

**CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL - RECIPIENT ONLY**

# **Safer City Partnership Strategy Group Review Period March – May 2020**

**City of London Police Update**

**Supt Helen Isaac**

**City of London Police (Communities & Partnerships)**

**June 2020**

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### **Introduction**

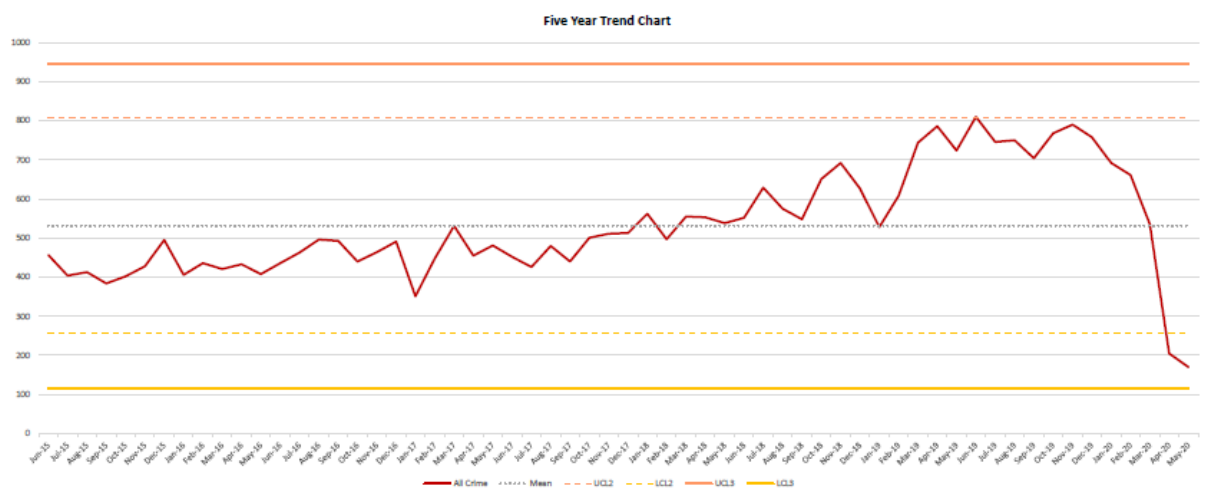
The City of London experiences relatively low levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. This reflects the efforts of the City of London Police, the City of London Corporation and many other partners.

Working together we contribute to maintaining the City as the world's leading financial and business centre as well as being an attractive place to live, socialise and visit. Since its establishment the Safer City Partnership has played a key role in reducing crime and other harm.

This report identifies five main priorities, linked to the Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan:

- **Violence Against the Person** – People are safe from violent crime and violence against the person
- **Night Time Economy Crime and Nuisance** – People are safe and feel safe in the night-time economy
- **Acquisitive Crime** – People and businesses are protected from theft and fraud/acquisitive crime
- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – Anti-Social Behaviour is tackled and responded to effectively
- **Supporting the Counter Terrorism Strategy through Delivery of the Prevent Strategy** – Vulnerable people and communities are safeguarded from radicalisation and the threat of terrorism.

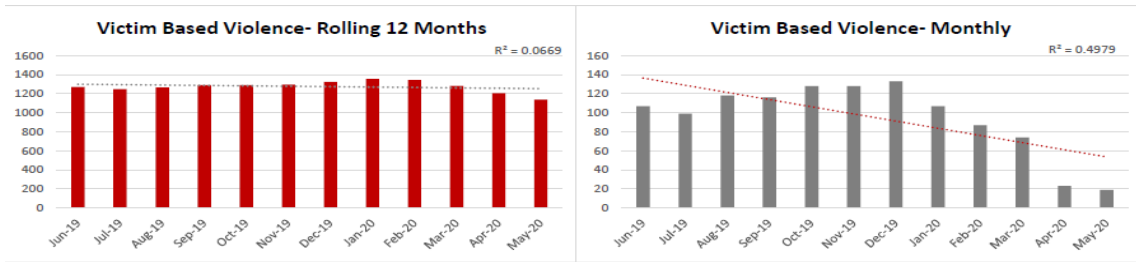
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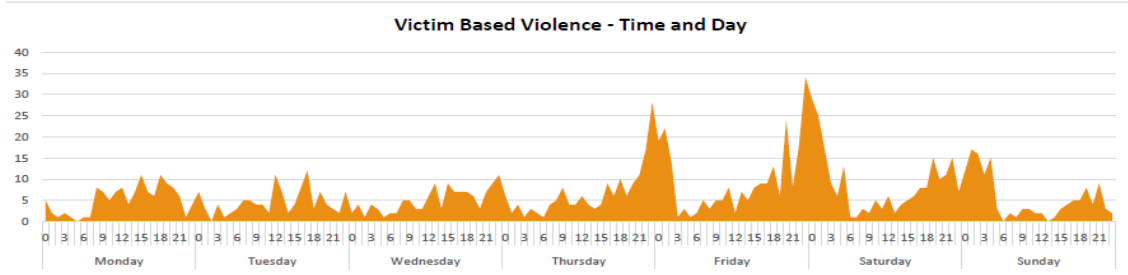
As can be seen from this diagram, COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on crime in the City of London in the months March-May 2020, with the level dropping suddenly to its lowest point by some margin in five years.

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## Violence Against the Person



Change	* This Month	-17%	Detection Rate FYTD:	62%	National Position:	0
	* FYTD	-77%		Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:		64%
	* Rolling 12 Month	-10%				

