

Written responses to members questions

Full Authority – June 2011

Jenny Jones

How many officers are currently working on the Madeline McCann Review

Currently the number of staff working on the McCann investigative review is 18. Numbers will invariably fluctuate as it builds up, but that is the figure at this time.

Caroline Pidgeon

Membership of Masonic Lodges

Summary

In summary, the MPS does not hold a register of members and there is no intelligence to suggest this is necessary.

However, should any MPA Member have any information about the need to declare such membership due to a specific concern related to an individual; then please make the Deputy Commissioner aware.

How many ACPO officers within the MPS are members of any Masonic lodge?

This is not known. There are no records on the Intelligence database that relate to any member of MPS ACPO being a member of a Masonic lodge.

The MPS does not hold a voluntary internal register on Freemasonry and therefore no other information is available for MPS ACPO officers.

In 1999 at the request of the Home Office, Chief Constables asked all officers to complete a voluntary declaration of membership of Freemasons. The MPS carried out the requested exercise and established a register. This exercise has not been repeated and the register has been subsequently deleted.

Is there a requirement to declare any such membership?

There is no specific requirement made by the MPS to declare Freemasonry or association with a Masonic Lodge.

There remains legislation and MPS Standard Operating Procedures that address restrictions on the private life of members of a police force. These are set out below.

Restrictions on the private life of police officers

The Police Regulations 2003; Regulation 6¹ state that; *'no restrictions other than those designed to secure the proper exercise of the functions of a constable shall be imposed by the police authority or chief officer on the private life of members of a police force.'*

In this context, the Home Secretary issued a determination setting out specific organisations of which membership is banned. Currently these are the British National Party; Combat 18 and National Front.

¹ Annex A includes Schedule 1

A compulsory requirement for members of a police force to register Freemasonry could be made if it was necessary to secure the proper exercise of the functions of a constable. Within the DPS there is no intelligence case that supports this.

*The Business Interests, Secondary Employment and Political Activities Standard Operating Procedure*², supports Regulation 6 by outlining those restrictions that are reasonable to achieve the proper exercise of the functions of a constable including registering business interests and the restrictions on political activity. Registering Freemasonry or association with a Masonic Lodge is not identified as a relevant restriction.

The current ACPO Position regarding membership of Masonic Lodges

ACPO do not require its members to disclose if they are Freemasons and there are no policies relating to declaration of Freemasonry or association with Masonic Lodges³.

Membership of a Masonic Lodge and the Declarable Association Standard Operating Procedure

The Declared Associations Standard Operating Procedure refers to registering a personal association with an individual, group or organisation that might compromise either the member of staff or the MPS, or risks doing so in the future.

For the purposes of the SOP a member of the MPS must always notify an association with a person, group or organisation where they know, consider or suspect that the association falls into any of the following categories:

- Persons with convictions (whilst traffic offences are not to be considered, death by dangerous driving is included)
- Persons charged with a criminal offence
- Persons on police bail but not yet charged with a criminal offence
- Persons subject of criminal intelligence or subject of an interest marker
- Persons who have been dismissed or required to resign from a police service or other law enforcement agency
- Persons including former police officers who are working in related fields of employment i.e. private investigation, the security sector.

Under current arrangements membership of a Masonic Lodge would not be declarable. If a member of a Masonic Lodge was identified by the criteria listed above (and they associated with an MPS employee), it is possible the MPS employee may be identified as a Freemason as part of the original declaration, but this could not be guaranteed.

The inclusion of Freemasonry to the Declarable Association SOP to make it a compulsory declaration for ACPO would require further consultation and legal

