

PUBLIC ORDER

Overview

The MPS deals with an average of 4000 events per year including state occasions and ceremonials, sporting events, demonstration, marches and entertainment. The larger events are planned by SC&O22, Public Order and Operation Support command. The demand has increased since 2009 when 126 events were planned centrally.

2011 – SC&O22 dealt with 183 events. This included the royal wedding, all state occasions, student and TUC demonstrations, operation Fieldgate (demonstrations arising out the Arab Spring) and Operation Kirkin. Some events stretch over a period of time e.g. Fieldgate ran for 171 days and Kirkin for 35. (Multi day events such as these are only counted as one in the total)

2012 – SC&O22 have delivered 182 events this year including the Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics, state opening of Parliament and numerous demonstrations.

Public order is a wide definition and covers football and other sporting events (14 Clubs, 396 Games, Wembley). Set piece events (new years eve), ceremonials (Queens birthday parade), state visits, marches, demonstrations and response to major disorder.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD

Challenges

- Balancing the right to protest with the rights of those impacted by their actions. "Free speech includes not only the inoffensive but the irritating, the contentious, the eccentric, the heretical, the unwelcome and the provocative provided it does not tend to provoke violence. Freedom only to speak inoffensively is not worth having." *Redmond Bate Vs DPP (1999)*.
- Striking the right balance is an area the MPS goes to great length to achieve. E.g. groups wishing to protest in major commercial areas and the consequential impact on businesses.
- Unlike other jurisdictions in the UK, the decision on when, where and how a protest can go ahead are vested in the Chief Officer and not an independent body. Static protest cannot be banned.
- The Public Order Act 1986 and the Human Rights Act 1998 are the basis for these judgements. The bar for interference in the rights of Freedom of Assembly and Association and Expression is, quite rightly, set very high.
- Marches require notification 7 days (less with good reason). Static protest requires none (regular spontaneous demos, e.g. outside embassies). This can complicate matters as public order demand is unpredictable and overtime claims can be costly.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD

Challenges

- The English Defence League and associated groups. These demonstrations are contentious and difficult to manage when sited in diverse communities.
- Highly impactful tactics (Attenuated Energy Projectiles – baton rounds, Water Cannon). We already have AEP. Water Cannon is now listed in the new national public order Frame work. Do we need ?
- Information Vs Intelligence. Social Media can be a double edged sword. It can be source of intelligence, an engagement tool, used by protesters to mobilise, a tactic for commanders. It is dangerous to rely on and can lead to false expectations.
- The London context and the acceptance of risk. Less likely to accept risk for specific premises. (Palace of Westminster, Downing Street, Government estate)
- Impact of world events (Arab Spring, Sri Lanka, Gaza). These events play out in London incurring expense and abstraction. Vienna Convention 1961 creates a requirement. 171 Days for Fieldgate.
- Legitimate Protest as Cover. Now a regularly used tactic. Small groups of protesters breaking away from marches etc.
- Complex Legislative framework: E.g. Boat Race prosecution using Common Law Offence. Aggravated Trespass.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD

Challenges

- Training: The MPS currently has 5000 officers trained to Level 2 Standard each requiring 2 days per year (national pressure to increase to 3 days). Approximately 800 Level 1 trained officers requiring 10 days training.
- Training: Approximately 100 public order command band officers of Chief Inspector rank and above each requiring 4 days professional development per annum.
- Training: Other public order specialists require differing levels of training. Forward Intelligence Teams, Evidence Gatherers, Protest Liaison, Protestor Release, Climbing Teams etc
- Training: Each days attendance at training college costs £138 per person. They deliver approximately 23,000 training days per year. This equates to £3,174,000. (This does not include staff pay, or overuse fees)



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD

Operation Kirkin (Summer disorder 2011) in numbers

Officers: From 6th to 9th August 2011 approximately 32,000 officers were deployed to quell the disorder. Of these approximately 7500 were public order trained (Level 1 & 2).

Offences: 3,931 offences have been recorded as relating to the disorder.

Criminal Justice: 4783 arrests, 3666 charges, 236 cases on-going, approximately 3000 images still being investigated.

