

1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates

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HATE CRIME

Police have recorded a surge in hate crime directed at people in England and Wales because of their religious beliefs.

There has been a 40% rise from 5,949 in 2016-17 to 8,336 in 2017-18, according to the Home Office data, with 52% of all offences aimed at Muslims.

Furthermore, the number of offences targeted at Muslims or Jews was far greater than their respective proportions of the population of England and Wales.

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According to Home Office data, the total number of hate incidents reached a record 94,098 from April 2017 to March 2018 – a rise of 17% from the previous year with over 71,000 classified as "race hate".

Crimes targeted at people because of their sexual orientation made up 12% of the total (11,638), with religious hatred at 9%, disability hate 8% (7,226) and transgender hate crimes 2% (1,651).

According to the police figures, the number of hate crimes has more than doubled since 2012/13, when 42,255 were recorded. It is partly because of improvements in the way crimes are reported, but there have also been spikes of hate crime after events like the Brexit referendum and the terror attacks last year.

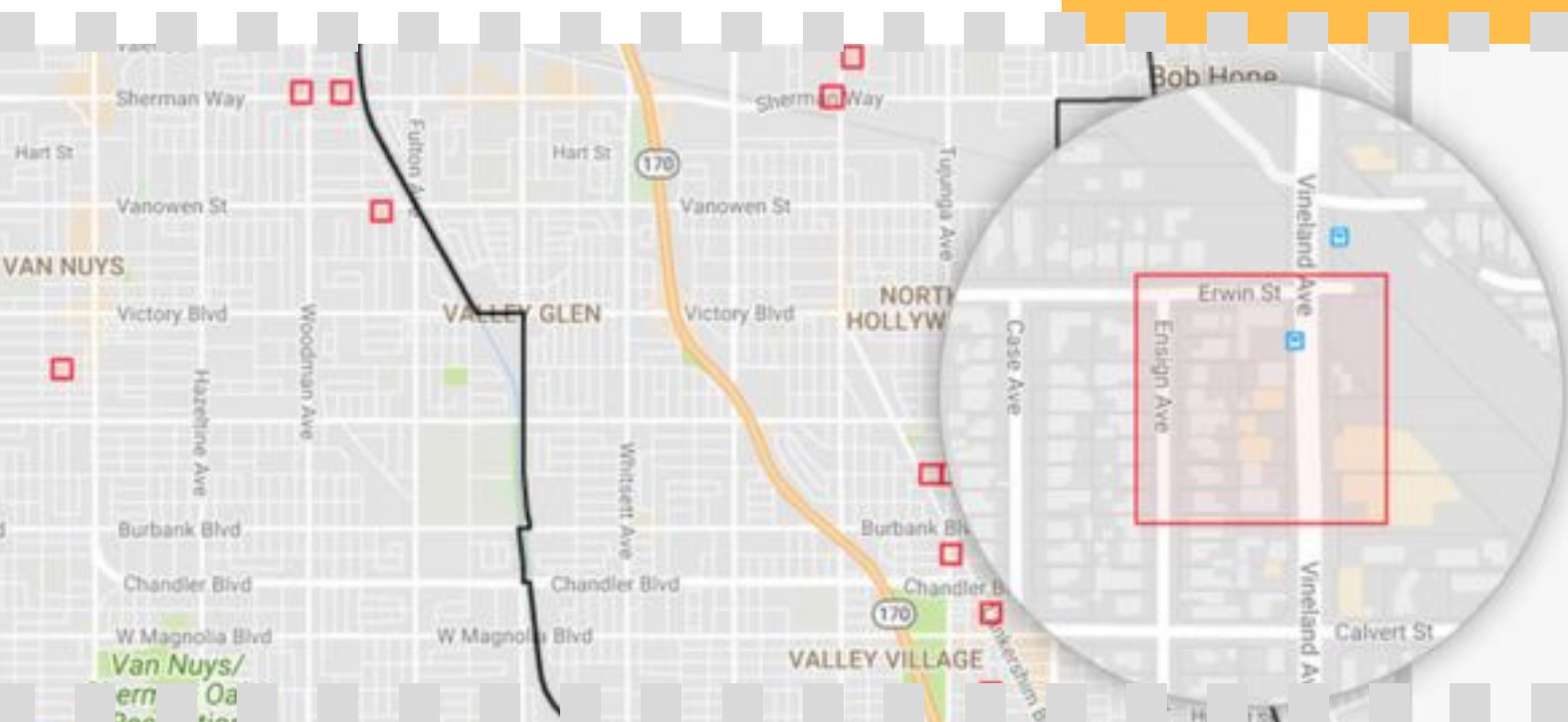
Interestingly, the separate Crime Survey of England and Wales, which is a broader measure of people's experience of crime, showed no rise.

The Home Office report said the large increases in police recorded hate crime "may suggest that increases are due to the improvements made by the police in their identification and recording of hate crime offences and more people coming forward to report these crimes rather than a genuine increase".

