

Monitoring the Mayor's policing and crime commitments July 2017

This quarterly report sets out the data to March 2017 on a range of crime types and policing issues in London.

Introduction

- The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 marks a change in the priorities that the Metropolitan Police is expected to focus on, and in the way that crime statistics are monitored.
- The previous plan contained a set of seven high volume crimes—the MOPAC 7—that police officers were expected to work towards reducing, as well as targets for the criminal justice system and for budget savings.
- The current plan focuses on high-harm, victim-centred crimes: domestic abuse, sexual offences, child sexual exploitation, knife crime, gun crime and hate crime. The plan sets no firm targets, but contains a range of measures that will be used to assess progress.

Some of the key messages this quarter:

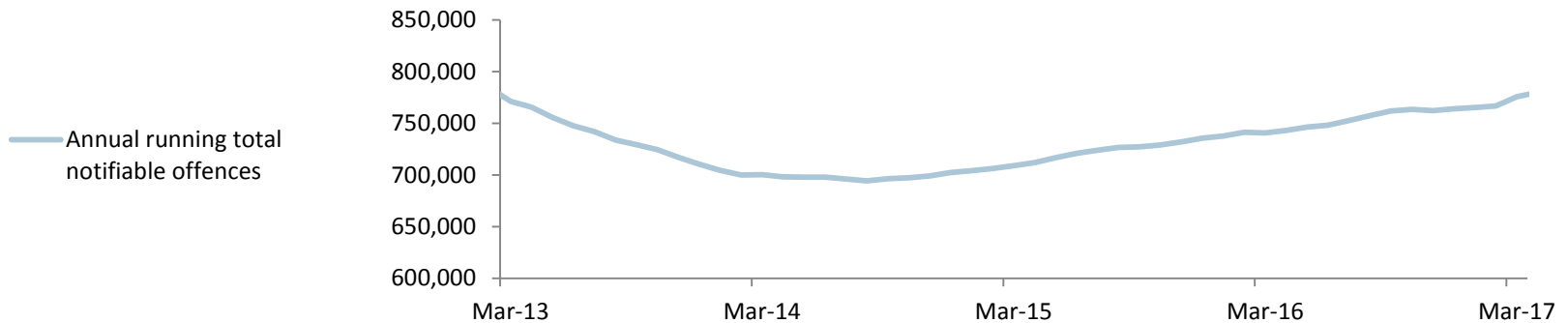
- Overall, reports of crime are on an upward trend. There were 707,907 reports of victim-based crime in the year to March 2017, a 5.1 per cent increase on the previous year.
- Reports of domestic abuse did not increase in the year to March 2017, after several previous years of steady rises. Reports of sexual offences continue to rise, but prosecutions remain low.
- Reports of both knife and gun crime have risen: knife crime has increased by 24 per cent in the last year, and gun crime by 44 per cent.

Contact: Will King, Financial and Policy Analyst

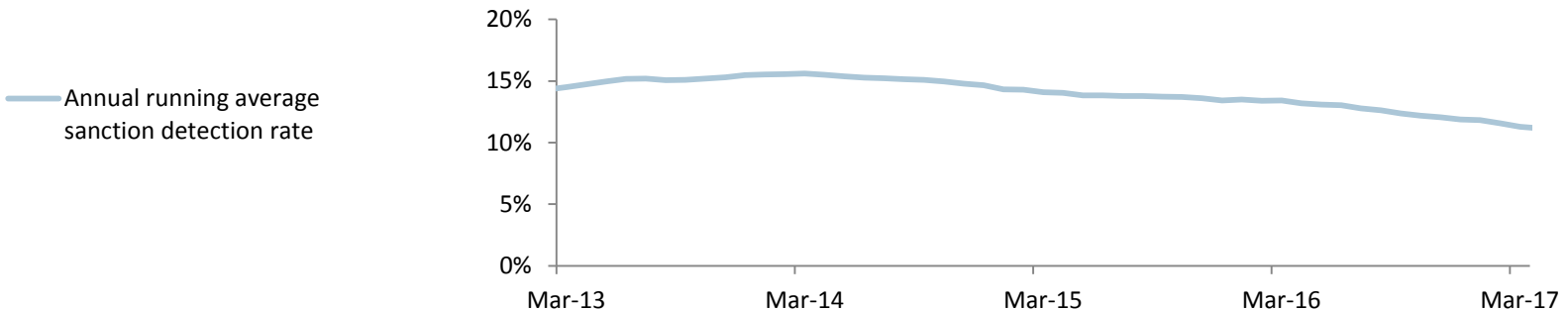
Telephone: 020 7983 5596 Email: policeandcrimecommittee@london.gov.uk

