

# Fighting Crime in London



**Boris Johnson**



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# My 9 point plan for a Greater London

1. Cutting waste at City Hall – freeing up £3.5 billion for services.
2. Putting £445 back in your pocket by freezing the Mayoral share of council tax.
3. Creating 200,000 new jobs over the next four years.
4. Making our streets and homes safer with 1,000 more police on the beat.
5. Restoring 300 acres of green space and planting 20,000 street trees.
6. Investing £221 million to transform local high streets, supporting small businesses.
7. Ensuring a true Olympic legacy – 11,000 new homes and 10,000 new jobs.
8. Reducing Tube delays 30% by 2015. Building Crossrail and orbital rail to link our suburbs. Extending the Bike Hire scheme.
9. Securing a better deal for London from No 10.

*Fighting Crime in London details point 4 of my 9 point plan for Greater London, explains my crime fighting pledges in addition to those listed in the 9 point plan for Greater London, and shows how they link in with the whole plan.*



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# Introduction

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Dear Londoner,

The first duty of the Mayor is to protect Londoners.

When I was elected, I inherited a police force in need of strong leadership, where officers were tied to their desks by unnecessary paperwork. Twenty-seven teenagers had been murdered in 2007<sup>1</sup>, but the response from City Hall was weak. Violent crime had increased, drug crime had more than doubled<sup>2</sup>, and public disorder offences on the Tube had increased by 521 per cent<sup>3</sup>.

I promised to work to turn things around. By bringing fresh leadership to the Metropolitan Police Service, working with all London's boroughs, and Londoners whatever their background and politics, I have put more police on the streets, brought down crime significantly, made a start on tackling the seemingly intractable problems of reoffending and youth crime, and made London the safest it has been for many years.

Comparing my term against that of my predecessor, total crime has been cut by 10.8 per cent<sup>4</sup>. Murders have decreased by 25.9 per cent<sup>5</sup>, the lowest rate since 1978<sup>6</sup>. Youth violence has decreased by 13.8 per cent<sup>7</sup>, with the number of youth murders almost halving<sup>8</sup>. Robberies are down by 16.3 per cent<sup>9</sup>. And bus crime has fallen by 30 per cent<sup>10</sup> since I put 697 extra police on our Tube and buses<sup>11</sup>, and introduced a ban on alcohol on the Transport for London network.

Through careful management of the Met's budget during a time of unprecedented economic conditions, I have ensured that London increases and maintains the number of fully warranted police officers. There are now 1,000 extra warranted officers on London's streets compared to when I was elected. And I have encouraged single patrols, adding thousands of extra patrols every year<sup>12</sup>. This has been done without increasing the Mayor's share of Council Tax. London now has four Rape Crisis Centres<sup>13</sup>, and the Met have taken over 11,000 knives off the streets<sup>14</sup>.

For all this hard work, last year's riots show the full scale of the challenges we still face. In particular, urgent attention needs to be given to our youth justice system. The most striking statistic was that the vast majority of rioters were a product of the criminal justice system<sup>15</sup>, a system which it would appear for decades has achieved little either in terms of deterrence or rehabilitation. More action is required. So I now pledge to commit to more targeted programmes, aimed at helping London's vulnerable young people steer away from a life of crime.

Over these last four years we have strengthened the arm of the Mayor. I regularly meet with the Home Secretary and Home Office ministers, and my strong relationship with Government has not only secured £90 million extra funding to keep police officers high<sup>16</sup>, but also persuaded Ministers to significantly strengthen the Mayor's powers on policing under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Through the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, I am now able to set police priorities and fully hold the Met Commissioner to account. I believe that the police should target the crimes that most concern Londoners, including serious

1 GLA Website, *Time for action on youth violence*

2 MPS Website, *Crime Figures 2000-2008*

3 British Transport Police, *Statistical Bulletin 2002/03 – 2007/08*. Using 2001-02 and 2007-08 figures

4 MPS statistics, Comparing 44 months of Ken Livingstone September 2004 – April 2008 with 44 months of Boris Johnson May 2008 - December 2011

5 MOPC, *Monthly Report: Police and Crime Committee*, 8 March 2012

6 GLA, *Press Release*, 22 September 2010

7 GLA Website, *Reporting on crime*

8 GLA Website, *'Time for action on youth violence'*

9 MPS statistics, Comparing 44 months of Ken Livingstone September 2004 – April 2008 with 44 months of Boris Johnson May 2008

10 MOPC, *Monthly Report: Police and Crime Committee*, 8 March 2012

11 Mayor of London, *Written Answers*, 14 March 2012

12 Mayor of London, *Minutes (Draft), Mayor's Question Time*, 22 February 2012, 767/2012

13 GLA, *Press Release, Mayor to quadruple Rape Crisis services in London*, 8 March 2010

14 GLA, *Press Release, Mayor helps bid to rid streets of knives at weapons disposal bin*, 3 February 2011

15 BBC News Online, 15 September 2011

16 GLA, *Press Release*, 1 February 2012

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youth violence; robbery, burglary and drug dealing in every borough; getting tough on gangs and tackling re-offending rates.

I will take London forward by further strengthening the police and driving a renewed focus on street policing to ensure the capital is one of the safest cities in the world to work and live. I will continue to increase the number of special constables by giving them a rebate on their Council Tax. I will strengthen the role of Safer Neighbourhood Teams by giving Londoners a greater say over policing in their area through new Safer Neighbourhood Boards.

