



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**



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# **UPDATE: More arrests as violence suppression activity continues in Hackney and Tower Hamlets**

The third day of violence suppression activity in Hackney and Tower Hamlets has led to further arrests and the recovery of weapons

The activity, which the Met is supporting as part of the national Operation Sceptre week, began on Monday, 23 March and will continue in its current form until Sunday, 29 March.

Against the backdrop of the wider pandemic crisis, officers from teams across the Central East Basic Command Unit have been carrying out warrants, making arrests and taking part in weapons sweeps in both boroughs.

Over the last 24 hours, there were a number of positive results, including:

-The arrest of a 29-year-old man in connection with two robberies in Hackney on Tuesday, 24 March. The man was found hiding at an address in Hackney, and was also arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm. A search of the address revealed a machete and a weapon, which is being examined but at this time believed to possibly be a BB gun.

-The arrest of a man on suspicion of being linked to five robberies in Hackney – he remains in police custody.

-An 18-year-old man arrested for possession of articles to be used in fraud. A search of the address where he was located revealed a number of bank cards in different names and a four figure sum of cash.

-A man aged 21 was arrested for breach of bail.

The arrests were the result of proactive policing, including warrants and targeted intelligence-led stop and search.

There were also a total of 14 weapons sweeps carried out by the King's Park, Hackney Wick and Lea Bridge Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Sweeps were also carried out in Hoxton West and De Beauvoir wards.

**Detective Superintendent Mike Hamer** has oversight of the Operation Sceptre activity in Central East Basic Command Unit (BCU), which encompasses Tower Hamlets and Hackney.

He said: "Since this week of activity began, we have seen a number of significant arrests made, including those of individuals suspected of being involved in gangs.

"I would like to thank all the officers and staff in both boroughs who have so far been working incredibly hard against the backdrop of wider concerns, for continuing with this crucial policing work.

"Tackling violence and protecting victims remain top priorities for the Met as a whole, and we are resolute in our commitment to this on the Central East BCU.

"Watch this space for more results as the week goes on and please

remember, if you have something to share about anyone carrying weapons or committing crime in your area, make the call to police, or make it anonymously, without delay.”

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If you have information about crime and you don't want to speak to the police, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. They are a totally independent charity and you remain 100 per cent anonymous, they never ask your name and they cannot trace your call, your IP address or device you use. Alternatively, visit their website <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>.

If you are worried about someone you suspect may be carrying a knife or other weapon, advice and support is also available through organisations including Knife Free <https://www.knifefree.co.uk/get-help-support/> and Fearless: <https://www.fearless.org/en>.

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Be the best crime-fighters, by any measure;  
Earn the trust and confidence of every community;  
Take pride in the quality of our service;  
So people love, respect and are proud of London's Met