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### **Kratos Policy/Jean Charles de Menezes**

Following concerns raised at Group meetings about reports that the Kratos policy was being extended to categories of suspect other than imminent suicide bombers, we have received a letter from Assistant Commissioner Stephen House, stating that:

**“ I can confirm that 'Kratos' tactics are solely preserved for use against suicide bombers. There has been no widening of the categories of suspects against whom these tactics would be applied. Any decision about the use of the tactics is made at a very senior level and is based on intelligence about the threat from a specific set of circumstances.”**

On 23rd February the Commissioner Sir Ian Blair gave an update report to the MPA Authority meeting on “Events of July 2005 – MPS response suicide terrorism”, which gives details of the national review of Kratos and also some details of the generic plans within Kratos and the frequency of their use since July. The report can be found at <http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/mpa/2006/060223/08.htm> or hardcopies can be made available from the Group Office.

We have contacted ACPO to obtain details of the publication date for the national review, which we believe to be imminent, and will keep members informed.

The BBC's Panorama programme on Weds 8 March will carry a report by Peter Taylor, examining the events on the day of the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes and the operation of Kratos. The MPS have indicated:

**“In light of this programme being made it was felt important to assist in order to ensure that the programme makers were accurately briefed regarding what is a complicated but necessary policy, as it would have gone ahead without our participation. The Commissioner has called for a wider public debate about Operation Kratos, as such not to assist with this programme would have been**

**contradictory. You have previously been asked to comment upon the Operation Kratos policy as such we wanted you to be informed of this programme. “**

Comment from the IPCC is as follows:

**“The IPCC was approached by Peter Taylor in the autumn at the start of his project to hear about his proposal, however we declined to assist in the production of the documentary due to their intention to broadcast this prior to the conclusion of the legal processes in the investigation into Jean Charles de Menezes death.**

**Neither the IPCC nor the CPS have taken any steps to prevent the broadcast of this programme as the matter is not sub judice and there are no grounds to do so. The file on the investigation into Jean Charles' death remains under review by the CPS. The IPCC's second investigation into whether individuals within the Metropolitan Police Service deliberately made misleading and inaccurate statements following the shooting remains active and we hope this will conclude by the end of April.”**

Following Nick Hardwick's (IPCC Chair) visit to CPCG in February, the IPCC have produced a Q&A community briefing in respect of their investigations, which we shall distribute when the final draft is agreed.

### **CPS Sector Performance Indicators Community Panel**

On 22 February, Ben McKendrick, the Group's administrator, attended a Sector Performance Indicators Community Panel (SPICP) meeting. The first of a quarterly series held by the CPS London (South Sector), SPICP meetings are an initiative aimed at improving consultation with South London communities about performance on issues such as community engagement, hate crime and casework quality assurance through thematic reviews. Others at the meeting included the Head of the Racial Equality Council for Bromley, a Lewisham Probation Officer, the CPS Sector Director, Sector Business Manager, Sector Equality and Diversity Officer and Senior Crown Prosecutors.

This first meeting focused on assessing the CPS's work on Racist and Religious Crime. In the morning, a meeting room was made available to community representatives for case review and preparation for the meeting in the afternoon with the CPS. After signing a confidentiality agreement form, community representatives had access to confidential case files which were raised later in discussion with CPS staff. Key issues emerging were:-

- Achieving the right balance in terms of the percentage of successful prosecutions – it would perhaps be perturbing if the CPS had 100% successful prosecution

- Improving dialogue and information exchanges amongst statutory and voluntary organisations – for example, should local authorities be made aware of successful convictions against their tenants
- The provision of executive summaries of cases for Community Panel members – to facilitate a quicker understanding of the issues from often weighty looking files

Prior to the meeting, Ben had received detailed statistics regarding CPS performance in prosecuting these types of crimes. We will work with CPS to package these in a digestible format and shall make them available to members.

The next SPICP meeting will look at cases of domestic violence. As this series develops, we shall ensure that Group members with particular interest and knowledge of the areas being covered get opportunities to contribute.

