

1

1ST CLASS PROTECTION

1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Catalytic Converter
Theft - 1

London Murder Rates - 2

Violent Crime Fund - 3

Doorstep Theft - 4

Police Station Closures - 5

Local Crime - 5



CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

Car drivers across Britain are being warned that they could be at greater risk this year of the latest vehicle crime that's already rife in the capital. Catalytic converter thefts are worryingly prevalent in London, with organised criminals hacking the emissions-reducing devices - which contain expensive precious metals - from the underside of vehicles in broad daylight.

CONTINUED...



Damage caused by thieves frantically trying to strip them from vehicles are resulting in insurance claims of between £2,000 and £3,000, according to the AA, and in worst case scenarios have seen some motors written off entirely.

Analysis of the data shows how rife it has become in London. There were 15,237 recorded catalytic converter thefts over a three-year period in London - far more than anywhere else with Birmingham the second worst-hit area with 320 thefts over the same period.

Catalytic converters are, by law, fitted to all petrol cars manufactured from 1993 to reduce the harmful pollutants emitted from exhaust pipes. The devices take the gasses produced and convert them into water vapour and less harmful emissions via a series of chemical reactions.

They are made up of an array of valuable materials including palladium, rhodium and platinum - and criminal gangs are well aware of this small fortune stored beneath each vehicle.

According to research conducted by insurers Admiral, hybrid cars are ripe for thieves as the catalytic converters contain a higher concentration of precious metals and are generally less corroded. The Toyota Prius is among the list of cars criminals are preying on, as well as the Honda's hybrid version of the Jazz, the Toyota Auris hybrid and the Lexus RX hybrid SUV have also been identified by Admiral as prime targets.

Police tips to keep your car safe from catalytic converter thieves

- If possible, park in a locked garage or in a well-lit, densely populated area.
- If you don't have access to a garage, park close to fences, walls or kerbs with the exhaust being closest to the barrier; this will make the theft more difficult.
- Avoid mounting your car on the kerb to park as it gives thieves easy access.
- If your catalytic converter's bolted on ask your local garage to weld the bolts to make it more difficult to remove.
- Consider a 'cage clamp' which locks around the converter
- Speak to your car dealership about a tilt sensor that activates the alarm if someone tries to jack up your vehicle
- To help foil the thieves, catalytic converters can be uniquely marked in acid with a serial number.
- If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, report it to the police.

"There were 15,237 recorded catalytic converter thefts over a three-year period in London."

TOWNS AND CITIES WITH THE MOST RECORDED CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS IN THE LAST 3 YEARS

Rank	Town/City	2017/18 thefts	2018/19 thefts	2019/20 Thefts	Total
1	London	154	2,600	12,483	15,237
2	Birmingham	26	62	232	320
3	Coventry	23	31	233	287
4	Cambridge	4	20	142	166
5	Luton	5	33	63	101





LONDON MURDER RATES

London's murder rate has reached a three-year high, it has been reported, with deaths up a quarter on the previous year and eighteen murder investigations launched in the capital since the start of the year.

A murder investigation was launched recently after a 48-year-old woman, who has since been named as Anna Ousyannikov, was found dead in a residential property in Ealing.

Aspiring lawyer Sven Badzak, 22, was fatally stabbed in Kilburn, during a day of bloodshed, which saw several people stabbed in four separate incidents in Croydon, Wandsworth and Chislehurst on February 7th.

Speaking at the time, Superintendent Andy Brittain, Deputy Commander for the South Area Command Unit, said he was aware the "senseless violence" that took place within 24 hours would have caused concern for many people in local communities.

The Metropolitan Police said on Tuesday it had stepped up its response to violent crime with a surge of activity including more officers on the streets of the capital.

It began with extra officers deployed in south and north London on February 14th following the recent spate of stabbings in the capital.

Scotland Yard said the surge in activity led to the removal of an 18 inch zombie knife following an intelligence-led stop by police in south London and the closure of a cannabis factory in Southwark which contained an estimated £100,000 worth of the class B drug.

Commander Jane Connors, the Met's Violence Lead, said: "We are ready and prepared to deal with any potential violence that may become apparent as the lockdown restrictions ease.

"Our presence will be noticed, you will see officers on the streets carrying out a range of activity. This will also include the prevention of crime with reassuring the public at the forefront of officers' minds whilst carrying out their duties.

We want to hear from anyone who may have information that can protect our communities."



