# Notting Hill Carnival sees significant drop in violence aided by innovative policing



The recent Notting Hill Carnival saw a marked reduction in serious violent incidents, reflecting concerted efforts by law enforcement and organisers to improve safety at one of London’s largest and most vibrant public events. Despite over a million attendees gathering in West London, the Metropolitan Police reported fewer instances of serious violence compared to previous years, praising the improvements made in crowd management and security.

The police made 528 arrests over the course of the carnival, with innovative technology playing a key role in these enforcement actions. Facial recognition software, deployed through drones capable of identifying individuals from up to 80 meters away, contributed to 61 arrests. This marked a significant development in policing large-scale events, allowing officers to respond swiftly and effectively to potential threats or offenders in real-time. The British Transport Police added 30 more arrests, underscoring the joint operational approach to maintaining security across different areas.

Ahead of the carnival, the Metropolitan Police took proactive intelligence-led actions that included 100 arrests and the seizure of firearms and knives. These pre-event interventions highlighted the importance of disrupting potentially violent activity before it could escalate during the festivities. The police’s strategic approach was further supported by the carnival organisers, who had publicly urged anyone intent on causing trouble to stay away, contributing to a safer overall environment. Mr Ward, speaking after the event, commended the organisers for their role in enhancing crowd safety and encouraging peaceful participation.

Looking forward, there are calls for continued improvements to ensure the safety of the carnival in future years. Potential measures under consideration include increasing the number of trained stewards to manage and guide large crowds more effectively, as well as expanding the use of drone technology for real-time monitoring. Experts emphasise that better trained personnel and more robust security infrastructures could prevent incidents and maintain the carnival’s celebratory atmosphere.

However, challenges remain. A recent survey revealed that many police officers still feel unsafe working at the carnival, describing some experiences in stark terms such as ‘hell’ and ‘warzone’. This points to ongoing concerns about the demands placed on officers and the need for enhanced protective measures. Furthermore, the upcoming implementation of Martyn’s Law will require event organisers to conduct thorough terrorism risk assessments, adding another layer of complexity to managing the event’s safety.

The success of this year’s carnival in reducing violence demonstrates the value of collaborative efforts between police and event organisers, alongside the use of innovative technology and intelligence-driven policing. Yet, as the event evolves, so too must the strategies to protect both the millions who attend and the officers who steward the occasion, ensuring that Notting Hill Carnival remains both a vibrant celebration and a safe environment for all.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-knife-crime-police-violence-facial-recognition-b1244547.html), [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/thousands-attend-notting-hill-carnival-with-met-police-reporting-far-fewer-violent-incidents-this-year-13418358)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-knife-crime-police-violence-facial-recognition-b1244547.html), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-knife-crime-police-violence-facial-recognition-b1244547.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/100-arrests-ahead-of-notting-hill-carnival-in-intelligence-led-interventions-met-police-say-13416112), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-knife-crime-police-violence-facial-recognition-b1244547.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-knife-crime-police-violence-facial-recognition-b1244547.html), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-2025-safety-improvements-drones-b1233855.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5yvk5dk38xo), [[6]](https://www.ioshmagazine.com/2025/08/18/can-notting-hill-carnival-stay-safe)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-knife-crime-police-violence-facial-recognition-b1244547.html), [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/thousands-attend-notting-hill-carnival-with-met-police-reporting-far-fewer-violent-incidents-this-year-13418358), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-knife-crime-police-violence-facial-recognition-b1244547.html), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/100-arrests-ahead-of-notting-hill-carnival-in-intelligence-led-interventions-met-police-say-13416112)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-knife-crime-police-violence-facial-recognition-b1244547.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-knife-crime-police-violence-facial-recognition-b1244547.html> - The article reports that the Metropolitan Police made 528 arrests during the Notting Hill Carnival, with facial recognition software leading to 61 arrests. Despite these arrests, there were fewer incidents of serious violence compared to previous years. The technology used drones capable of identifying individuals from up to 80 meters away, assisting officers in maintaining safety. The British Transport Police also made 30 arrests over the weekend. The article highlights the ongoing efforts to enhance security and reduce violence at the event.
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/100-arrests-ahead-of-notting-hill-carnival-in-intelligence-led-interventions-met-police-say-13416112> - This Sky News article details the Metropolitan Police's proactive measures ahead of the Notting Hill Carnival, including 100 arrests and the seizure of firearms and knives. The operations aimed to prevent potential violence and ensure public safety during the event. The article underscores the importance of intelligence-led interventions in maintaining order at large public gatherings.
4. <https://news.sky.com/story/thousands-attend-notting-hill-carnival-with-met-police-reporting-far-fewer-violent-incidents-this-year-13418358> - Sky News reports on the Notting Hill Carnival, noting that despite attracting over a million attendees, the Metropolitan Police reported significantly fewer violent incidents compared to previous years. The article highlights the success of enhanced security measures and the collaborative efforts between organisers and law enforcement to ensure a safer environment for participants.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/notting-hill-carnival-2025-safety-improvements-drones-b1233855.html> - This article discusses proposed safety improvements for the Notting Hill Carnival, including the use of drones for real-time crowd monitoring and the need for more trained stewards to guide and direct crowds. Experts suggest that these measures could enhance security and prevent incidents, ensuring a safer experience for attendees.
6. <https://www.ioshmagazine.com/2025/08/18/can-notting-hill-carnival-stay-safe> - IOSH Magazine examines the safety challenges faced by the Notting Hill Carnival, highlighting issues such as inadequate steward training and the upcoming Martyn’s Law, which will require event organisers to assess and act on terrorism threats. The article calls for reassessment of risk profiles and implementation of mandatory training to improve safety standards.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5yvk5dk38xo> - BBC News reports on a survey indicating that a majority of police officers feel unsafe working at the Notting Hill Carnival, with many describing the event as 'hell' and a 'warzone'. The survey highlights concerns over safety and the need for improved security measures to protect both officers and attendees.