I will continue to take violence against women seriously, through a new London-wide domestic violence service. I will tackle binge drinking in outer London town centres, send a strong message on sentencing with a new Sentencing Unit for London, and reduce reoffending through a significant expansion of mentoring and rehabilitation centres. And I will continue to work with partners to fight crime in London through my London Crime Reduction Board.

And of course all of this is to be set against the backdrop of the biggest policing operation in living memory with the Olympic and Paralympic Games, alongside the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. I will work closely with the Commissioner and his team to ensure we achieve the twin tasks of keeping the city safe and securing the 2012 Games.

We have made progress despite difficult times. At the Mayoral election on 3rd May this progress is at risk. The choice at this election is between taking London backwards, and my plan to ensure we have the resources to maintain the extra 1,000 police officers I have put on the streets, so that London is not just safer, but also feels safer.



**Boris Johnson**



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# My priorities for a Greater London

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## Strengthening the Force

- Drive a renewed focus on street policing:
  - Work with the Commissioner to boost Safer Neighbourhood Teams, with an additional 2,000 police, including adding up to three Police Officers and three Specials to every Team.
  - Double the number of Special Constables to 10,000.
  - Offer, for the first time in Greater London, a 50 per cent rebate on the Mayor's share of Council Tax to Special Constables.
  - Extend 'buy one get one free' police officer scheme for borough councils.
- Maintain the extra 1,000 police officers I have put on the streets.
  - Publish monthly comparable crime figures and police numbers for every borough to ensure transparency and accountability of the Force.
  - Lobby for legislation to allow me to introduce a direct entry scheme to the Met.
- Make more significant progress towards a force that looks more like London.
- Personally oversee plans to deliver a safe and secure 2012 Olympic Games.
- Guarantee to continue funding for the new Trident Gangs Command for my entire term.
- Double the size of the Met's Status Dogs Unit; and seek tougher sentences for those using dogs as weapons in Greater London.

## Giving victims a greater voice

- Establish Safer Neighbourhood Boards in every borough giving local Londoners and victims a greater voice.
- Give local people a direct say in Community Payback.
- Create a £1 million a year local crime prevention fund for Safer Neighbourhood Board projects.
- Establish a new Sentencing Unit for London with a focus on violence, especially knife crime.
- Develop a crime reporting smartphone app.

## A safer London for women

- Maintain funding for the extra police on the transport network for my second term, which is at risk from Ken Livingstone's plan to take £1.14 billion out of the transport budget.
- Continue funding for the 50 extra British Transport Police on the overland rail network and negotiate to bring them under a new "London Command".
- Introduce a Courtesy Card to require those under 16s who benefit from free travel on the buses to treat other travellers with respect.
- Launch a pan-London domestic violence service.
- Guarantee funding for London's four Rape Crisis Centres for my entire term.

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- Establish a task force to confront female genital mutilation and other harmful cultural practices, including so-called “witchcraft” killings.

## **Smarter solutions to alcohol and drug crime**

- Introduce “Compulsory Sobriety” for drunken offenders.
- Establish a Strategic Licensing Unit to work with boroughs to sort out problem premises.
- Introduce a programme of intensive testing and supervision for drug offenders.

## **Helping London’s vulnerable young people**

- Launch 25 Leadership Clubs in secondary schools as part of our work to tackle the underlying causes of last year’s riots.
- Drive forward the Daedalus Programme with enhanced resettlement for young offenders, and develop new employment programmes.
- Work with the Met to double again the number of police cadets.
- Recruit 1,000 volunteers to help up to 10,000 young adults through uniformed groups.
- Continue mentoring programmes to help 1,000 vulnerable boys aged 10-16, and to improve literacy amongst young Londoners.

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# Strengthening the Force

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## I will:

- Drive a renewed focus on street policing:
  - Work with the Commissioner to boost Safer Neighbourhood Teams, with an additional 2,000 police, including adding up to three Police Officers and three Specials to every Team.
  - Double the number of Special Constables to 10,000.
  - Offer, for the first time in Greater London, a 50 per cent rebate on the Mayor's share of Council Tax to Special Constables.
  - Extend 'buy one get one free' police officer scheme for borough councils.
- Maintain the extra 1,000 police officers I have put on the streets.
  - Publish monthly comparable crime figures and police numbers for every borough to ensure transparency and accountability of the Force.
  - Lobby for legislation to allow me to introduce a direct entry scheme to the Met.
- Make more significant progress towards a force that looks more like London.
- Personally oversee plans to deliver a safe and secure 2012 Olympic Games.
- Guarantee to continue funding for the new Trident Gangs Command for my entire term.
- Double the size of the Met's Status Dogs Unit; and seek tougher sentences for those using dogs as weapons in Greater London.

When I was elected, London had serious problems with crime. Today, London is on the way to being one of the safest big cities in the world. Londoners elected me to cut crime, and I have worked hard to successfully drive crime down. Specifically, comparing my term against that of my predecessor:

- Total crime has been cut by 10.8 per cent. This includes the most serious offences such as murder, which has decreased by 25.9 per cent – the lowest rate since 1978<sup>17</sup>.
- Youth violence has decreased by 13.8 per cent, with the number of youth murders halving<sup>18</sup>.
- Robberies are down by 16.3 per cent<sup>19</sup>.
- Robbery on public transport<sup>20</sup> is down 46.5 per cent; crime on buses has fallen by 30 per cent and crime on the Tube has fallen by 20 per cent<sup>20</sup>.

