



Hit and run: an unacceptable epidemic

New data on the rise in hit and run incidents in London from Sian Berry AM

A briefing by Sian Berry
Green Party Member of the London Assembly
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Hit and run casualties in London: an unacceptable epidemic

This short briefing contains data obtained by me, and previously by my predecessor Jenny Jones AM, on the rise of 'hit and run' incidents on London's streets, where a driver of a vehicle fails to stop when involved in a crash on our roads.



The data obtained from the Mayor goes back to 2009 and up to 2015, and shows a huge 60 per cent increase in hit and run incidents that caused injuries across London in this time.

Figures also show there has been a 40 per cent increase in hit and run incidents since 2011, when detailed data for each London borough became available.

Only six out of 33 boroughs have seen a reduction in hit and run in that time – the largest reduction was Bromley at -36 per cent. The boroughs with the highest increase in hit and run incidents were Merton at 149 per cent and Wandsworth at 117 per cent.

As a percentage of overall collisions, hit and runs have increased from 13 per cent in 2009 to 20 per cent last year in 2015.

With drivers now failing to stop after a shocking one in five crashes, this is a real epidemic that needs real action from the police to tackle it. However, not only are people being hurt but there is also no information available to show whether the perpetrators of these crimes are being brought to justice.

Hit and runs are associated with other illegal activities such as drunk driving, speeding, being disqualified or simply having no insurance.

People need to know that if they run away from a crash they will face consequences, so I am very disappointed that the Metropolitan Police Service is still not able to provide data on the rate of prosecution of hit and run drivers. The Mayor told me: *"Due to limitations within the current systems utilised by the MPS, it is not possible to report specifically the number of these cases that were subject to prosecution action."*

With huge pressures on the police budget, a new Police and Crime Plan being drafted and big decisions for the Mayor to make, we need to know how effective police currently are in dealing with these crimes, and to be able to prioritise work to tackle it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sian Berry' in a cursive, flowing script.

