



MAG Position Statement

Motorcycle Crime: Enough is Enough

History

Theft of mopeds, motorcycles and scooters has long been a difficult crime to combat. However between 2015 and 2017 there has been a massive increase in such crimes - exceeding 600% - with the perpetrators resorting to new and horrific methods. Motorcycle theft and bike-jacking (the taking of a motorcycle by force, essentially robbery) is a crime epidemic spiralling out of control everywhere - especially in London - and shows no sign of abating. Bikers all over the country are victims of these crimes. Directly, they suffer the loss of their machines. Indirectly, they endure increased insurance premiums as insurance companies seek to offset their losses. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, Metropolitan Police Superintendent Mark Payne of Operation Venice, and others in positions of authority nationwide have publicly stated that motorcycle theft is partly the fault of the owners for not securing their vehicles properly.

Reality

More and more bikers are securing their machines but there are not sufficient anchor points provided for them to do so. Local authorities experiencing austerity cuts are unlikely to provide extra anchor points so bikers are, in many cases, anchoring to street furniture as an alternative, but these vehicles continue to be stolen. Even so, the small fall in the theft of machines that are secured has been offset by a corresponding rise in bike-jacking. Bikers are asking: what can we do when we are pushed off our machines and they are stolen from under us, or we are followed home and robbed there, often with weapons? There is no Police Crime Prevention advice or message in relation to bike-jacking. Riders are left to improvise.

Assessment of the situation

Due to the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) and other riders' rights groups there is an increase in public and rider awareness. However, this crime epidemic will not cease until the authorities stop blaming the victims or punishing them when they take preventative measures, such as running a red light, exceeding speed limits or riding in a prohibited bus lane whilst trying to escape. In the same context, riders are extremely concerned that they try to secure their machines to street furniture to prevent theft, only to receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). Finally, due to potential litigation and negative IPCC enquiries, police officers are placed in a very difficult position when it comes to chasing suspected thieves. It is often the case that they may subsequently be the subject of an inquiry, leading to a police culture which massively reduces the motivation to seek to apprehend the criminals.

MAG Position

The Police, Government and Judiciary have to take ownership of this problem and do something now. The Motorcycle Action Group is calling for the following measures to be implemented:

- Victim blaming must end, publically and financially.
- Victims must be supported just as any other 'wounded' community and discretion shown to those riders who through taking preventative measures find themselves having to commit an offence"
- Police pursuit policies should be addressed urgently and officers supported.
- Police should issue guidance on preventative measures regarding bike-jacking and on-highway assaults.
- The Judicial system must hand down meaningful sentences that deter others.
- Young offenders must be given a deterrent sentence, rather than cautions or derisory penalties.
- Compensation orders must cover recovery and repair to a bike, plus the increased premiums.

MAG is on the move, encouraging members to continue to push the crime prevention message.
MAG is working to take active steps, directly, to bring these offenders to justice.

The NPCC, Home Office & the Judiciary must respond to this crime epidemic.

The current response is not good enough.

MAG challenges the relevant authorities to address this problem promptly and robustly.

Bikers have had enough: Enough IS enough