But the problems I inherited had been years in the making. In particular the horrendous problems of knife and gang crime had been allowed to take root in London's streets for many years. We have made progress, and we are working to change this culture.

## Transparency on crime figures and police numbers

My predecessor did not take serious steps to reduce crime, particularly the types of crime that concern Londoners most. Violent crime under Ken Livingstone was up 11.2 per cent between 2000-01 and 2007-08<sup>21</sup>.

17 MOPC, *Monthly Report: Police and Crime Committee*, 8 March 2012

18 GLA Website, *Reporting on crime*; GLA Website, *'Time for action on youth violence'*

19 GLA Website, *Reporting on crime*

20 GLA, Press Release, *Mayor highlights drop in crime across public transport network*, 21 February 2011

21 MPS, *Crime Mapping: Data tables, 2000-2008*

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Drug crime up 202 per cent<sup>22</sup>, actual bodily harm up 84 per cent<sup>23</sup>, harassment up 89 per cent<sup>24</sup>. Between 2001-02 and 2007-08, public disorder offences on the Tube went up 521 per cent while violent crime on the Tube went up by 56 per cent<sup>25</sup>. Most shockingly of all, despite widespread concern about a growing culture of knives, violence and gangs, knife crime was such a low priority that it wasn't even measured until the final year of Ken Livingstone's eight-year term<sup>26</sup>.

I set to work straight away to cut crime and strengthen London's crime-fighting capability. I increased the Force with more Police Officers, more PCSOs and more Special Constables, and I began to refocus the police on what matters to Londoners.

Since I was elected, I have put 697 extra police<sup>27</sup> on the buses and Tube.

These extra resources, better management and renewed focus on the things that matter have meant I have been able to cut crime. Comparing the 45 months prior to the 2008 election with the following 45 months shows that I have cut crime by 10.8 per cent from 3,486,028 offences to 3,110,245. I have cut violence against the person by 9.7 per cent, murder by 25.9 per cent and robbery by 16.3 per cent.

My record of cutting crime throughout my Mayoralty also shows when comparing my annual crime figures with 2007-08, the last year before I became Mayor. I cut total crime in 2008-09, in 2009-10 and again in 2010-11. I have also cut violence against the person, burglary and robbery compared to 2007-08, although the trends within individual categories has not been as smooth as the overall trend in total crime.

Unlike my predecessor, I take honesty, openness and transparency seriously. I will publish comparable crime figures and police numbers for each borough with totals for all of London monthly on the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime website.

## Increasing time on the beat

Since I was elected, the number of police officers has increased; the number of patrols has increased by thousands<sup>28</sup>; and we have sought to prioritise the amount of time officers spend on the street.

Using my strengthened powers with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, my priority is to maintain police numbers. There are 1,000 more fully warranted police officers on London's streets at the end of this term than I inherited. My strong relationship with the Government has secured an extra £90 million to ensure police numbers remain high<sup>29</sup>.

I will maintain the extra 1,000 police I have put on the street throughout my second term.

To harness the support of local authorities, I also launched a 'buy one get one free' offer, where I match their spending on extra police offers in their area<sup>30</sup>. Twelve boroughs (Brent, Camden, Ealing, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Lewisham, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest) have taken up that opportunity to increase police numbers, and I will continue this offer to increase police numbers further and crucially allow councils to co-decide their function.

I have supported the introduction of single patrolling which has meant that there will be hundreds of thousands more visible police patrols every year. And I have sought to cut the amount of police bureaucracy to enable police to spend more time on the street than behind a desk.

22 MPS, *Crime Mapping: Data tables, 2000-2008*

23 MPS, *Crime Mapping: Data tables, 2000-2008*

24 MPS, *Crime Mapping: Data tables, 2000-2008*

25 British Transport Police, *Statistical Bulletin 2002/03 – 2007/08*

26 Home Office, *Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales by offence and police force area from 1990 to 2010/11*, 26 August 2011

27 Mayor of London, *Mayors Questions Written Answers*, 931/2012, 14 March 2012

28 Mayor of London, *Minutes (Draft), Mayor's Question Time*, 22 February 2012, 767/2012

29 GLA, *Twenty Ninth Mayor's Report to the Assembly*, 23 March 2011, p. 2

30 GLA, *Twenty Ninth Mayor's Report to the Assembly*, 23 March 2011, p. 2

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I will also hold the Commissioner to his stated objective of spending at least two days a month with the entire force focused on a major crime fighting initiative, including using Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and executing warrants for known offenders.

## **Strength in depth – a Force that looks more like London**

True strength is about more than just numbers. For the Met to be at its strongest, it must reflect, and be fully accepted by, the population it seeks to serve. When I arrived at City Hall it is fair to say that internal tensions over race issues in particular were high at the Met. I have sought to defuse or resolve these tensions and draw all parties together into a constructive coalition to change the look and feel of the workforce at Scotland Yard.

And there is still much work to do. In my second term, we will review progress and help the Commissioner to completely redraw the Met's diversity strategy setting a renewed course for the future. We will also take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Winsor review and, with the Commissioners agreement, work to introduce a direct entry scheme, allowing older people with differing skills to join the Met and accelerate to an appropriate rank.

## **Safer Neighbourhood Teams**

Safer Neighbourhood Teams have made a huge contribution to cutting crime in London and making people feel safer in all of London's 624 wards. I have also given some Sergeants more responsibility to strengthen the response of their teams around the ward boundaries.