Total crime is rising in London but the sanction detection rate is falling

Crime is rising in London...



... while the sanction detection rate is falling



1. A notifiable offence is any offence which has to be notified to the Home Office under statutory guidelines.
2. Sanction detection is an offence that has been formally cleared up, through bringing a charge, caution, reprimand, final warning or penalty notice

Source: London Datastore

Reports of domestic abuse often result in no further action being taken

246,132  245,849

There was a small drop in reports of domestic abuse in the year to March 2017 compared to the year to March 2016.



24 %

76 per cent of all domestic abuse victims are female

76 %

24 per cent of all domestic abuse victims are repeat victims



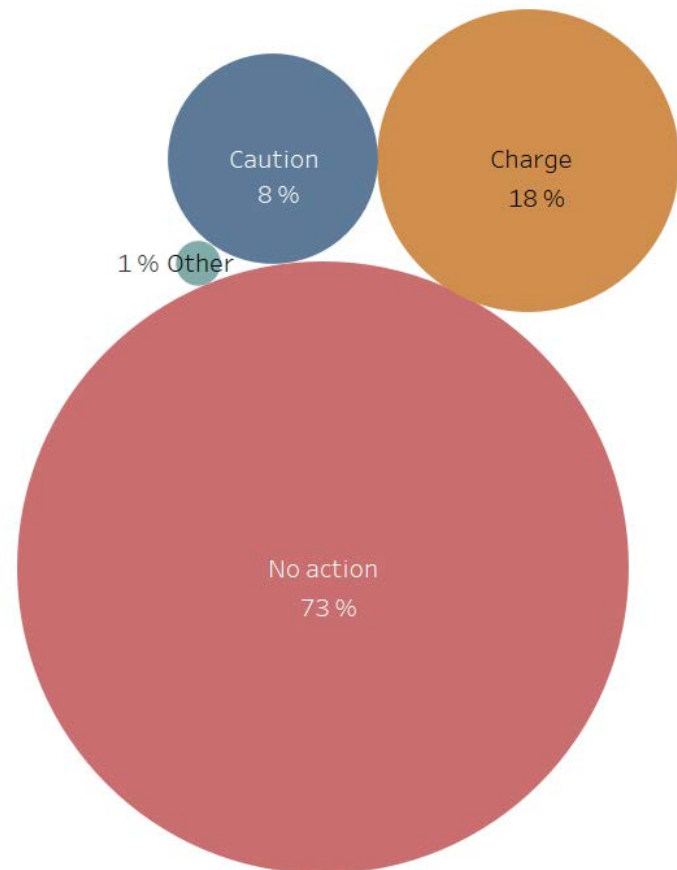
The number of prosecutions for domestic abuse are low, with some suggesting that this shows the Met is stretched.

“[the Met’s capacity] is obviously not enough”

- Yvonne Traynor, Chief Exec of Rape Crisis South London, speaking to the Police and Crime Committee on 8 September 2016

Source: MOPAC domestic and sexual violence dashboard

Nearly 20 per cent of domestic abuse cases lead to a charge being made. However almost three quarters of cases result in no further action being taken.

