

September 2023

Barbican Crime Overview

01/06/2018 – 31/08/2022

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Reviewed by	Head of Business Information
Directorate:	Corporate Services
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Barbican Crime Overview

Introduction

This report has been commissioned by the City of London Corporation to understand if there is an evidential base for additional CCTV cameras within the Barbican Estate. Analysis of the crime and ASB trends that occur with the Barbican Estate will be completed to support the decision-making process.

This report provides an insight into the volumes of crimes and ASB that occurred within the Barbican Estate. For the purposes of this report, location data was selected for all streets within the Barbican Estate. This does not include Aldersgate Street / Long Road / Chiswell Street and London Wall as these roads are already covered by CCTV.

The data in this report covers the period 01/06/2018 – 31/08/2022. Focusing on Home Office recordable Crimes and Anti-Social Behaviour incidents (ASB). A crime is referred to as a Home Office Recordable Crime that meets the counting rules defined by the Home Office. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) was defined in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) as acting 'in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator'. This definition included low level public order offences and other offences which are notifiable crimes and therefore beyond the remit of NSIR (National Standard for Incident Recording).

When volumes are low, these can account for large percentages changes either positively or negatively. It's important that this is accounted for when completing any analysis.

Key Findings

- There has been a 3% (+38) increase year on year and a 4% (+32) increase from 2018 for all crime experienced in the Barbican. Rolling 12-month comparisons have been used which compares September 2021 – August 2022 to September 2022- August 2023. This is less than the increase of 'All crime' demonstrated across the City.
- The main crime types that occur within the Barbican are Theft Offences, Violence Against the Person and Drug Offences. This is a consistent trend over the last 5 years and remains the same in the last 12 months.
- The analysis demonstrates there are no statistically significant crime increases in the Barbican estate currently. Crime is within normal control limits and have been constantly so over the last 12 months.

- When focusing on the volumes of all ASB that occurred within the Barbican estate the table below demonstrates there has been a decrease in ASB incidents both year on year (-6%) and compared to 5 years ago (-22%).
- Inconsiderate behaviour is the main ASB incident type experienced in Barbican and this is the same over the last 12 months.

Recommendations

- Based on this report and the data alone there is not enough evidence to suggest that there is a problem with crime or ASB incidents in the Barbican estate.
- This report focused only on Crime and ASB volume and trends within the area. The scope of the report could be expanded to further understand the impact/harm to victims with a particular focus on repeat victims.
- Further research and understanding of evidence-based practice would be helpful to understand if this would be a viable solution as findings have been mixed. Understanding the impacts such as possible crime displacement or potential increase in crime (if more people travel through that area because CCTV is installed which could create more victim opportunities) This would further support the decision-making process.

Background

The College of Policing have published several different meta-reviews of research papers that review the prevention of personal and property crime. There is mixed evidence as to CCTV's direct impact on crime. Where there is evidence that CCTV reduces crime, this is particularly in relation to reducing crime in car parks and, to a lesser extent, residential areas. In these cases, the most significant reductions were for drug crimes, vehicle crime and property crime. There was no evidence of an effect on violent crime and disorder.

Another report published by the College of Policing review found that CCTV was more effective (34% decrease in crime) when it was implemented alongside multiple complementary interventions such as improved lighting, fencing, and signalling. CCTV implemented on its own or alongside one other intervention did not have a statistically significant effect in reducing crime.

The Barbican Estate, commonly known as 'The Barbican' is a residential area of approximately 2000 properties covering 40 acres. The area also includes The Barbican Arts Centre, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the Museum of London, the Barbican Public Library and The City of London School for Girls. The estate is managed by the Corporation of London and has Grade II listed status as an area of special architectural interest.



This report has been designed to complete an analysis of crime and incident data to understand if there are any trends or on-going crime problems in the Barbican that could benefit from the introduction of CCTV.