But I want to go further to help Safer Neighbourhood Teams do even more to combat crime. I will work with the Commissioner to boost Safer Neighbourhood Teams, with an additional 2,000 police, including adding up to three Police Officers and three Specials to every Team.

This extra capacity means that the team can focus more on solving and preventing crime, dealing with anti-social behaviour and critically giving a greater sense of territorial ownership and control to Londoners.

## **Special Constables**

Special Constables are an invaluable part of the fight against crime, which is why I have driven recruitment to more than double the number on London's streets from 2,500<sup>31</sup> when I was elected, to over 5,479 as of October 2011<sup>32</sup>. They are also a vital link between the police and the public, strengthening the consent and support on which the police rely.

In recognition of their valuable service, members of the public who serve as Special Constables in London already get free travel<sup>33</sup>. I want to go further, and will give Special Constables a 50 per cent rebate on the Mayor's share of Council Tax. This would save the average household in a Band D property over £600 over the lifetime of my next Mayoral term.

I will encourage boroughs to match this, potentially increasing this saving to an average of over £1,200 over the lifetime of the next Mayoral term.

I will aim to double the current number of Special Constables further to 10,000. Their remit will be to work in the evenings, on the transport network and with Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

## **2012 Games**

The challenge the Met faces in securing the Olympic and Paralympic Games cannot be underestimated. Years of work and planning have gone into the immense operation which will keep London safe during

31 MPA Archive Website, *MPS Police officer, staff and PCSO numbers*

32 MPA Archive Website, *MPS Police officer, staff and PCSO numbers*

33 GLA Website, *Could you be a Special?*

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the Games. I will work closely with the Commissioner and his team to ensure London is prepared for all eventualities and to achieve the twin tasks of keeping the city safe and securing the 2012 Games.

## Confronting gangs

It is estimated around 5,000 people are involved with up to 250 often violent gangs in the capital<sup>34</sup>. The presence of these organised groups in some neighbourhoods often brings extreme violence and criminality and has a corrosive effect on some young people, entrenching an anti-work and anti-achievement culture.

That is why the Commissioner and I have launched the Trident Gangs Command of 1,000 warranted officers and a budget of £60 million. The Command is targeting all of London's gangs, but prioritising the 62 most violent groups of young men who are responsible for two-thirds of gang-related crime.

So far Trident has conducted over 300 raids<sup>35</sup> across 19 boroughs, arrested over 500 people<sup>36</sup>. Officers seized items including 1kg of heroin, cocaine, firearms and large quantities of cash amongst other contraband.

But this assertive enforcement comes hand in hand with the opportunity to exit a life of violence and crime, and I will continue to work with my partners on the London Crime Reduction Board, most importantly London's boroughs, to provide the avenues to success that reformed gang members need.

## Weapon dogs

The menace of dangerous dogs is one that troubles many parts of London. Three years ago we established a Status Dogs Unit at the Met<sup>37</sup> which has taken around 3,000 dogs off the streets<sup>38</sup>. I will continue to lobby the Government for changes in the law so that owners who groom dogs as weapon dogs receive the same length of sentence as someone illegally carrying a knife. And I will provide the Commissioner with funding to double the number of specialist officers on the squad.

## Harnessing technology

I will make sure that London is a world leader in crime fighting techniques, and that our officers have access to the most advanced technologies to help them in the war on crime. We must ensure that the basic IT infrastructure of the Met is significantly modernised, both to save money and increase productivity, and there are some specific crime fighting technologies that we must use more.

I will ensure Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is used across all London to help identify and track down the vehicles of criminals, which has proved of particular use against burglars.

Ensuring strong protections against misuse, I will extend this approach by requiring Transport for London (TfL) and the Metropolitan Police Service to assume joint responsibility for TfL's ANPR camera system which is used for the operation of the Congestion Charge and the Low Emission Zone. This would give the Met straightforward access, with an explicit purpose for crime prevention and detection.

In order to safeguard our civil liberties, this will be accompanied by a public awareness campaign to ensure the processing of personal data is fair and lawful; and measures to guard against the possibility of it becoming part of a 'surveillance state'.

As I outlined in my *Investing in Transport* manifesto chapter, road accidents can cause major disruption. Often it can take too long to reopen the road network. I will explore new technology to more quickly assess accident scenes, including new lasers that scan the site of an accident in 3D to help police to more quickly complete their survey of the scene. This would enable the police to open roads more rapidly to keep London moving, with the aim of halving the average time taken to re-open roads after an incident.

34 GLA, Press Release, *Met launches major crack down on gang crime*, 8 February 2012

35 BBC News Online, *More than 200 held as Met Police crack down on gangs*, 8 February 2012

36 MPS, Press Release, *Met Police makes 515 gang-related arrests*, 15 February 2012

37 GLA, Press Release, *Dog attack victims join Deputy Mayor to pledge for urgent action on dangerous dogs*, 25 August 2010

38 Metropolitan Police Service, *'Dangerous Dogs Seizure and Disposal'* statistics



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# Giving victims a greater voice

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## I will:

- Establish Safer Neighbourhood Boards in every borough giving local Londoners and victims a greater voice.
- Give local people a direct say in Community Payback.
- Create a £1 million a year local crime prevention fund for Safer Neighbourhood Board projects.
- Establish a new Sentencing Unit for London with a focus on violence, especially knife crime.
- Develop a crime reporting smartphone app.