### **Hate Crime Forum**

On 24 January, the Safer Lambeth Partnership (SLP) gave a presentation of its strategy for tackling Race and Faith Hate Crime to the London Race Hate Crime Forum (LRHCF) at the MPA offices. The presentation was followed by questions from the LRHCF Chair, Peter Herbert and MPA members to a SLP panel consisting of Lambeth Borough Commander Martin Bridger, Chris Lee (Deputy Chief Exec., LBL), Simon Harding (Asst. Dir., Head of Community Safety), Hazel Saunders (Borough Manager, Victim Support Lambeth) and Yvonne Okiyo (Anti Race & Faith-Hate Crime Co-ordinator, Lambeth Crime Prevention Trust). Copies of the SLP Powerpoint presentation can be obtained from the Group Office).

### **MPA Funding**

MPA funding for CPCG's for 2006/7 has now been published. A cap of £50,000 has been set across London. This affects adversely Haringey, Lambeth, Lewisham, Camden, Westminster and (relative to their bid) Southwark. The funding arrangements for Bexley are still to be finalised whilst there is no funding recommended for Hackney CPCG.

An additional condition has been placed on Lambeth CPCG which we feel to be arbitrary and post-hoc. We have made representations to the Clerk of the MPA concerning this and shall seek to resolve the issue quickly in the new financial year.

A more detailed briefing has been sent to members regarding this issue.

## **Board Meeting**

The CPCG Board met on 21 February. Key items were:

- Projected financial year end and next year's funding;
- Admission of CEN, Milkwood Road Tenants and Residents Association and Popular Youth Association to membership (agreed);
- St Agnes Place 'specialist meeting'
- Forward planning of meetings and activities.

Minutes of the Board meetings will be made available on the website from April.

## **No Deal in Brixton Town Centre**

This report is based on a review of the No Deal initiative by a project team drawn from the police, local authority and community on 1 March 2006. It was agreed at that review to run the initiative for a further three months to 12 June 2006.

### *Community Feedback*

Community feedback continues to record an improvement in overall impressions of safety/reductions in hassle, although the month on month improvement is slowing. Some respondents report visiting the Town Centre on several occasions in the month and seeing no dealing. There are, however, reports of community members witnessing 'turf disputes', of some ferocity, between remaining dealers.

CPCG has had no reports of inappropriate use of the power of arrest for cannabis possession under the *No Deal* initiative.

### *Police Actions*

Earlier reports, particularly those in the initial weeks of No Deal, relied on the police's intelligence system ('INTEL') to collate information on police activity and subsequent outcomes for those arrested under *No Deal*.

The limitation of this method of collation is that whilst the **total** numbers of arrests could be accurately stated, those attributed to Stop and Search (a smaller number) were not. This had the effect of overstating the arrest rate from Stop and Search.

Further work has been undertaken to reconcile data in three police systems: the Stops system, the Intelligence System and the Custody System. The results are set out below.

<b>No Deal Initiative: 12 December 2005 to 20 February 2006</b>	
Total Stops	897
Stops and Accounts	325
Arrests following Stops and Accounts	9
Arrest Rate, Stop and Account	3%
Stops and Searches	572
Arrests following Stops and Searches	119
Arrest Rate, Stop and Search	21%
Arrests not following a Stop and Account/Search	93
<b>Total Arrests under No Deal</b>	<b>221</b>

The arrest rate for Stop and Search is thus lower than previously indicated but nonetheless three times that achieved in the benchmark period.

Full details have been provided of the profiles of those stopped and we are comparing those with the borough wide benchmarks provided by the Stop and Search Sub Group, and summaries of this information will be provided as the initiative progresses. Some details, relating to recent queries from Group members, are set out below.

<b>No Deal: Outcomes for Those Arrested</b>	Arrests	Bailed to Return	Charge/ Caution/ PND	Reprimand or Warning Including 'Cannabis Warning	NFA	Return to Prison/To Crown Court
Assault/Disorderly/Criminal Damage	23	7	12	1	3	0
Other	9	1	6	0	2	0
Bail/Warrant/Wanted/Recall to Prison	27	1	22	0	2	2
Theft/Robbery/Burglary Etc	44	24	13	0	7	0
Class A Drugs	37	29	5	0	3	0
Class B Drugs	2	2	0	0	0	0
Class C Drugs	71	8	33	25	5	0
Drugs Obstruction	2	1	1	0	0	0
Weapons	7	1	6	0	0	0
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>No Deal: Addresses of those Arrested</b>	Total	
LAMBETH RESIDENT	118	
NON LAMBETH RESIDENT	84	
NO FIXED ABODE	19	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>221</b>	

**St Agnes Place: 'Specialist Meeting'**

Paul Andell, Jim Toohill and Canon Ivelaw Bowman have met with Peter Truesdale (Leader, Lambeth Council) and Mary Lynch (LBL Housing) to set out the purposes of the proposed meeting. It was agreed to hold a meeting later in March. The object will be to try to resolve any outstanding issues but also to ensure that lessons are learned.

