



Release: Strictly embargoed until 06:00am on Wednesday, January 10th

## **Acid attacks: East London boroughs among worst in capital, new figures show**

- 264 incidents involving corrosive fluids in across three eastern boroughs last year (Jan-Oct)
- Acid attacks up 65 per cent across London since 2015
- 429 offences by end of October 2017, up from 260 two years ago
- No suspect identified in 37 per cent of cases last year
- Average age of victims is 29, with most suspects in past three years aged 10-19

East London boroughs were among the worst in the capital for acid attacks in London last year, latest figures show.

Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering combined to make up the second worst area for incidents involving corrosive fluids between January and October 2017. In total, 264 offences were recorded by police across the boroughs. Newham topped the list with 289.

Metropolitan Police data obtained by London Assembly member Steve O'Connell showed the number of acid attacks across London has risen by 65 per cent since 2015 - but fewer suspects are being charged.

The data showed:

- The number of 'violent offences'\* involving a corrosive fluid rose from 260 in 2015 to 429 in 2017 (Jan to Oct)
- No suspect was identified in 37 per cent of cases in 2017
- Only 19 per cent of offences resulted in a charge in 2017 (Jan to Oct), down from over 25 per cent in 2015

It also revealed:

- Younger people are most likely to be a victim, with over 50 per cent of offences targeted at individuals between the ages of 10 and 29. The average age of a victim is 29
- 70 per cent of suspects in 2017 were male, three per cent were female and 27 per cent were unknown
- Victims of attacks between January and October last year were predominantly White European (176) and African Caribbean (119)

- Suspects fall predominately in the 10-19 age bracket, 60 per cent in 2016 and 45 per cent in 2017 (Jan to Oct)
- Newham was the worst borough for violent offences involving corrosive fluids, with 289 recorded since 2015

Commenting on the data, **London Assembly member Steve O’Connell said:** “What these figures do is paint a clear and disturbing picture of the scale and circumstance of these horrific offences.

“This data suggests that acid attacks, as with knife crime, are a youth-related issue. If we are going to get serious about preventing this rise we need to tackle the root causes of these attacks.

“Sadiq Khan talks about tackling violent crime on London’s streets but the statistics show knife crime, acid attacks and moped-related crime is all on the rise on his watch. He has proposed various isolated policies, including knife wands in schools, but what we need is a multi-agency approach to stem the common-place violence young people in London are experiencing.

“Everyone, especially young people, should feel safe on our streets. These figures show us the scale of the problem we are facing. It is now the Mayor’s job to work with the relevant agencies to help solve it.”

ENDS.

#### Notes

- Steve O’Connell is the GLA Conservative spokesman for policing and crime
- The above data was handed to Steve O’Connell AM after it was obtained by a third party through an FOI
- \*’Violent offences’ includes violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery and burglary
- Top five areas for violent corrosive fluid offences

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Offences 2015-17</b>
Newham	289
East Area BCU*	264
Tower Hamlets	98
Hackney	73
Waltham Forest	32

\*Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Havering

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.**

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