## Safer Neighbourhood Boards

It is important the police focus on the priorities of local communities, and one of the clearest ways of achieving this is to enable neighbourhoods to set policing priorities. I have already made the police more accountable to communities, by introducing crime mapping – publishing detailed information on crimes at street level, opening up local policing to residents, and transforming the accountability of the Met<sup>39</sup>. This means that every Londoner can now easily find information about crime in their neighbourhood online.

I will launch a new Safer Neighbourhood Board in every borough, to establish policing priorities for each neighbourhood and fulfil important responsibilities.

This will involve amalgamation of the current Community Police Engagement Group structure with the Met's Independent Advisory Group community engagement structure to avoid duplication, with members of these boards sitting on them for a maximum of three years and we will reserve places for councillors and young people on each board. These measures will ensure both a regular refresh of opinions, strong linkage with the boroughs and a wide diversity of views.

I will give each board a number of responsibilities; specifically a new duty to hear and monitor complaints from victims of crime and to monitor crime performance and community confidence in their area. They will also be required to monitor levels of complaints about borough-based police officers from the public and undertake the role of "Independent Custody Visitors", responsible for visiting local offenders post-arrest<sup>40</sup>. Specifically they will have a duty to ensure that all wards have a ward panel of residents as a sounding board for the newly expanded Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

I will prioritise £1 million saved by this amalgamation into a borough problem-solving fund, from which the new boards can bid for crime prevention projects in their area.

I will also require the new boards to play a significant role in Community Payback.

## Community Payback

When offenders are convicted, justice must not only be done, it must be seen to be done. With the support of national government, I will ensure that more offenders serving community sentences are visibly doing tasks that improve their neighbourhoods such as clearing roadside litter, cleaning up graffiti, or planting trees as part of a "Community Payback" scheme.

To ensure that offenders are doing work that is of value to the public, I will work with the probation service to empower the new Safer Neighbourhood Boards to set the tasks that offenders from their borough should

39 Metropolitan Police Service Website, *Crime Mapping*

40 Archived Metropolitan Police Authority Website, *Independent Custody Visitors*

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undertake as payback to the neighbourhood for their crimes, after specifically canvassing the views of victims.

## Sentencing Unit for London

It is important that people have confidence in sentencing, and that sentences work both as a deterrent, and to offer justice for victims.

It is also important therefore that the Mayor constructively influences sentencing policy.

Sentencing guidelines are currently set to achieve national consistency. However, crime patterns are regional, and what may be a deterrent in Lancaster could have little affect in London.

I also believe that there are too many people going to prison on short sentences, which just make them more likely to offend. By contrast those convicted of serious violence spend too little time in gaol. It is time to put sense into sentencing.

I want a sentencing approach in London that embraces quality not quantity. I want more imaginative and innovative disposals for those currently subject to short sentences, for example my 'Compulsory Sobriety' project. And I want longer custodial sentences for those who perpetrate violence, especially gang violence, and for persistent robbers and burglars.

I will therefore establish a new Sentencing Unit for London, within the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, with the tasks of:

- Closely monitoring sentencing by court and offence.
- Ensuring that all opportunities to influence sentencing post-conviction, but prior to sentence, are taken, such as community and victim impact statements, and sentencing recommendations by London Probation.
- Systematically and formally objecting, using powers available to all citizens under the Criminal Justice Act 1988<sup>41</sup>, to sentences that I believe are too lenient.

I will also engage with the National Sentencing Council to achieve the best outcomes for London.

## Tough sentencing for knife crime

I have long advocated stronger sentencing to deter knife crime, including custodial sentences for those carrying a knife. Operation Blunt 2 has taken around 11,000 knives off the streets<sup>42</sup>, but still there are too many young people are walking around armed.

I strongly support the Government's policy of gaoling people carrying knives, and welcome the fact that it accepted proposals that the policy should apply to people under the age of 18, as well as those over 18.

The wide use of knife arches will continue until incidences of knife crime reduce significantly.

## Crime reporting app

Now we will go further and develop a crime-reporting app for smartphones, allowing the public to immediately report crimes using their smartphone, including pictures and footage, and making it faster and easier to report crimes.

I have delivered my pledge to roll out a new 101 non-emergency service available in London, which has now been rolled out by the Government across England and Wales, providing members of the public with an easy way to report less urgent crime<sup>43</sup>.

41 Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Review of Sentencing Order 2006)

42 GLA, Press Release, *Mayor helps bid to rid streets of knives at weapons disposal bin*, 3 February 2011

43 Direct Gov Website, *Reporting non-emergency crimes using 101*



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# A safer London for women

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## I will:

- Maintain funding for the extra police on the transport network for my entire second term, which is at risk from Ken Livingstone's plan to take £1.14 billion out of the transport budget.
- Continue funding for 50 extra British Transport Police on the overland rail network and negotiate to bring them under a new "London Command".
- Introduce a Courtesy Card to require those under 16s who benefit from free travel on the buses to treat other travellers with respect.
- Guarantee funding for London's four Rape Crisis Centres for my entire term.
- Launch a pan-London domestic violence service.
- Establish a task force to confront female genital mutilation and other harmful cultural practices, including so-called "witchcraft" killings.

While the extra police presence has made London safer for everyone, it has especially benefitted women, particularly on public transport where we have seen a significant increase in police presence. We have also had a serious crack down on illegal minicabs.

Under my Mayoralty, London became the first major city in the world to launch a comprehensive Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy which has drawn together a coalition of those committed to eradicating all forms of violence against women and received positive recognition by the United Nations.

