



# MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME

**MOTOR VEHICLE CRIME**

**Definition**

Motor vehicle crime for the purposes of this audit will fall within two categories:

**A. Those which are offences under criminal or road traffic law:**

- Theft Of Motor Vehicle (TOMV)
- Theft From Motor Vehicle (TFMV)
- Aggravated Vehicle Taking
- Criminal Damage To Motor Vehicle including Arson
- Tampering with a motor vehicle
- various motoring offences including Dangerous Driving, Dangerous Condition, Driving With Intent To Endanger Life
- Document Offence such as no insurance etc.

**B. Those which are offences under local by-laws such as environmental laws including:**

- Abandoned Vehicles
- Nuisance vehicles such as noise
- Anti Social Behaviour associated with mopeds

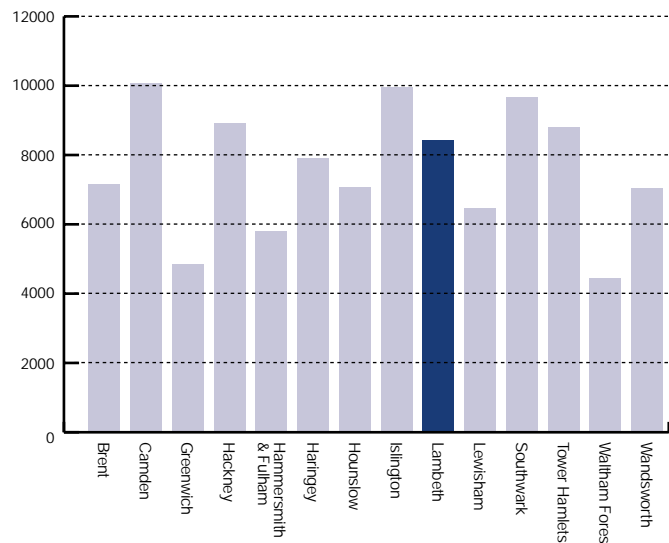
**NOTE: The figures used are 'mappable ward totals' unless otherwise stated. These figures will differ from borough totals.**

**What do the statistics tell us?**

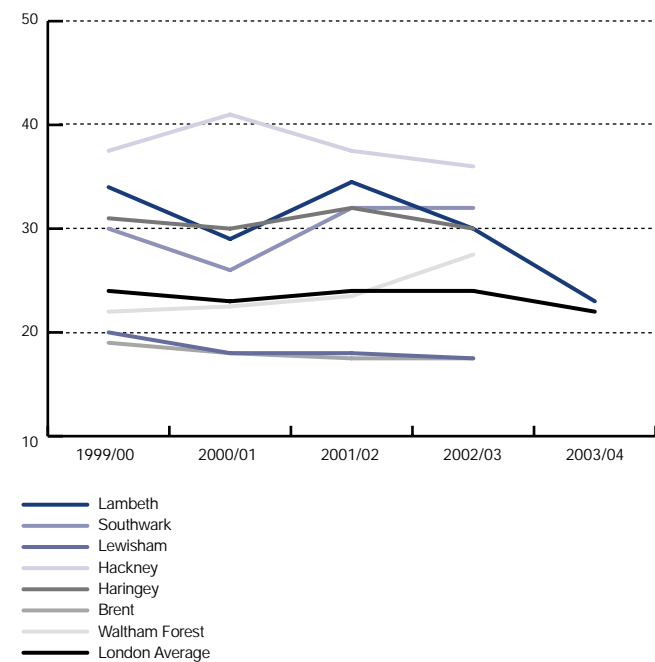
- In FY2003-4 MPS ward totals of Motor Vehicle crime offences decreased by 18% (a drop of 1826 offences) compared to FY2002-3 when there were 10,118 such offences
- When compared to the population of Lambeth Motor Vehicle crime in FY2003-4 equates to 31 offences per 1000 residents
- Just under 50% of all Motor Vehicle crime is TFMV
- In FY2003-4 there was a 54% decrease in the number of abandoned vehicles on the highways and roads compared to FY2002-3
- In FY2003-4 there was a 7% increase in the number of calls from the public to the Police in relation to abandoned vehicles compared to FY2002-3
- In FY2003-4 there was a 60% increase in reports in relation to nuisance vehicles
- Figures taken from the MPS website show that those categories of Motor Vehicle crime account for 17% of the TNOs that occurred in Lambeth during FY2003-4. This was a 19% decrease from FY2002-3 and there was a further 12% decrease comparing FY2002-3 to FY2001-2