In addition, Lambeth Housing have coordinated the production of a report covering the circumstances around the evictions from St Agnes Place, which is appended below.

## **St Agnes Place: Report from London Borough of Lambeth**

*(This is a report to CPCG from LBL)*

### **EVICTION OF HOUSES AT ST AGNES PLACE ON 29-30 NOVEMBER 2005**

Joint Report of the Executive Director of Housing, Lambeth Council, the Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police, and the High Court Enforcement Officer, National Eviction Team

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the CPCG on 6 December 2005, a number of concerns were raised about the eviction that had just been carried out in St Agnes Place. It was agreed that a report should be presented to a special CPCG meeting, covering all the issues raised.

#### **2. Why was the eviction carried out?**

- 2.1 The purpose of the eviction was to enable the redevelopment of the south end of St Agnes Place. The Council's intention is to develop the site in conjunction with a registered social landlord (London and Quadrant Housing Trust) to build new housing, plus a sports/leisure centre on the site.
- 2.2 The exact form that redevelopment will take will only be decided when a planning application has been submitted. London & Quadrant Housing Trust will make the application in Spring 2006. Neighbouring residents and local organisations will be consulted as part of the planning process, and will have a right to put their views.

#### **3. Why were the houses demolished, rather than refurbished?**

##### **3.1 The decision to demolish was taken by the Council after considering the following factors:**

- The houses were not listed or in a conservation area, and were of little architectural interest. Their most interesting feature, the "mask" keystones above doors and windows, could mostly be salvaged.
- The Council's UDP stated that renovation of the existing housing and that infill development was desirable.
- The houses were in a very poor state of repair. A surveyor's report estimated that the cost of repairing them and raising them to the "decent homes standard" (the Government's minimum standard for social

housing) was £7,000,000 for the 22 houses, an average of £318,000 per house.

- The Council did not have funds of this magnitude available for it to undertake the renovation itself, and the renovation cost was so high that housing association partners would be unable to obtain Housing Corporation funding.
- Sale to the private sector would be the only practical course for refurbishment, and then only if the sale price was drastically reduced to allow for the state of disrepair. There would be little left in the way of a capital receipt that could be used to finance social housing elsewhere.
- Redevelopment by a housing association would provide a minimum of 60 new dwellings, at least 75% of which would be affordable housing for families in housing need.
- Any redevelopment would maintain or increase the amount of open space, and maintain or improve the play facilities currently provided by the Adventure Playground and the One O'Clock Club.

3.2 While the relevance of the UDP policy is acknowledged, the Council is a local authority responsible for the management and control of its housing stock, and has to have regard to the other considerations as well. Taking all the factors into account, the Council considered on balance that the houses should be demolished and redeveloped.

#### **4. Were all the occupiers there illegally?**

- 4.1 **The courts had already decided that all the occupiers were there unlawfully, by granting possession orders and warrants. There was extensive debate in court over many months, as some occupiers were claiming adverse possession ("squatters' rights"). After a full hearing of the case, the courts confirmed that the Council had an absolute right to repossess the houses.**
- 4.2 **The Council did not have a possession order on 93 St Agnes Place, although it was seeking one. That house was therefore not part of the eviction. As soon as the area was considered safe, access to no. 93 by its occupants was facilitated. The top floor flat in 93 St Agnes Place was however accessed via 91 St Agnes Place, which was subject to a possession warrant. As there was no access to the flat internally via 93, and no right of access via 91, the occupant vacated.**
- 4.3 **There was a false report that the occupiers of an adjoining property, 40 Bolton Crescent were evicted while still awaiting a court hearing. In fact the final court hearing had taken place in October 2005, and the court had confirmed the Council's right to possession. The occupiers of 40 Bolton Crescent acknowledged this prior to vacating the property on 30 November.**