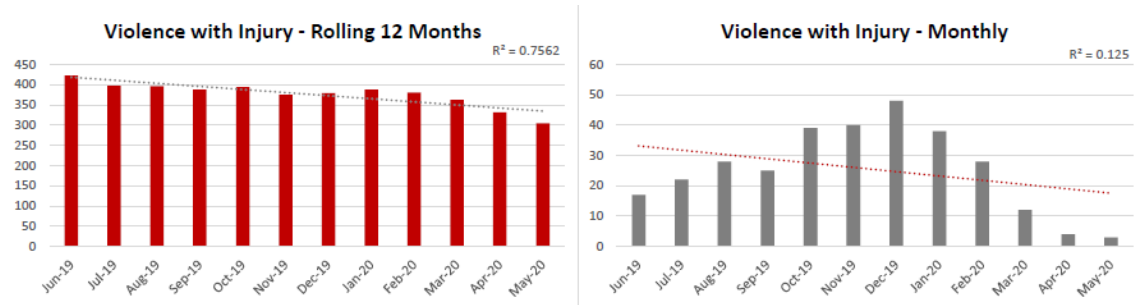


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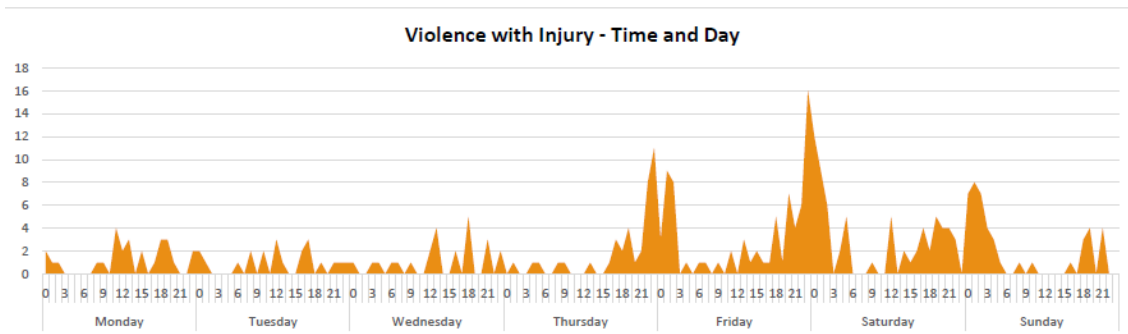
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Victim based violence has fallen by 77% in the FYTD, a very noticeable impact of COVID-19, licensed premises being shut and a big reduction in footfall.

## Violence with Injury



Change	* This Month	-25%	Detection Rate FYTD:	143%	National Position:	1
	* FYTD	-89%		Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:		143%
	* Rolling 12 Month	-30%				

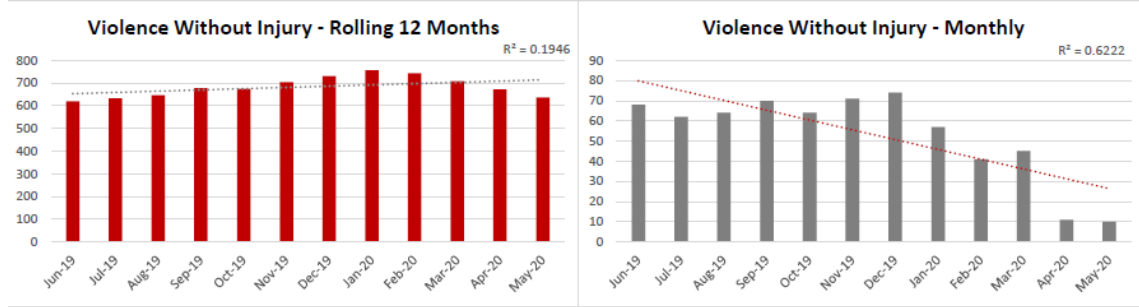


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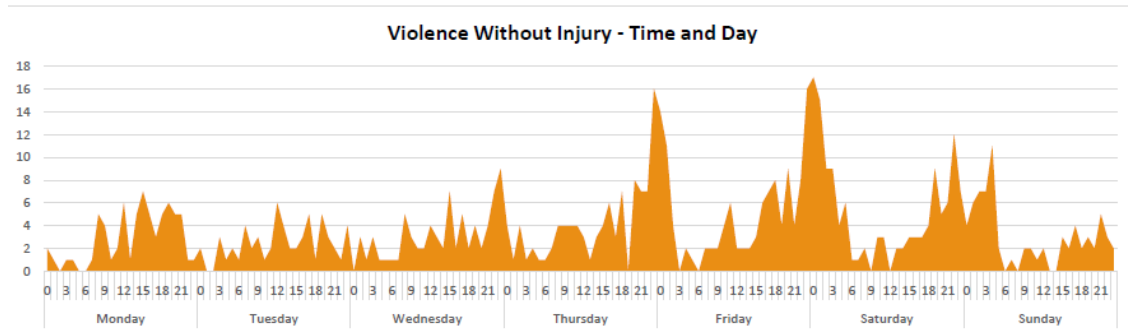
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## Violence without Injury



Change	* This Month	-9%	Detection Rate FYTD:	57%	National Position:	25
	* FYTD	-77%		Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:		62%
	* Rolling 12 Month	6%				



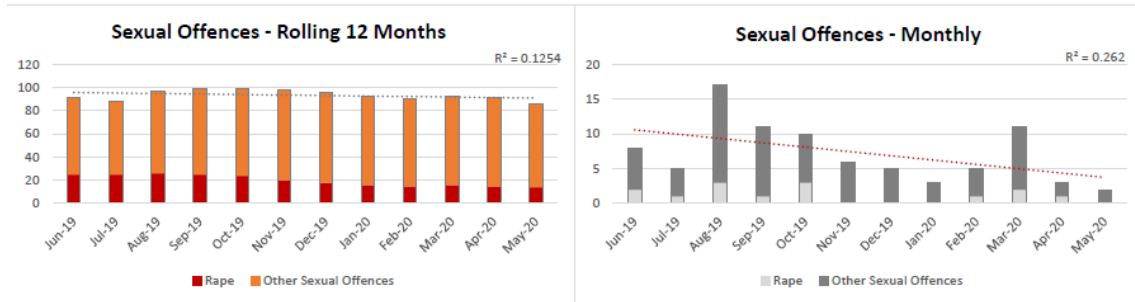
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The majority of violence without injury offences are related to the night-time economy which is currently non-existent. A secondary factor was the commuter rush which could lead to disputes/road rage incidents however the lack of footfall has meant this has dropped in numbers also. The opening of the night-time economy will lead to offences however social distancing measures, if they are kept, may mean whilst offences will increase, there may not be as many as in previous years. This may help prevent some commuter rush disputes also.