But there is still much more to do. Female victims in this city are still too common and while I will continue with my established strategy there are some other areas of concern that need to be addressed.

## Transport crime

Under my predecessor, crime on public transport, in particular buses, was rising substantially. On London Underground, public disorder offences on the tube increased by 521 per cent, violent crime by 56 per cent, and drug crime 128 per cent between 2001/2 and 2007/8<sup>44</sup>. On the bus network, violence on buses increased by 9 per cent between 2004/5 and 2007/8<sup>45</sup>.

Since I was elected, I have put 697 extra police<sup>46</sup> on the buses and Tube and banned alcohol<sup>47</sup>. This has helped to cut bus crime by 30 per cent, with violence on buses falling by 21 per cent<sup>48</sup> and Tube crime cut by 20 per cent<sup>49</sup>. I have also cracked down on illegal minicabs – doubling the team dedicated to tackling the problem<sup>50</sup> and making 1,300 arrests in 2010/11<sup>51</sup>.

I will maintain the funding for the extra police I have put on the transport network for my whole second term, which is at risk from Ken Livingstone's plan to take £1.14 billion out of London's transport budget<sup>52</sup>. I will also continue to prioritise a strong police presence on public transport, including continuing my funding for 50 extra British Transport Police on the overland rail network.

44 British Transport Police, *Statistical Bulletin 2002/03– 2007/08*. Using 2001-02 and 2007-08 figures

45 TfL, *Crime and Antisocial Behaviour Statistics Bulletin*, Q1 2007/08 and Q1 2008/09

46 Mayor of London, *Mayors Questions Written Answers*, 931/2012, 14 March 2012

47 GLA, Press Release, *Mayor highlights drop in crime across public transport network*, 21 February 2011

48 TfL, *Crime Antisocial Behaviour Statistics Bulletin*, Q2 2010/2011 and Q2 2011/12

49 GLA, Press Release, *Mayor highlights drop in crime across public transport network*, 21 February 2011

50 GLA, Press Release, *Met launches major crack down on gang crime*, 8 February 2012

51 TfL, Press Release, *Safer Travel at Night: Over 1,300 drivers arrested last year as part of crackdown on unbooked 'minicabs'*, 23 May 2011

52 Mayor of London, *Mayor's Questions*, 14 December 2011

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I will lobby for a single “London Command” for the British Transport Police. As Mayor, I am also asking the Department for Transport to devolve responsibility for suburban London rail franchises to City Hall, and as part of this I will ensure that every station where responsibility is transferred is staffed to make it safer.

## Courtesy Card

I announced in my *Investing in Transport* manifesto, that I will strengthen the existing behaviour code by making it an explicit condition of free travel that under - 16s give up their seats for older people, especially pensioners and behave courteously to their fellow passengers.

I will publish a three-point Courtesy Code on the back of each ZIP card which will remind card holders that they must:

- Give up their seat to an older, pregnant or disabled person.
- Be polite and not use offensive or threatening language.
- Be courteous to fellow passengers: for instance, not playing music out loud on a mobile phone.

This Courtesy Code will complement TfL’s existing Behaviour Code, which every ZIP card holder has to observe, and any young person found breaching the Courtesy Code will have their free travel withdrawn. I will also operate a ‘two strikes and out’ policy, where individuals are only able to “Earn Your Travel Back” (EYTB) once before the card is removed permanently for a second offence. EYTB, which I promised to introduce at the last election, has so far enabled 3,019 young people who have their free travel withdrawn for bad behaviour to earn their ZIP card back by volunteering in community activities<sup>53</sup>.

## Rape crisis centres

In 2008, our capital city had only one Rape Crisis Centre, which was struggling financially. I moved swiftly to ensure its on-going financial stability. As part of my long-term plan, three new Rape Crisis Centres opened in London in 2010, making four in total based in North, South, East and West London<sup>54</sup> to help women across London. The four centres have helped 15,882 victims of sexual abuse with support, counselling and therapies in 2010- 2011 alone<sup>55</sup>.

I will guarantee funding to maintain all four centres for the entirety of my next term.

## Domestic violence

It is vital that those who perpetrate domestic violence are brought to justice. However, too many trials fail because the victim does not feel able to carry the complaint through and too many victims feel isolated and unsupported. Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) perform a vital function across the city in supporting victims and helping them through the difficult criminal justice process.

At the moment it is mainly the boroughs that commission IDVAs but they do so in a piecemeal and expensive way that does not give consistent pan-London coverage. Any reduction in the number of IDVAs would lead to an increase in the number of unsuccessful trials, which not only increases cost for the police and Crown Prosecution Service, but also means justice is not done.

I will therefore work with the police, boroughs, National Health Service, Home Office and the Crown Prosecution Service, to commission and fund a pan London domestic violence service and maintain the number of IDVAs. All these organisations have an interest and indeed a duty to collaborate in protecting women (and some men) from domestic abuse.

53 GLA, *Mayor’s Questions 4040/2011*, 14 December 2011.

54 GLA, Press Release, *Mayor to quadruple Rape Crisis services in London*, 8 March 2010

55 Mayor of London, Press Release, *Mayor’s Rape Crisis centres helping over 15,000 women*, 25 November 2011

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## Harmful cultural practices

There has been an alarming rise in female genital mutilation in London over the last decade. Too many women are presenting at our maternity wards with signs of having been mutilated. My Violence Against Women and Girls Board has been examining this problem, and other harmful cultural practices for the last couple of years.