- Using MPS Website figures to compare Lambeth within our CDRP family group of 14, Lambeth was the sixth highest for motor vehicle crimes
- Fig 2. (below) shows the levels of vehicle crime compared to other London Boroughs that receive additional Neighbourhood renewal funding in order to achieve national floor targets

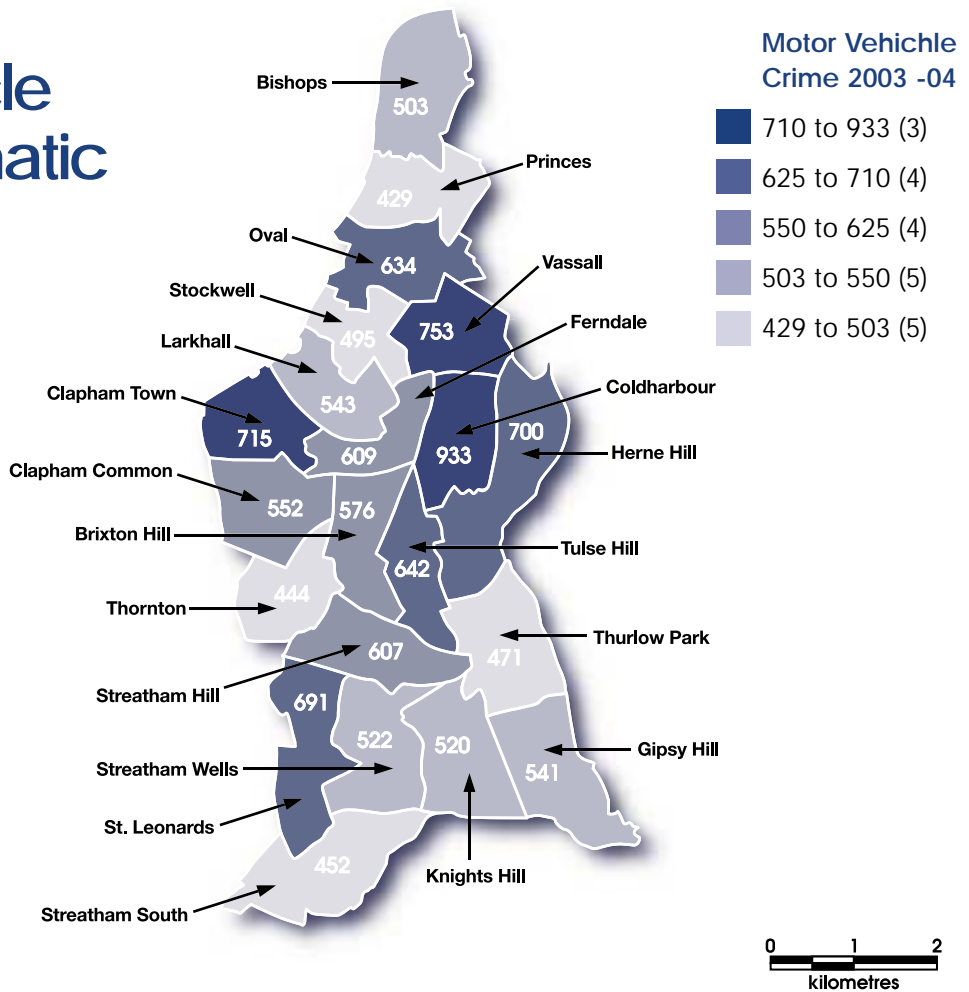
**Table 31**  
**Motor Vehicle crime totals for 2003-04 compared with CDRP family**



**Table 32**  
**Recorded vehicle crime per 1000 population. Lambeth and similar local authority districts**



# Map 13 Motor Vehicle Crime Thematic Map for 2003-04 Ward Totals for all categories



### What are our priority areas?

When taking into account all ward datasets in FY2003-4 the three priority wards were Coldharbour, Vassall and Clapham Town. This compares to FY2002-3 where the top three wards were Coldharbour, Vassall and Herne Hill.