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## Sexual Offences

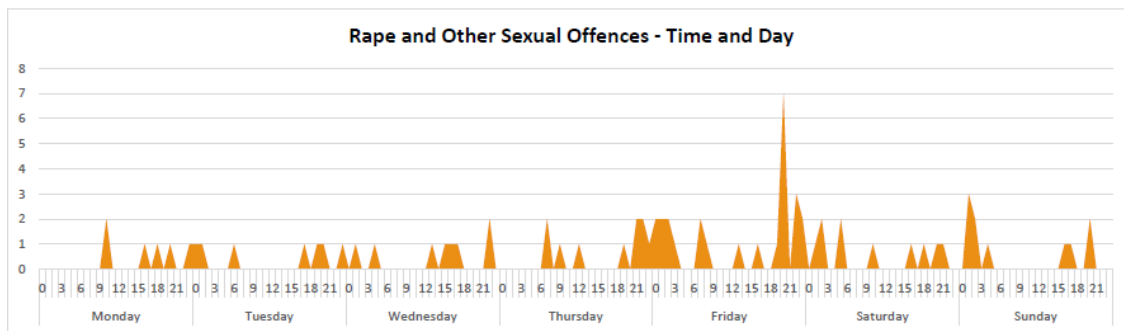


Change

* This Month	-33%
* FYTD	-58%
* Rolling 12 Month	-11%

Detection Rate FYTD:	60%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	60%

National Position:	8
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## Rape & Sexual Offences

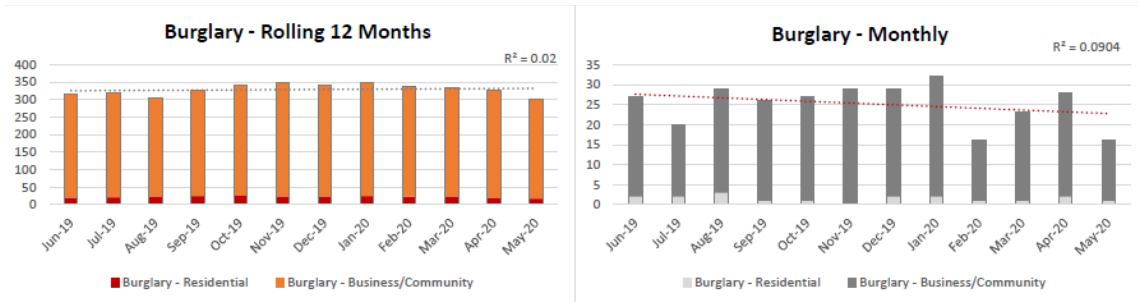
The FYTD has seen a 58% decrease in sexual offences with a very few offences recorded in April and May. Again this is likely to be due to the NTE being effectively closed and the lack of footfall and opportunities to commit offences.

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## Acquisitive Crime

### Burglary

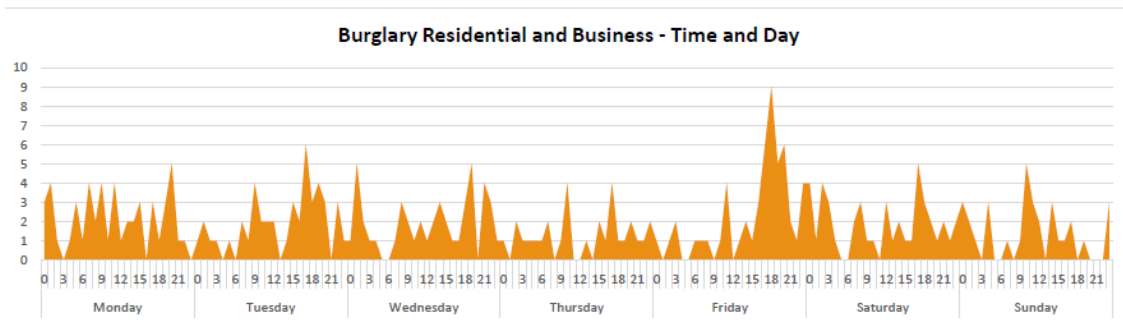
The current lack of footfall means that buildings are currently unattended which may leave them susceptible to being targeted. There is potential for offenders to utilise this opportunity, however May saw a 43% reduction in offences and the FYTD shows a 41% reduction.



Change	* This Month	-43%
	* FYTD	-41%
	* Rolling 12 Month	-8%

Detection Rate FYTD:	9%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	9%

National Position:	41
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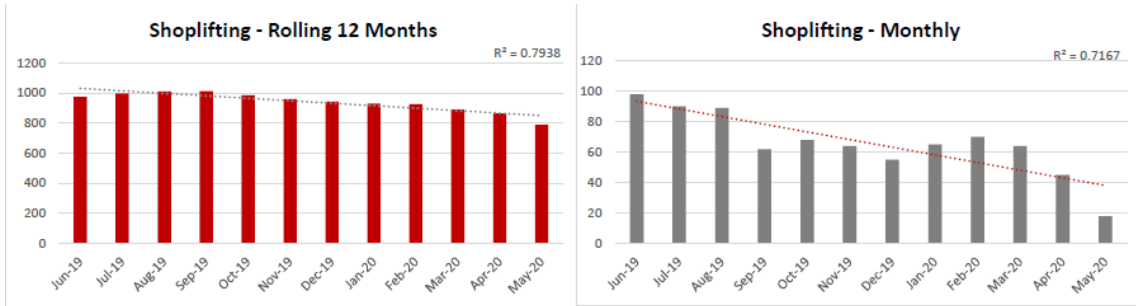
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## Shoplifting

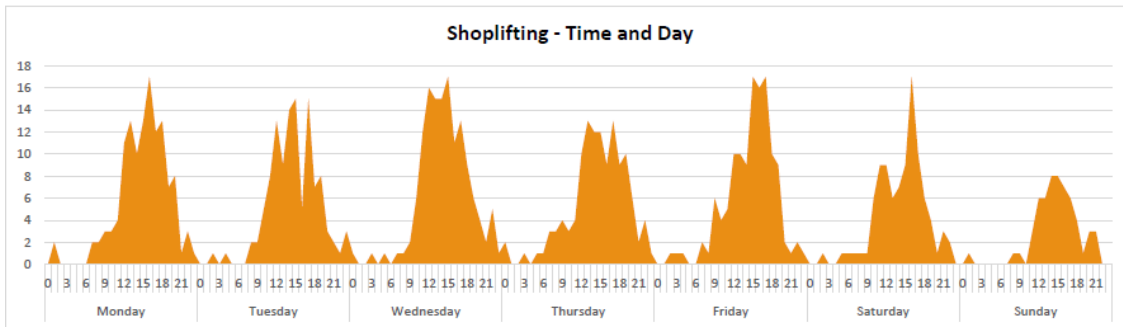
The closure of many retail outlets has meant that the level of acquisitive crime have dropped significantly. Shoplifting and bike theft are the two offences which are still occurring however at lower levels than would be expected. The change in restrictions will immediately impact violence and acquisitive crime. The increase in footfall and shops opening immediately gives a bigger potential victim pool and therefore an increase in crime will be inevitable – however, this increase may be gradual depending on the confidence on the public returning to ‘normal’ life.



