

1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates

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STOP AND SEARCH

A report by the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), co-founded by Iain Duncan Smith, has suggested that police increase their use of Stop and Search. The report follows what has been a surge in violent deaths in the capital – over 90 this year so far.

In both Glasgow and the US, a zero-tolerance approach has seen great success, which it is hoped might be replicated here in London.

The report said: "If London implemented a Safer Streets GVI (Group Violence Intervention) and achieved comparable reductions to those seen in Glasgow, Boston, and Cincinnati, it could save the lives of thousands of young Londoners over the next decade."

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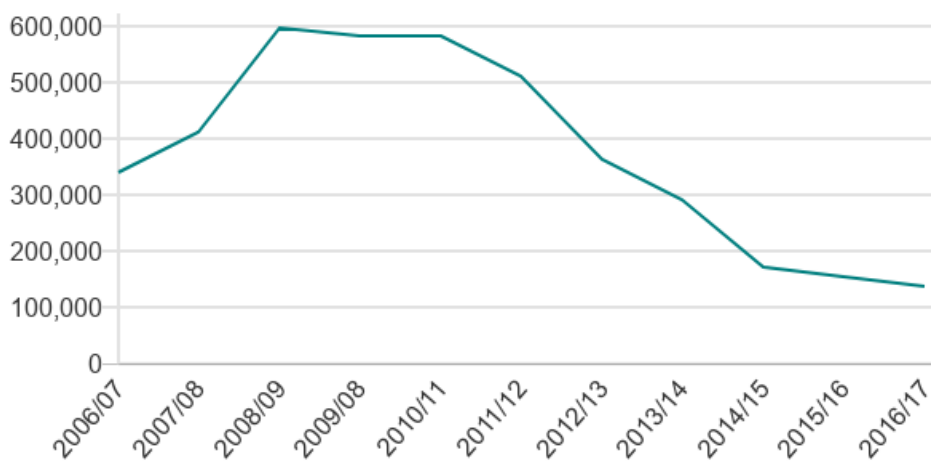
In the UK, the police codes outline that officers must have reasonable grounds for a stop and search, and should not be biased towards a particular person or group.

This form of policing is historically contentious and many feel it is often racially targeted; however, the report urges greater scepticism about claims of racial disparity over those stopped and searched.

Figures quoted in the report said more than three-quarters of those asked supported police using stop and search powers, while 70% backed the idea of police using the powers even when there is no "reasonable suspicion" of criminality.

Sadiq Khan has commented that: "When stop and search is used properly, it's an invaluable tool to the police." However, statistics show a dramatic fall in such searches over the past decade, from approximately 600,000 in 2010-11 to about 125,000 in 2017-18.

Stop and searches carried out in London



Source: Home Office (figures exclude City of London)

Mr Duncan Smith said: "There are two essential elements to the report - the first is that policing alone does not reduce gangs, it has to come hand in hand with local activity - getting young kids out of the gangs and into work and education.

"The report recommends that in the areas where this gang activity is highest, we need to bring in a process, which actually puts a safer streets zone into place which intelligence-led policing can stop and search those who may be carrying knives."

"When stop and search is used properly, it's an invaluable tool to the police."



BRENT CCTV

Brent Council has a new CCTV control room at the Civic Centre. Councillors on Brent's cabinet heard in March last year that the old analogue system was "archaic" and more costly to maintain in the long run. Consequently, councillors approved a £2.3m upgrade.

Tom Miller, Brent's Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, said: "The old system served Brent well for over 20 years but needed replacing, and now our residents can rest assured that our public spaces are being protected by the very latest digital system. It will lead to better surveillance and help our security patrols and the police respond to incidents more quickly."

The modernised control centre has a new monitor wall with 14 large screens. The council plans more high definition cameras for the town centres and more deployable cameras for hotspot locations, or for when issues arise quickly. The centre will be manned all year, and share information from the cameras with police.



AIRPORT SECURITY

Removing items from hand luggage may become a thing of the past – improving the speed people can travel through airport security. Heathrow airport is the latest airport – after Amsterdam's Schiphol and New York's JFK – to trial a technology that can fully scan every item inside a piece of hand luggage.

A small number of trials of the new scanner started this Spring. Airport scanners that provide 3D images and let security staff see completely inside baggage use a process called computed tomography (CT). This is the same process as medical CT scans that allow doctors to see inside patients.

CT technology isn't new; airports have used CT machines to inspect baggage for around 20 years. But until now, the machines were large, slow, and the computing power to quickly process images while people wait wasn't easily available.

All that is changing. As a result, it is likely more airports will start trialling CT machines and hopefully queuing times can be reduced.



LOCAL CRIME

St John's Wood Mugging

Delaney Foster, 35 and Sophie McDonnell, 24 were both convicted and will be sentenced for attacking a 90-year-old man as he entered the lift in a block of flats in Jerome Crescent.

At 07:10 in the morning on November 22, 2017, the man was visiting a friend when Foster and McDonnell approached him from behind, struck him around the head and took his wallet, containing the victim's pension cash and his bank cards.

School children witness Hendon stabbing

A 38-year-old was walking with his father on 2nd July when they were ambushed by a gang in Hendon. The victim tried to fight back but was stabbed and died from the wound, as children laving nearby St Mary's High School, Hendon School and the Gan Menachem nursery witnessed the events.

Two girls, aged 16 and 17, and two boys, aged 19 and 20, were arrested shortly afterwards and were being quizzed by detectives.

Camden police chase

On 10th August, officers identified a silver Volkswagen Golf acting suspiciously on Cliff Villas in Camden. They followed the Golf and manoeuvred behind it, at which point the vehicle reversed and rammed into the police car before driving away at speed.

The driver of the Golf drove through red lights, across pedestrian areas, and travelled the wrong way down one-way streets in an attempt to lose the police officers who were in pursuit. A number of items were seen to be thrown from the vehicle including a large machete.

Three males - two aged 17 and one aged 21 - were arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon, failing to stop, and dangerous driving. All three were taken to a north London police station but have since been released under investigation.



HOME SECURITY TOP TIPS

Want to ensure you have thought of everything when it comes to keeping your home and contents safe?

Why not take a look at our short informative video, for the best tips on securing your home:

<https://www.1stclassprotection.co.uk/videos/>

