1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates

1ST CLASS PROTECTION

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

BURGLARY HOTSPOTS

New data has revealed the boroughs in London where you are most likely to be a victim of burglary, with a number of areas close to topping the list.

It also shows that more than 75% of investigations into burglaries - led by the Met Police - fail to identify or apprehend a suspect.

The data, which was compiled by Secom in the year from September 1st 2020 until August 31st 2021, also reveals that Hackney is the worst-hit borough for break-ins, with 2,687 homes burgles during that time period.

CONTINUED...

It was closely followed by Barnet with 2,638 recorded burglaries, and Tower Hamlets in third place with 2,612.

Despite being a tourist hotspot, the borough of Westminster was also high on the list, with 2,376 incidents.

A Met spokesperson said: "Burglary continues to be a challenge and that remains the case in London. However, we currently have a 32% reduction in burglary offending compared to the comparative period over the past two years.

"In order to enhance the Met's response to burglary, we have appointed a dedicated lead responsible officer to drive activity, acting Chief Superintendent Paul Trevers.

"We have invested in teams focused on improving the initial and secondary investigations of burglary and robbery across each basic command unit.

"We also have a dedicated team with oversight and investigation of forensic hits, for example, fingerprint, DNA, and CCTV images. Burglary offences make up nearly 50% of these investigations."

"Most cars are targeted while parked outside the owner's home, either on a driveway (39%) or on the street (27%)."
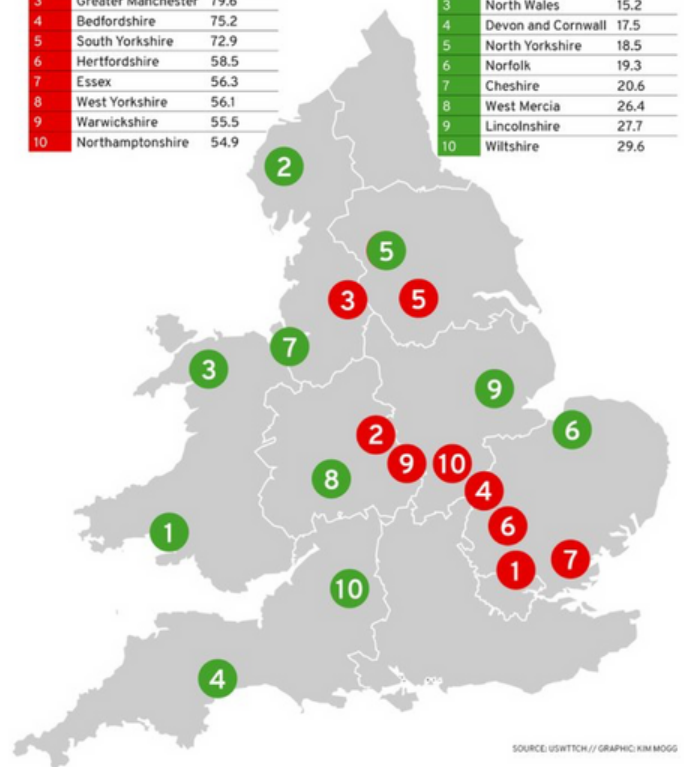
VEHICLE CRIME

London has been revealed as the worst spot for car crime in England and Wales in a new study which names the regions with the highest and lowest rates of theft from and of vehicles.

The study used government data from the last five years to identify the areas with the most crimes per head of population, revealing that the drivers in the capital are far more likely to be a victim than anywhere else in the country.

Highest and lowest rates of vehicle crime in England & Wales

Rank	Area	Vehicle Crime Rate per 10,000	Rank	Area	Vehicle Crime Rate per 10,000
1	London	113.0	1	Dyfed-Powys	12.1
2	West Midlands	87.0	2	Cumbria	14.1
3	Greater Manchester	79.6	3	North Wales	15.2
4	Bedfordshire	75.2	4	Devon and Cornwall	17.5
5	South Yorkshire	72.9	5	North Yorkshire	18.5
6	Hertfordshire	58.5	6	Norfolk	19.3
7	Essex	56.3	7	Cheshire	20.6
8	West Yorkshire	56.1	8	West Mercia	26.4
9	Warwickshire	55.5	9	Lincolnshire	27.7
10	Northamptonshire	54.9	10	Wiltshire	29.6

SOURCE: USWITCH // GRAPHIC: KIM MOGG

With a rate of 113 vehicle crimes per 10,000 people, London was far ahead of the West Midlands which, with 87 crimes per 10,000 people, was second on the list.

Greater Manchester (79.6), Bedfordshire (75.2) and South Yorkshire also featured high up on the list of car crime hot spots in the data compiled by USwitch.

The figures show that overall vehicle crime in England and Wales fell by 8.7% over the period from March 2016 to March 2021 - from 365,037 to 336,650 - but reveal significant geographical differences. Offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police actually increased 22% in the period, whilst it fell in other areas.