Change	* This Month	-60%
	* FYTD	-62%
	* Rolling 12 Month	-16%

Detection Rate FYTD:	38%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	41%

National Position:	15
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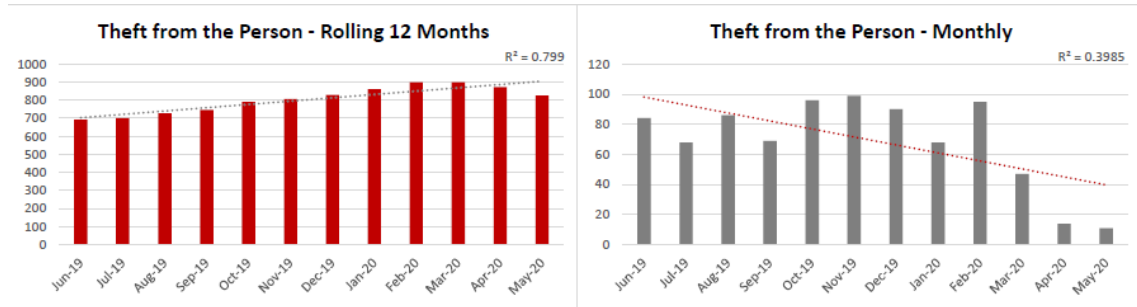


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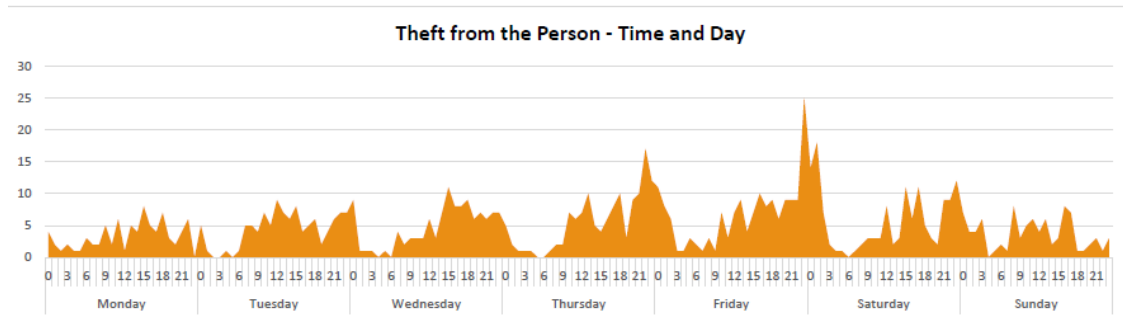
## Theft from the Person

Offences have reduced for the FYTD by 75% with a 21% reduction in offences in May.

Again, lack of potential victims means a reduction in offences. There have been sporadic pedal cycle snatches however levels have remained low. The lack of night-time economy means an opportunity to target individuals who are intoxicated is also diminished.



Change	* This Month	-21%	Detection Rate FYTD:	4%	National Position:	43
	* FYTD	-75%		Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:		4%
	* Rolling 12 Month	25%				



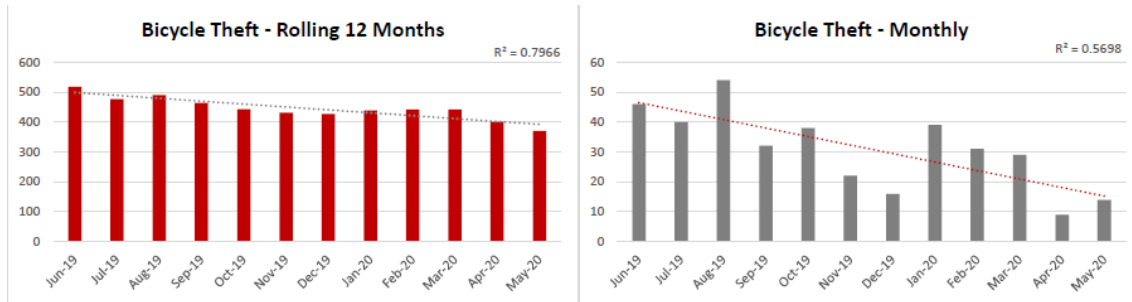
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## Bicycle Theft

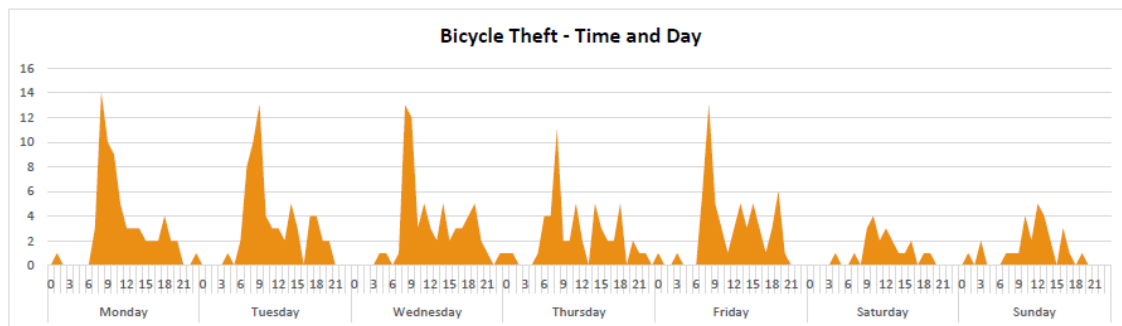
Bicycle theft shows a 28% reduction (Rolling 12 months).  
 Low levels of offending, likely due to lockdown measures; lower footfall – fewer people to mask offending, fewer bikes to target. May had 12 offences, (0.4/day): a slight increase on April but still far below levels usually seen at this time of year.