#### **5. Why were the occupiers evicted "en masse"?**



- 5.1 Previous partial evictions in St Agnes Place had resulted in the repossessed properties being re-squatted almost immediately by, or with the assistance of, occupants in the surrounding houses.
- 6. Why was the exact date of the eviction not made known to the occupiers?**
- 6.1 This was a joint decision of the Council, the High Court Enforcement Officers (HCEOs), and the Police. Some of the occupiers had previously indicated to the media that any attempt at eviction would be vigorously resisted. If the date of the eviction was announced, there was a risk that non-resident sympathisers might have converged on the street to help resist the eviction. This could have exposed the HCEOs and the Police, and neighbouring lawful residents, to avoidable risks.
- 6.2 In fact, a message posted on the stagnesplace.net website on 28 November shows that occupants were expecting the eviction to take place the following day.
- 6.3 In the event, only one occupier offered active resistance, although this included throwing a petrol bomb. A large number of implements which could have been used as offensive weapons were retrieved by the HCEOs from the evicted premises (see photo, Appendix 1). Of course, many of these items may have had innocent uses.
- 7. Why did the Council not rehouse all the people who were evicted?**
- 7.1 The Council had already rehoused a number of occupants who were lawful licensees of the properties in the 1980s and 1990s. However their places were taken by squatters.
- 7.2 The homelessness legislation only requires the Council to rehouse homeless people if they are in "priority need". This covers:
- People with children
  - Households where the woman is pregnant
  - Young people under 18
  - People aged 60 or over
  - People who are vulnerable due to a physical disability, mental illness, learning disability, or other special reason.
- 7.3 Homeless people not in priority need are entitled to advice, but not to rehousing.
- 7.4 Lambeth Council has one of the most severe housing shortages in the country, with over 10,000 applicants on its housing list. The Council considers that it is not in a position to go beyond its duties to homeless people as laid down by the law.

**8. What advice and assistance did the Council provide to the evictees on the day?**

- 8.1 A week before the eviction, the Council wrote to occupiers in all the houses indicating that eviction would take place shortly. The letter explained the Council's duties under the homelessness legislation, and the meaning of "priority need". It asked anyone living in the houses who was in priority need to phone a special number, so that they could be considered for rehousing before the eviction took place. None of the occupants availed themselves of this opportunity.
- 8.2 Included with the letter was an advice pack for people who were not in priority need. This is the same advice pack that the Council give to people who apply to them as homeless but who are not in priority need.
- 8.3 On the day of the eviction, the Council set up a local homeless reception centre for people evicted from St Agnes Place in Vauxhall Walk, which is within walking distance of the street. When the HCEOs first visited the houses to warn that eviction was imminent, occupiers were given a map of how to get to the centre, and those who might be in priority need were strongly advised to report there. More Council advice packs were also given out by the HCEOs, for those not in priority need.
- 8.4 Officers from the Council's Children and Young People's Directorate, and officers from the Adults and Community Services Directorate specialising in elderly people, physical disability, mental health and learning disability, had all held themselves available to advise and assist on the day if required.
- 8.5 In the event only one household, a couple with a baby, visited the Vauxhall Walk reception centre. They were accepted as in priority need and housing was arranged for them. One other household was identified by the Council officers on site as being in priority need: a couple where the woman was pregnant. They were strongly advised to go to the local reception centre but declined to do so, saying they were going somewhere else. No other households in priority need were identified on the day, with the possible exception of one resident who resisted the eviction and was subsequently arrested.
- 8.6 The Council officers on the St Agnes Place site itself on the day of the eviction, based in the One O'Clock Club and St Agnes Church Hall, were there to deal with the Press and to attend to neighbouring residents' issues. For example they looked after a number of Family HA tenants who were evacuated from 73 St Agnes Place because of a suspected gas escape from one of the houses undergoing eviction.