Abstractions:

	Public Order	Sporting events	Ceremonials
2009	82600	53577	5819
2010	65045	48298	7751
2011	152641	44462	4416 (+8091 - Royal Wedding)
2012	98995	41181	8574 (+16805 – Diamond Jubilee)

Yearly events (2012)

NYE	3126	Trooping	1478
NHC	12319	Remembrance	1080

(above totals are officer days only)



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD

Finance

Yearly Totals (Estimates)

2008/2009	30,048,000
2009/2010	41,561,000
2010/2011	34,368,000
2011/2012	Data not available

Events

Kirkin (Riots)	64,970,723
Student Demos	7,530,000
TUC Demo 26/03/11	2,140,000
Jubilee	8,094,313
Embassies 2011	6,500,000



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD

Business Engagement

- Pre Planned Events: The Communities Together Strategic Engagement Team (CTSET) attend planning meetings. They meet with the event organisers and ascertain what their intentions are e.g. route, target of protest etc. If a specific premises or company they will make contact and work with them, assisting and advising re their response in relation to security of their business, customers and staff.
- For major events e.g. large marches etc. CTSET develop messages for the business community. These are disseminated to those businesses that may be impacted using the SO20 Cross-Sector Safety and Security Communication Hub (CSSC). These messages are bespoke to each event but frequent recipients include Business Improvement Districts and the Govt Security Zone. This allows feedback to inform event commanders of business concern.
- Staff from CTSET also walk the route, analysing the vulnerability of premises based on what is known about the motive of the protest. These premises receive a letter advising them of the protest and a menu of options they may wish to consider to improve security.
- CTSET also hold a database of contacts based on historic routes for protest. This is used to inform businesses of future events. Additionally, Community Safe messages and the Neighbourhood Link used.
- Impact on business is considered by command teams when developing the policing plan for an event.
- Ongoing work: All boroughs liaise with their local businesses and this is fed, via a weekly return, into CTSET. This forms part of the MPS and national tension monitoring reports. Where specific businesses are highlighted contact is made with them to offer advice and guidance. Recently these have included Starbucks and Google.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD

Learning

Adapting to Protest: 12 recommendations were made under the following headings: Planning, Communication with Protest Groups, Communication with the Public, Containment, Training and Guidance and Identification of Officers. All of the recommendations have been implemented, either locally by the MPS (numerals, containment, planning) or nationally through ACPO structures (inclusion in the manual of guidance).

Nurturing the British model: 12 recommendations were made. The MPS worked with the National Public Order Public Safety (POPS) Portfolio to ensure the vast majority of the recommendations were implemented. Some fell outside the influence of the MPS (e.g. Accountability of ACPO) and one in particular was not progressed (Codification of Public Order Policing under the S39A Police Act)

Student Protest: The MPS has greatly improved its communication with protest groups and has worked with academics from Liverpool University in development of Protest Liaison Teams. Now regularly deployed at events to great effect. New approach to containment and command role of Containment Manager to welfare and collapse. Judicial Review brought by Castle, Castle and Eaton is a testament to the success of this role. Learning re vulnerable people has been embedded in training.

Operation Kirkin and Withern: The MPS has made significant progress in terms of capability, capacity, resilience, training and development since the disorder of August 2011. Areas of improvement include: Intelligence and Engagement (ASH, Multi-layered engagement, sentiment monitoring), Numbers and Mobilisation (SMP & Uplift 3250 to 5000), Tactics and Equipment (AEP 186 more trained, move forward tactics), Skills (Redesigned training to meet the new challenges). The MPS has also worked closely with ACPO POPS portfolio to develop the national response to major outbreaks of disorder.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

**NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD**

Learning From Olympics and Other Events

Olympics

Planning & Interoperability: with other forces, blue partners, other agencies.

Governance & Accountability: during a complex multi force and agency operation.

Command and Control: during a highly complex, multi site operation.

Students

Containment: development of the Containment Manager Role to manage collapse and welfare issues. (UK Vs Austin)

Protest Liaison Teams: developed in conjunction with Liverpool University and regularly deployed.

Social Media: use as a tactical option, as a means of engagement and communication and as an intelligence tool.

TUC 26th March 2011

Mobility: development of tactics to deal with highly mobile groups of protesters.

Occupations: difficulty in securing prosecutions for Aggravated Trespass.

Openness: Liberty observers present throughout. (Repeated in Oct 2012)

Engagement: Strategic Briefing Cell



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

**NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD**