# Brazen thefts surge at London’s St Pancras and major railway stations



London’s St Pancras International railway station, an iconic landmark known for its Victorian Gothic architecture and bustling commuter activity, has been experiencing a surge in brazen thefts targeting passengers and visitors. The station, along with nearby major transport hubs Paddington and King's Cross, has become a hotspot for a variety of theft crimes, ranging from stealthy pickpocketing to aggressive robberies involving physical assault or distractions with paint and other substances.

A wide spectrum of victims has emerged from these incidents, including public figures, celebrities, senior politicians, and tourists. The recent theft of over £250,000 worth of jewellery and designer handbags belonging to Brittny Button, wife of former Formula One driver Jenson Button, underscores both the scale and audacity of these crimes. The theft occurred after the couple arrived at St Pancras by Eurostar. Brittny Button described how a man ran off with her carry-on suitcase while her husband briefly turned his back. She said in an exclusive interview with MailOnline, “I was kind of shocked. How like unsecure everything felt [in London]... I thought, ‘Should I have brought my carry on back here with me?’” The thief, Mourad Aid, 41, pleaded guilty to theft at Westminster Magistrates’ Court on 19 February 2025 and has been remanded in custody awaiting sentencing.

Other high-profile victims include Yasmine Zweegers, influencer and former star of Made in Chelsea, who fell prey to a staged distraction scam outside King’s Cross station in February 2025. In this scheme, an accomplice threw brown paint on her coat, then offered tissues to clean it, allowing his partners to seize her bag containing jewellery, a laptop, camera, and clothes valued at about £8,000. Zweegers described the experience as “violating” and warned others via TikTok. Similarly, Lea Yerevanian was doused with ketchup outside the same station in December 2024, a ploy intended to distract and enable theft, though she managed to thwart the attempt but her £4,500 coat was ruined.

In another notable case last July, a woman in her 40s was violently robbed of a Richard Mille RM 037 watch valued at approximately £185,000 outside St Pancras International. The group of three men pushed her to the ground in front of her children before fleeing with the timepiece. While the victim was unharmed physically, she was understandably shaken by the event.

Thefts are not limited to celebrities or those visibly affluent. Senior Conservative MP Sir David Davis was a victim of a professional thief who stole his bag in King’s Cross in November 2024. Abderrahim Mamma, 28, charged with multiple thefts at London train stations including Paddington, St Pancras, and King’s Cross, was said by the prosecution to be a professional thief engaged in a crime spree valued around £15,000.

Former tennis professional Annabel Croft also revealed she was a victim of a snatch theft outside King’s Cross when a masked man on a bike grabbed her mobile phone cleanly from her hands in June 2024. She described the event as “terrifying,” though the thief dropped the phone as he sped away.

Security professionals emphasise the challenges posed by the chaotic and busy nature of London’s major railway stations, which create opportunities for criminals. James Bore, Chartered Security Professional from Bores Group, advised commuters to remain vigilant, keep bags closed, and avoid distractions such as using phones in crowded environments. He remarked, “There is opportunity for criminals in chaos and in busy and hectic places... it is a target rich environment where people are not going to be at their most alert.”

Responding to these reports, British Transport Police Superintendent Nick Sedgemore stated, “We know how upsetting, inconvenient and costly incidents of theft can be and we are working tirelessly to crack down on this sort of offending in London.” He noted that specialist plain clothes officers conduct regular patrols around St Pancras and stressed the importance of passengers reporting suspicious activity via text to enable targeted police operations.

The recent spate of thefts has cast a shadow over the security of London’s major railway stations, as both locals and visitors navigate increasing concerns about personal safety and crime risks in these busy transport hubs.

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

## Bibliography

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