Sian Berry

Green Party Member of the London Assembly

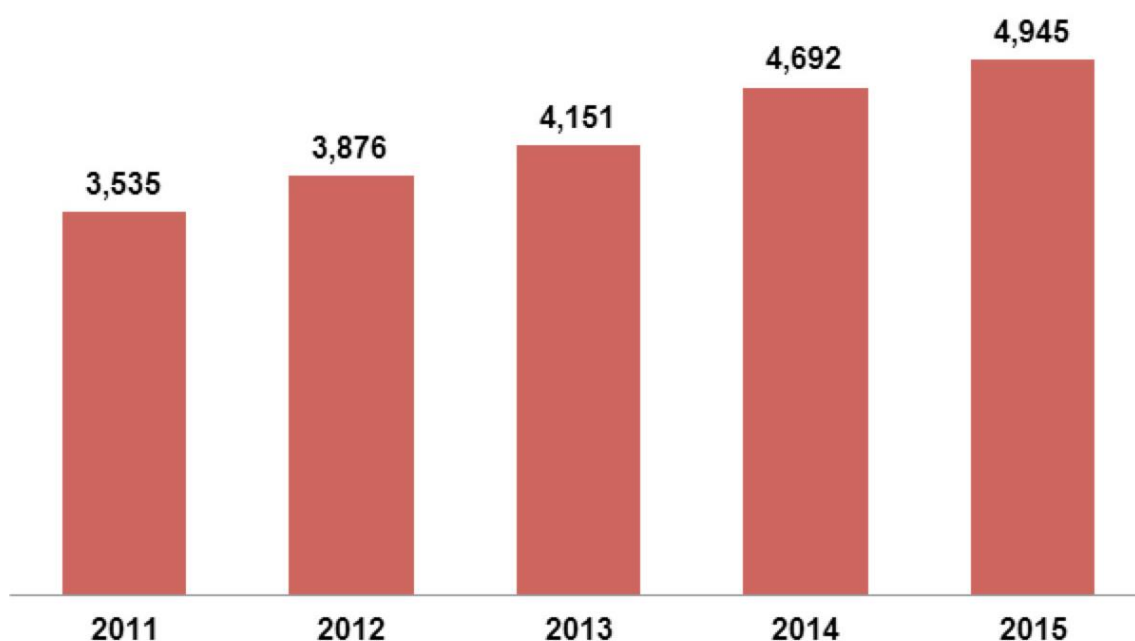
Data on hit and run incidents

Across London, the number of hit and run incidents has now risen every year since 2009 both in number terms and as a percentage of total collisions.¹

Table 1: Hit and run incidents in London - by seriousness of casualties

Year	Casualty: Fatal	Casualty: Serious	Casualty: Slight	Total hit and run incidents	% change since 2009	% change since 2011	Total collisions	Hit and run as % of total collisions
2009	11	297	2782	3090	0%	-13%	23,279	13%
2010	15	307	3085	3407	10%	-4%	24,145	14%
2011	14	306	3215	3535	14%	0%	24,468	14%
2012	15	360	3501	3876	25%	10%	24,097	16%
2013	8	306	3840	4154	34%	18%	23,097	18%
2014	8	298	4539	4845	57%	37%	26,030	19%
2015	11	287	4647	4945	60%	40%	25,173	20%