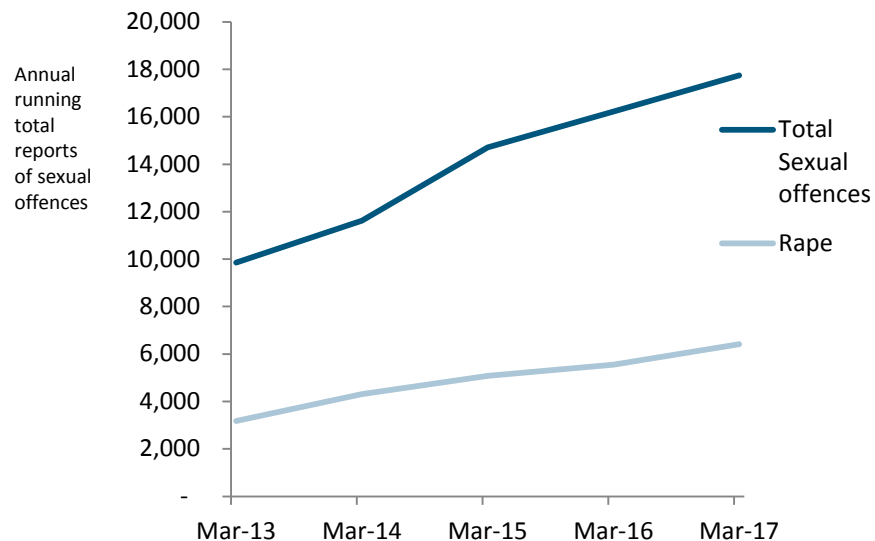


Prosecutions for sexual offences have slightly improved, but remain low

- Reports of sexual offences continue to grow at a relatively steady rate each year. There were 80 per cent more reports in the year to March 2017 than five years ago.

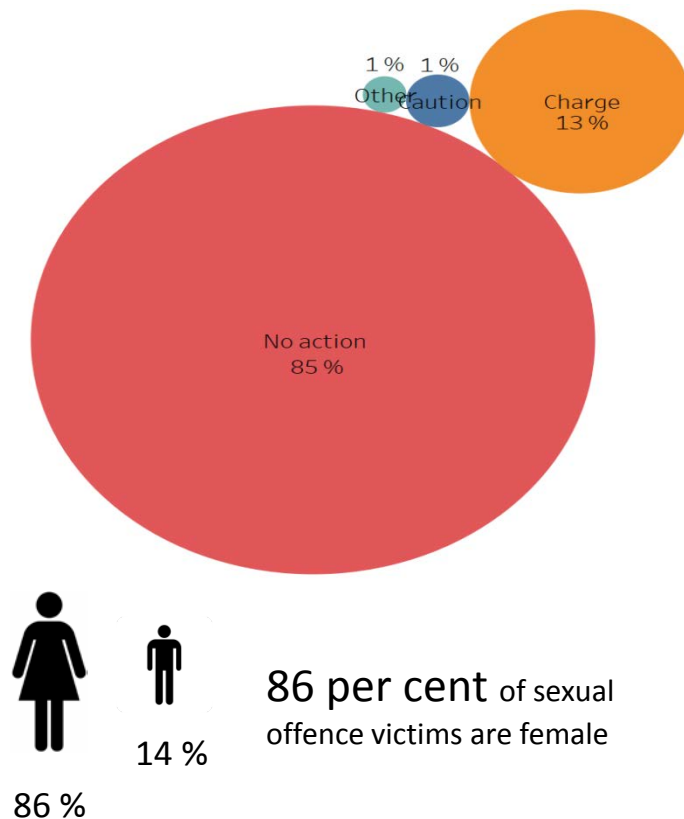
9.4 per cent increase

in reports of sexual offences in the year to March 2017 compared to the year to March 2016



Source: MOPAC domestic and sexual violence dashboard

- The Met has more than doubled the number of sexual offence charges it makes every year from under 1,000 to now over 2,000 every year.
- Action is now taken in 15 per cent of all sexual offence cases, from a low of 8 per cent in 2015.