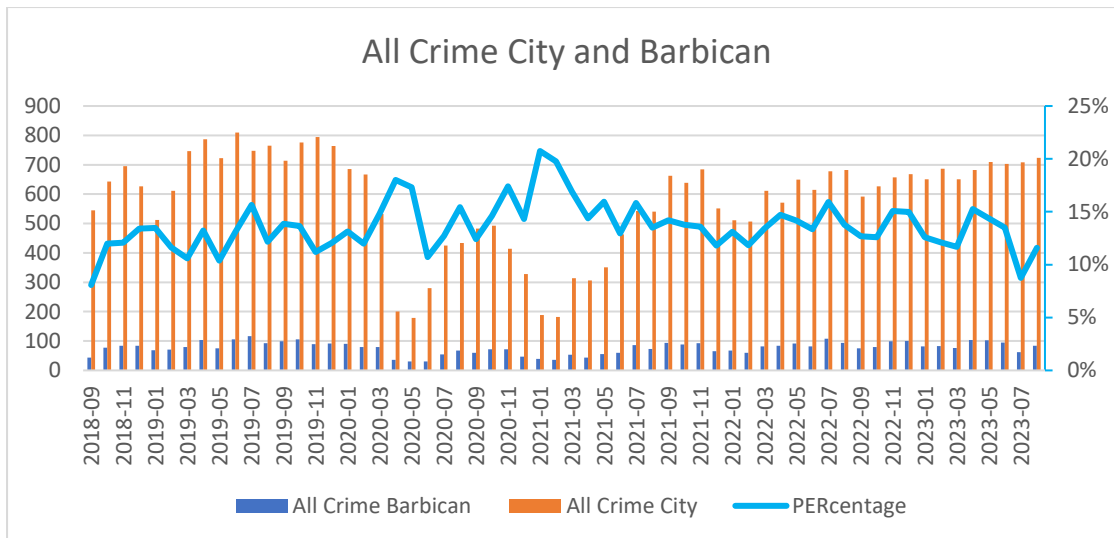


All Crime and the Barbican

The below graph demonstrates the volumes of crime in the Barbican compared to all crime that has occurred within the City. The trends seen within the Barbican run parallel to the trends for all crime that occurred in the City although levels are lower which is to be expected.

The graph has two axis one that shows the volume and one that shows the percentage of all crime. It interesting to note that the percentage line is consistent and volumes of crime in the Barbican were not as impacted as the rest of the City by the COVID-19 Pandemic- this is likely to be due to this being one of the only resident areas occupied during that time.

On average crime that occurs within the Barbican estate accounts for an average of 14% of all crime that occurs within the City.



The table below demonstrates the percentage of crime that occurs within the Barbican Estate compared to all crime experienced in the City.

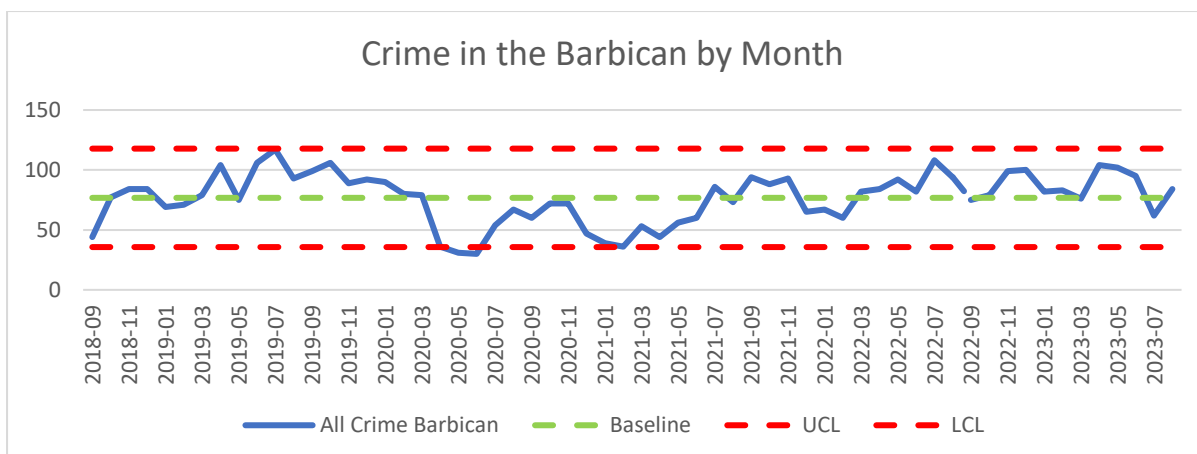
Percentage of All Crime	
Year	Percentage
2018/19	12%
2019/20	13%
2020/21	15%
2021/22	14%
2022/23	13%

