



August 2025

Metropolitan Police Service
Edition 5

West End Town Centre Team Monthly Newsletter

From the Chief...



**Chief Inspector
Amy Milton
West End
Neighbourhoods**

Welcome to the fifth edition of the West End Town Centre Team newsletter, I am really proud and thankful for all of 3 teams for their hard work and dedication during the summer months, in particular in this edition we have highlighted our great arrest figures of 643 arrests made in one year as well as our fantastic partnership working with Westminster Council and My Local Bobby, we have been supported by specialist units and we continue with our Live Facial Recognition operations which always yield such great results, we also showcase an off duty arrest made by PC O'Connor of a habitual retail crime offender.

This newsletter is just a snapshot of all of the brilliant work that your policing teams do everyday in the West End

Arrests, Arrests Arrests!

Since the West End Town Centre Team started in September 2024 we have made **643** arrests and have conducted **1146** stop and searches.



Trading Standards Operation

A VAPE containing illegal amounts of nicotine and designed to look like a children's toy is among £35,000 worth of products seized in a joint operation by Westminster City Council trading standards officers and West End Town Centre Team B

The single-use pink plastic vape – called a Taki 99 Tiger Cup – contained 30 mg of nicotine compared to the legal limit of 20 mg. Retailing at around £15, the Chinese-made device is also illegal on the grounds it looks like a food product so could pose a risk to young children.

Single use vapes were made illegal on June 1st to curb use among young people as well as on environmental grounds. But when Westminster City Council officers went to **Soho Vape** in **Noel Street**, they found at least 3,000 single use vapes ready for sale.

One shop worker was arrested for being in possession with intent to supply suspected cannabis products and in breach of his immigration status which did not permit him to work in the UK.

The haul of single-used vapes at the shop is thought to be one of the most significant in London since the ban came into force. The size of the haul means Council officers believe it will take them some days to go through the items to assess them properly.

Also found at the shop were vape refills and pod salts with an excessive tank size and suspected illegal nicotine content. A number of them were clearly not intended for the UK market as they displayed the wrong health warning on the label. Vape kits and electrical devices were seized as they were not correctly labelled for the UK market and may be unsafe.

A quantity of illicit tobacco and shisha was recovered along with containers of nicotine pouches with foreign labels not meant for the UK market.

Westminster City Council leader Adam Hug today welcomed the result of the joint operation and warned unscrupulous traders there would be no let up.

Cllr Hug said: "It appears some shop owners are determined to flout the change in UK law and sell illegal and unsafe single vapes to people in Westminster. Particularly cynical is the use of devices shaped like toys which can have no purpose other than to lure children into vaping.

"Thanks to targeted intelligence work by police and the council, thousands of items are now off the streets. If dodgy businesses try and keep pedalling these products, we will ensure their illicit vaping profits go up in smoke."

West End Town Centre Team



SE Interceptors - Proactive Policing

Over the last few weeks, the SE Interceptors have continued to identify, target and arrest high harm individuals involved in criminality in the heart of London.

During routine patrols they planned and implemented a reinforced stop on a moped just as they approached Oxford Circus. Detaining the rider before he had a chance to react. He was subsequently arrested for theft as the moped was stolen in June this year from Wandsworth and drug dealing as a search of him his moped and later is H/A found a treasure trove of cash drugs and phones all pertaining to drug dealing across the capital.

They also stopped a car on Regent Street being driving by a known Camden drug dealer, he was arrested after a searched of the car revealed a large quantity of drugs and a lock knife.



Leicester Square – Operation Martello

We continue with the long term problem solving project for Leicester Square and work closely with our partners from HOLBA and My Local Bobby (MLB).

In the month of August we have had some fantastic arrests of nominals who have been wanted for various offences, particularly on joint patrols when spotted by MLB and arrested by the TCT.

We have also provided a policing presence for various film premieres utilising Officers in plain clothes and covert equipment.

The joint working with MLB is evident with a recent example below: Whilst on nights at about 4am, MLB were approached by a female in Leicester Square to tell them that a male had stolen their phone and had run away. MLB chased him into Soho, where he was detained and handed over to TCT C to arrest him. He is well known in the area for phone thefts and was also wanted. Whilst conducting a S1 PACE search, it was evident he had hidden something down the back of his underwear. Whilst in custody and requesting a strip search for the item, bank cards were found in someone else's name.



Partnership in Action



CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES



West End Town Centre Team



Westminster Council – Joint Patrols

West End TCT routinely patrols alongside the West End SNT, Westminster City Council and London Heritage Quarter on joint agency ASB operations in hotspot areas including in and around Strand, Adelphi Terrace and Adelaide Street, multiple engagements with the street population are completed.



Jellycat Thief – Charged and Remanded

Excellent work by PC Mason O'Connor from West End TCT B, one of our top shoplifters who targets a well known book selling retailer has been charged for an extra 10 offences following thefts worth £1600 of Jellycat toys between March and May 2025, extensive CCTV enquiries and joint working with the store linked her to the crimes and she was duly arrested!



Drug Dealer Arrested

PS Matthews from TCT C saw a known male smoking a cannabis joint in Leicester Square, when officers have stopped and engaged with the male, grounds for a search were made and the male tried to run away, PS Coggins and PS Matthews caught up and tackled the male to the floor.

The male continued to be aggressive and obstructive. Both officers received injuries in the apprehension and detention of the male, nearby My Local Bobby (MLB) have seen this and instantly reacted, being first on scene and assisting the Officers in detaining the suspect male.

When officers have arrived MLB has continued to be professional swapping out with Officers and providing crowd control. When extricating the suspect from the area the crowd has remained hostile, MLB and Officers worked together to conduct a cordon to allow the suspect to be extradited from the area.