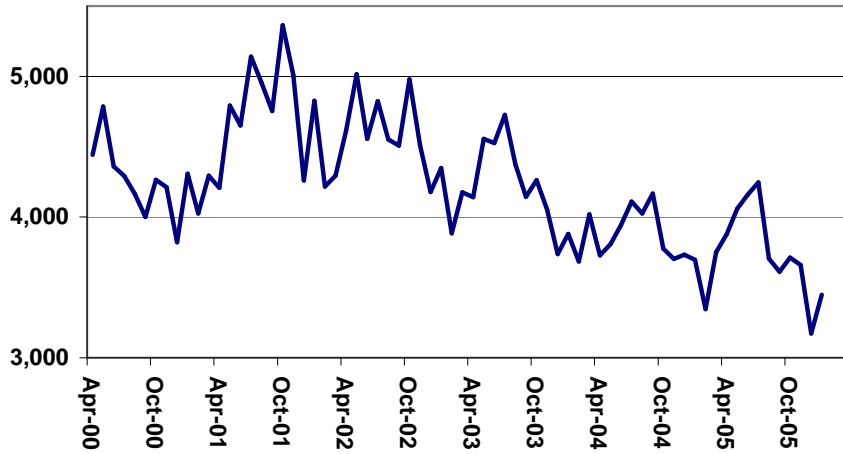
**9. How many people were evicted?**

- 9.1 Media reports beforehand had suggested that 100 -150 people were living in the properties subject to eviction. The actual number of people evicted on the day was around 50, although some occupants were out when the eviction took place, and others had vacated in the days running up to the eviction.
- 10. What support was offered to the former occupants after the day of the eviction?**
- 10.1 On following days the Council's main Housing Service Centre in Brixton was open for evictees to approach if they wanted further advice, or to arrange housing if they were in priority need. This office is a short bus ride from St Agnes Place.
- 10.2 A number of former occupiers came to Hambrook House (the Housing Department's HQ building) on 16 December, apparently to register on the Council's housing list. They were redirected to the Housing Service Centre, which is less than 50 yards away.
- 11. What was done to protect belongings left behind in the houses?**
- 11.1 Occupants could carry little with them when they were evicted. Over the three days following the eviction they were allowed by the HCEOs to return by appointment, one or two at a time, to collect valuables or other items they could carry away.
- 11.2 On the weekend following the eviction, the Council's removals contractor removed the remainder of the goods left behind to storage for later collection by the former occupiers. The main storage depot is in West London, but the volume of goods was so large that they used a second depot in Swindon.
- 11.3 Some items were not removed by the removals contractor. These included:
- Clothes, other than those which were clean and hung up in wardrobes – because of the risk of infestation to/from other clothing in store
  - Appliances which were plumbed in or connected to services (e.g. cookers) – because of the cost of disconnection, water leakage, etc
  - Items assessed to be of minimal value - because of the cost considerations in collecting and storing them.
- 11.4 A video record was made by the HCEOs of all the houses immediately after the eviction and whenever former occupants were allowed access to collect belongings. A video record was also made after the removals contractor had finished removing items. This was done so that there would be no doubt as to what had been left behind and what had been removed.
- 11.5 40 former occupants provided contact details to the Council that enabled them to make arrangements to collect their belongings from the Council's

removals contractor. Belongings were brought back from the storage depots to the removal contractor's Brixton depot for collection by appointment.

12. **Why were video records made of the eviction, and of people when they collected their goods from the houses?**
  - 12.1 The HCEOs and the Police both employed Evidence Gathering Teams (EGTs) on the day equipped with video equipment. Video records have a number of functions. They can provide evidence of people committing criminal offences (including resisting bailiffs) and also protect officers against unjustified allegations.
  - 12.2 Allowing former occupants to collect belongings posed a risk that some of them might have taken items belonging to other occupants, particularly as many houses were occupied communally. Having a video record of the person removing the goods was therefore important in case such complaints were subsequently received.
13. **Why is the Council negotiating separately with the occupants of the Rastafarian Temple in St Agnes Place?**
  - 13.1 The Council has always distinguished between the two terraces of unlawfully occupied houses in St Agnes Place, and the four houses at 28-34 St Agnes Place that make up the Rastafarian Temple.
  - 13.2 The Council is aware of the importance of the Temple to the Borough's Rastafarian community, and would like to regularise their occupation of the building. However, as the Temple houses belong to the Council (and form part of its Housing Revenue Account), the Council has a legal duty to charge rent for their occupation.
  - 13.3 In July 2005 the Council made an offer to the Temple of a 15-year lease on the four houses. This lease would be either in the name of Rasta International or the Ethiopian World Federation Incorporated, or another properly constituted group acceptable to the Council and with a full legal capacity to manage the property. A market rent would be payable, but the Council would give advice on financial and grant assistance for which the leasing organisation might apply.
  - 13.4 In addition, the outstanding use and occupation charges, insurance premiums, and interest charges which the Temple owes the Council, and that together are calculated to amount to £210,000, would be commuted to a one-off payment of £52,500.
  - 13.5 The Council has been in negotiation with the Temple on this offer since July. In the meanwhile the Council has not dropped its possession action for the houses in the Courts, although it will do so if a lease agreement is concluded.