When looking at percentage changes over the last 5 years there has been a 3% (+38) increase compared to last year and a 4% (+32) increase from 2018. Rolling 12-month comparisons have been used which compares September 2021 – August 2022 to September 2022- August 2023.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022/23
All Crime	1003	853	698	1009	1041

1 year % change	1 year change	5 years % change	5 years change
3%	32	4%	38

The below graph breaks down the volumes of crime in the Barbican over the last 5 years by month. This has been completed using a Statistical Process Chart to highlight any trends or exceptions within the data. The graph demonstrates that crime is within the acceptable control limits and has been consistently around the baseline since June 2021 which is when crime volumes started to return to normal after the pandemic. This fell below the baseline during the months May and June 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19.



Crime in the Barbican by Crime Type

The below graph demonstrates that the top 3 categories of crime that occur within the Barbican are Theft Offences, Violence Against the Person and Drug Offences. This is a consistent trend over the last 5 years and remains the same in the last 12 months.

Crime types	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
THEFT OFFENCES	604	483	365	626	673	2751
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	170	118	83	141	125	637
DRUG OFFENCES	65	64	65	56	63	313
PUBLIC DISORDER	70	49	46	54	49	268
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	23	59	64	48	43	237
CRIMINAL DAMAGE & ARSON	38	47	43	48	39	215
ROBBERY	16	21	13	15	16	81
SEXUAL OFFENCES	11	5	8	17	23	64
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	6	7	11	4	10	38
Grand Total	1003	853	698	1009	1041	4604

Theft Offences

Theft Offences are the highest volume of offences that occur in all areas of the City, and it is not surprising that this is replicated in the Barbican.

Crime Tree LV4 Desc	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	1 year % change	1 year change	5 year % change	5 year change
ALL OTHER THEFT OFFENCES	348	205	91	207	278	34%	71	-20%	-70
THEFT FROM THE PERSON	75	119	105	232	241	4%	9	221%	166
BURGLARY - BUSINESS/COMMUNITY	33	36	16	34	49	44%	15	48%	16
BICYCLE THEFT	95	63	54	54	40	-26%	-14	-58%	-55
SHOPLIFTING	27	38	74	53	39	-26%	-14	44%	12
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE	9	8	10	20	11	-45%	-9	22%	2
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	10	10	10	16	9	-44%	-7	-10%	-1
BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL	6	3	5	10	6	-40%	-4	0%	0
VEHICLE INTERFERENCE	1	1	0	0	0	0%	0	-100%	-1
Grand Total	604	483	365	626	673	8%	47	11%	69

It is interesting to note that when looking at theft offences overall there has been an 8% (47) increase in 1 year and 11% (+69) to five years ago. These are much smaller increases than are being seen for the rest of the City as the rolling 12-month comparison shows an 24% increase for theft offences which is an additional 937 crimes.

There has been a decrease in all other theft offences compared to five years ago of -20% (-70) but a year-on-year increase of 34% (71). When compared to all other theft across the whole City the increase is 46% (+640) crimes.

There has been a small increase in theft from the person offences year on year 4% (+9) and a bigger increase over five years of 221% (+166). This is likely to be due to the high crime year in 19/20 being predominantly driven by all other theft offences rather than theft from the person.

Violence Against the Person

The below table demonstrates the breakdown of violence against the person offences in the Barbican. There are consistent decreases both year on year and when comparing to five years ago which is positive.