Change	* This Month	56%
	* FYTD	-76%
	* Rolling 12 Month	-28%

Detection Rate FYTD:	0%
Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	0%

National Position:	31
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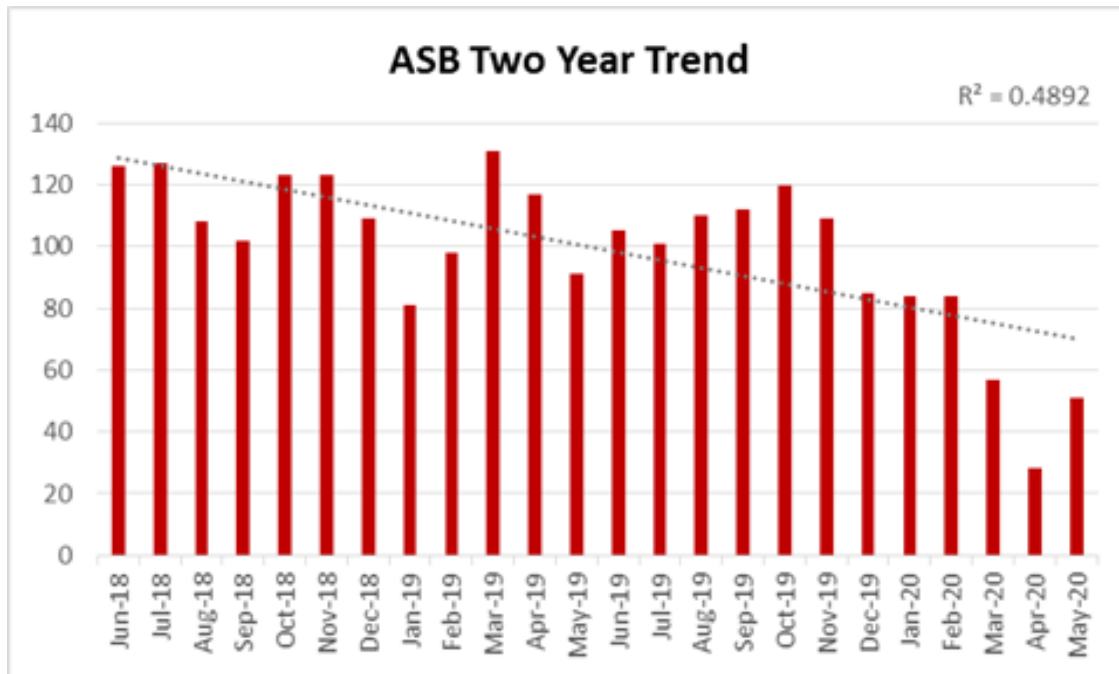


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**Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

The chart below shows the 2 year trend for ASB, with a fall from December 2019 onwards and noticeably sharp fall in April 2020 during the lockdown.



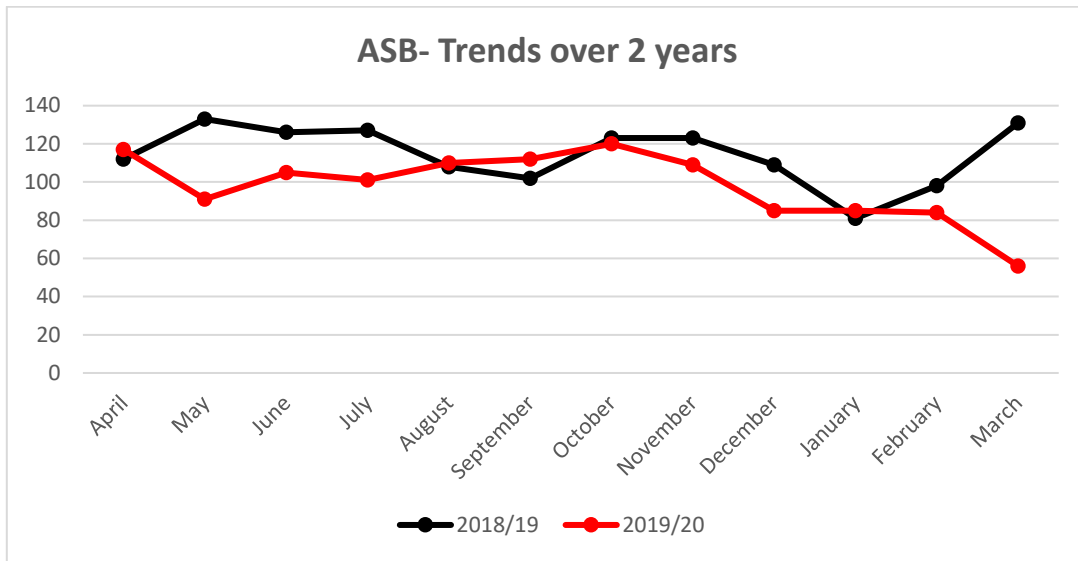
**Data Highlight Review of ASB in 2019/20**

**a. Key Findings**

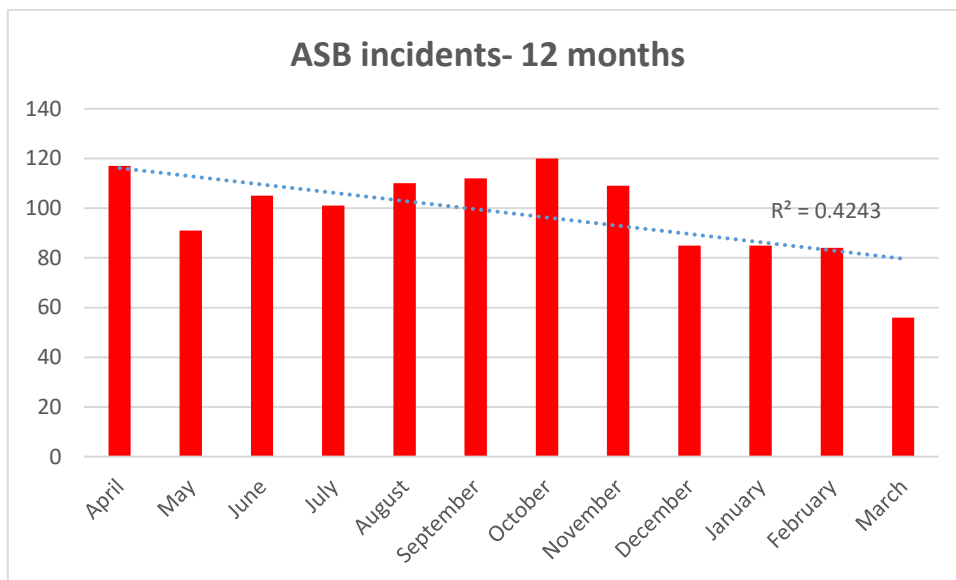
- There has been a decrease in ASB incidents in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19.
- The decrease is particularly evident in March where there has been a very large decrease most likely due to COVID-19.
- The most common issues raised were classified as Inconsiderate Behaviour, and many also featured drunken behaviour and/or begging and vagrancy- these were also the top 3 ASB incident categories in 2018/19 so ASB trends have remained the same.

