



# 1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates

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## LONDON BURGLARY

WESTMINSTER is more prone to burglary than any other neighbourhood in England and Wales, recording more than eight times the national average rate, according to the latest crime figures.

There were almost 236,000 burglaries across England and Wales between mid-2021 and mid-2022, a slight decrease on the previous year.

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Westminster is the burglary capital of Britain, the Fitzrovia West and Soho neighbourhood seeing more incidents of the crime than anywhere else in the country (338). And the Strand, St James and Mayfair neighbourhood, also in the borough, recorded the highest rate per 1,000 residents, at just under 34. Police figures show someone was charged in just over five percent of burglary cases during that time.

Jeffrey DeMarco, assistant director at the charity Victim Support said: "The impact of a burglary goes beyond just the financial losses – (...).

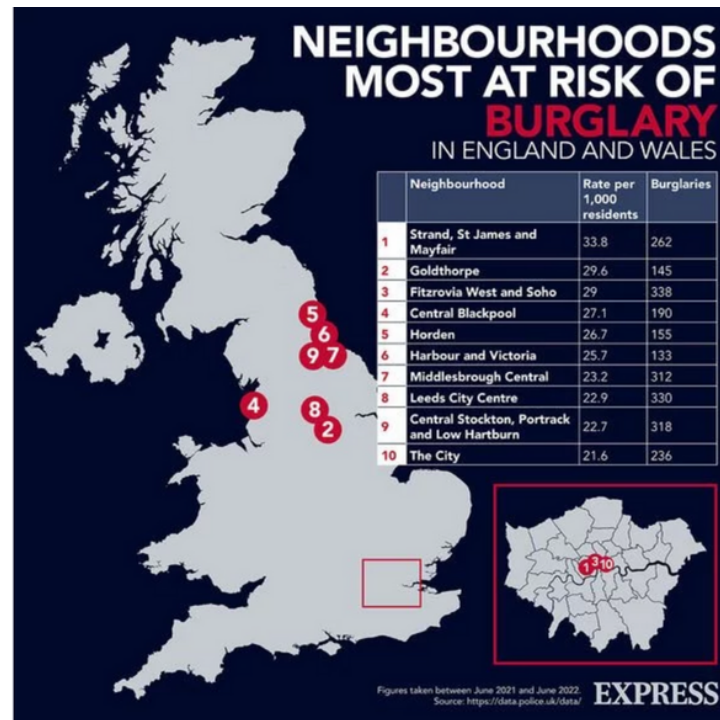
"A burglary is an invasion of that space and can deeply unsettle people's sense of security. It could mean the loss of treasured belongings and memories that can never be replaced."

The Fitzrovia West and Soho neighbourhood of Westminster suffered more burglaries than anywhere else in England and Wales with 338. Relative to population size, the residents of Strand, St James and Mayfair in Westminster – which includes Buckingham Palace, Covent Garden and part of St James' Park – were more at risk of burglary than any other neighbourhood.

There were 33.8 burglaries for every 1,000 people living in that neighbourhood over the past year, the highest rate in all of England and Wales.

The number of house break-ins usually increases from July, continuing to rise until after Christmas when the number of burglaries drops off again, according to separate Home Office statistics.

Last year there were 42,521 residential burglaries between April and June. The number of home invasions then rose by 9.1 percent between July and September – when many people leave their homes to go on holiday – and again by 15 percent between October and December, before dropping by 6.8 percent between January and March.



**"The number of house break-ins usually increases from July, continuing to rise until after Christmas."**

## 'Hey Mum' Scam

WHATSAPP users are being warned to look out for a dodgy message that starts with "hey mum" after a number of parents ended up losing thousands of pounds to scammers.

Cruel fraudsters have scammed parents out of £1.5 million in just four months in the UK. The scammers usually claim they are texting from a new number because their phone was lost.

Earlier this year Patricia Land lost £2,200 to a scammer posing as her son.

