# Metropolitan Police deploys VAWG patrols and data-driven arrests to protect women at London concerts



The Metropolitan Police are stepping up efforts to protect women and girls from sexual offences at concerts across London, introducing dedicated patrols tailored to violence against women and girls (VAWG). This enhanced security initiative coincides with a busy summer music season, including 51 large-scale events and over three million attendees expected at Wembley Stadium alone.

Central to this policing strategy is the V100 project, a data-driven approach designed to identify and target the most dangerous sexual offenders. Since its launch in August last year, the V100 initiative has led to the arrest of more than 177 high-risk individuals, with 129 convictions secured for a range of serious sexual offences. The project utilises a sophisticated scoring system, incorporating police data and tools like the Cambridge Crime Harm Index, to prioritise suspects based on the severity and frequency of their offences. This method has enhanced the likelihood of arrest for those posing the greatest threat to women and girls, helping the force to focus resources with precision.

The high-profile debut of VAWG patrols took place at Beyonce’s concert at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on June 5, resulting in the removal of a suspected stalker and the arrest of a man on suspicion of upskirting. These patrols serve a dual purpose: engaging openly with the public to foster a sense of safety and offering people the confidence to report concerns, while simultaneously identifying and removing individuals deemed unsafe from event venues. Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ben Russell emphasised that some officers will operate discreetly within crowds to swiftly intervene when behaviour threatens public safety, though this will not be obvious to most concertgoers.

Beyond concert venues, the Met has significantly bolstered its public protection capabilities by allocating an additional 565 officers and staff, enhancing teams focused on domestic abuse, rape, and sexual offence investigations. The force has also expanded the use of live facial recognition technology to monitor for wanted individuals and those subject to sexual harm prevention orders, enabling quicker responses to breaches and pending offences.

This comprehensive approach aligns with the government’s wider mission to halve violence against women and girls over the current parliamentary term. The Met’s efforts are framed as part of a broader commitment to rebuild public trust and confidence in policing. By tracking public sentiment and encouraging the reporting and recording of crimes, the force aims to create safer environments while holding perpetrators accountable.

While the V100 initiative’s successes have been notable, with over 126 people charged and 574 offences—including serious crimes such as rape, grievous bodily harm, and attempted murder—critics highlight the need for expanded victim support services alongside enforcement. The End Violence Against Women Coalition recognises the Met’s targeted work but stresses that victims require increased resources and help to ensure justice is fully served.

The model of proactive policing and data intelligence seen in London echoes approaches in other parts of the UK, including Gloucestershire, where increased patrols and surveillance measures have been implemented to reduce intimidation and sexual offences during large events such as the Cheltenham Festival. This reflects a growing recognition nationwide of the importance of concerted, visible action to safeguard women and girls in public spaces.

As summer unfolds and the Met continues its VAWG patrols and the V100 operation, the force is focused not just on arrest figures but on building an environment where safety and trust make public events more welcoming and secure for everyone.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/met-police-introduces-patrols-to-protect-women-and-girls-at-concerts-YFD2Z3RWGZPN7HM4UTRKCPIYFA/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/met-police-introduces-patrols-to-protect-women-and-girls-at-concerts-YFD2Z3RWGZPN7HM4UTRKCPIYFA/), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3rnyqndry7o), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-68774239), [[7]](https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/about-us/about-the-met/vawg-action-plan-summary/tackling-perpetrators/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/met-police-introduces-patrols-to-protect-women-and-girls-at-concerts-YFD2Z3RWGZPN7HM4UTRKCPIYFA/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/met-police-introduces-patrols-to-protect-women-and-girls-at-concerts-YFD2Z3RWGZPN7HM4UTRKCPIYFA/), [[7]](https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/about-us/about-the-met/vawg-action-plan-summary/tackling-perpetrators/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/met-police-introduces-patrols-to-protect-women-and-girls-at-concerts-YFD2Z3RWGZPN7HM4UTRKCPIYFA/), [[7]](https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/about-us/about-the-met/vawg-action-plan-summary/tackling-perpetrators/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-03-21/more-than-100-convicted-as-part-of-crackdown-on-violence-against-women), [[5]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/met-sadiq-khan-metropolitan-police-harrow-jess-phillips-b2719064.html)
* Paragraph 7 – [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-68545184)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/met-police-introduces-patrols-to-protect-women-and-girls-at-concerts-YFD2Z3RWGZPN7HM4UTRKCPIYFA/), [[7]](https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/about-us/about-the-met/vawg-action-plan-summary/tackling-perpetrators/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/met-police-introduces-patrols-to-protect-women-and-girls-at-concerts-YFD2Z3RWGZPN7HM4UTRKCPIYFA/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-03-21/more-than-100-convicted-as-part-of-crackdown-on-violence-against-women> - The Metropolitan Police's V100 initiative has led to 126 individuals being charged with 574 offences against women and girls, including rape, grievous bodily harm, and attempted murder. The operation employs a scoring system to prioritise suspects based on the severity of alleged offences, enhancing the likelihood of arrest for high-risk individuals. The End Violence Against Women Coalition acknowledges the Met's efforts but emphasises the need for further support for victims.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3rnyqndry7o> - The Metropolitan Police's V100 programme, a data-driven approach to tackling violence against women and girls, has resulted in over 100 convictions. The initiative uses data to identify and target men who pose the highest risk to women, leading to 126 people charged with 574 offences, including rape, grievous bodily harm, and attempted murder. The scheme is part of the force's A New Met for London plan, aimed at delivering 'more trust, less crime, and high standards'.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-68774239> - The Metropolitan Police's V100 initiative, employing data analytics to identify and arrest men who attack women and girls, has led to 60 arrests since August. The scheme uses existing police data and the Cambridge Crime Harm Index to rank suspects, enabling prioritised interventions. The Met is working with other forces to share findings from this data-led approach, aiming to stop predators and bring them to justice.
5. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/met-sadiq-khan-metropolitan-police-harrow-jess-phillips-b2719064.html> - The Metropolitan Police's V100 initiative has resulted in over 100 convictions in a crackdown on the abuse of women. The operation uses a scoring system to prioritise suspects based on the severity of alleged offences, leading to 126 people charged with 574 offences, including rape, grievous bodily harm, and attempted murder. The Met claims this method has doubled the likelihood of arrest for those deemed to pose the highest risk.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-68545184> - In response to concerns about women's safety during the Cheltenham Festival, Gloucestershire Police have increased patrols. A survey by GlosWomen highlighted an 'atmosphere of intimidation' during the event. The police are focusing patrols on hotspots like transport hubs, pubs, and walking routes, and have implemented measures such as roving CCTV vans and blood testing equipment to detect drink spiking.
7. <https://www.met.police.uk/police-forces/metropolitan-police/areas/about-us/about-the-met/vawg-action-plan-summary/tackling-perpetrators/> - The Metropolitan Police's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) action plan includes the V100 approach, targeting the most harmful perpetrators. As of May 2024, 199 subjects have been tasked, with positive action taken against 54% of them. The plan also involves using Live Facial Recognition (LFR) to monitor registered sex offenders and wanted individuals, leading to arrests for breaches and other offences.