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**b. ASB Incident Data Overview**



The graph above compares trends for ASB incidents over the last two years. Despite similar levels for August-October to 2018/19 there have been lower levels of ASB incidents in 2019/20. This is particularly evident in March where the difference is largest. From the graph above it would be expected that an increase would be experienced in March however this is the lowest it has been all year. This trend is likely to continue with much lower levels of ASB due to the impact of COVID-19. With the UK in lockdown and only essential travel permitted there is a lot less people in the City. All licensed premises in the City are closed as well as any shops and premises that are not considered essential.



The graph above breaks the last 12 months down and it demonstrates a decreasing trend of ASB incidents throughout the year. ASB incidents peaked in October and were particularly high for the period of August-November. Since December there have been much lower volumes of ASB incidents month and month and this mirrors the trend for Home Office recordable crime where the large percentage increase was starting to become more consistent.

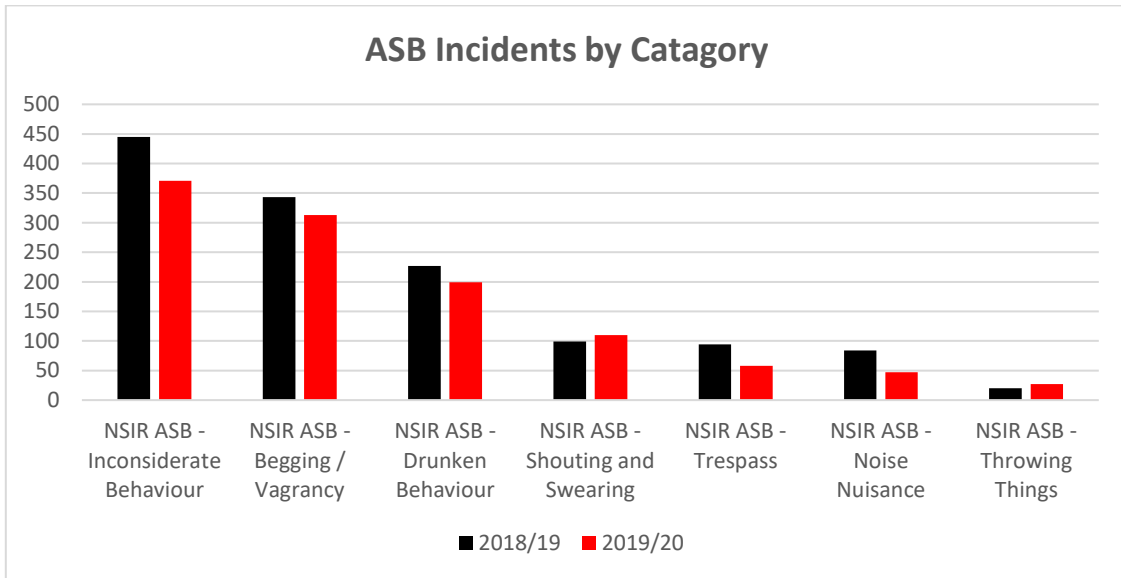
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Month (2019-20)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Incidents</b>	117	91	105	101	110	112	120	109	85	85	84	56

The current quarterly period (Jan-March 2020) recorded an average of only 75 incidents, this is compared to 92 in the previous three month period and 114 in the quarter previous to that. Although this year follows the recognised pattern where December and January have lower ASB due to the Christmas period the spike experienced in March last year is not reflected in the data for this year. Again this is most likely to be due to COVID-19.

**c. Data Breakdown**

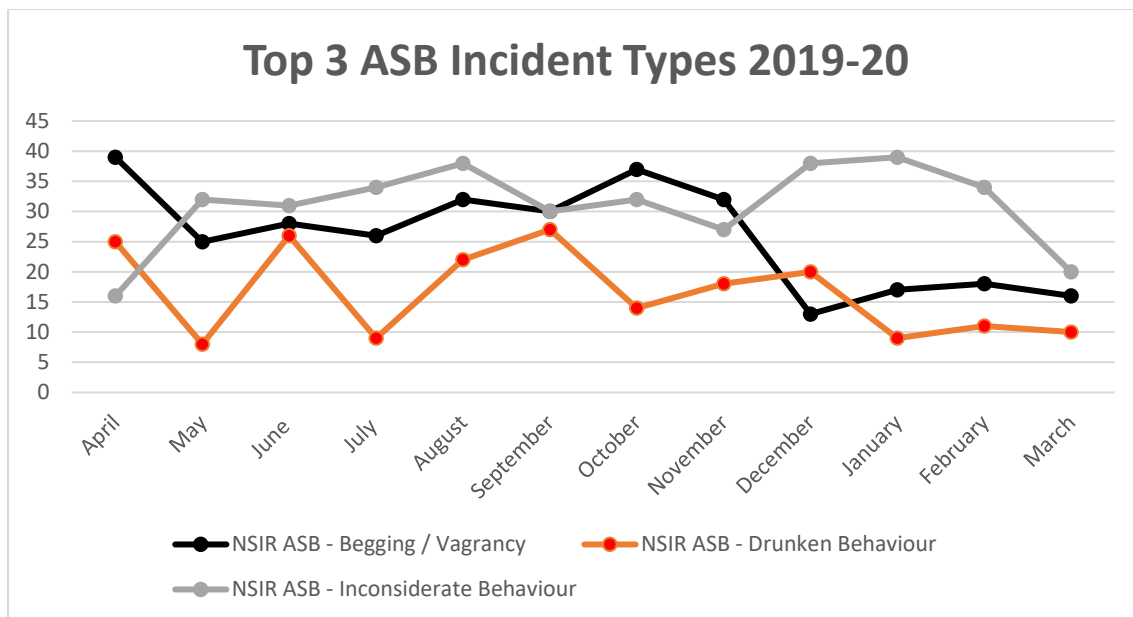
**i. Highest Recorded Categories of ASB**



The above graph demonstrates the most common categories of ASB incident over each year. Despite volumes being smaller in 2019/20 the same types of ASB incidents are most common.

**Inconsiderate Behaviour** is the most common category of incident recorded with just over 371 incidents in 2019/20 this is a decrease of 74 (445) since 2018/19. The next most common categories of incident are **Begging/Vagrancy** with 313 and **Drunken Behaviour** with 199 incidents. These three categories are consistently the highest recorded.

After reviewing records classified as ‘**Inconsiderate Behaviour**’ some records could have been recorded in other categories in the above table as they have referred to specific behaviours such as drunkenness, playing loud music, throwing objects etc. Categorisation is based on the recording officer or staffs interpretation and where some incidents refer to multiple categories they may have been recorded against inconsiderate behaviour as a catch-all. This could explain why it is always the most prevalent category in data returns.