² Annex B

³ Richard Hampton - ACPO Aide 22nd June 2011

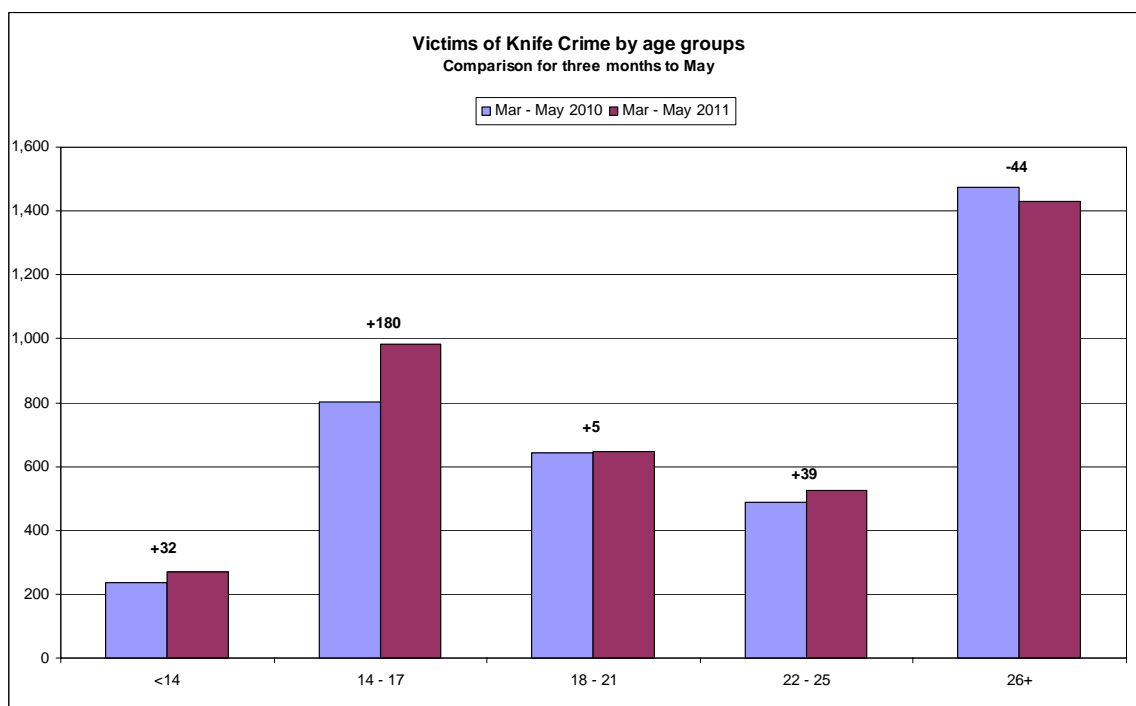
advice. It is anticipated legal advice would not support this given the absence of an intelligence case to support its inclusion.

Response to actions for DCC raised at Full Authority on 11 June 2011

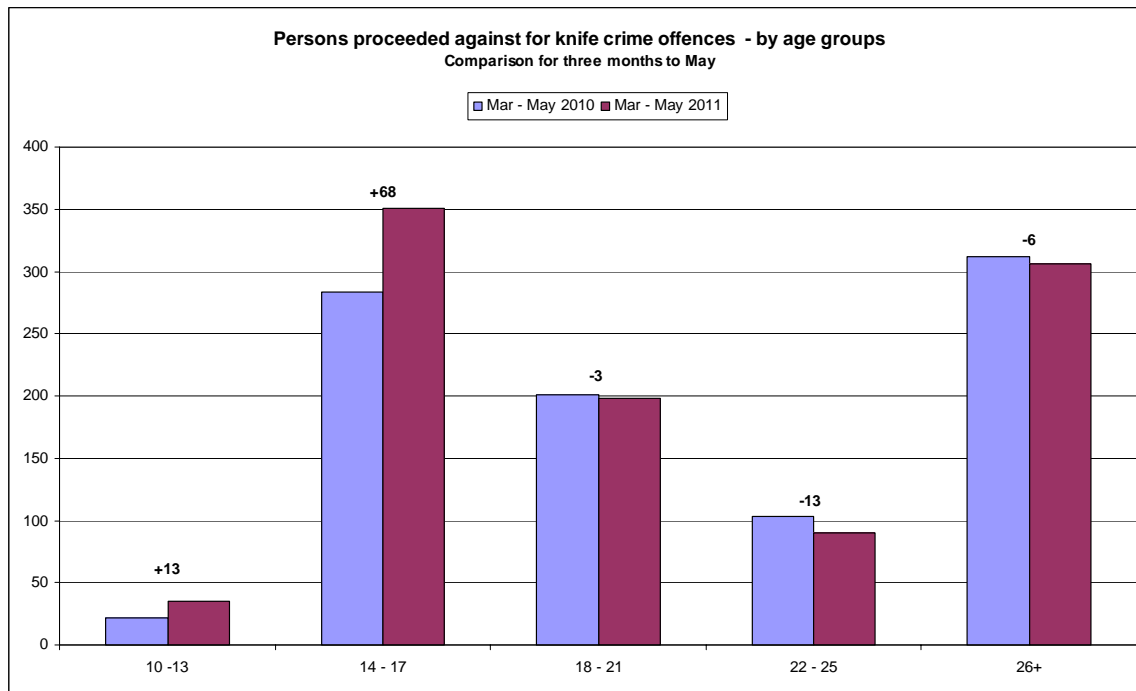
1) Provide MPA with age profile details in relation to the latest knife crime figures