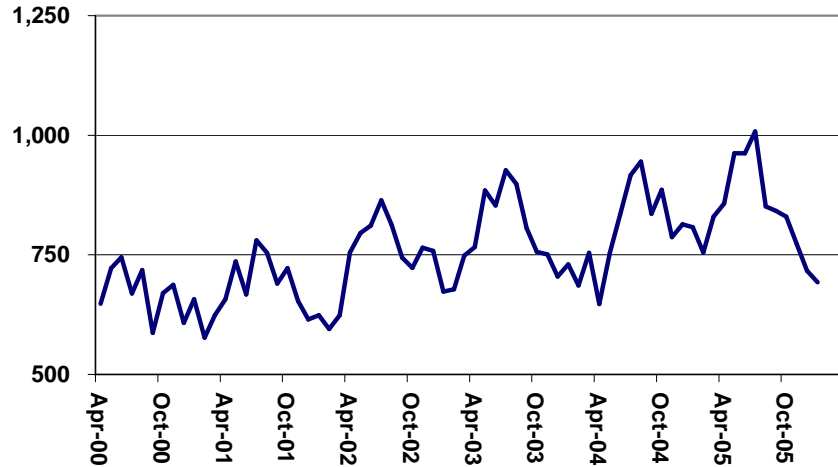
**Lambeth - Total Notifiable Offences**



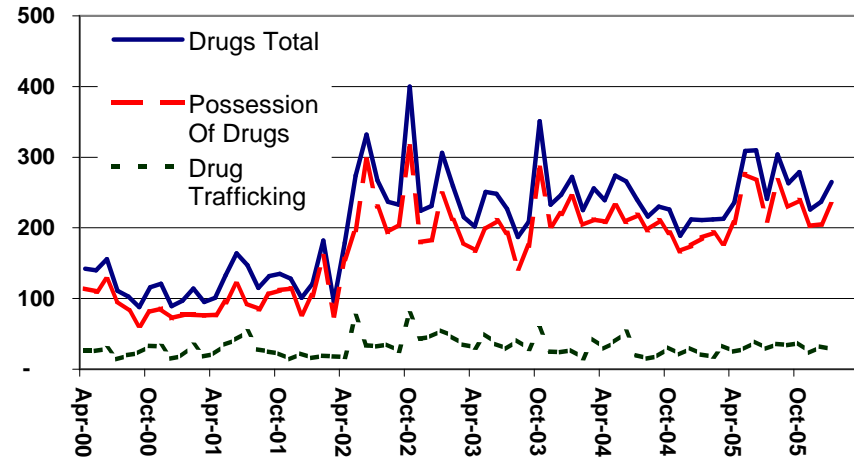
**Lambeth - Street Crime (Personal Robbery plus Snatches)**



