

MPS Disorder Update for Businesses

Monday 22nd August 2011

Latest Information - Update

Policing in London has been very much 'business as usual' over the weekend and there have been no significant issues.

Additional officers have been deployed to ensure that London remains calm and these officers were tasked to assist on local Borough Operational Command Units with the capacity to rapidly redeploy.

We still continue to receive officers on mutual aid from other Police Forces.

A/Commissioner thanks London - Update

In wishing to extend his thanks to all Londoners for the support that has been shown to the police during the recent incidents of disorder, Tim Godwin, Acting Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service has written an open letter.

Please feel free to share it with your staff and customers - it is presented in the form of A4/A3 posters so that it can be displayed on notice

boards, and in shop windows should you wish to do so.

If you have received this via email, please see the pdf of poster attached. To request a pdf of this document, please contact us at: CommunitiesTogether@met.police.uk

Arrests - Update

Operation Kirkin continues to support the arrests of outstanding suspects.

The Metropolitan Police Service has now arrested a total of 1894 (adults: 1483 / juveniles: 411) people in connection with violence, disorder and looting. Of those arrested, a total of 1078 (adults: 846 / juveniles: 228) have been charged to date.

Three people have been arrested in connection with the violence and disorder as a result of information received following the Crimewatch Special broadcast on Thursday 18th August 2011.

A 17-year-old male was arrested in connection with the attempted arson of a council building on 7th August in Tottenham High Road, Tottenham.

Two females, both 15 years old, have also been arrested on suspicion of violent disorder and burglary in connection with disorder in Clarence Road, Hackney on 8th August.

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A further 17-year-old male from Hornsey N8 will appear in custody at Camberwell Green Youth Court on Monday 22 August accused of the robbery of a scooter within the London Borough of Croydon on 8th August.

These arrests were made after members of the public responded to a number of clips which appeared on the programme featuring various incidents of disorder in London.

A 17-year-old male from the Enfield area has tonight (19 August) been charged with violent disorder and arson in relation to incidents in Tottenham on 7 August. He will appear in custody at Stratford Magistrates' Court on Saturday, 20 August.

We continue to work closely with the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that cases are processed as quickly as possible. A large number of people have appeared in court and while some have already been convicted and received prison sentences, many cases have been remanded to Crown Court.

Investigation - Update

Latest figures show that there were 3,296 reported total notifiable offences linked to the disorder that occurred across London between 6th and 9th August.

Of these, the most common offences were: burglary in other buildings (1101), criminal damage to a motor vehicle (399) and theft of personal property (310). There were 162 reports of arson.

We estimate that we currently have around 20,000 hours of CCTV footage to view, although this is likely to increase as we gather further material from CCTV, the public and other sources.

Forensic and crime scene examiners have been working on more than 1,100 crime scenes and more than 300 forensic submissions have already been made to labs.

Operation Withern's priority is to bring to justice those who have committed violent and criminal acts. As the detailed and thorough investigation progresses we will be issuing photographs of people who were in the vicinity of the disorder and who may be able to help officers with their enquiries.

Flickr is hosting the photos so that the public can help the Metropolitan Police Service identify those who committed violent and criminal acts on London's streets.

Please visit the website address below to see if you are able to help identify anyone:
www.flickr.com/photos/metropolitanpolice/

You can also view the images at:
www.met.police.uk/disordersuspects/

We continue to appeal for witnesses and information in relation to the disorder across London. Anyone with information relating to any aspect of the incident is asked to contact the Operation Withern incident room on **020 8345 4142**.

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Alternatively, if you feel unable to speak to the police direct, you can report a crime and provide information anonymously to the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555 111.

This newsletter is being produced for the benefit of the whole of the business community. If there are any areas of advice or subject matter that you would like to see included in future issues please contact us via:

CommunitiesTogether@met.police.uk

Supporting businesses and the Community - Update

There have been some excellent examples of partnership activity on boroughs to support businesses and the wider communities that have been affected by the recent disorder. Once again, we would like to thank members of the business community for their continued support of the MPS.