The research also dug into the where and when of car crime and found that most cars are targeted while parked outside the owner's home, either on a driveway (39%) or on the street (27%).

Longer-term data also suggested that criminals are apparently becoming more brazen. Crimes committed during daylight accounted for 19% of offences in 2009-10 but 35% in 2019-20.

The analysis comes after police chiefs warned that vehicle crime was rising and blamed crooks exploiting keyless entry systems.

Relay attacks, where criminals use transponders to intercept the signal from a key fob and fool the car's systems into unlocking and starting the vehicle, are a growing problem as more modern cars come with the technology.

Last year the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) warned that keyless related thefts were increasing and urged drivers to protect themselves.

Thefts of catalytic converters from cars are also increasing as criminals look to cash in on the rising value of the precious metals contained in the components.

TIPS TO PREVENT VANDALISM

Please see the tips below, as published by the Met Police, for how to prevent your belongings being vandalised.

1. Keep it visible

It might feel like your house is more secure behind a high wall or fence but the fact it can't be seen from the street could make it a more tempting target.

Make sure your property can be easily seen by your neighbours and the public by ensuring hedges, fences and walls at the front are no higher than one metre. That way, you're not giving an intruder anywhere to hide.

Clever use of lighting can also help to keep burglars at bay. We recommend dusk-till-dawn, low-level white lighting, especially in vulnerable, low visibility areas such as the side or the rear of the property.

Lights should be a minimum of three metres above ground with vandal-resistant casings.

2. Create a boundary

By doing this, you're marking your territory, and anyone crossing that line uninvited or unauthorised is trespassing.

You can do this in a number of ways, such as a low fence, wall, hedge, flower bed or small bushes. Best to avoid a rockery or large stones as they can be used by vandals.
And if you're having your driveway done, make it a different colour to that of the road.

3. Protect what's yours

Be sure to safeguard vulnerable points such as ground floor windows with one-metre high sharp, prickly bushes. Nature's barbed wire, can offer protection and look good too.

Security film – a clear or opaque covering that can be stuck onto windows – makes it harder to smash the glass.

White walls attract vandals with spray cans but anti-graffiti coatings that prevent paint from bonding to surfaces are great deterrents.

4. Don't make it easy for them

There's more to security than keeping gates closed and doors, windows and sheds locked.

If you have a surface which anyone can sit on – like a ledge or a low wall – make sure it's not 'bottom-friendly'. For example, planters with prickly plants look nice but are a pain for anyone just hanging around or any uninvited guests. Also, secure the side and rear boundary of your property with a two-metre high fence topped with a trellis, which is lightweight and unable to support a person. What's more, it makes an awful noise if anyone tries to use it to gain access.

5. Keep it tidy

It's a fact that rubbish attracts rubbish. If a property is messy, some people won't think twice about adding to it or simply hanging around in the area.

A neat and tidy property conveys a sense of order. That's why we advise not to leave rubbish, ladders, wheelie bins or anything else that could be used for burglary or vandalism lying around.

LOCAL CRIME

Stabbing NW London
A man has been stabbed to death in North West London. Police rushed to reports of a large fight near the junction of Review Road and Heather Road, Brent, at 11.26pm on Thursday, February 24.

They found a 35-year-old man suffering from stab injuries. He was given emergency first aid by officers and later by paramedics but was pronounced dead at the scene.

Three men were arrested in the early hours of Friday 25th February in connection with the incident. They all remain in police custody.

Enfield Murder.
A 33-year-old woman has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a 58-year-old woman was discovered dead in a home in Enfield.

The victim was pronounced dead by officers when they arrived at Church Street at 8.30pm on Monday 21st February 2022.

The force have informed her next of kin and a post-mortem examination into the cause of death will take place in the coming days.

Chief Superintendent Simon Crick, responsible for local policing in Enfield and Haringey, said: "I am deeply saddened by this tragic loss of life. My thoughts and condolences are with the victim's family and friends.

North London Flasher
A man on rollerskates flashed himself at more than seven women over a two-month period at various locations across North and West London. He would approach women walking alone - apart from one occasion - and expose and touch himself in front of them.

He is described as being a white man, approximately 6ft tall, with a bald head and wearing roller skates.

The incidents took place between December 4 2021 and January 26, 2022. The incidents took place at the following locations:

- 10pm on Jan 26 on Regent's Canal, near Oval Road, NW1.
- 7.45pm on Jan 14, in a tunnel in Goods Way, N1.
- 9.30pm on Jan 13, in Wapping Woods, E1.
- 12.20am on Jan 7, in Park Lane, W1.
- 5.20am on Jan 4, in Praed Street, W2.
- 2.30am on Dec 2, 2021 in Charlton Street, NW1.
- 1am on Dec 4, 2021 in Grove End Road, NW8.