The above breakdown of the top three ASB categories demonstrates that the overall fall in incidents during December was driven by a dramatic fall in Begging/Vagrancy. This category was relatively stable with between 25 and 40 incidents per month throughout the year, but fell to only 13 in December, with a minimal rise to 18 in January which has continued in February and March.

In contrast, Drunken and Inconsiderate Behaviour both rose in December with drunken behaviour falling off in January and also remaining consistent for February and March- this is likely to be due to Christmas parties etc. Inconsiderate behaviour maintained its increase in February before dropping slightly in February and eventually falling dramatically in March.

The majority of Begging/Vagrancy incidents related to rough sleepers blocking entrance points, and refusing to wake up and/or move on. There were also complaints of abusive behaviour towards passers-by or staff, busking and begging, and public urination/defecation.

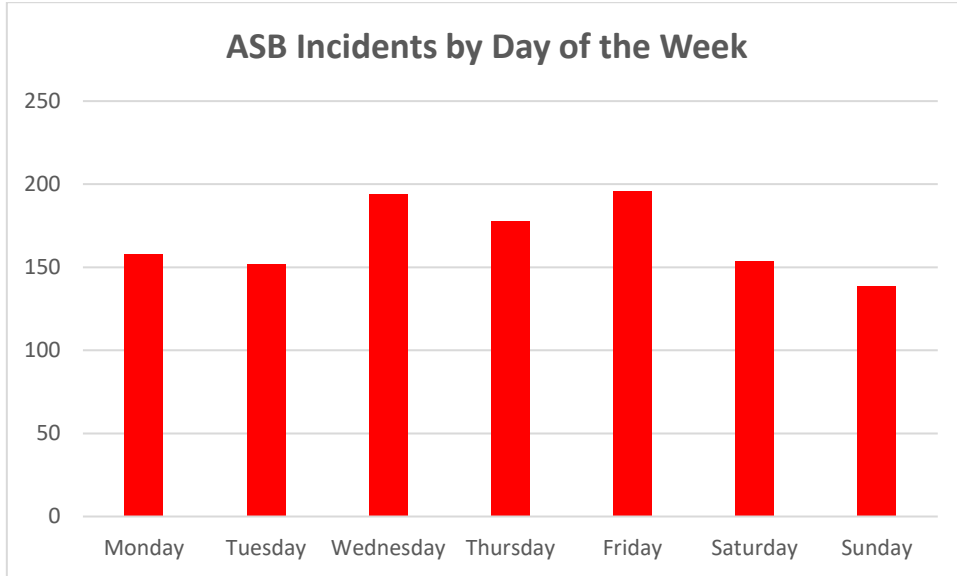
Drunken behaviour issues reported in the period included people refusing to leave licenced premises, demonstrating aggressive behaviour and starting fights, and public urination. The majority involved a solo male offender, although there were similar reports featuring groups of males.

Many of the reports of Inconsiderate Behaviour could have been included under the drunken behaviour or begging/vagrancy incident types. A large proportion of the additional issues included youths gathering on private property, skateboarding and cycling without permission, and smoking cannabis. Further incidents featured people arguing and refusing to leave premises.

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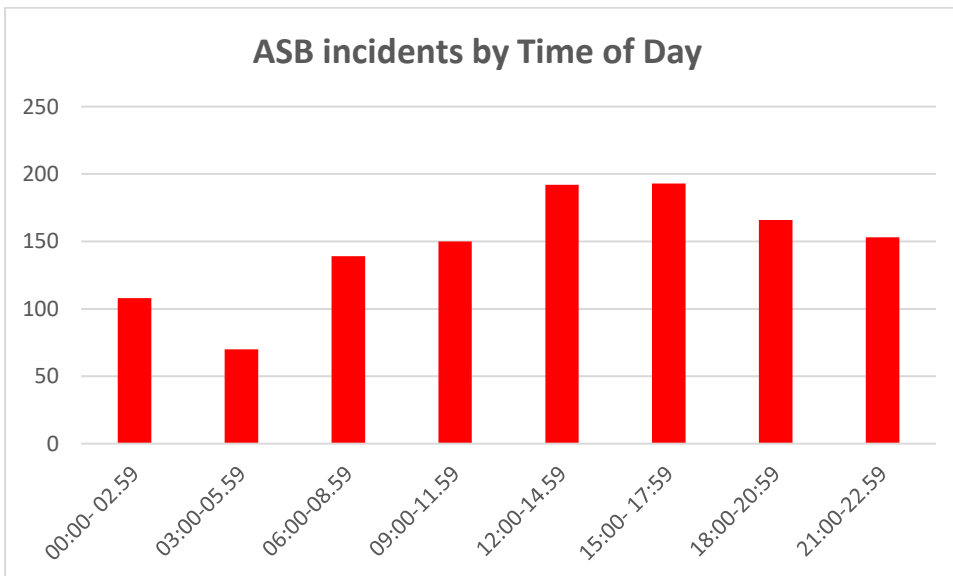
**ii. Days of Week**

On average there have been three ASB incidents reported per day during the current yearly period. Incidents are most commonly reported on Friday and Wednesdays. Friday has been the most common day for ASB incidents to occur when analysing by quarter with Wednesday not usually showing as a trend, however when analysing a year of data this is a clear trend. Weekends are also relatively low.



**iii. Time of Day**

Reporting of all ASB incidents in the current period are shown in the below graph broken down by three hour periods across the day. Incident reports tend to be lower in the early hours of the morning through to lunchtime. Occurrences then peak during the evening rush hour and from 9pm to midnight. Looking at the incident types, Begging/Vagrancy incidents are mostly recorded during the mornings from 0900 hours, while Inconsiderate Behaviour starts at midday peaking in early evening. As might be expected, Drunken Behaviour is highest during the late afternoon though to the early hours of the morning.



## **Mental Health Street Triage**

Mental Health Street Triage is a scheme whereby mental health professionals provide on the spot advice to police officers who are dealing with people with possible mental health problems. This advice can include an opinion on a person's condition, or appropriate information sharing about a person's health history. The aim is, where possible, to help police officers make appropriate decisions, based on a clear understanding of the background to these situations. This should lead to people receiving appropriate care more quickly, leading to better outcomes and a reduction in the use of section 136.

