

1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates

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MOPED CRIME

In recent weeks there have been a number of high profile moped-related crimes in London. Most publicised was the story that comedian Michael McIntyre was assaulted in Hampstead by a moped gang, who smashed in his car windows and wrestled him for his Rolex in front of his son.

Whilst 827 moped-related offences were reported in 2012, more than 23,000 were reported last year with 40% of offences occurring in the London boroughs of Camden and Islington.

Moped crime is usually committed on stolen mopeds and scooters; effectively, there are two stages to this crime. Due to mounting car insurance premiums and the popularity of food delivery services, such as Deliveroo – there has been a general increase in mopeds on the roads, which are easy targets for thieves in this first stage.



Typically, the thieves ride with two people on a moped. When the driver sees a pedestrian on their phone, they will swerve towards the pavement and then the pillion passenger can grab the phone or bag. It is very quick and, for an unsuspecting victim engrossed in their conversation, they can do little about it. However, moped criminals are also targeting jewellery and luxury stores, as well as those in cars, as in the case of Michael McIntyre.

Commentators have noted that contributing to the problem is the fact that we have become 'Phone Zombies' - increasingly staring at our screens whilst out and about and wholly unaware of our surroundings.

Frustratingly, there is little that can be done by the authorities: criminals are aware that police cannot chase them if they are without a helmet and, in any case, it is incredibly difficult to chase a motorbike or moped in central London without substantial reinforcements or risking public safety. Lightweight police scooters and DNA sprays have been introduced as a way to deter moped gangs; however, the effectiveness of these is yet to be determined.

We have put together some advice to help prevent you becoming a victim of moped crime. You should always remain aware and avoid using your phone when walking about on the street but if it is not feasible:

**"More
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1. Keep conversations brief
2. Don't walk near the road side whilst using your phone
3. Keep your handbag away from the road side
4. Try to look around for mopeds / activity before stopping to send a message
5. Talking hands free will keep your phone out of view
6. Maximising the security features on your phone will make it difficult for thieves to access and/or sell on

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CHANGES TO LONDON POLICING

By 2021/22, the Metropolitan Police Service aims to merge the current 32 London boroughs into 12 Basic Command Units, or BCUs. It is thought that this will reduce costs by up to £325m by that time.

Police officers will therefore patrol significantly larger areas, leaving some doubting the effectiveness of policing in this new format. Examples of these new BCUs would be: Camden and Islington; Barnet, Brent and Harrow; and Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

Mark Simmons, the Deputy Assistant Commissioner, claims the BCU structure will allow the Met "to put first victims of crime and those people who need us the most". Seemingly, areas which typically see more crime or more serious crimes committed will be prioritised; however, will that consequently leave comparably 'safer' areas neglected?

London Mayor, Sadiq Khan argues that this decision is "driven" by Government budget cuts, but argues that the BCU model will prioritise the safety of Londoners, meeting "the needs of local people" and "tackling" local priorities.

The format is being rolled out this year and we will certainly be interested to see whether or not it can be an effective way to police London.



HOW SECURE IS YOUR PHONE?

Have you ever considered how easy it would be for thieves to sell your phone if it were stolen?

Police.UK has published some useful information on how to best protect your phone if it were to be stolen. If you want to check that you are making full use of the security features available to you, then take a look here:

<https://www.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/protecting-your-mobile-phone/>



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LOCAL CRIME

Edgware Moped Attack

A 24-year-old woman is in a critical condition in hospital after two men on a moped punched her and stole her mobile phone and bag. The woman was walking in Holyrood Gardens, Edgware, when she was assaulted by the passenger of the motorcycle around 9pm on 4th June - falling backwards and suffering a serious head injury.

NW10 Robbery

Police were called on 23rd May after an 87 year old woman was threatened and robbed in her home in NW10. The suspects entered the property via the rear garden and threatened the elderly victim with a knife. The two men then went upstairs and stole £1,000 cash and gold jewellery.

Justice for East Finchley Stabbing

Joseph Tripp, of Sylvester Road, N2 was last month found guilty at the Old Bailey of the murder of 55-year-old Derek McAllister. He was sentenced to 21 years' imprisonment. Tripp assaulted McAllister near to the junction with Huntingdon Road, in East Finchley in December 2015.

W1 Collision

A cyclist suffered critical injuries following a collision with a lorry on the 30th May on Seymour Street, W1. The injured 73-year-old cyclist was taken to a central London hospital where he remains in a critical condition. The lorry driver was arrested at the scene on suspicion of drug and dangerous driving.

COMPANY NEWS

We are proud to report that last month **1st Class Protection** were accredited by CHAS.

CHAS, or The Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme, are a leading authority on health and safety standards and we are proud to confirm our compliance, in accordance with their benchmark standards.



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