

MPS Disorder Update for Businesses

Sunday 14th August 2011

Latest Information - Update

Large numbers of police continued to be on duty across London last night to robustly deal with any trouble and provide reassurance. The general picture across the MPS at present is one of 'business as usual'. There have been no significant issues overnight and no reports of any disorder.

A similar number of officers will be in the streets of London tonight. This will be reviewed on a daily basis.

Operation Kirkin continues to support the arrests of outstanding suspects.

Investigation - Update

The Metropolitan Police Service has now arrested a total of 1401 people in connection with violence, disorder and looting, and recovered a variety of stolen goods including TV's and mobiles. 808 of these have been charged.

They include:

- A 25-year-old man has been charged with handling stolen goods, namely consumer

electrical goods to the value of approximately £40,000 belonging to Dixons Retail Group. He appeared in custody at City of Westminster Magistrates on 11 August and was remanded to reappear at Highbury Magistrates Court on 17 August.

- Detectives from Operation Withern investigating the large fire at Reeves Furniture store in Reeves Corner, Croydon, as part of the disorder in the area on Monday 8 August made a fourth arrest on Saturday 13 August. We have previously arrested three people in connection with the incident.
- Officers from Bromley have arrested five men and recovered a substantial amount of property believed to have come from the looting earlier this week, including a large plasma TV, designer clothes, and other electrical items. The arrests took place on Friday 12 August when officers stopped and searched a suspicious vehicle. The TV, computer game consuls and games were found in the boot. Searches were then carried out at residential addresses, where further electrical goods, designer clothes, and other property were recovered.
- Seven people were arrested on Saturday 13 August in connection with the disorder in London following raids across Tower Hamlets and Islington. This was a pro active intelligence led operation, as part of Operation Withern, to recover stolen property and arrest those involved in recent incidents in Tower Hamlets and Hackney.

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We are ensuring that suspects are dealt with quickly. Significant numbers of these have been remanded in custody to appear at Crown Court.

This newsletter is being produced for the benefit of the whole of the business community. If there are any areas of advice or subject matter that you would like to see included in future issues please contact us via:

CommunitiesTogether@met.police.uk

Supporting businesses and the community

Local boroughs continue to engage with communities across London and providing information to us about suspected looters and those involved in violence. Police on the street are getting exceptionally positive feedback from members of the public and boroughs have received many emails and letters of thanks.

We continue to provide support to businesses and local communities by:

- Visiting shopping centres to give advice and reassure retailers.
- Working with Victim Support to assist with shop staff who have been traumatised as a result of looting.
- Reassurance patrols and joint patrols with youth workers as well as a strong police presence.
- Giving information about how police and councils are working together, such as council provision of street clean and repair services to affected traders and estates.

- Visiting places of worship to provide information and reassure communities.
- Community stakeholder meetings.

Events and Sporting Fixtures - Update

Yesterday's London football fixtures passed without incident.

The following events are scheduled to take place today:

- The Surrey Classic Road Race will take place today involving about 140 professional cyclists racing on closed roads in South West London and Surrey. For further details please see: www.tfl.gov.uk/gettingaround/20027.aspx
- Beach Volleyball -Olympic test event at Horseguards Parade, involving Olympic teams. This event is scheduled to finish at 10pm.
- Badminton World Championships at Wembley Arena.
- Protest against Indian Corruption/Poverty at the Indian High Commission, Aldwych at 10.30am.
- Elephant and Nun Static Festivals at Peckham and Camberwell from 11am.
- Pakistani Independence Day celebrations at Green Street.
- Pakistani Independence Day celebrations at Southall Town Centre at 4pm.
- Pakistani and Indian Independence Day events at Ilford Lane from 6pm.

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The MPS has not asked for all major events in London to be postponed. Any request for advice by event organisers is assessed locally and local decisions made.

Working with the Premier League - Update

We would like to thank the support of the various football clubs in London who used their PA systems during yesterday's matches to broadcast messages of support for communities and police, and their disapproval of violence and disorder.

Government support for business following recent public disorder

You can view updated information from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills by visiting their website www.bis.gov.uk, or alternatively by following them on twitter: @bisgovuk

Work is ongoing to promote the Government's support package, with a claims form available to download via the **Directgov** website: www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_198958

The following information has been taken from their website:

Making a claim for compensation

If your business has suffered loss or damage as a result of the disorder, you may be able to claim compensation.

If you have insurance, check that your policy covers riot damage. If it does, contact your insurer directly to claim.

If your insurance doesn't cover riot damage, or you don't have insurance at all, you may be able to claim compensation from your local police authority.

To claim, complete a claim form and send it to your local police authority. You can download this form, and find your local police authority, by following the links on the DirectGov website: www.direct.gov.uk

You have 42 days to make a claim for compensation. These 42 days are counted from the first 'clear day' after the disorder.

Transport Concerns

For those of you in the business community who may be concerned about travel arrangements for your staff, the latest travel advice can be found on the Transport for London website www.tfl.gov.uk

How can you and your business assist the investigation?

We would once again like to thank the many members of our business community who have been providing information to us about suspected looters and those involved in the violence. We continue to receive exceptionally positive feedback from members of the public.

We would urge you to continue helping us, including giving us any information on the

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identities of those wanted in connection with the disorder. As a result of the information we have received to date, including CCTV images, we have been able to make a significant number of arrests.

Anyone with information is reminded to call our incident room on 020 8345 4142.

You can continue to help us by sending information to the MPS Communities Together Strategic Engagement Team at:

CommunitiesTogether@met.police.uk

This email address is staffed 24/7 but they will not routinely respond to emails unless additional information is required.

