

Professional Recovery Operators Federation
PROF
(By email)

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Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to personally thank you for your help and support this week for what has been a testing time for all of us. Sadly, it is expected that the disorder and other public order issues will go on into September 24. Notting Hill carnival is not that far away either.

There is no intelligence to suggest that Met contractors will be targeted. However, it is imperative that as you are part of the Met family you undertake some due diligence around your own security (CCTV, fencing, doors etc.). It would also be a good idea to reassure your staff particularly those who are moving vehicles or equipment that clearly display the Mets logo or that of any other police service in the UK. Your staff need to take extra care and be vigilant.

If you have any concerns then please do not hesitate to contact me or your normal contacts within the Met. I have shown below the latest communication to contractors and partners that you may find useful.

Met Comms - latest

Standing firm against violent disorder: This week has been very much dominated for the Met by the continuing challenges of public disorder and serious criminality associated with 'anti-immigration' and far-right gatherings, both in London and across the UK. We've been working hard to respond to the threat in London, support the national response, and ensure our communities who feel deeply threatened by what has happened elsewhere in the UK are as reassured as possible.

The Met's main focus was on Wednesday evening when a series of up to 100 gatherings by far-right groups and 'anti-immigrations' groups and their supporters had been announced to take place across the UK – including several in London.

Well Prepared: Ahead of Wednesday, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Andy Valentine, who was in charge of the Met's policing operation, said: "They've made their intention to cause disruption and division very clear. The scenes of racist, thuggish and criminal behaviour across the country have been deeply shocking. Members of the public and officers have been attacked, many have been injured. We will not tolerate this on our streets. We will use every power, tactic and tool available to prevent further scenes of disorder."



Just as the Met had arrested more than 110 people in central London disorder last week, we were clear that we would not hesitate to arrest hundreds more if necessary. On top of the officers already working in communities, more than 1300 specialist public order officers, dog handlers and mounted officers were deployed on Wednesday and hundreds continue to be readied every day ready to respond to any further threats of disorder or criminality.

Our investigative teams are using retrospective facial recognition technology to help identify anyone involved in criminality. Our message to the criminals was clear: "You will face the full force of the law." Setting the tone and community unity: For the most part, the far-right, anti-immigration gatherings failed to materialise on Wednesday evening, but thousands of Londoners, opposed to their violence and views came out in force. Two large anti-racism protests took place in Waltham Forest and Finchley. The majority of people engaged with officers and complied with conditions and these events passed without major incident or disruption.

Officers did face anti-social behaviour from a small group in Croydon who were not related to any protest, but were intent on causing trouble. On Thursday afternoon, after a video of a man addressing parts of the crowd at the Walthamstow protest was brought to our attention, a man was arrested on suspicion of encouraging murder and for an offence under the Public Order Act.

DAC Valentine said: "Our top priority has been to keep our communities safe, prevent significant disorder and swiftly deal with any offenders. A number of arrests were made across the city this evening...I want to thank our communities for coming together across the capital and for showing community spirit this evening. I would also like to thank the committed officers who have been working hard to police London, serving their communities and keeping people safe."

Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley said: "I think the show of force from the police and, frankly, the show of unity from the community has together defeated the challenges that we've seen." Keep standing together: Londoners in some parts of the capital will have seen more officers and this will continue. If anyone is concerned or needs our help, please speak to them. They are there to help. Throughout the week, officers have been visiting faith and community venues in their local areas to listen to the concerns of residents, to provide reassurance and to reaffirm our commitment to keep Londoners safe. We've seen our officers and our communities truly pull together in these difficult times and we are proud to stand together. Everyone can continue to play a role by not sharing inflammatory online speculation and giving our officers space to undertake their duties.

A national effort: Despite our city's challenges this week and last, it is clear that London had not been as badly affected by the violence and disorder as many other parts of the UK, particularly those in the North of England, and so it is right that the Met is contributing officers ready for deployment in these areas through the well-established mutual aid processes. You may be aware that London has benefited in recent months from officers from other forces helping to deal with the demands from protests in central London. Those with longer memories will also recall how we welcomed the help from many thousands of mutual aid officers to tackle widespread violent disorder in our city in the summer of 2011 and then again, in happier times the following year, to help secure the London 2012 Olympic Games.