Crime Tree LV4 Desc	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	68	1 year % change	1 year change	5 year % change	5 year change
VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	92	60	37	72	68	68	-6%	-4	-26%	-24
VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	41	34	22	36	31	31	-14%	-5	-24%	-10
STALKING AND HARASSMENT	37	24	24	32	26	26	-19%	-6	-30%	-11
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	1	0	0	-100%	-1	0%	0
Grand Total	170	118	83	141	125	125	-11%	-16	-26%	-45

This suggests there are lower levels of high harm offences occurring in the Barbican than there were last year, as well as five years ago.

Generally, the City has higher volumes of lower-level violent crime such as violence without injury, which is predominantly common assault. There are smaller volumes of more harmful crime such as the violence with injury offences.

Drug Offences

The below table demonstrates the breakdown of drug offences in the Barbican. In terms of trends there have been very small changes in this category.

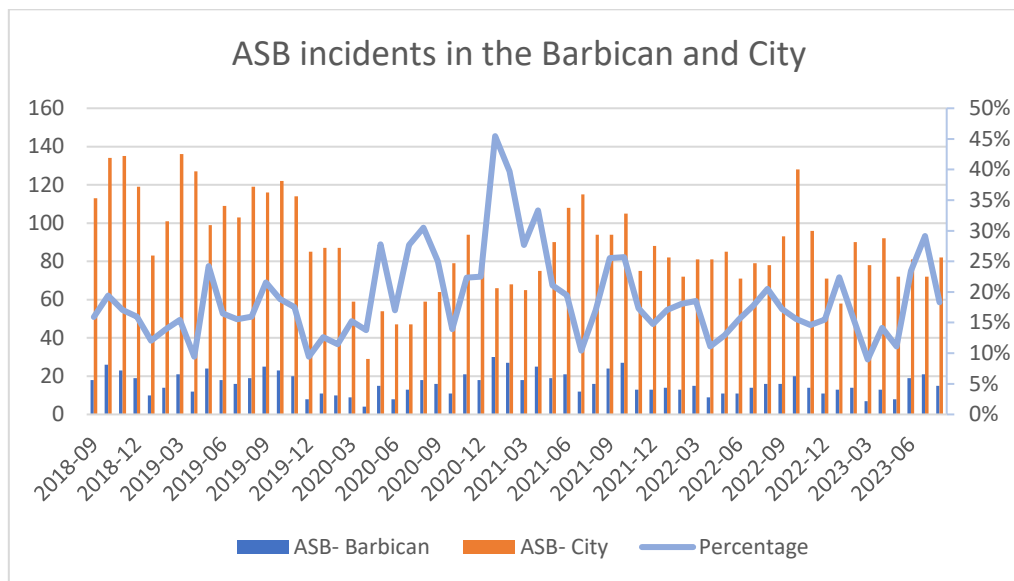
Crime Tree LV4 Desc	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	55	1 year % change	1 year change	5 year % change	5 year change
DRUG POSSESSION	45	53	60	50	55	55	10%	5	22%	10
DRUG TRAFFICKING	20	11	5	6	8	8	33%	2	-60%	-12
Grand Total	65	64	65	56	63	63	13%	7	-3%	-2

The City of London Police has a positive outcome rate of 21% which is higher than the national average and is mainly driven by 'crimes against society' crimes, and drugs fall into this category. This tends to demonstrate positive pro-active policing behaviour.

ASB Trends

The below graph looks at the volumes of ASB incidents in the Barbican Estate compared to all ASB that has occurred within the City. As with crime, similar patterns can be demonstrated although there is much more fluctuation in the percentage of ASB to all ASB than the volumes experienced within the Barbican. This is likely to be due to the small volumes.

ASB that occurs within the Barbican Estate accounts for on average 19% of all ASB that takes place within the City. This is slightly skewed over 5 years due to COVID-19 where ASB in the Barbican made up for a higher percentage of all ASB in the City. This was due to this area being occupied during this time.



The table below clearly highlights further the impact of COVID-19 on ASB in the Barbican. As almost half of ASB incidents occurred there during this period. Whilst crime levels reduced significant during covid, this was not the same for ASB. The percentage of ASB in the Barbican of all ASB incidents has increased year on year by 5% and 1% five years ago.