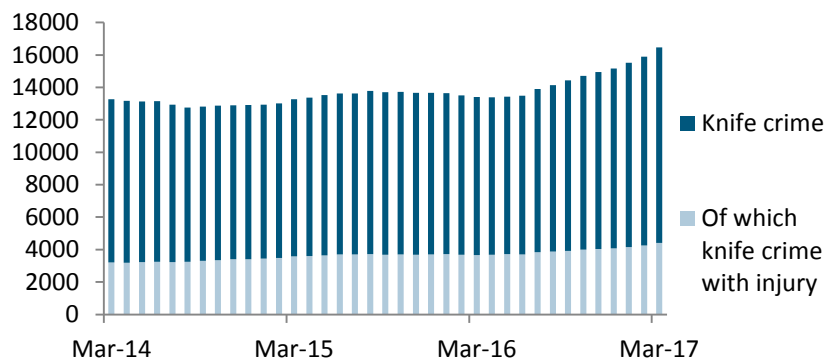


Knife and gun crimes are rising, and are a priority for the new Commissioner

Knife crime rose by 24 per cent in the last year

(Annual rolling total year to March 17 compared to year to March 16)

Annual running total



- In the year to March 2017 there were 4,412 instances of knife crime with injury. Just under half of these involved an under-25.
- Gangs are often linked to knife crime, but MOPAC only recorded 1,372 gang-flagged offences in the same period. Whilst this may stem from under-reporting of gang violence it still suggests that knife crime is not just related to gangs.
- The average sanction detection rate for knife crime hit 20 per cent in the year to March 2017. Three years ago this was 27 per cent.

Source: MOPAC gangs dashboard & London Datastore

Gun crime rose by 44 per cent in the last year

(Annual rolling total year to March 17 compared to year to March 16)

Annual running total



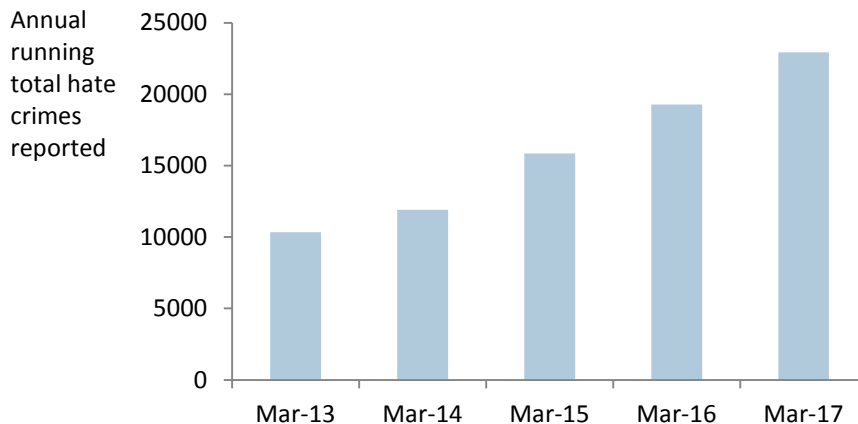
- The sanction detection rate for gun crime has fallen drastically, from an average of 30 per cent in the year to March 2016, down to 19 per cent in the year to March 2017.

“I want to bear down on violent crime, in all its aspects from terrorism to sexual offences but definitely knife and gun crime, particularly as it affects young people.”