A further search at the suspects home address revealed a large amount of Cannabis and evidence of drug dealing.



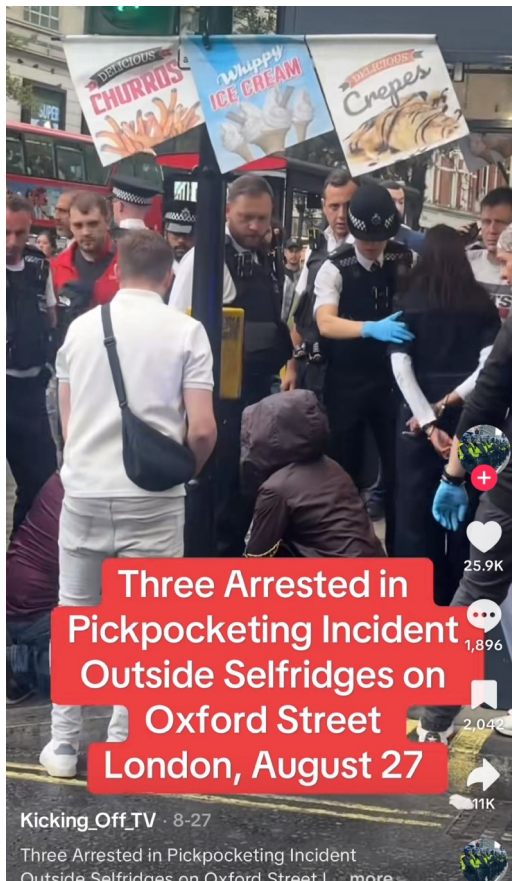
TikTok Famous

At 17:45hrs on Wednesday, 27 August plain-clothed officers from TCT A on patrol on Oxford street arrested three women on suspicion of theft, this garnered a lot of social media interest with videos of the arrests going viral and the Officers receiving hundreds of positive comments about their actions in tackling pickpocketing.

“Elena Venkova, 33 (05.10.91), of Kimberley Road, Edmonton was arrested and charged with theft on Thursday, 28 August. She is due to appear at Westminster Magistrates’ Court on Friday, 29 August.

“Elena Mitkova, 26 (18.01.99) of Kimberley Road, Edmonton was arrested and charged with theft and possession of criminal property on Thursday, 28 August. She is due to appear at Westminster Magistrates’ Court on Friday, 29 August.

“Malinka Georgieva, 20 (21.06.05) of Kingsland High Street, Hackney was arrested and charged with theft on Thursday, 28 August. She is due to appear at Westminster Magistrates’ Court on Friday, 29 August.”



Live Facial Recognition

The West End TCT's conduct regular Live Facial Recognition (LFR) operations in different hotspots are the area. We conducted an operation on Coventry Street near Leicester Square which resulted in 4 arrests and many members of the public stopped and spoke to the team about the use of LFR, lots of positive engagement and explanations about the technology and the benefits to the community in the West End and London.

We also conducted an operation by Oxford Circus which resulted in 5 arrests including for a serious domestic violence incident by a high harm offender!



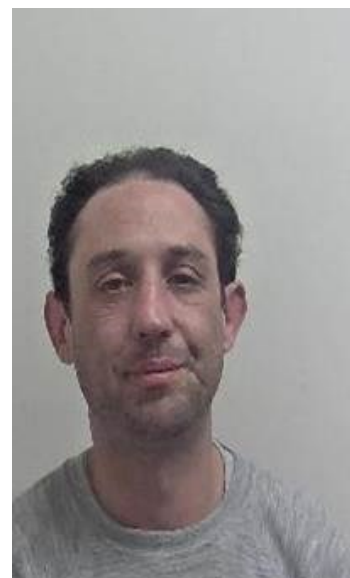
West End Town Centre Team



Off Duty Arrest!

On the 21st August, PC O'Connor and PC Scutt from TCT B were off duty on their way to work, they popped into the CO-OP on Strand and saw one of Camden's top shoplifters called Mario Salvato who they knew was wanted for recall to prison due to our great intelligence sharing with our neighbouring boroughs town centre team.

Without fear for their safety and with no equipment, PC Scutt and PC O'Connor made an off duty arrest of Salvato and when other Police units arrived he was taken to custody and sent back to prison



Mario Salvato
17/10/1980



**NEVER
OFF
DUTY**

West End Town Centre Team



Inspector David Hunt

Town Centre Team A

PS Dom Corcoran
PS Ashley Squire

PC Mark Avery
PC Rhys Dance
PC Ben Farley
PC Archie Ganasooriar
PC Sophie Hull
PC Ben Pullen
PC John Redmond
PC Jake Shepherd
PC Jack Sibley
PC Albie Stapleton
PC Lewis Taylor
PC Nadine Von Seller
PC Matthew Wells

Town Centre Team B

APS Ollie Clenaghan
APS Oli Fox

PC Adam Balog
PC Nicola Eades
PC Marc Forrester
PC Phoebe Gibson
PC Mason O'Connor
PC Angus Reeves
PC Callum Scutt
PC Ben Talbot
PC Matt Taunton
PC Chris Warrilow

Town Centre Team C

PS Laura Matthews
APS Edward Lucas

PC Alex Akhtar
PC Ben Brasher
PC Jack Coggins
PC Jack Fardell
PC Nish Gokul
PC Jamal Ibrahim
PC Tibor Kovacs
PC Ashley Llewellyn
PC Evan Purchase
PC Freddie Smith
PC Rory Young

Project: PS Russell Easterbrook