I will therefore require the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime to draw together the Police, the National Health Service, the Home Office, parliamentarians and appropriate community organisations to design and implement a new assertive programme to combat these evils.

I will also ask them to look at the pattern of so-called "witchcraft" killings of children and "honour" crimes and formulate a preventative plan to this revolting abhorrence.



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# Smarter solutions to alcohol and drug crime

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## I will:

- Introduce “Compulsory Sobriety” for drunken offenders.
- Establish a Strategic Licensing Unit to work with boroughs to sort out problem premises.
- Introduce a new programme of intensive testing and supervision for drug offenders.

London has a far worse problem with alcohol than England as a whole, with 11.7 alcohol related crimes for every 1,000 people compared to a national average of 7.6<sup>56</sup>. In particular, we have the highest rate of alcohol-related violent crimes and sexual offences in the UK. Problem drinking can lead to domestic violence. Often it results in anti-social behaviour on the streets, with law-abiding citizens feeling threatened. Although much of the offending is relatively minor, it can be prolific with high reoffending rates, and young binge drinkers are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime.

## A smarter approach to alcohol and crime

When I was elected, I immediately banned drinking alcohol on public transport, which helped lead to the dramatic reduction in crime on Tubes and buses.

I will ensure that existing laws banning the sale of alcohol to people who are drunk and to children under 18 are rigorously enforced. The Met have already launched Operation Condor, a pan-London licensing operation cracking down on premises which sell alcohol and knives illegally, and who are failing to comply with the conditions of their licence. I will guarantee funding for at least one such operation each and every month of my term and will ask the Commissioner to make maximum use of the increased number of Police Cadets in test purchase operations.

I will also establish a Strategic Licencing Unit at the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime with the task of monitoring alcohol crime by gathering new data from the London Ambulance Service and A&E departments while maintaining patient confidentiality, and then identifying problem premises, working with local authorities, police and residents to close them down. London will learn from a pilot in Cardiff, which showed that sharing data between hospitals and police enabled the police to cut the number of violent incidents including fistfights and stabbings by over 40 per cent<sup>57</sup>.

## Compulsory sobriety

At present, those convicted of alcohol-related crime often get punishments such as community orders that do little help to address the underlying cause or treatment that is ineffectual. I want to reverse the current approach of mandating treatment and merely hoping for sobriety, by enforcing sobriety and then offering treatment if needed.

In the United States, sobriety testing for offenders convicted of alcohol-related crimes has been hugely successful in reducing alcohol related crime<sup>58</sup>.

I believe we need to learn from this experience and I have secured funding from the Government to pilot sobriety testing which will see offenders fitted with tags, which are fitted to the ankle, measure air and

56 Local Alcohol Profile for England, *Local Authority Alcohol Indicators*

57 British Medical Journal Website, *Effectiveness of anonymised information sharing and use in health service, police, and local government partnership for preventing violence related injury: experimental study and time series analysis*, 16 June 2011

58 Alcohol Monitoring Systems Inc, *South Dakota 24/7 Sobriety Project Credited with Lowering Jail Populations*, 2009

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perspiration emissions from the skin every 30 minutes<sup>59</sup>. Blood alcohol levels as low as 0.02 per cent can be detected, and the tags can then transmit that information to a base monitoring station. If someone is found not to be sober, the police will arrest them and usually the court will decide an offender will spend a night in custody before restarting the scheme.

Following my intensive campaign, the Government has agreed to legislate to compel an offender to attend a testing centre twice a day to be tested. The rigour and certainty of the consequence of testing has resulted in very positive compliance rates in the US and has also resulted in a fall in other offences.

## Drug crime

Research has shown that among people who have been arrested, those who have admitted to having a drug addiction are more likely to have also admitted previously committing robbery and burglaries than those who do not<sup>60</sup>. Keeping them off drugs is key to stopping them offending. London can learn how to do this better from the United States and in particular from the HOPE probation programme in Hawaii.

This approach sees defendants clearly warned that if they violate the rules of the scheme, they go to gaol. Defendants are required to call a hotline each weekday morning to find out if they must take a drug test that day. Random drug testing occurs at least once a week for the first two months. If probationers test positive, they are arrested immediately. If they fail to appear for the test or violate other terms of probation, warrants for their arrest are issued immediately. Once they are apprehended, a probation modification hearing is held 48 hours later, and violators are typically sentenced to a short goal term. The gaol time may increase for subsequent violations and repeat offenders are often ordered into residential treatment.

Evaluation results indicate the program is highly successful at reducing drug use and crime, even among difficult populations such as methamphetamine abusers and domestic violence offenders<sup>61</sup>. I will seek to pilot this approach in London with a portion of the Drug Intervention Programme money that has now been secured for the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime from the Home Office<sup>62</sup>.

59 GLA, Press Release, *Mayor welcomes new approach to alcohol related crime in London – but says more is needed*, 10 February 2012; BBC Website, *US-style alcohol tests to be used for problem drinkers*, 10 February 2012

60 UK Drug Policy Commission, *Reducing Drug Use, Reducing Reoffending: Are programmes for problem drug-using offenders in the UK supported by the evidence?* - March 2008

61 Friends of Project HOPE Website, *About HOPE Probation*

62 MOPC, *Monthly Report: Police and Crime Committee*, 8 March 2012

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# Helping London's vulnerable young people

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## I will:

- Launch 25 Leadership Clubs in secondary schools as part of our work to tackle the underlying causes of last year's riots.
- Drive forward the Daedalus Programme with enhanced resettlement for young offenders, and develop new employment programmes.
- Work with the Met to double again the number of police cadets.
- Recruit 1,000 volunteers to help up to 10,000 young adults through uniformed groups.
- Continue mentoring programmes to help 1,000 vulnerable boys aged 10-16, and to improve literacy amongst young Londoners.