Two-tier “nonsense”: On Wednesday Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley briefed 200 officers at Hendon ahead of their journey to their host force. Whilst there he spoke to Sky News and warned that those accusing police of “two-tier policing” were talking “complete nonsense” and putting officers at greater risk. “We have commentators from either end of the political spectrum who like to throw accusations of bias at the police because we stand in the middle,” he said. “We operate independently, under the law. Without fear or favour and if you've got crazy views over there, you don't like it. And if you've got crazy views from over there, you don't like it. The serious voices who echo, those are of more concern to me because the risk is they legitimise it, and they legitimise the violence that the officers... will face on the streets. They are putting them at risk...”

Targeting criminals on and off-line. Sir Mark also warned that “keyboard warriors” provoking hatred and violence online were not exempt from the law and that we would pursue them just as we would physically confront thugs and yobs on the streets. Following an arrest operation in Sutton on Thursday morning for a suspect from previous disorder he explained that 70% of those being arrested in relation to the violence and disorder had criminal records. Sir Mark said: “They're thugs and they are criminals – They're not patriots, they're not protesters and they're being held to account, they're being arrested, put before the courts and most them are going to be spending some time in prison.”

Staying vigilant: Officers will continue to be ready to respond to any further threats to our communities and to ensure any protests or major events in the coming days pass safely and peacefully. We are already expecting a busy schedule of planned events and protests across London, including a number of anti-racism protests and the possibility of some right-wing and anti-immigration gatherings. That picture is changing all the time and our response will remain flexible and proportionate but robust where necessary.

On Saturday a significant number of officers will also be in and around Wembley Stadium for the Charity Shield football match between Manchester United and Manchester City and working with colleagues from British Transport Police and other forces to ensure fans arrive and leave peacefully.

Murder suspect named: On Tuesday Detectives renewed their appeals to locate a man wanted in connection with last month's fatal stabbing of Derek Neil Thomas, 53 from Stoke Newington. Officers want to speak to Kamar Williams, 33 who lives in the Isle of Dogs and is known to frequent east and south east London. Members of the public should not approach him if they see him. If you can help speak this appeal to locate him please do so.

Operational successes: Diligent and determined police work, to ensure London is safer for all our communities and victims see justice is delivered by officers and staff every day. We have highlighted a number of successful operations and investigations below but we publish more every day on our News website

- The eighth member of a London drug dealing network has been jailed for 16 years following an investigation by Met detectives, as the force cracks down on issues affecting communities across London the most. He was the most recent member of a drugs network to be sentenced after officers spent over a year gathering evidence and collating data to ensure those involved saw justice.

- Guns, ammunition and drugs were taken off the streets and three men arrested after Met officers executed a firearms warrant at a takeaway restaurant in Tottenham. A stolen van parked outside the restaurant was also recovered by officers.
- A prolific child abuser who targeted children over three decades ago has been jailed for 21 years following a painstaking investigation by Met officers. The case demonstrates the Met's commitment to investigating child abuse as it transforms the way it protects the public from harm.
- Six dangerous men have been jailed for firearm offences following an investigation by Met detectives. It comes as part of the Met's ongoing commitment to protect Londoners and ensure firearms have no place in the capital.
- A man has been sentenced to 25 years for attempted murder after a diligent investigation led by detectives that involved his extradition from France. The court heard that police were called to an address in Camden in April 2023 to reports that a woman had been repeatedly stabbed.
- A teenager who shot a 15-year-old boy in Hackney has been sentenced to 11 years in jail after a comprehensive investigation by Met detectives.
- An investigation by the Met Counter Terrorism Command, following the use of powers under Schedule 7 at an airport, has led to the conviction of a man for sharing terrorist documents.

Take care and thank you for all that you are doing.

Best wishes



Terry Hunt
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Metropolitan Police Service