Data is shown over the 3 month period March - May to correspond with the reporting period in the Commissioner's Report to Full Authority in July. It is important to remember that only approximately 30% of knife crime offences result in injury. Of the remainder, approximately 50% of offences are threats and 20% of offences are where a knife is intimated but never actually seen. Intimated offences have increased as a proportion of all knife crime offences, from 19% (March - May 2010) to 22% (March - May 2011).

Age profile of victims



Age profile of those accused of knife crime



Exact figures for each 3 month period

Victims of Knife Crime by age groups			
Age groups:	Mar - May		Proportion** (2011)
	2010	2011	
<14	236	268	7%
14 - 17	802	982	25%
18 - 21	643	648	17%
22 - 25	486	525	14%
26+	1,475	1,431	37%
Not shown*	126	102	
Total	3,768	3,956	

* this is predominantly business robbery offences, where the "victim" is the business

** excludes not shown

The last column shows the percentage of victims of each age group (Mar - May 2011) as a proportion of the total of knife crime offences for Mar - May 2011.

Accused data for knife crime

Persons proceeded against for knife crime offences			
Age groups:	Mar - May		Proportion (2011)
	2010	2011	
10 - 13	22	35	4%
14 - 17	283	351	36%
18 - 21	201	198	20%
22 - 25	103	90	9%
26+	312	306	31%

Total	921	980	
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The last column shows the percentage of accused of knife crime offences in each age group (Mar - May 2011) as a proportion of the total of knife crime offences for Mar - May 2011.

Definitions used for construction of the above charts/tables:

Knife crime figures are based on national definitions, where offences are only eligible to be counted if they relate to:

- Violence with injury - part (over 99% of VWI offences are eligible to be counted)
- Threats to kill
- Sexual offences - part
- Robbery

and where one of the knife feature codes has been applied

Centrally, the MPS has launched a number of operations against violence, particularly that involving weapons. Examples are Operations Target, Connect, Blunt 2, and Verano. The Anti-Violence Strategy 2011-14 has been refreshed for 2011-12. Activity is divided into five areas:

- **Reassurance** - MPS crime prevention campaigns (such as Blunt) will be coordinated by the Anti-Violence Board to ensure that those sections of society most at risk of offending or being victimised are effectively engaged.
- **Intelligence** - Better intelligence databases have been developed to ensure that the most dangerous offenders can be swiftly targeted. This also helps the MPS to prevent escalation of harm and offending. The intelligence is already being actioned and will become even more comprehensive in 2011-12.
- **Prevention** - Project Heart is up and running, targeting violence against women and girls. The various prevention and diversion schemes targeting young people are being coordinated to ensure maximum value for money and that effective schemes retain funding. This work is being undertaken in partnership with the GLA.
- **Enforcement** - Operations Connect and Blunt 2 have been mentioned above. Further pan-London initiatives are being explored and developed with a view to putting proposals to the MPS's Anti-Violence Board in early summer.
- **Partnership** -The London Anti-Violence Partnership has been created. Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) will be piloted in the MPS this year to support to multi-agency interventions in transport hubs. 14 Boroughs are already involved.