- Of the 8292 ward total offences in FY2003-4, 7% occurred within Coldharbour ward. 50% of these offences were Theft From The Motor Vehicle
- 6% of the ward total occurred in Vassall ward and 39% of these were Theft From A Motor Vehicle
- 7% of the ward total occurred in Clapham Town ward. Of these 44% were again thefts from a motor vehicle

Detailed analysis of the three priority wards showed that hotspots are linked to transport hubs, residential housing estates, commercial centres and high volume car parking e.g. multi-storey car parks.

### Profiles of victims and suspects

The following information is based on the three priority wards together as noted above for FY2003-4

#### Victims

- Within the three priority wards, of those where the ages were known, 18% were aged between 25 and 29 years
- Of those where the sex was known, 61% were male
- Of those victims where the ethnicity was known, 57% were white-skinned European

#### Suspects

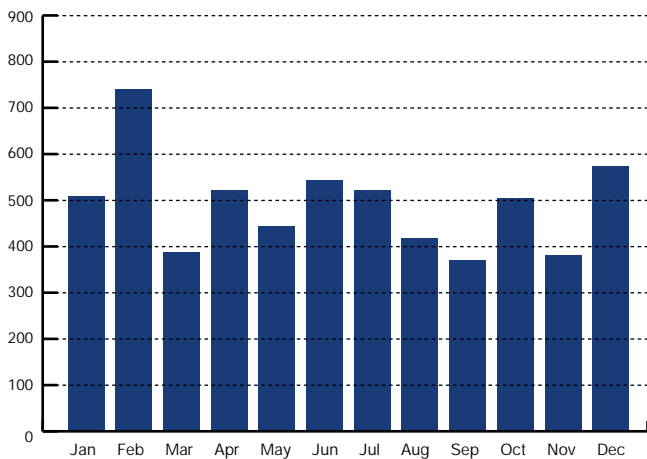
- Within the three priority wards, of those where the age was known, 28% were aged between 15 and 19 years
- Of those where the sex was known, 89% were male
- Of those where the ethnicity was known, 66% were African-Caribbean

**When are the key times?**

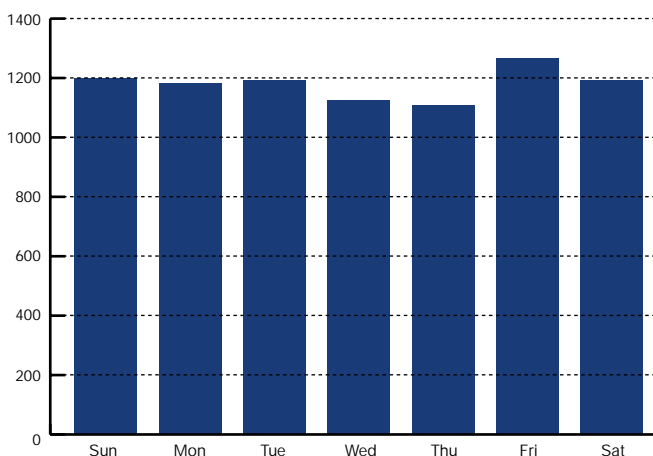
The following charts indicate the months, days of the week and times of the day during which Motor Vehicle crime takes place. The times are taken from the 'committed from' time.

