

Review Notting Hill Carnival crowd numbers before ‘mass casualty event’ occurs

Two police officers walk side by side

Key information

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The Met has consistently raised concerns about the possibility of ‘a mass casualty event’ at Notting Hill Carnival.

The **London Assembly Police and Crime Committee** has called on the Mayor to commission a review of crowd density and safety at the event.

This follows the **Committee** investigation into public order policing in London, specifically looking at:

- Protests related to the conflict in Gaza
- Notting Hill Carnival
- The policing of football

The **Committee** found that:

- The Met continues to raise concerns about the risk of a crush scenario at Notting Hill Carnival, due to high crowd density and inadequate stewarding provision from the organisers. The Committee shares these concerns.
- Increased public order demand is putting the Met under strain, and this has not been matched with an increase in funding from the Government. The increase that the Government did announce in December 2024 (in the form of an increased National and International Capital Cities grant) does not go far enough towards bridging the financial shortfall.

- Officers who have undertaken specialist public order training are now stepping back from public order work in increasing numbers, due to the demand of regular weekend shifts and impact on family life.
- The Met continues to rely on ‘abstraction’, where local officers are taken away from regular duties at short notice to support public order operations in central London. Taking neighbourhood officers away from their regular duties is having a continuing impact on local policing services.

Notting Hill Carnival is an important date in London’s calendar. It is a unique celebration of Caribbean culture and history within the city and attracts around two million visitors each year.

This volume of people also creates a complex policing challenge.

As part of its policing operation for the 2024 Carnival, the Met had around 7,000 officers on duty, drawn from local policing teams as well as specialist units, with a total of around 14,000 officer shifts across the whole event.

Key recommendations from the report - *Public order policing – the Met’s approach* - include:

- The Mayor must commission a review of crowd density and crowd safety at Notting Hill Carnival to inform stewarding requirements. This must include a full review of pinch points and strict guidance for the number of stewards required across the Carnival.
- The Government must ensure the National and International Capital City (NICC) Grant it provides to the Met is updated yearly in line with inflation and operational requirements.
- The Met must publish its Aid Reduction Plan, or a summary thereof, to provide reassurance to local communities concerned about the impact of abstractions on neighbourhood policing.

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[Read the report in full.](#)

[Met’s response to the report](#)