If an individual is detained utilising Section 136 of the Mental Health Act, the individual is removed to Health based Place of Safety - Officers/Triage Nurse await ambulance or they are taken by a police vehicle. The District Senior Nurse at the Homerton determines Health based Place of safety, patient transferred to HBPOS where assessed by 1 or 2 Senior Authorised Mental Health Practitioners and a doctor; this is after any A+E visit to assess any wounds or injuries. Admittance will need a team to remove onto ward and ongoing assessment depending on level of care required. A patient can stay up to 28 days providing constant care if required with ongoing treatment plans.

All referrals and voluntary actions are followed up by the triage nurse; these actions save hundreds of hours in resource time for both NHS and Police staff. None of these actions are viable unless a MHST practitioner is present at the time of the encounter.

If an individual is taken to hospital under S/136 without a MHST nurse present, this can take two police officers and a vehicle out of action for on average four hours – effectively half of the shift. When the Response groups are mustering approximately 10 officers, this is effectively 20% of the workforce unable to respond to calls for service whilst they are dealing with the patient at the hospital.

As can be seen from the statistics below, when a MHST Nurse was present, 41 S136s were avoided.

### **MH Street Triage Statistics**

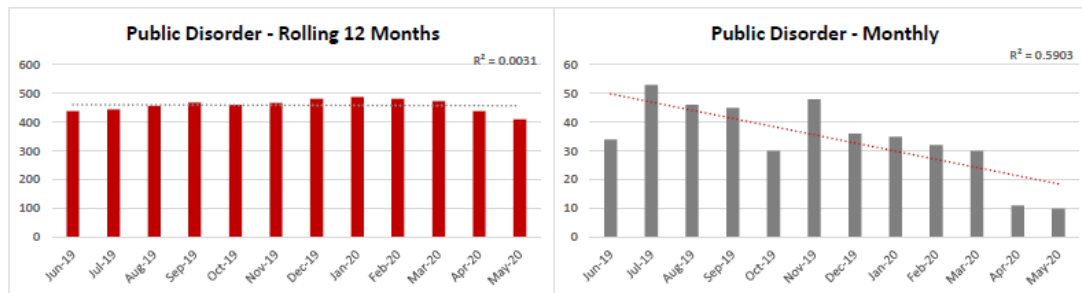
**Reporting period 01/02/20-31/05/20**

Total number of 136's avoided by MHST team	41
Total number of 136's issued whilst MHST on duty	12
Number of 136's issued outside of MHST duty times	23
Total of 136's for this period	35
Total of 136's there would have for this period if there was <u>no</u> MHST	64
Total number of MH interventions made by MHST in this period	98

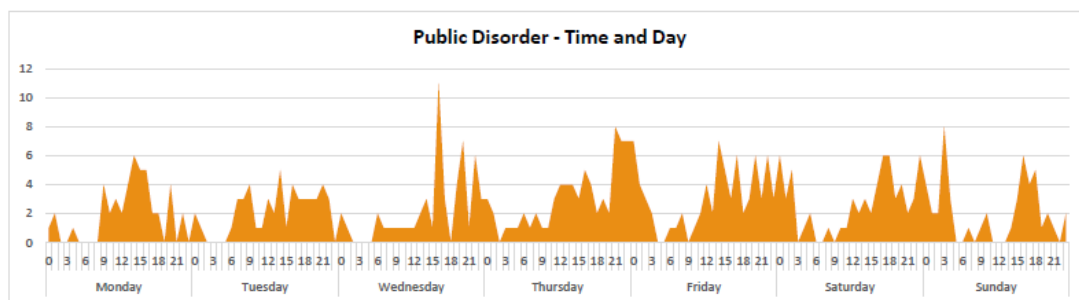


**Public Disorder**

**Public Disorder Summary**



Change	* This Month	-9%	Detection Rate FYTD:	29%	National Position:	25
	* FYTD	-75%	Positive Outcome Rate FYTD:	33%		
	* Rolling 12 Month	-6%				



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**Public Disorder**

Currently public disorder, which in the City is either linked to protest activity or the night-time economy, is low. The FYTD shows a 75% reduction in offences, likely to be due to the lower footfall and the implications of lockdown.

**Prevent**

**April 20 – June 20**

**Referrals**

The Prevent team have received 1 Prevent referral over this period which concluded in a Prevent referral being sent to the MPS.

Low referrals due to COVID-19 as most businesses are either closed or working from home and educational establishments have been closed.

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### **Prevent team delivering WRAP sessions, meetings / Media and Prevent stalls:**

Since March the Prevent team have been unable to deliver any face to face Prevent training sessions due to COVID-19.

Prevent team are in contact with the Counter Terrorism Policing HQ National Prevent team via conference calls and emails

Prevent team are in contact with Universities and schools during this period.

Prevent induction session delivered via zoom to transferees to the force x 2 days

Prevent coordinator attending virtual London Prevent Network meeting bi-weekly.

Prevent coordinator is delivering a virtual session to DCCS in August.

Support and guidance document being circulated via media department on Twitter, via COLC media dept, education forums and Prevent lead for universities to signpost them to the "LETS TALK ABOUT IT WEBSITE" to obtain support and report.

A press release on 1<sup>st</sup> May in Evening Standard was released by MPS directly to Parents and carers asking for their support of PREVENT.

A video which was launched in Jan 20 and some secondary schools in London were shown the video has been advised again to encourage people to watch the video. (The 'Hate' film is available to view on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/3ppFEyiwPsA> ).

COVID-19 Prevent Information Pack has been designed by the COL prevent team which has been circulated to education forums and universities.

### **Stalls/Engagement**

All stalls have been cancelled for this period due to COVID-19.

### **Internal Women's Network/Islamic Women's Network**

Prevent officers have continued supporting some of the various networks to understand the role of Prevent and, for them, have the knowledge and confidence to come forward with any concerns. Officer attends on a weekly basis the Islamic Women's group, and has a good rapport with them, however we have been making contact with the team leader via the mobile during this time.

### **Practical Training Package**

The Prevent team has produced a practical training package to identify signs of radicalisation and what to do when this occurs. The package is complete and includes a case study, the definition of radicalisation, the aim of the Contest strategy and understanding of the 4 P's and where Prevent sits in the Force. This work will be ongoing in the force to provide guidance and understanding to officers around Prevent.

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### **Mobile networking group**

Prevent referral document has been uploaded onto the portable mobile working devices. This work has now been completed meaning that officers can fill out Prevent referrals whilst on mobile patrol.

### **Regional Meeting/Training**

The Prevent team are continuing to work with the Prevent teams from around the country looking at the best ways for improving professional and best practice.

### **CT Local Profile (CTLP)**

The CTLP has been completed and will be launched in the near future.