

Committee(s): Police Authority Board	Dated: 7 February 2024
Subject: Commissioner's Update	Public
Which outcomes in the <i>City Corporation's Corporate Plan</i> does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1- People are safe and feel safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 12-24	For Discussion
Report author: Pete O'Doherty, T/Commissioner	

Summary

It was agreed that the Commissioner's verbal updates would be presented to the Board as formal written updates.

The *public* updates for Operations and Security and Economic and Cyber Crime are attached.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Violence Against Women and Girls

As a White Ribbon Accredited force CoLP continues to focus on our commitment tackling violence against women and girls. More than 300 officers and staff attended an input by the BE LADS Campaign, created by Guernsey based Poppy Murray, an initiative to help reduce women’s fears for their safety walking alone. The advice focusing on

- **Be Visible**
- **Ease the tension by making a phone call**
- **Look away, don’t stare**
- **Active bystander**
- **Distance yourself**
- **Suggest walking your friends home**

Operation Ulex

A lengthy and complex investigation led by City of London Police Cyber Crime Unit supported by the National Crime Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation saw the conviction of two teenagers (17 & 18 yrs. old) having been found guilty of two counts of fraud, two Computer Misuse Act offences and one count of blackmail. Both were key players in a hacking group known as Lapsus\$, which was involved in cyber-attacks on BT/EE and US tech giant NVIDIA. Having hacked the companies, Lapsus\$ then attempted to blackmail them using data acquired from two of the hacks for fraudulent purposes. Sentencing included a requirement to comply with certain restrictions and undertake a rehabilitation program.

Sexual Assault

The CID team investigated a serious sexual assault committed by a stranger. With fast time forensic submissions, CCTV and specialist victim support the suspect was identified and apprehended the same evening. This dangerous individual was charged and remanded in custody with attempted rape. Swiftly taking the male off the streets.

Theft

Officers were called to a male and female appearing to work as a team, pick pocketing visitors on Tower Bridge. With the assistance of Tower Bridge Security, officers were able to close in on the team and effect their arrest for theft and drug possession which were found upon searching them. It appears the duo may have committed a number of thefts/pickpocketing and enquires are ongoing reviewing CCTV and contacting potential victims. Both have been bailed with strict conditions including not to enter the City of London to ensure the safety and security of those working, living and enjoying the City of London.

Cycle Theft

Response team officers on patrol immediately recognised a prolific cycle thief, who had recently been released from prison and subject to a Community Behaviour Order (CBO) to prevent him entering the City. He was quickly apprehended and returned to prison for breaching the CBO preventing any further victims of his crimes.

Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) demonstration

On Saturday 13th January PSC held a planned protest march commencing at Bank Junction concluding in Parliament Square. Estimated 100K attended, an extensive and robust Pan-London policing plan was implemented with significant City of London Police officers deployed. In partnership with the Corporation, local businesses and community the march concluded with little incident with 9 arrested overall.

London Stock Exchange (LSE) arrests

On Friday 12th January information was received that 6 members from Palestine Action (PA) intend to target LSE on Monday 15th January prior to its opening. The intention of the group was to stop trading. On Sunday 14th January, in conjunction with other forces, and in consultation with CoLP officers from the MPS arrested all 6 members of PA. There has been widespread media interest relating to these arrest. The investigation remains ongoing. Community engagement continues between City of London Police and local business in and around LSE with high visibility and reassurance patrol taking place.

Strategic Leadership and Engagement

The Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department (IFED) Sponsored Services Agreement (SSA) for 2024-2026 was signed by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and Corporation of London in its capacity as Police Authority on 20th December. This followed negotiations between IFED senior leaders and the IPO and discussions between T/AC Adams Director of the IPO. The approach will ensure that IFED is able to continue to deliver the important work in tackling insurance fraud.

In January, Lucy Cumming, Head of Economic Crime Strategy and Government Affairs, presented at the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee in relation to money laundering. The purpose of the meeting was to explore how partners, such as the Metropolitan Police, the City of London Police, the National Crime Agency, the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime and the Government are working together to tackle money laundering. Respective leads from each of the aforementioned organisations were present, with Lucy Cumming able to provide expert input on the national landscape.

Action Fraud

Throughout December, positive national reporting of NFIB’s PROTECT warning about Christmas shopping frauds (“The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year for cybercriminals”). Activity has achieved 33m impressions (number of timeline deliveries) and 15m reach (number of unique users who have seen the content). The campaign has been shared by multiple forces, partners and individuals including television personality Martin Lewis who helped contribute to the highest single day of engagement on Action Fraud social media of the year on Wednesday 6th December. Taken as a whole, impressions were up 62% for the month of December.

Operational activity highlights

Throughout December there have been a further 8 offenders charged, 3 operations at trial, 10 convictions and offenders sentenced to a total of 40 months imprisonment.

Fraud Operations took part in a podcast as part of the ‘Fraudible’ series on fraud alongside Claire Maillett and Dr Liz Carter. The subject was coercive control in fraud and discussions covered high harm frauds such as romance fraud and courier fraud as well as manipulation in investment fraud cases. The podcast will be published in March.

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) identified a spoof email address being used to contact customers purporting to be from a Crypto Currency webservice (blockchain.com). Proactive research identified that a further forty two web domains had been registered including “actionfraud.info” & “department-fraud.com”. NFIB have arranged for the web domains to be blocked.

National Support & Co-ordination

National Co-ordinator Office through the Joint Fraud Taskforce Collective Response (JFTCR) and with the assistance of UK Finance, were able ring fence \$50m linked to 6,500 bank accounts. This was in relation to an HMRC fraud.

International Support & Co-ordination.

The Intelligence Development Team (IDT) were notified by Garda of €600,000 at risk, having been transferred from a hospital in Dublin to a UK account following a payment diversion fraud. IDT worked to identify the recipient account held by Banking Circle and under the Interpol initiated IGRIP protocol had the funds stopped and returned to the victim.

Pete O’Doherty
Temporary Commissioner
City of London Police