- Cressida Dick, Metropolitan Police Commissioner

Reports of hate crime continue to rise whilst sanction detection rates have halved

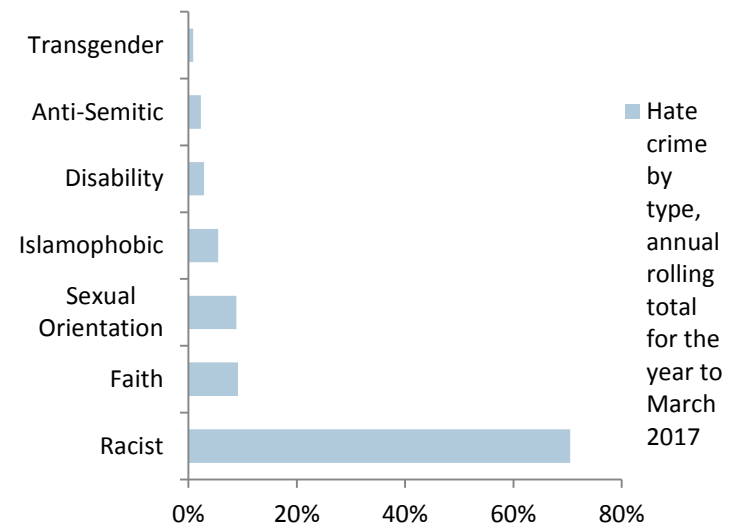
- Reports of hate crime continue to rise, as they have done for the last three years.
- Reports of hate crime have increased by 19 per cent from the year to March 2017 compared to the year to March 2016.
- All types of hate crime, including racist, Islamophobic, disability and transgender, have risen.



- Sanction detection rates have been falling and now stand at 14 per cent for the year to March 2017. This is half of the rate four years ago (29 per cent for the year to March 2013). The fall in sanction detection rate appears to correspond to the rise in reported cases.

Source: MOPAC hate crime dashboard

70 per cent of hate crimes in London are classed as racism (MOPAC Hate Crime dashboard)



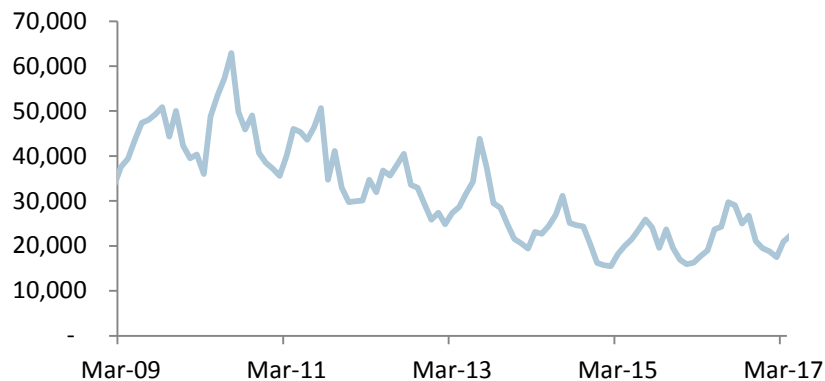
“Just as the police will do everything possible to root out extremism from our city, so we will take a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime.”

- Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

Despite reports of antisocial behaviour to the police falling, it is a priority for the Met

- Calls to the police about antisocial behaviour (ASB) have been steadily falling over the past eight years. It is unclear if this means reports are being made to other agencies instead.
- Reports of ASB tend to peak in summer months.