2) Provide clarification on the gun crime figures in the Commissioner's Report for June

At Full Authority Clive Lawton sought clarification on why gun and knife crime figures for the violence and property portfolios did not add up to the total numbers of gun and knife offences shown elsewhere in the report. The main reason is the KPI portfolios do not include possession of firearms, although those crimes are included in the totals. The portfolios focus (as we did before when discussing 'total' notifiable offences) on victim, not 'state', crimes. This is not to diminish the importance we place on tackling possession of firearms, however it does ensure levels of crime within portfolios are not increased by proactive police work such as catching people carrying guns.

In fact most, but not all, of gun crime and knife crime falls within the portfolio definitions (86% of gun crime, and 99% of knife crime is within portfolio definitions). The portfolio definitions include only victim based offences - and state based offences are the main reason for the difference.

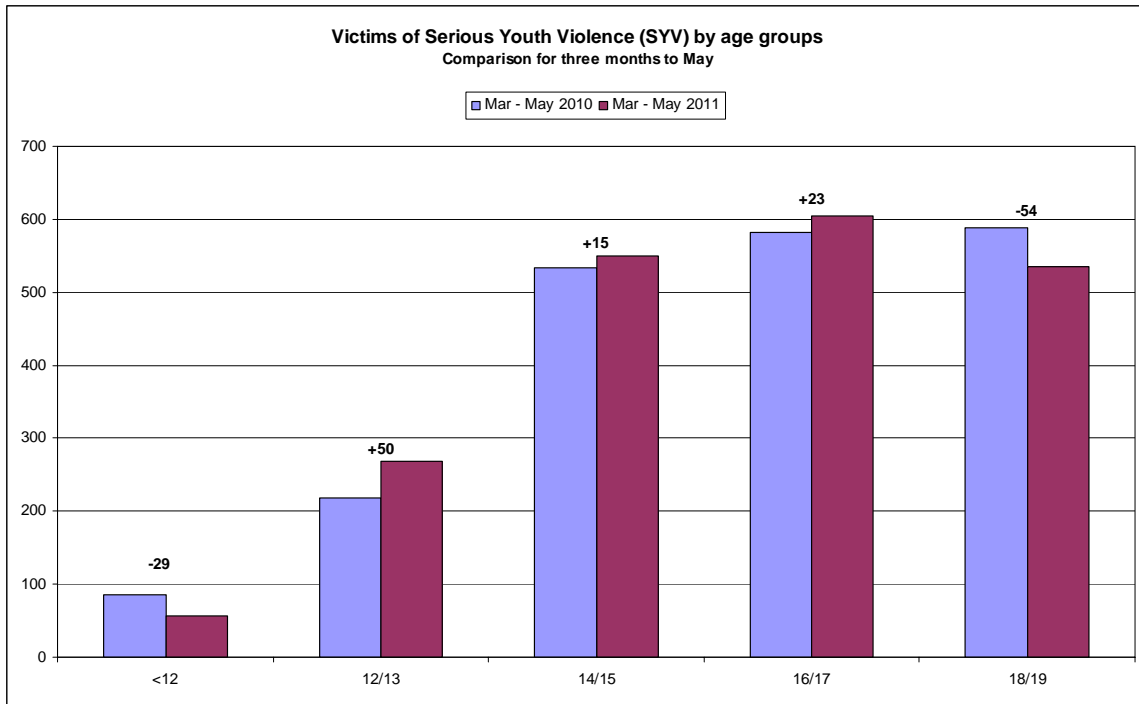
For gun crime, 74 crimes fell outside the portfolio definitions in the three months reported on. The largest proportion outside portfolio definitions related to the state based offence of possession of offensive weapons: 12% of total gun crime (68 offences). The remaining 6 offences outside of portfolio definitions related to non-victim based harassment offences and sexual offences. For the latter, there is a separate KPI relating to the number of rape sanction detections.

For knife crime offences, the total outside of the portfolio definitions is 1% of knife crime offences (or 37 offences in the three months to Apr-11) and relates to sexual offences. The national definitions of gun and knife crime that we use are slightly different - and for knife crime does not include possession of offensive weapon.