She said she received a message "so clever" that read: "Hi Mum, my phone has fallen, it's completely broken, I've had to get a new one, can you save this new number' then some kisses."

She said: "You hear about scams, a long-lost relative who wants you to follow a link, but this was personal - it makes you feel violated."

Criminals typically begin the conversation with "Hello Mum" or "Hello Dad", and will say they're texting from a new number as their phone was lost or damaged. They then ask for money to purchase a new one, or claim that they need money urgently to pay a bill. The criminal will provide bank details for the payment to be made to, with some coming back with further demands for money.

### TIPS TO AVOID FALLING VICTIM:

- Directly contact the person the scam is pretending to be to check they are genuine.
- If they don't want to speak on the phone, it's an obvious red flag that they aren't who they say they are.
- Never send money or give bank details to someone you believe could be a scam - if you have any doubts you should contact your bank immediately.



## WALK AND TALKS

Women working and living in London can Walk & Talk with officers to share their thoughts on safety and how to bring about positive change.

### How the scheme works

Walk & Talks are open to women aged 18 and above, living or working in London, who would like to go for a walk with an officer in their local area and discuss their views on women's safety.

Those who take part in a Walk & Talk can share their views and experiences with officers as they walk through any areas they may feel vulnerable in.

Patrols can take place at any time, including those where there is less footfall, traffic and light so officers can get a real sense of what their thoughts are.

The aim of Walk & Talks is to start a conversation between members of the public and officers so we can listen and respond to concerns.

To register follow the instructions on the [Met Police website](#).



## LOCAL CRIME

### Shooting in Brent

Police were called to Canterbury Terrace close to Princess Road, NW6, shortly after 21:30hrs on Sunday, 21 August to reports of a shooting. Officers attended along with paramedics from London Ambulance Service. A man and a woman, both aged 27 years old, were found with gunshot wounds.

They were taken to hospital, where their injuries were assessed as non life-threatening. The woman has since been discharged.

Detectives from the Specialist Crime Command are investigating. They have established that the victims were shot whilst in a car. The suspect fled the scene in a red car. Detective Inspector Gemma Alger, said: "I am appealing to anyone who was in the area at the time of the shooting, who saw or heard anything, to please come forward and speak with us."

### Notting Hill Murder

At around 20:00hrs on Monday, 29 August, officers became aware of a stabbing in Ladbroke Grove.

Officers provided emergency first aid to 21-year-old Takayo until the arrival of paramedics.

He was taken to a west London hospital where, despite the best efforts of medical staff, he was sadly pronounced dead.

Takayo's next of kin were informed. They continue to be supported by specialist officers. A murder investigation was launched led by Detective Chief Inspector James Shirley of the Met's Specialist Crime Command.

As yet there have been no arrests made.

### Knife-point Robberies in Camden

Four members of a gang who carried out knifepoint robberies across Camden and Islington have been sentenced following an investigation by the Central North Robbery Squad.



They had previously appeared at Wood Green Crown Court, where they submitted 27 guilty pleas to robbery and possession of a bladed article in connection with 19 separate offences. The hearing concluding on Tuesday, 14 June.

Between January and March 2021, a series of knife-enabled robberies across Camden and Islington were linked via a common motive where predominantly lone males were approached and accused of robbing one of the suspects' cousins.

The victims would usually be led away from busy thoroughfares and into side streets where knives would be intimidated, or sometimes brandished, and the victims assaulted before they were made to hand over mobile phones, cash, headphones and other valuables.

The victims were aged between 14 and 40 and detectives believe that they were chosen by the defendants either due to them being alone, or being smaller males in smaller groups than the defendants.

Detective Sergeant James Earle, of the Central North Command Unit, said: "We worked forensically to identify the suspects before gathering a wealth of witness accounts, CCTV and mobile phone data which amounted to overwhelming evidence, in light of which, the defendants had no option but to plead guilty. "This investigation perfectly highlights that robbery will absolutely not be tolerated and we will do everything in our power to identify the perpetrators and place them before the courts."