Reports of ASB to the police are falling, but peak in the summer months

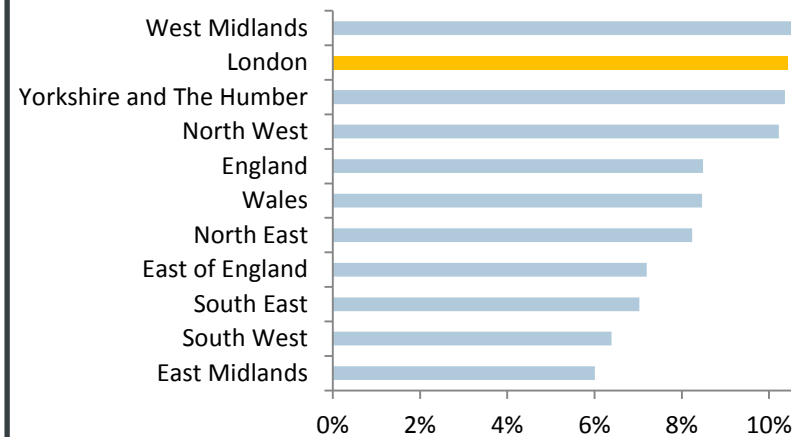


Perception

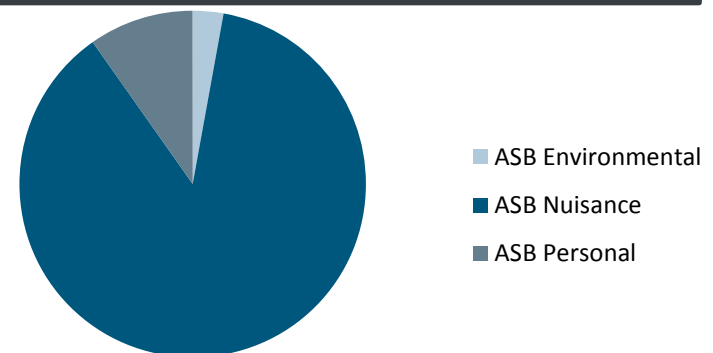
- London is the second most worried region in England and Wales for ASB. However, ASB still ranks low amongst Londoners' concerns, behind drugs, violent crime, burglary and others.

Source: London Datastore and ONSW Perceptions

Londoners tend to be more concerned about ASB than those in other regions



87 per cent of ASB calls are for nuisance behaviour



Definitions of ASB Environmental, Nuisance and Personal - [Hyperlink](#)

The use of stop and search has dramatically reduced over time

- The use of stop and search has gone down in London, with stops more than halving in the three years between March 2014 and March 2017. The arrest rate is now 20 per cent, double that of five years ago.

New Commissioner, new direction

- The Commissioner has said that she supports the use of “intelligence led” stop and search in the face of London’s growing knife crime problem.
- Some are concerned about race relations and that stop and search “alienates communities”.¹ In London a black person is still nearly four times as likely to be subject to stop and search than a white person.

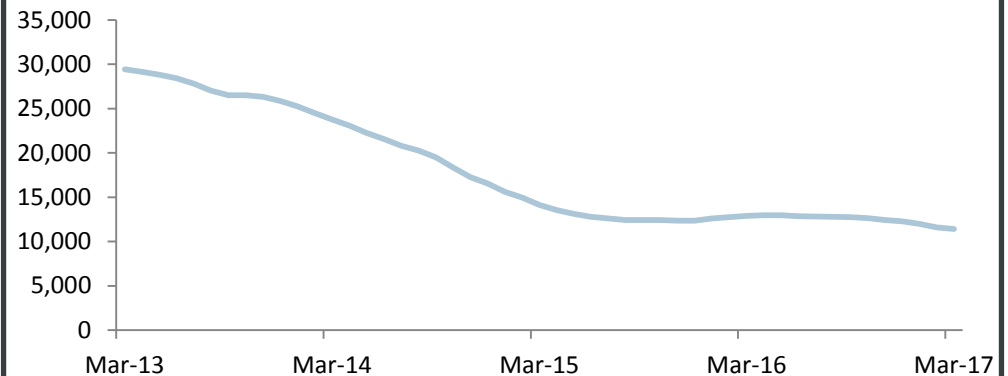
What are people stopped for?

(all stop & search)

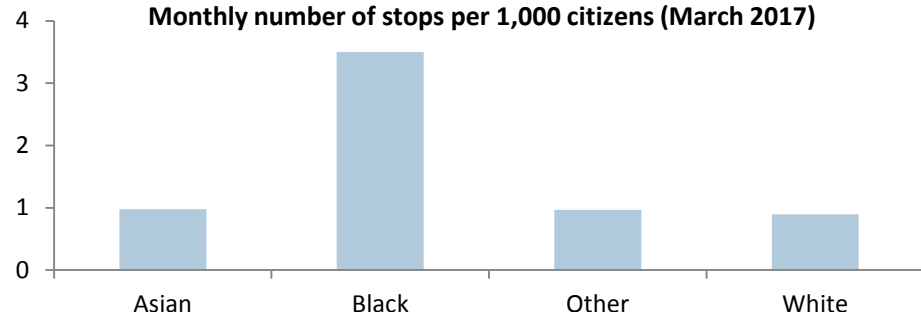
Drugs	61%
Stolen Property	15%
Weapons	13%
Going Equipped	9%
Other	1%
Criminal Damage	1%
Terrorism	1%