We will be moving to reporting the totals for gun crime and knife crime, and won't routinely show the split by portfolio (although that data will still available). This recognises that the overall numbers of these offences are of most interest to the public and the Authority.

3) Provide MPA with age profile details (up to 25) in relation to the latest serious youth violence figures

Note: Serious Youth Violence (SYV) is by definition a count of victims who are aged less than 20. The crime types included in SYV are Most Serious Violence (MSV), and all weapon enabled crimes (gun crime and knife crime under the national definitions) - double counting between MSV and gun crime is excluded.



Victims of Serious Youth Violence (SYV) by age groups			
Age groups:	Mar - May		Proportion (2011)
	2010	2011	
<12	85	56	3%
12/13	219	269	13%
14/15	534	549	27%
16/17	582	605	30%
18/19	589	535	27%
Total	2,009	2,014	

The range of activities outlined above under the section on the refreshed anti-violence strategy includes efforts to reduce SYV. The bulk of SYV is robbery and GBH (Grievous Bodily Harm).

Annex A

Restrictions on the private lives of members of a police force are contained within Police Regulations 2003 (Schedule 1), which has been reproduced in full below;

Restrictions on the private life of members

6.—(1) The restrictions on private life contained in Schedule 1 shall apply to all members of a police force.

(2) No restrictions other than those designed to secure the proper exercise of the functions of a

constable shall be imposed by the police authority or the chief officer on the private life of

members of a police force except—

(a) such as may temporarily be necessary, or

(b) such as may be approved by the Secretary of State after consultation with the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales.

SCHEDULE 1

RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRIVATE LIFE OF MEMBERS OF POLICE FORCES

1. A member of a police force shall at all times abstain from any activity which is likely to interfere with the impartial discharge of his duties or which is likely to give rise to the impression amongst members of the public that it may so interfere; and in particular a member of a police force shall not take any active part in politics.

2. A member of a police force shall not reside at premises which are not for the time being approved by the chief officer.

3.—(1) A member of a police force shall not, without the previous consent of the chief officer, receive a lodger in a house or quarters with which he is provided by the police authority or sub-let any part of the house or quarters.

(2) A member of a police force shall not, unless he has previously given written notice to the chief officer, receive a lodger in a house in which he resides and in respect of which he receives an allowance under Schedule 3 or sub-let any part of such a house.

4. A member of a police force shall not wilfully refuse or neglect to discharge any lawful debt.

Annex B

The Business Interests, Secondary Employment and Political Activities Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) [Link to SOP](#) states;

Political Activities

Police officers are not permitted to engage in any form of political activity (Schedule 1 of The Police Regulations 2003).

Broadly, most MPS police staff are free to engage in limited political activities subject to the restrictions contained in the MPA Employment and Restrictions on Political Activities (below) provided they:

- observe the Official Secrets Act;
- confine his/her activities to times when he/she is not on duty;
- observe the following guidance; and
- comply with relevant legislation.

MPA Employment and Restrictions on Political Activities

1. Nothing in this Annex precludes a trade union official/representative from acting in his/her official capacity when either standing for election or canvassing on behalf of those standing for election in any recognised trade union elections.

2. As all members of police staff are employees of the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) under the direction and control of the Commissioner of Police, the following restrictions apply.

3. Broadly police staff are free to engage in political activities provided the following rules and restrictions are observed:

- the Official Secrets Acts;
- activities are confined to when not on duty, in uniform or on official premises;
- compliance with relevant legislation (see paragraph 5.1); and
- the following rules are observed.

4. There are three levels of political activity:

National

- public announcement as a candidate or prospective MP or MEP;
- holding an office in a party political organisation which impinges wholly or mainly on party politics at national or European level;
- speaking in public on a matter of national political controversy;
- expressing such a view in a publication; and
- canvassing on behalf of a prospective MP, MEP or political party.

Local

- candidature for, or co-option to, a local authority;
- holding an office in a party political organisation which impinges wholly or mainly on party politics at local level;
- speaking in public on a matter of local political controversy;
- expressing such a view in a publication; and
- canvassing on behalf of a candidate for election to a local authority or local political organisation.

Parish

- local activities at parish level.