Last year's riots in London involved many young people who had also struggled at school. Fully 66 per cent of the 10-17 year olds charged have Special Educational Needs<sup>63</sup>, while 93 per cent of the 2,467 people arrested by the Met either held previous convictions or had been arrested for an offence prior to the riots<sup>64</sup>. We therefore need to improve their sense of discipline, achievement and aspiration if we are to deal with the root causes of the events last summer.

## Leadership Clubs

I will commit £1.6 million to create 25 'Leadership Clubs' in secondary schools. These will aim to instil discipline and improve the motivation of highly disruptive pupils through challenging mental and physical activities. The programme will help over 1,000 pupils who were particularly affected by the riots last year and have high levels of youth crime and unemployment. As well as character building, the clubs will provide lessons in literacy and numeracy so that children stay engaged at school and do not fall behind.

## Daedalus

When I became Mayor, City Hall was doing little to reduce reoffending. To ensure those incarcerated in their youth are more likely to rehabilitate rather than embark on a career of crime, I worked with partners to set up the Heron wing at Feltham Young Offenders' Institution as part of my Daedalus programme. The recent evaluation indicates that re-offending rates have been reduced to 41 per cent<sup>65</sup>.

I will continue to build on the scheme, committing £3.5 million to the programme to continue the enhanced resettlement of young offenders in London.

I will also instruct the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime to review what can be learnt from the Daedalus approach to youth crime and what can be applied to tackling repeat offending among adults. It will consider how police data on repeat offending could be used more productively and how it can work more effectively with other organisations that deal with other problems commonly faced by repeat offenders such as mental health, housing, and drug and alcohol abuse.

63 Ministry of Justice, *Statistical bulletin on the public disorder of 6th to 9th August 2011 – October update*, 24 October 2011, p. 5

64 Home Office, *An overview of recorded crime and arrests resulting from disorder events in August 2011*, October 2011

65 GLA, Press Release, *Mayor pumps £3.5m into cutting youth re-offending as 'pioneering' prison project delivers promising results*, 1 March 2012

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## Employment opportunities

Employment is one of the best guarantees that an offender won't commit more crimes, with reoffending rates falling by three-quarters if someone with a previous conviction is helped into a job. The overwhelming majority of offenders find it difficult to get work because of their criminal record.

Land Securities London Employment Strategy supports the Mayor's Young Offenders programme and ran a pilot this year at its London developments. Already eight out of twelve people have sustained employment, four of whom are undertaking further education (level 2 NVQ in construction). Land Securities is continuing the successful programme. Schemes like this, supporting the Mayor's Young Offenders programme, are making a real difference to young lives and drawing people away from a life of crime.

I want to go further. Many companies have led trailblazing schemes to help offenders get work, such as National Grid and Timpson, the shoe repair company where 4 per cent of employees are ex-offenders and which operates a training centre in a prison<sup>66</sup>. While Daedalus already supports resettlement brokers to help offenders find work, we need a culture change among companies to make it easier for offenders to be gainfully employed. Using my constructive relationship with the City and Business in the Community, I will launch a programme to get as many London employers as possible to help offenders in London to lead productive lives.

## Uniformed groups

There are many young people in London who would benefit from more contact with the uniform groups such as guides and the cadets. These groups provide structured and enjoyable activities which build young people's self-confidence and self-respect - and they have been shown to be particularly effective at supporting those at risk of antisocial or criminal behaviour. I will continue to recruit 1,000 more adult volunteers<sup>67</sup>, helping more than 8,000 more young people.

I have also doubled the number of Police Cadets since 2008, with around 1,000 more young Londoners now benefitting from the discipline and self-respect that the Volunteer Police Cadets instil in their cadets. I will work with the Met to double again the number of Police Cadets to 4,000.

## Mentoring

Since 2008, I have supported a wide range of volunteering activities which increase our sense of community and improve our shared experience of life in London. Based on the successful Cities of Service model, developed by Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York, and now operational in 100 other US cities, I have set up Team London. The purpose of the programme is to focus effort in areas where volunteering is likely to have the most impact and to set clear objectives to measure progress. I have committed £2.6 million, which has been matched by philanthropic support, to projects which support young people to reduce crime and improve community cohesion.

This includes supporting reading mentors in schools to tackle the scourge of illiteracy<sup>68</sup>. It also includes my mentoring programme for young black boys, who are over-represented both as perpetrators and victims of crime, with a disproportionate number of young black people affected by serious youth violence. For example, 86 per cent of gang members in London are of black Caribbean ethnicity compared to Liverpool where 93 per cent are white<sup>69</sup>. The average age for a first conviction is just 15 years old and 98 per cent of gang members are male. I will continue recruiting adult mentors for 1,000 at-risk boys aged 10-16.

66 Ministry of Justice Website, Press Release, *Timpson works with prisons to turn around lives*, 18 January 2011

67 GLA Website, *Team London*

68 Team London website

69 Home Office, *Monitoring Data from the Tackling Gangs Action Programme*, May 2008





# Fighting Crime in London