An example of some of the partnership activity taking place across London includes:

- **Barnet:** Police in Barnet, London Fire Brigade (LFB) and Barnet Council joined together to run events on Wednesday and Thursday evenings last week at Brent Cross Shopping Centre. The meetings were for small and large businesses that were affected by the recent disorder. Businesses made use of the opportunity to share their experiences of recent days and identify lessons that could be learnt.

- **Camden:** Volunteer Police Cadets are patrolling the Camden High Street / Chalk Farm Road area that was subject to incidents of disorder last week. They have received funding from B&Q DIY stores and are looking to buy and plant flowers, plants etc, to brighten the area whilst shops are still boarded up.
- **Southwark:** There have been additional reassurance patrols by police for local shops to provide one-to-one support and advice on how concerns can be resolved. Some shop owners have expressed concerns about shoplifters following the disorder and officers have helped by making referrals to Southwark's anti social behaviour unit for added support.
- **Newham:** Many of the businesses, who donated food, drink and rest areas for officers during the disorder have received a personal visit from the Borough Commander Sean Vickers to convey his gratitude. Visits by local Safer Neighbourhoods teams and/or the investigating officer have also been taking place to provide additional support and reassurance. Special local ward panel meetings have also been arranged for local businesses and residents, with plans being made to host a youth group meeting.

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- **Lewisham:** Acting Borough Commander Lisa Crook has thanked local businesses for their generosity during the disorder at Lewisham. During a week of unprecedented criminality many businesses including Sainsburys, Nandos, Halal butchers, the Turkish Food Centre and the XLP Centre - an urban youth charity - donated food, drink and places of rest for officers.
- **Croydon:** Project YOU, which brings together uniformed youth organisations in London, including the Met's Volunteer Police cadets, met at the Croydon Voluntary Action HQ in London Road (scene of some of the greatest damage) to paint boarded premises with inspirational words and scenes, assist with sorting and delivering items donated by members of the community to displaced residents, hand out leaflets to advertise an open community meeting in the evening and generally offer their services to small businesses in London Road.

There have also been daily update briefings at 11:30am for Croydon businesses in the Town Centre. These have been hosted by one of the larger landowners and led by John Rouse, Chief Executive of Croydon Council. The meetings have enabled key messages to be delivered in person both from the police and the local authority.

The daily briefings, which were welcomed by the Community Watch for Businesses, also provided an opportunity for Croydon businesses to be updated on the latest developments in the police investigation, and to discuss any learnings that can be taken forward.

- **Haringey:** Volunteer Police Cadets helped paint and decorate boarded up shop fronts on Tottenham High Road, creating a 'Peace Wall' as has been done in Peckham and Manchester, to help unite the community, with the help of donations from B&Q and Waitrose.
- **Lambeth:** Members of the Met's Volunteer Police cadets distributed plants and planters donated by the local B&Q to the worst affected and most vulnerable residents and business owners.

An investigation is currently underway following a fire reported on Tuesday in the basement of the Footlocker store, Brixton Road/ Atlantic Road, Brixton. This same building was subject to a fire during last week's disorder. Whilst the cause has not yet been determined, it is believed to be a fire that has been smouldering since last week's disorder incidents.

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Government Support Scheme for small and medium sized businesses

Small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) affected by the recent public disorders can now benefit from a new £20 million High Street Support Scheme.

The Government is making the funding available through local authorities to help SMEs and high streets get back on their feet following the disturbances.

The scheme will support businesses facing cash flow problems whilst they wait for insurance or other claims to be met. It will also help companies with non-refundable exceptional business expenses, and aims to help rebuild business confidence in affected areas.

To qualify for this support businesses must:

- be small or medium sized enterprises i.e. independents with less than 250 employees worldwide and an annual turnover of less than £11.2 million
- have been based in an area affected by recent disorder between 6-11 August, and
- have suffered losses as a direct result.

Businesses should contact their local authority to make a claim. More detailed information about the High Street Support Scheme and other help for businesses is available at businesslink.gov.uk

The Communities and Local Government website also has details of the support packages being made available for businesses:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1964311>

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