VIOLENT CRIME FUND

Sadiq Khan has pledged to pump £6m into anti-violence schemes in crime hotspots across London.

The mayor's intervention comes after a string of killings including the fatal stabbings of Tyreke Watson, 21 and Anas Mezenner, 17, on the same street in Tottenham.

The money will be distributed by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) which works to tackle crime in the hardest hit communities.

Mayor Sadiq Khan, said: "The underlying causes of crime are complex and deep-rooted, made worse by a decade of Government cuts to policing, youth clubs and community services.

"I'm committed to being tough on crime by investing more in policing than any other mayor, and tough on the causes of crime by funding hundreds of positive opportunities for young Londoners in high crime areas of the capital."

DOORSTEP CRIME

With many more of us frequently ordering goods online, there are more and more opportunities for valuable packages to be left on the doorstep and stolen by opportunistic thieves.

Here are a few ideas for things you could do to reduce the risk of doorstep theft:

- track your parcel to ensure you or someone else is at home for the delivery
- install a video doorbell; this can be connected to your mobile so you are notified immediately of any delivery and is easier to install than a full CCTV system
- install a security light
- arrange for your parcel to be delivered to a trusted neighbour or other family member who will be home
- if you live in a flat, is there a concierge who could accept the parcel for you?
- Use an off-site locker service for frequent deliveries or for expensive items



POLICE STATION CLOSURES

Around 50% of Britain's police stations with front counters, where the public can talk to officers, have closed in the past decade, according to new analysis.

Although no official figures showing the number of national closures are available, an investigation by the Daily Mail suggests that at least 667 dedicated stations have been shut down since 2010.

Freedom of Information responses from 39 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales indicate that there are now fewer than 600 still open to the public.

Forces including the Met have launched online crime-reporting services, with the Mayor of London's office arguing that "people don't use police stations the way they once did".

But critics argue that the shift in behaviour has been forced by the station closures, and have "derided schemes such as 'virtual police officers' as ineffective for people who seek the reassurance of face-to-face contact and the privacy of a police station", says the Mail.

The closures have been blamed in large part on budgetary pressures. A 2018 Public Accounts Committee report found that "forces are selling off more of their assets to try and raise some funds for capital investment and increasingly drawing on their reserves".

The Covid pandemic has also prompted the temporary closures of many more stations that pundits fear "will never reopen", according to the paper.

LOCAL CRIME

Dog Theft in Barnet

A pet owner is pleading for the return of her pet dog after carjackers stole a dog walker's van in north London. The van, which had three dogs inside, was taken around 1pm in Barnet on Thursday 18th February.

One of the dogs' owners, Melina Georgiou, launched an appeal on Facebook for the return of her Maltipoo, Nala. "Our beautiful little 1 year old maltipoo called Nala was stolen this afternoon while the dogs were being dropped home from a walk by our dog walker".

The Metropolitan Police said: "Police were called at approximately 1.58pm on Thursday, 18 February after a vehicle was reported to have been stolen containing three dogs on Prospect Road, Barnet.

"Officers found the vehicle parked and unattended on Haslemear Road, Winchmore Hill. The vehicle was recovered and returned to owner, as was one of the dogs. Another dog was later found having been dumped in Kent. The search continues for Nala. No arrests have been made; enquiries into the circumstances are ongoing."

Charity, DogLost, saw reported thefts rise from 172 dogs in 2019 to 465 in 2020, as demand pushed up prices during the lockdown.

Firearms Offences in Barnet

Detectives have charged four men with firearms offences after two vehicles were stopped in Addison Way, Barnet, on Thursday, 18 February.

The four males were all charged on Friday, 19th February with possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, possession of ammunition and possession of ammunition with intent to endanger life.

Aggravated Burglary in Wembley

Officers are appealing for information after a gun was fired during a burglary in Wembley.

Police were called at approximately 01:25hrs on Thursday, 25th February to reports of a burglary at a residential property in The Drive.

Three men were reported to have entered the property before demanding money. They threatened the four occupants and hit one of them over the head with a gun. The group realised there was no money and left the property. A shot was fired towards a nearby wall as they were leaving.

No serious injuries were reported. Officers from the Met's Specialist Crime Command (Trident) are investigating and are appealing for information from anybody who saw suspicious activity in the area at the time.

GET SOCIAL



We are on Instagram!

Why not follow us for more regular news and updates? [@1stclassprotection_uk](https://www.instagram.com/1stclassprotection_uk)