Disorder Suspects Wanted

You can also help us by assisting in the identification of people that have been looting, rioting and committing crime.

Alternatively you can call the Crimestoppers charity anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

We also continue to publish images of people wanted in connection with the disorder. You can find the pictures at:

www.flickr.com/photos/metropolitanpolice/

Visit the link to see if you recognise any of the people we wish to speak to.

The CCTV images released can be seen at www.met.police.uk/disordersuspects

In order to assist with the reactive investigation we ask that you continue to consider the following points:

- Businesses should do all they can to ensure that their premises are as secure as can be.
- Victims of looting can expect police to seize CCTV footage. Businesses should ensure that footage is not erased and should be kept out of sight should looters gain access to premises and take the opportunity to destroy the recording equipment.

How can your business receive more information?

In response to a request made to Commander Rodhouse, the Metropolitan Police Services (MPS) engagement lead for Businesses, the MPS introduced a 24/7 capability to receive, and where feasible, to disseminate information to businesses.

Neighbourhood Link is a community messaging service from the MPS that provides news and information about policing activity or initiatives, crime prevention advice as well as major incidents affecting your area.

You may wish to consider subscribing to the official police messaging system 'Neighbourhood Link'. To subscribe to this service please visit:

www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk

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Those who wish to make a comment about the policing of the disorder can do so online at www.met.police.uk/contacts/

You can also follow live updates from the Metropolitan Police via Twitter on www.twitter.com/metpoliceuk

Regular updates will also be published on the MPS website www.met.police.uk

In the event of an emergency, call the police on 999. If you do not require an emergency police response, please call 101.

Should your business remain open?

Unless a business premises is declared a crime scene, it will remain the trader's decision as to whether they remain open or not.

When to contact the Investigation Team

Please be reminded that you should only contact the Operation Withern Investigation Team number **(020 8345 4142)** if you have specific information about those individuals who have been involved in the violence and disorder that has occurred across London over the past few days.

How can my business help protect itself?

Helpful 'Crime Prevention' advice has already been shared. This can be found on our website

at www.met.police.uk. You may wish to take the following precautionary measures:

1. Where possible retail premises should be suitably staffed with security guards.
2. Ensure staff report any suspicious activity to security and/or police.
3. Consider regular checks of the building and surrounding area.
4. Identify areas that are vulnerable to forced entry.
5. Make sure all service doors are kept locked and secure when not in use
6. Ensure your CCTV system is fully operational.
7. In case of an emergency is there a record of the names of keyholders who can be contacted.
8. Consider removing high value goods from display windows overnight.
9. Consider keeping as little cash as possible on the premises.
10. Ensure that your premises are secure and if fitted your alarm systems are fully operational.
11. In the event of a situation that does not require an emergency police response, call 101.
12. In the event of an emergency, call the emergency number 999.

In addition we would ask all businesses to consider their local environment. Where rubble, builders skips, flammable liquids, gas canisters etc are visible these should be locked away or removed completely from the area. It would also aid some investigations if lighting in the area is well maintained and working, with

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brightness levels set to higher levels than normal.

Fire Risk

Fires can be used as a tactic to provide a focal point for protesters seeking to attract extensive media attention. They can also be used to destroy evidence of criminality and distract emergency services, drawing them into confrontational situations.

Fire risk assessment and arson prevention arrangements should be reviewed accordingly. Simple good housekeeping measures such as the removal of any flammable and combustible materials stored adjacent to the premises, for example, stacks of pallets or waste materials, can reduce risk as these items can be easily ignited and any fires started in them can quickly spread to your building.

Ensure that first aid fire fighting equipment and extinguishers are maintained and available to deal with any small fires. Staff should be properly trained to use any equipment provided and instructed to avoid unnecessary risk. If there is any doubt, evacuate all persons from the building immediately.

Reduce the storage of flammable materials and stock near to windows and entrance.

Particular attention should be given to arrangements to secure the safety of staff and customers from fire. Fires started using accelerants such as petrol bombs can spread very quickly, cutting off escape routes. Accelerants can cause very rapid fire spread

and increase the risk that the entire building will become involved in fire, especially where there is a delay in any fire service response due to the security situation.

Past experience suggests that in these situations some people consider remaining on their property to protect it from looting and damage. However, due to the risk of rapid fire spread, this can be extremely hazardous and has led to fatalities in previous events. Refuge in the upper floors of a building that has been targeted should be avoided as it is easy to become trapped.

For information surrounding fire safety and prevention, as well as the response from the London Fire Brigade to the disorder, businesses are advised to visit the website www.london-fire.gov.uk or follow their tweets on Twitter @Londonfire

How can businesses report a crime?

In an emergency always call 999, otherwise you can contact us by:

- Calling 101 to report a crime that has already happened, seek crime prevention advice or make us aware of any policing issues in your local area;
- Via our website at www.met.police.uk;
- Via your local police station; or
- By speaking to your local Safer Neighbourhoods team.

If you find that your Business has been damaged by disorder then you must ensure the police are called at the earliest opportunity. It is

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vital that you preserve the premises, and don't touch or move anything if possible so we can consider any forensic opportunities.

If the matter is urgent then you should ring 999 or otherwise the new 101 number. A police officer will attend and discuss with you the best course of action for us to secure evidence to afford us the best chance to catch the criminals and the timescales to get your business back up and running at the earliest opportunity.

If your Business is behind police cordons or otherwise secured by us then you should contact the investigation team on

020 8345 4142.



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