



# 1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Return of Violent Crime - 1

Twitter Flaw - 2

Distraction Burglaries - 3

Volleyball  
Championships - 4

Local News - 5

## VIOLENT CRIME RETURNING TO PRE-COVID LEVELS

Violent crime has climbed back to pre-coronavirus levels prompting warnings from London's mayor and Birmingham's police commissioner that it could escalate further as the pandemic crisis hits the economy.

Sadiq Khan has said he believed there was "a real risk of violent crime spiking as lockdown is eased" and demanded ministers make good shortfalls to police and youth services budgets to head off the perceived danger. The Labour mayor said he feared there could be a repeat of "the last decade of government austerity", which could cause violent crime to rise in London and across the UK.

CONTINUED...

Seventeen homicides have been recorded in the capital in July, the highest monthly total this year and two more than last year, while all recorded violent crime climbed back above the average in June, again for the first time this year.

In early August, a murder investigation was launched after a 32-year-old man was stabbed to death at a party in Hounslow, west London. A few hours earlier a man had died following a fatal shooting in Enfield, north London. Five others were injured in shootings that took place in three separate incidents on Friday night.

David Jamieson, the police and crime commissioner for West Midlands police said crime has come “bouncing back” after lockdown eased but added that his principal concern was about the months ahead.

Data from West Midlands shows a similar picture to London, with violent crime in June at its highest monthly level in at least 12 months and 17% higher than June last year – and particular concerns loom about an upsurge in gang activity.

“It almost feels like the criminals are playing catch-up,” Jamieson said.

The crime commissioner added: “My greatest concern is the trajectory; I am worried that it won’t plateau at this level” fearing the impact the crisis will have in a city with a disproportionately young population.

“I have profound concerns that we will have a mass of younger people who are unemployed who become available to do things like crime. I’m also concerned about children who have missed masses of their schooling – for some children six months of their education has been lost,” he said.

Prof Tim Newburn, of the London School of Economics, said: “If you put together the educational dislocation with the more than once in a generational economic downturn, you cannot be comfortable about the likely future trends for crime. Any serious politician, or police officer, should be concerned”.

**"I have profound concerns that we will have a mass of younger people who are unemployed, who become available to do things like crime."**



## TWITTER SECURITY FLAW

Millions of Twitter users will be asked to update their Android app after the company found a security flaw. Twitter said the vulnerability could let other malicious apps access private information such as direct messages.

It said most users were already protected by an Android security update, but 4% were still vulnerable. Twitter said anyone still affected by this flaw would get an in-app notification "to let them know if they need to do anything".

"We don't have evidence that this vulnerability was exploited by attackers," it added. But it acknowledged "we can't be completely sure" and was taking the highly unusual steps "to keep the small group of potentially vulnerable people safe".

Twitter claims to have more than two billion users, and Google's Play app store says it has been installed more than a billion times onto Android devices. But an exact count of affected users has not been disclosed.

Twitter publicly announces "monetisable" daily active users, which are those who see ads. It currently has 186 million of them, but does not provide a breakdown by platform.

Twitter disclosed the flaw on its privacy blog, but did not say how long the loophole had been open for. It comes weeks after a high-profile Twitter hack that gained access to the company's systems, allowing major celebrities' accounts to be compromised.



## DISTRACTION BURGLARIES

Detectives have released E-FIT images of two men sought in connection with two distraction burglaries targeting elderly victims in east London that they are treating as linked.

Both incidents took place on the same day, Wednesday, 22 July, and within a short time of each other.

At around 12:30hrs, an 89-year-old woman left the address she shares with her 90-year-old husband in Gosset Street E2, to go shopping. She was approached by a man in the street wearing a blue lanyard who told her an explosion had taken place and that he needed to go into all of the flats to check the water pipes.

The victim agreed to take the man to her address, at which point they were joined by another man who followed them. Inside the property one of the men began moving materials from under the sink while the other suspect went into the living room, where the victim's husband was sat. Both men then left a short time later.

The female victim was confused as to why one of the men had entered the living room. She asked her husband what the man had done. He was confused but responded that a man had come in and had taken a black bag. The elderly woman then realised the man had taken a handbag containing around £4,000 in cash.

In the second incident, an 85-year-old man and his 77-year-old wife were at their home in a small residential street near Mabley Green in Homerton. At around 14:30hrs, two men knocked on the door, claiming to be from Thames Water. They said an explosion had taken place down the street and that they needed to check the water.

The male victim was directed to go upstairs and turn the taps on while the elderly woman looked down the street to see what had happened. A short time later, both men left.

Later on, the victims left for a GP appointment and became suspicious when they noticed that they could not see any works taking place in the area. They returned home and searched their bedroom, discovering that around £400 had been stolen, as well as sentimental jewellery including an engagement ring and Star of David necklace.

Detective Constable Tom May, Central East Command Unit CID said:

"Though both sets of victims were physically unharmed, they have been left distraught by the callous actions of two men who have preyed on vulnerable, elderly people. The incidents are made all the more disturbing by the fact that one of the victims was an elderly man who had recently suffered a stroke and was being cared for by his wife.

"I urge anyone who recognises the men in these E-FIT images - or anyone who has been approached in a similar fashion - to contact us immediately.



## SERVING UP AN ACE PARTNERSHIP

1st Class Protection will be sponsoring the kit for Volleyball England's U18, U20 and U22 teams at the CEV European Volleyball championships this September.

We are so excited to follow England's progress, not least because of the fact our Office Administrator, Anna, has two sons participating in the U18 and U20 tournaments.

We will be eagerly following their progress. Come on England!



## LOCAL CRIME

### NW6 Murder

A murder investigation has been launched following the death of a man in north-west London. Police were called to reports of a shooting in Hansel Road, NW6, at 00:20hrs on Wednesday, 12 August.

Officers, including armed officers, and London Ambulance Service attended the scene. A man, believed to be aged in his 20s, was found suffering a gunshot injury – he was pronounced dead at the scene.

There have been no arrests and enquiries by homicide detectives from the Met's Specialist Crime Command are ongoing.

### Policewoman Injured - HA8

An officer has been injured while arresting a man in Edgware.

Police were called at 10:25hrs on Sunday, 16 August, to a report of a suspect in the garden of a residential address in Manor Park Crescent, Edgware.

Officers attended and found a male suspect in the garden, where he stabbed a female PC in the face using a pen. The officer has been taken to hospital for treatment. Her condition is not life-threatening; we await a full assessment.

The 39-year-old man was detained and arrested on suspicion of breach of bail in addition to offences against the officer including threats to kill and GBH.

A Taser was discharged by officers in order to detain the man. He was taken to hospital for treatment.