Figure 1: London-wide hit and run incidents involving casualties

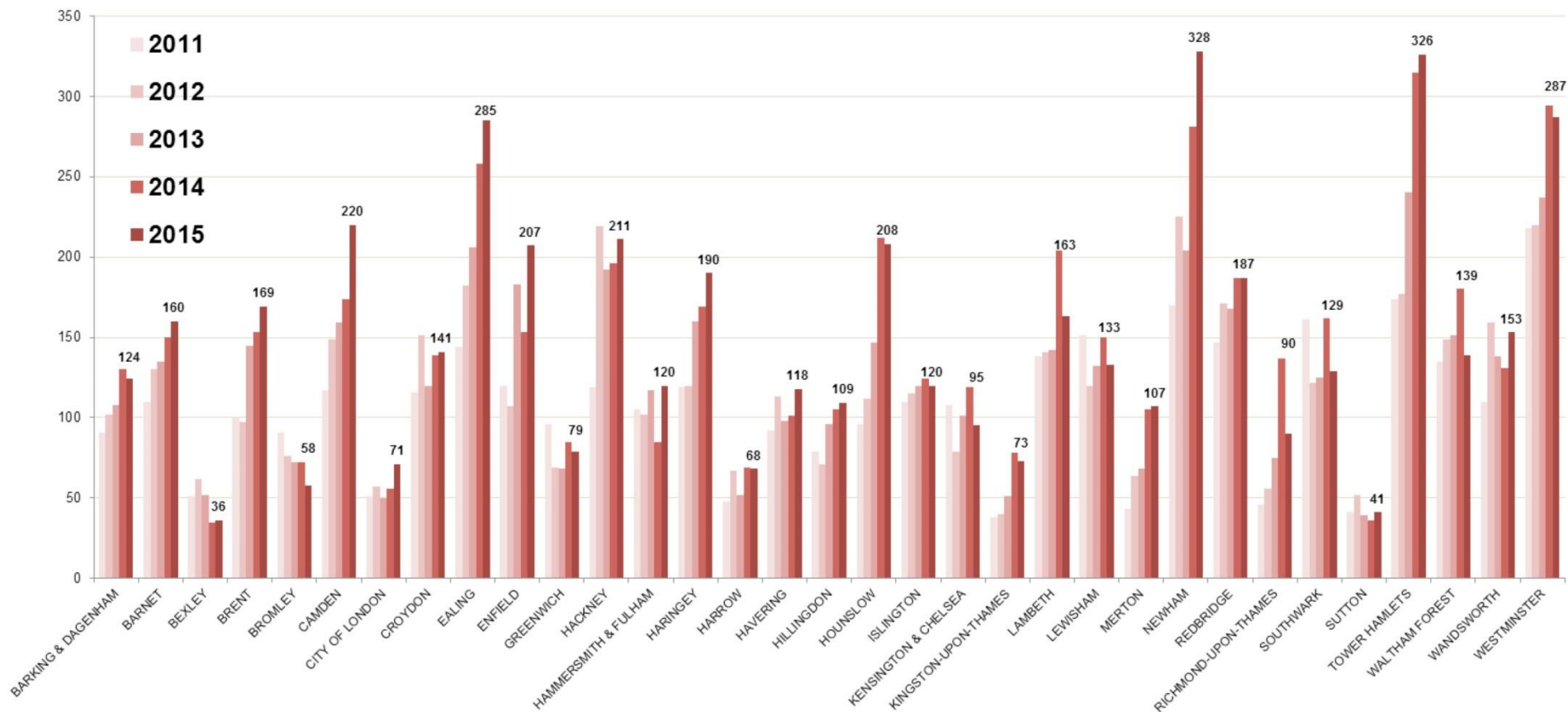


Most but not all boroughs have seen an increase in incidents since 2011 (the year from which comparative data is available).

Table 2: Hit and run incidents by borough

Borough	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% increase 2011-2015
MERTON	43	64	68	105	107	149%
HOUNSLOW	96	112	147	212	208	117%
EALING	144	182	206	258	285	98%
RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES	46	56	75	137	90	96%
NEWHAM	170	225	204	281	328	93%
KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES	38	40	51	78	73	92%
CAMDEN	117	149	159	174	220	88%
TOWER HAMLETS	174	177	240	315	326	87%
HACKNEY	119	219	192	196	211	77%
ENFIELD	120	107	183	153	207	73%
BRENT	100	97	145	153	169	69%
HARINGEY	119	120	160	169	190	60%
BARNET	110	130	135	150	160	45%
HARROW	48	67	52	69	68	42%
CITY OF LONDON	51	57	50	56	71	39%
WANDSWORTH	110	159	138	131	153	39%
HILLINGDON	79	71	96	105	109	38%
BARKING & DAGENHAM	91	102	108	130	124	36%
WESTMINSTER	218	220	237	294	287	32%
HAVERING	92	113	98	101	118	28%
REDBRIDGE	147	171	168	187	187	27%
CROYDON	116	151	120	139	141	22%
LAMBETH	138	141	142	204	163	18%
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM	105	102	117	85	120	14%
ISLINGTON	110	115	120	124	120	9%
WALTHAM FOREST	135	149	151	180	139	3%
SUTTON	41	52	39	36	41	0%
LEWISHAM	151	120	132	150	133	-12%
KENSINGTON & CHELSEA	108	79	101	119	95	-12%
GREENWICH	96	69	68	85	79	-18%
SOUTHWARK	161	122	125	162	129	-20%
BEXLEY	51	62	52	35	36	-29%
BROMLEY	91	76	72	72	58	-36%
Overall - London	3535	3876	4151	4845	4945	40%

Figure 2: Borough hit and run incidents 2011-2015



Contact me:

Please contact me to share your views and ideas for how to make these issues better.

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This report sets out my views as an individual Assembly Member and not the agreed view of the entire Assembly

References:

1 Data sources:

- a) Hit and run data
 - 2016 MQ by Sian Berry:
http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_289422
 - 2014 MQ by Jenny Jones:
http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_283591
 - 2013 MQ by Jenny Jones:
http://questions.london.gov.uk/QuestionSearch/searchclient/questions/question_272564
 - Additional and earlier info provided to Jenny Jones

- b) Total collisions data:
 - 2009-2014: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/road-collisions-severity/resource/2e601c81-1a66-42a4-b436-5d19efe851cf>
 - 2015: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reported-road-casualties-in-great-britain-main-results-2015>

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