

Hundreds of unpunished crimes at UK royal palaces

25th April, 2022



People would expect the highest of security measures at London's royal palaces. However, an "astonishing" statistic recently released revealed that in the past three years, hundreds of crimes

have taken place in or near royal households, with the majority going unpunished. London's Metropolitan Police reported that 470 offences were recorded at Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, St James' Palace and Clarence House between 2019 and 2021. The latter abode is home to Charles, Prince of Wales, who is heir to the British throne. The crimes included arson, theft, drugs possession, robbery, and violence against a person. Less than one per cent of the crimes led to anyone being cautioned, fined or charged.

Dai Davies, a former Head of Royal Protection, said the number of crimes reported was "frightening". He told Britain's Sky News: "If you can steal or cause incidents at or near the royals, what does that say about the current security? If these offences have an impact on the personal safety of the royals, that would give me great concern." The Metropolitan Police replied: "The Met has responsibility for security in and around the royal palaces, but we will not comment on matters relating to security." It added: "The majority of offences committed at or within the vicinity of the palaces were thefts. Officers will always endeavour to pursue all viable and proportionate lines of enquiry."

Sources: standard.co.uk / sky.com / joe.co.uk

Writing

Public funds should not be used to provide security to royal palaces. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

security measures / royal palaces / London / crimes / majority / theft / robbery / fine / protection / frightening / personal safety / royals / responsibility / offences / enquiry

True / False

- 1) The article says people expect the highest security is at all UK palaces. T / F
- 2) There have been hundreds of crimes at UK palaces in the past decade. T / F
- 3) There were no crimes at London's Buckingham Palace. T / F
- 4) Fewer than 1% of the crimes resulted in cautions, fines or charges. T / F
- 5) A former head of royal protection was frightened by being in palaces. T / F
- 6) The former head questioned the current security of royal palaces. T / F
- 7) London's police said it did not comment on issues of royal security. T / F
- 8) The police said most of the crimes near the palaces were thefts. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. expect | a. effect |
| 2. astonishing | b. presume |
| 3. majority | c. burglary |
| 4. robbery | d. workable |
| 5. cautioned | e. ex- |
| 6. former | f. issues |
| 7. steal | g. warned |
| 8. impact | h. thief |
| 9. matters | i. greater part |
| 10. viable | j. amazing |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of royalty?
- b) Who should pay for royal palaces?
- c) Who should pay for the security of royals?
- d) What do you know about Buckingham Palace?
- e) What do you know about the world's royal families?
- f) Why do you think crimes are going unpunished?
- g) What do you know about Britain's Prince Charles?
- h) What is the police force like in your country?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. the highest of security | a. is home to Charles |
| 2. an "astonishing" statistic | b. of the palaces |
| 3. The latter abode | c. or charged |
| 4. The crimes included | d. enquiry |
| 5. being cautioned, fined | e. concern |
| 6. have an impact | f. measures |
| 7. that would give me great | g. arson |
| 8. comment on matters | h. on the personal safety |
| 9. within the vicinity | i. recently released |
| 10. lines of | j. relating to security |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Do we need royal families?
- How safe do you feel in your country?
- How effective are the police in your country?
- How safe do you think royals feel in public?
- Would you like to be a royal?
- Would you like to live in a royal palace?
- What questions would you like to ask London's police force?

Spelling

- the highest of security armsseu
- with the oamtyrij going unpunished
- The latter bdaeo is home to Charles
- heir to the British ohtenr
- arson, fhett, drugs possession...
- robbery, and voleciem against a person
- stdnecini at or near the royals
- The eaolponMirtt Police
- The majority of fsofcnee committed
- within the iicniyvt of the palaces
- lvabie and proportionate
- lines of engiyru

Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. j	3. i	4. c	5. g
6. e	7. h	8. a	9. f	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Arson

You think arson is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these requires the most lenient punishment (and why): theft, shoplifting or corruption.

Role B – Theft

You think theft is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these requires the most lenient punishment (and why): arson, shoplifting or corruption.

Role C – Shoplifting

You think shoplifting is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these requires the most lenient punishment (and why): theft, arson or corruption.

Role D – Corruption

You think corruption is the worst crime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crimes aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which of these requires the most lenient punishment (and why): theft, shoplifting or arson.

Speaking – Crimes

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst crimes at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| • Arson | • Vandalism |
| • Theft | • Shoplifting |
| • Speeding | • Corruption |
| • Drugs | • Robbery |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.