Fall in stop and search over the last five years

(annual rolling total)



Monthly number of stops per 1,000 citizens (March 2017)



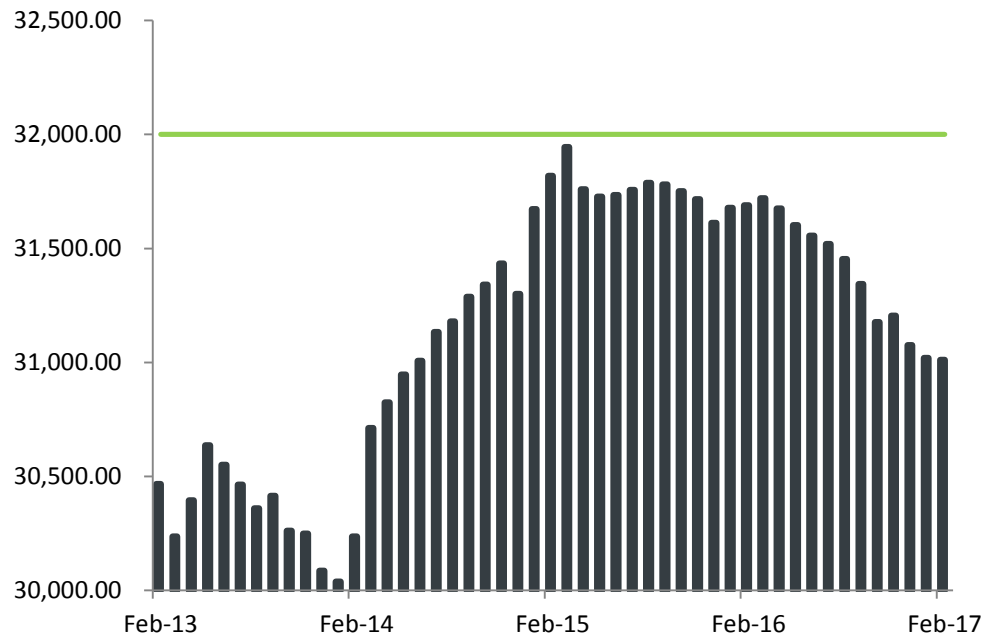
1 – Simon Wooley, former commissioner for race at Equality and Human Rights Commission, speaking to Evening Standard, 20 May 2017

Source: London Datastore, Police.uk, ONS Census 2011 and MOPAC intrusive tactics dashboard

Police officer numbers have fallen to around 31,000

- Police officer numbers have stabilised at 31,000 after falling over the last two years.
- The Mayor has acknowledged that reaching his strategic target of 32,000 Police Officers will not be possible in 2017-18. MOPAC has removed £38 million from the police officer budget, although it plans to put this money back in in 2018-19.

Police officer numbers have stabilised, following a reduction in recent years



Source: London Datastore

What is the future of police numbers in London?

Officer numbers could change further, after the Government completes its work on a new method for allocating funding to police forces. Both the Mayor and this Committee have called on the Government to ensure any funding decisions properly reflect the needs of the capital.

Changes to the recruitment of detectives

The Met faces a shortage of detectives. To address this it has recently introduced a direct entry recruitment programme.

Previously Detectives would have had to have served as a Police Constable before being eligible to apply. Successful applicants to the programme will be placed on an 18-month programme to develop the skills and knowledge required.