Year	Percentage of All ASB
18/19	16%
19/20	18%
20/21	45%
21/22	12%
22/23	17%

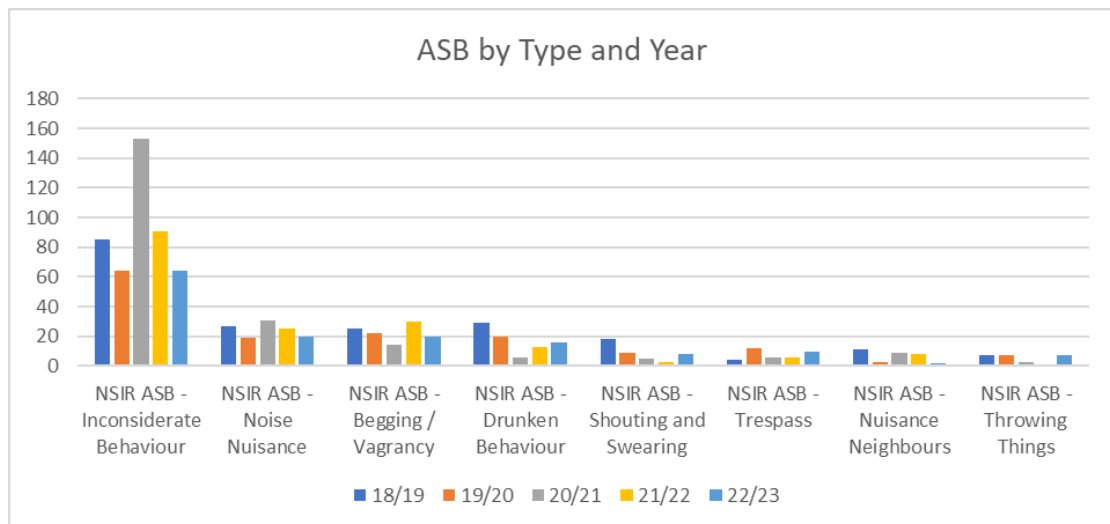
When focusing on the volumes of all ASB that occurred within the Barbican estate the table below demonstrates there has been a decrease in ASB incidents both year on year (-6%) and compared to 5 years ago (-22%).

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	1 year % change	1 year change	5 year % change	5 year change
ASB	220	164	233	181	171	-6%	-10	-22%	-49

When analysing the types of ASB incidents that occur within the Barbican estate these are outlined below. The top seven ASB have been used for this report for clarity. The table below demonstrates that ASB- Inconsiderate behaviour is the greatest ASB type experienced on the Barbican Estate.

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
NSIR ASB - Inconsiderate Behaviour	85	64	153	91	64
NSIR ASB - Noise Nuisance	27	19	31	25	20
NSIR ASB - Begging / Vagrancy	25	22	14	30	20
NSIR ASB - Drunken Behaviour	29	20	6	13	16
NSIR ASB - Shouting and Swearing	18	9	5	3	8
NSIR ASB - Trespass	4	12	6	6	10
NSIR ASB - Nuisance Neighbours	11	3	9	8	2
NSIR ASB - Throwing Things	7	7	3	1	7

The below graph shows the trends over the last 5 years and its clear that every year Inconsiderate behaviour is the main ASB incident type. In the last 12 months there has been an increase in Begging/Vagrancy and there has been a significant amount of positive work both by the Police and Partners through Operation Luscombe to address this.



When completing a dip sample of what is considered to be ASB type 'Inconsiderate behaviours' the below themes came to light.

- Skateboarders
- Parkour
- Spitting

- Public Urination

Conclusion

There has been small increase in crime in the Barbican over the last 12 months (4%) and over the last 5 years (3%). This is not a statistically significant increase. The Statistical Process charts over the last five years shows that crime is within tolerance currently.

ASB incident levels have decreased both year on year (%) and over the last five years (%).

Based on the data alone and not considering the ongoing impact and harm that can be caused by crime and ASB incidents to people the data trends do not suggest a statistical problem for crime or ASB volumes and trends in the Barbican. City of London Police continue to analyse the data and trends on a regular basis.