identify and arrest suspects as early as possible. Operation Equinox also provides additional patrols to licensed premises and violence hotspots.
- **Local Policing Model, (LPM).** The Local Policing Model has been in place since July 2013. This saw the move away from individual ward teams to a new Neighbourhood model which retained some officers dedicated to wards but allowed remaining Neighbourhood Offices to be used more flexibly across Neighbourhood areas. Most of this new model has worked very well but as the Commissioner accepted during the Commissioner's Roadshow there are elements that didn't work as well as we had hoped. The LPM is currently under review across London. Locally we have placed Dedicated Ward Officers onto a new shift pattern

so that they are on duty at times when they are better able to engage with the public.

- **Budgets.** The MPS is well on the way to meeting the budgetary savings dictated by the last Government Spending Review. Despite this success we are not out of the woods yet and future spending reviews may see a requirement to make further efficiency savings. Planning is underway to consider what the MPS may look like if further savings are demanded by the government. Despite this the MPS accepts the challenge of policing in the 21st Century and is making significant investments in technology. It is hoped that tablet technology and body worn video will be rolled out to boroughs in the next 12 to 18 months.

Mark Lawrence
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24/11/14

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