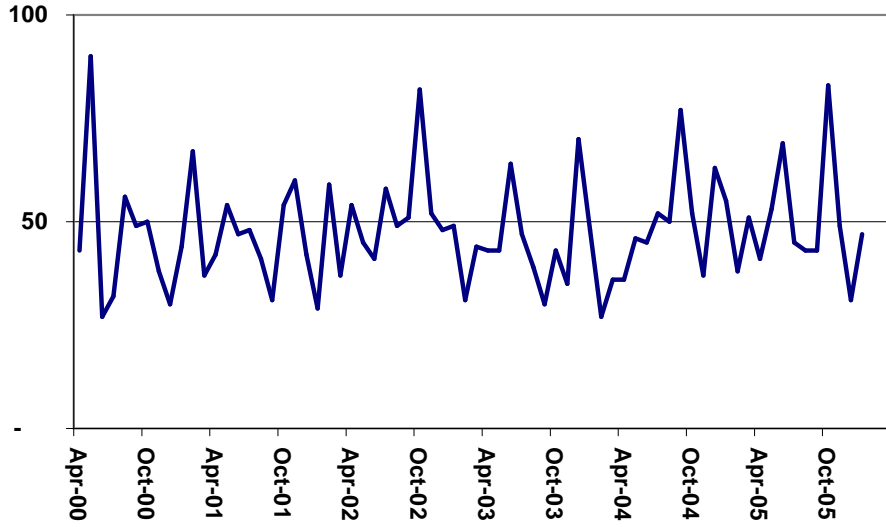
**Lambeth - Violence Against the Person**



