# Concerns rise over public safety on London Underground after crack cocaine incident



Recent photographs and reports of a man allegedly smoking crack cocaine on the London Underground have sparked significant discussions regarding public safety and crime on the city’s transport system. The incident reportedly took place on the Victoria line, where a commuter captured images of the individual and shared details on a Reddit post.

The Reddit user recounted their experience of witnessing the man “behaving oddly and attempting to light a small, metal pipe.” He further detailed that the man was “phlegming and spitting on the floor near-constantly” while trying to ignite the pipe. Following this unsettling encounter, the commuter chose to move to the opposite end of the carriage, with various other passengers either exiting at the next station or relocating as well.

Attempting to report the incident, the Reddit user approached a Transport for London (TfL) employee, providing information about the carriage number and the man's description. However, they were reportedly met with a somewhat dismissive response, as the TfL staff indicated there was little they could do regarding the situation. The user suggested that the individual was known to TfL, with complaints about him arising every one to three days.

The incident has prompted comments from notable political figures including London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who condemned any form of illegal activity, particularly on public transport. Speaking to LBC, Khan stated, “You shouldn’t be breaking the law, whether it’s on the Underground or on the surface,” while emphasising the importance of reporting unlawful activities. He highlighted the presence of enforcement personnel, stating, “We’ve got 500 enforcement officers employed by TfL who wear body-worn videos for their sake and also to capture evidence.”

Khan also addressed concerns raised by the Reddit user about the inefficacy of the staff’s response. He reaffirmed the role of TfL personnel and the jurisdiction of law enforcement agencies, asserting that such incidents should not occur if reported properly.

Heidi Alexander, the Transport Secretary, added her perspective on the matter during her interview, labelling the situation “totally unacceptable.” She expressed empathy with both Mayor Khan and the TfL commissioner, Andy Lord, regarding their concerns. Alexander sought to reassure the public about the overall safety of the transport network, noting that “the transport network in London, and indeed across the country, is a relatively low-crime environment.”

A statement from a TfL spokesperson confirmed their commitment to ensuring passengers feel secure while traversing the network, acknowledging the distress that such behaviour may evoke. They indicated that TfL is collaborating with various agencies and the police to assist vulnerable individuals while attempting to maintain public order.

The British Transport Police also acknowledged awareness of the Reddit post concerning the man smoking on the Victoria line, stating their intent to investigate the matter further.

The discourse surrounding public safety on the London Underground illustrates broader concerns about maintaining a secure and welcoming environment for commuters, highlighting the tension between enforcement capabilities and the realities of public transport dynamics in the capital.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/im-not-surprised-crack-is-being-smoked-on-the-victoria-line/> - This article discusses the recent incident of crack cocaine being smoked on the London Underground's Victoria line and relates it to broader issues of lawlessness in London.
* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/04/07/khan-urged-to-act-on-open-crack-cocaine-london-underground/> - The Telegraph reports on the calls for Mayor Sadiq Khan to act on the issue of open crack cocaine use on the London Underground, highlighting concerns over public safety.
* <https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/exclusive/crack-cocaine-tube-heidi-alexander/> - Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander comments on the incident, labeling it unacceptable and emphasizing the overall safety of the transport network despite recent increases in crime.
* <https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/exclusive/crack-cocaine-tube-heidi-alexander/> - This article provides additional context on the reaction from transport officials and the public's perception of safety on London's transport system.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Although the URL is not explicitly linked to recent specific incidents, this source may generally report on news related to public safety and crime in London.