"The total number of hate incidents reached a record 94,098 from April 2017 to March 2018 – a rise of 17% from the previous year."

"PREDICTIVE POLICING"

Predpol – short for predictive policing – is a California-based tech firm, which claims its data algorithms can be used to predict crimes before they occur, allowing the police to actively patrol suggested areas in an attempt to reduce crime.



More than 50 police departments across the US use PredPol software, as well as a handful of forces in the UK. Kent Constabulary, for example, says street violence fell by 6% following a four-month trial.

Taking years of historic data, including the crime type, crime location and crime date, Predpol uses a machine-learning algorithm, updated daily, to predict when and where specific crimes are most likely to occur.

Experiments run by the University of California in collaboration with the Los Angeles Police Department demonstrated that "algorithmically driven forecasts could predict twice as much crime and, when used in the field, prevent twice as much crime as existing best practice," says PredPol co-founder and anthropology professor, Jeff Brantingham.

Predictions are displayed on a map using colour-coded boxes, each one representing a 500 sq ft (46 sq m) area. Red boxes are classed as "high risk" and officers are encouraged to spend at least 10% of their time there.

But predictive policing has its critics. Frederike Kaltheuner, data programme lead at Privacy International, wonders whether it will also be used to predict police violence and white collar crime, or simply used against communities that she says are already marginalised.

Citizens also need to decide whether a reduction in crime is worth the potential assault on civil liberties should such technology be misused or abused by those in power. It will certainly be interesting to follow whether the police continues their trials here in the UK and chart whether this could really make an impact on the reduction of crime.



iPHONE HACKING

At least three police forces in England have spent thousands of pounds on hacking technology to access locked iPhones.

Officers in Lancashire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire have purchased licences for systems belonging to US-based firm, Grayshift.

The company, which has a former Apple engineer as a senior member of staff, emerged at the end of 2017 and can reportedly unlock iPhones running everything up to Apple's latest operating system, iOS 12.

It sells a small box, called GrayKey, that plugs into an iPhone and unlocks it, exploiting alleged vulnerabilities in Apple's software. Once an iPhone has been unlocked it is possible to access everything on the device, including messages, photos and activity logs.

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"It is part of a suite of tools used to complete criminal investigations," a spokesperson for Derbyshire Constabulary added.

Grayshift isn't the only firm that sells phone hacking technology – Israeli firm Cellebrite is the market leader, claiming to be able to unlock everything up to the iPhone X.

As always, there is debate between the benefits of using this technology as a key tool in criminal investigation versus a citizen's right to privacy.

LOCAL CRIME

Brent Cross Heist

Two moped raiders who terrorised shoppers as they smashed displays containing £1million of watches have been jailed for a total of 21 years.

In October last year, Kyle Ettienne and Lookman Shekoni, both 27, targeted a Watchfinder store at the Brent Cross shopping centre in north-west London.

They were part of a group of 6 men on 3 mopeds, who followed a bus in through a security checkpoint so that shoppers had to jump out of the way.

When the security alarm was activated by an employee, it activated a smoke screen; the gang panicked and fled empty-handed.

Police are still hunting the other four raiders.

Selfridges Smash and Grab

On 13th November an armed gang used a VW Golf and a Mini to smash into the luxury store in an attempt to steal designer handbags.

A security guard tried to stop the theft by running towards the Golf with a wet floor sign. He was hit by the car but not injured, before the gang fled the scene, abandoning the Mini and making off with tens of thousands of pounds worth of goods.

Detective Tom Aylward from Westminster police said:

"This raid was targeted and lasted a matter of minutes. My team are busy collecting witness accounts and recovering vital CCTV footage of the burglary at the store and of the suspects leaving the scene. Thankfully nobody was injured."

Diwali Donations Theft

Police have launched a manhunt after religious idols and Diwali donations were stolen from two north London temples in early morning raids last month. Officers also urged other faith leaders to be vigilant against future incidents.

The first happened at the Shree Swaminarayan Temple in Brent. Collection boxes of charitable donations from the Diwali celebrations were stolen, as well as religious idols from the altar.

The second burglary happened at the Shri Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple in Harrow.

The Met is urging other religious temples to take extra care in locking up and stowing away valuable items.



BRENT CROSS

THE TOY DROP

Last month, 1st Class Protection organised a collection of children's toys and clothing to assist the non-for-profit organisation, The Toy Drop, which organises gifts for children in distress around the world.

Last month's collection was in aid of the Jewish festival of Chanukah, providing orphaned children in Dniepropetrovsk, Ukraine, with gifts to celebrate the festival.

To find out more about the organisation and how you can help with future donations, find them on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheToyDrop/>



OUR BLOG: BLOCK DISRUPTION

Had a chance to check our blog yet?

In our latest post we look at some of the issues residents face from anti-social behaviour to rough sleepers and what we are doing to help.

<https://www.1stclassprotection.co.uk/blog/disruption-to-apartment-block-not-only-one/>



Wishing all of our customers a happy, restful and **safe** holiday season.

