

Transport crime at an all time low



THE risk of becoming a victim of crime while travelling on London's transport system is at its lowest level since records began.

New annual figures from the Metropolitan Police Service and British Transport Police (BTP) show crime on Transport for London's (TfL's) network has fallen by 2.3 per cent compared to last year, with 802 fewer offences.

The figures, which cover the period from the start of April 2012 to the end of March 2013, show that there are now just 8.9 crimes per million passenger journeys on the transport system, down from 9.4 in 2011/12.

Across the network, robbery has dropped by 17.6 per cent, criminal damage is down by 15.7 per cent and violence against individuals has reduced by 6.8 per cent. Crime on buses has halved since levels peaked in 2005/06.

However, increases have been seen in some crime types and on some parts of the network. London Underground and Docklands Light Railway have seen offences rise by 5.7 per cent compared to the previous year.

London Overground also saw an increase of 18.3 per cent, although this reflects a significant rise in passenger journeys owing to further expansion of the network.

Higher crime levels on some parts of the network are largely due to a rise in theft driven by organised thieves. Measures to tackle this problem include the deployment of a specially-trained plain-clothes pickpocket squad in theft hotspots, a new crime reduction awareness campaign and targeted activity against known offenders.

Siwan Hayward, TfL's acting director for Community, Safety and Enforcement, Policing, said: 'Our transport network continues to be a safe, low-crime environment. Despite this we are not complacent and are putting in measures to effectively deal with the rise in theft on some modes of the network.'

'We want all users of our services to travel safely and with confidence and we will continue to work with our transport policing partners to ensure the network remains safe.'

Transport at a glance

Bus funding boost



TRANSPORT for London (TfL) has secured £5m from the Department for Transport's (DfT) Green Bus Fund.

The majority of the money will be used, alongside existing TfL budget, to buy 90 hybrid buses and bolster what is already Europe's largest fleet of green buses.

The DfT's Green Bus Fund was set up to support bus companies and local authorities to introduce low-carbon vehicles that will have a positive effect

on the environment.

Mike Weston, London Buses Operations Director, said:

'London buses may be red on the outside but they are increasingly green on the inside. We will continue to increase our hybrid bus fleet and will seek, where possible, to trial exciting developments in zero emission electric technology.'

By 2016 there will be more than 1,700 hybrid buses operating across the capital.

Trooping the Colour

A number of roads in central London will be closed on Saturday for the annual Trooping the Colour ceremony.

Constitution Hill, Spur Road, The Mall, Admiralty Arch, Marlborough Road, Birdcage Walk, Great George Street and Horse Guards Road will all be closed for the event.

For those attending the ceremony, the nearest Tube stations are St James's Park (Circle and District), Westminster (Circle, District and Jubilee) and Charing Cross (Bakerloo, Northern and National Rail).

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