- Motor Vehicle crime peaked in May
- There is a slight peak in offending activity on a Friday
- There is a steady increase of activity throughout the day with the peak time being between 22.00 hours to 22.59 hours

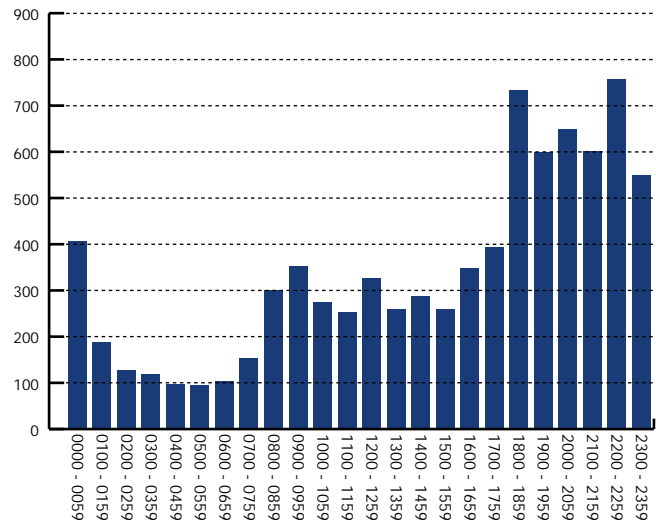
**Table 33**  
Chart showing seasonal trends in Vehicle Crime, FY2004-2004



**Table 34**  
Chart showing the days of the week for Vehicle Crime, FY2004-2004



**Table 35**  
Peak Times for Vehicle Crime, FY2004-2004



**What did you tell us?**

**Residents survey**

- When asked how serious car break-ins/vandalism was, nearly one in five respondents classed it as 'a very serious problem' and 36% saw it as 'a fairly serious problem'. Abandoned vehicles were considered a particular problem for people living in Vassall and St Leonards ward
- A quarter of respondents stated that they were concerned about car crime. 21% remember being worried about theft and 25% were worried about break-in or vandalism. Concern about car theft and vandalism was highest in Streatham
- Nearly 15% of respondents or members of their household had been a victim of car break-in or associated vandalism within the last five years with 9% having experience of it within the last twelve months
- When asked how serious car theft was to them, 30% of the respondents felt it to be 'a fairly serious problem' with 13% seeing it as 'a very serious problem'
- From those who were asked about their experience of crime, over a third said they had experienced crime of some sort, within the last twelve months. Car break-ins and associated vandalism was shown to be the second highest crime experience
- 47% showed concerns for the appearance of their area of which abandoned vehicles was included

### Focus groups

Within the focus group discussions, vehicle crime was rarely referred to as a concern for residents.

The following views were expressed:

*'Car damage and vandalism often happens; not sure who is doing this; it's not worth having a nice car; young people are often to blame.'*

*'There should be speed limits within the car parks on the estates because there are jobs going in and out with mopeds, day in day out.'*

*'My godmother got her car smashed; we reported it; the Police didn't do anything about it.'*

*'I got a car stolen and got a crime number... don't know what I expected. You don't expect anything, do you?'*

### What have we done so far

- Operation SCRAP-IT: a proactive Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency operation targeting vehicles without tax discs
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operations to identify stolen vehicles and vehicles used in crime
- Safer Estates Task Force established on one estate at a time for a 6-month period. One of the priorities included is vehicle crime
- Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative has provided focussed additional resources within three wards. One of their priorities is to target Motor Vehicle crime. An example is this is on Clapham Town ward where moped related crime was targeted
- Car safety advice through the distribution of air fresheners to vehicle owners
- Coldharbour and Vassall wards where one of the priorities is to tackle vehicle crime and Anti Social Behaviour related to vehicles
- Security survey around the multi-storey car park was undertaken and recommendations implemented
- Increased intelligence sharing between statutory bodies
- Streamlined reporting procedures for abandoned cars

### What are the emerging priorities?

- Under-reporting
- Anti-social use of mopeds, vandalism and abandonment of cars are concerns expressed by community
- Better and more consistent standards for data collection in relation to vehicle crime across all agencies
- Further publicity for car owners around their responsibility to reduce theft from vehicles