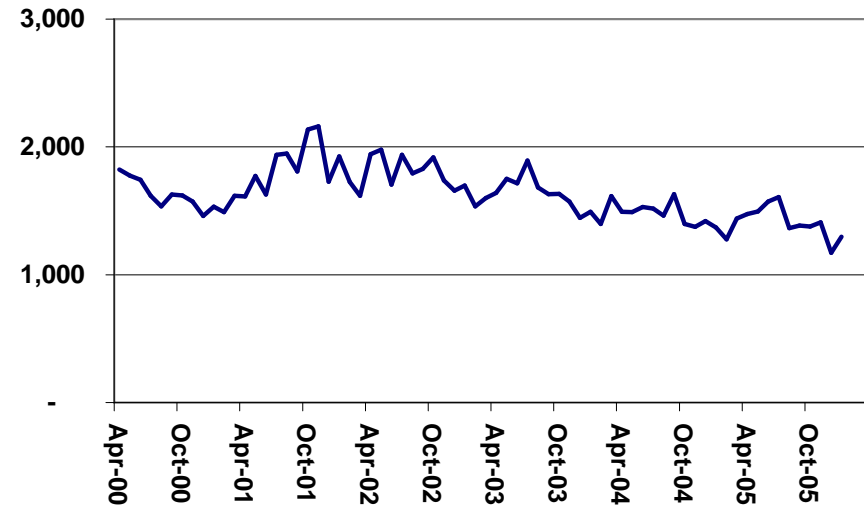
**Lambeth - Drug Crime**



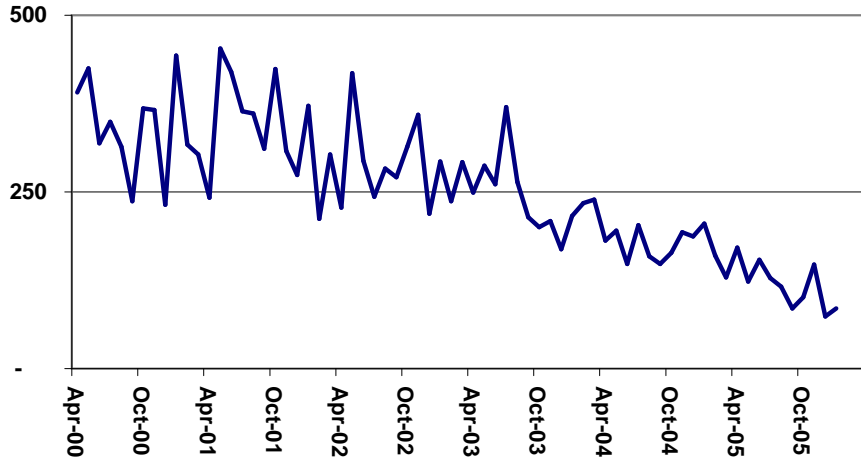
**Lambeth - Sex Offences**



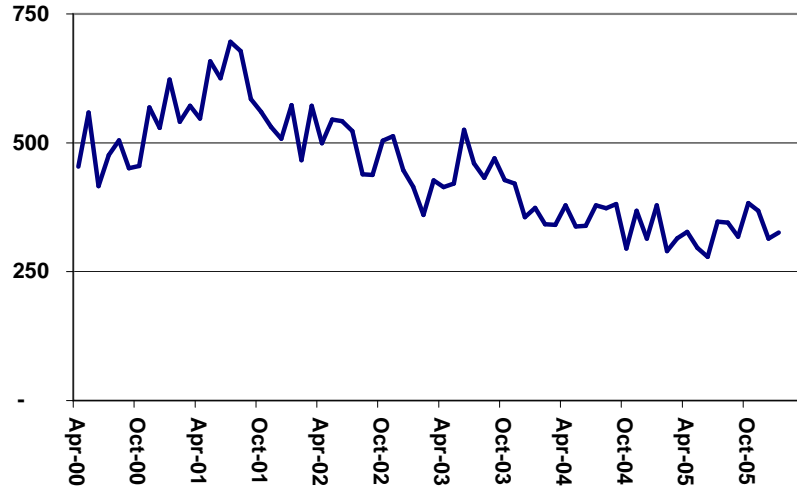
**Lambeth - Theft and Handling**



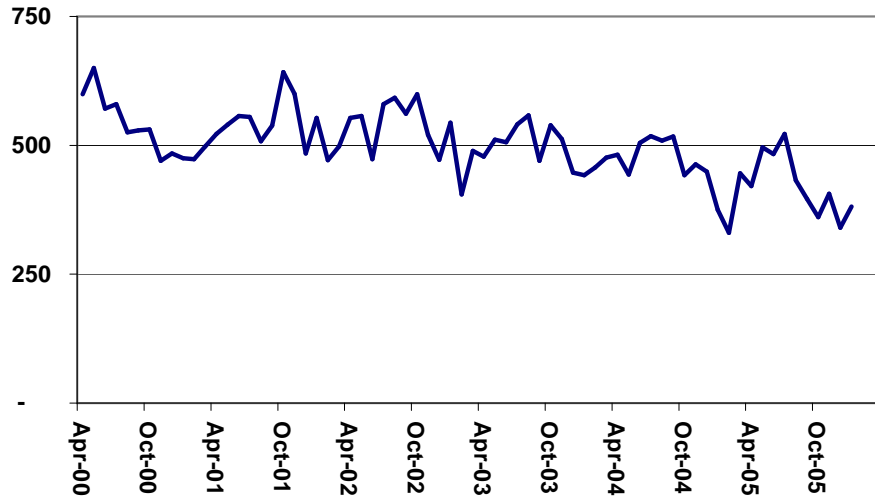
**Lambeth - Fraud or Forgery**



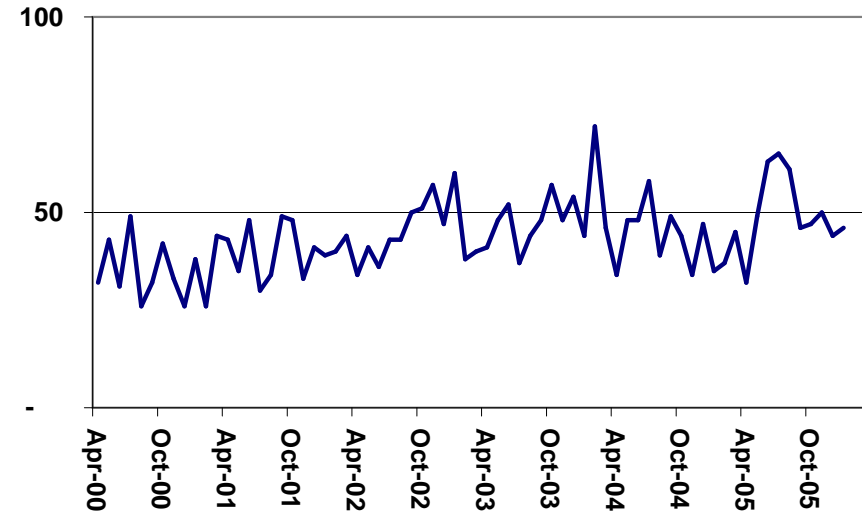
**Lambeth - Burglary**



Lambeth - Criminal Damage



Lambeth - Other Notifiable Offences



Source: MPS Crime Statistics Archive -[www.met.police.uk/crimestatistics/index.htm](http://www.met.police.uk/crimestatistics/index.htm); presentation CPCG