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Met sets out policing plan ahead of May Bank Holiday weekend

Ahead of what is expected to be a busy May Bank holiday weekend, the Met is setting out its policing plan to deter crime and keep people safe across the capital.

Officers will be highly visible in busier areas of London, speaking with communities and encouraging compliance with the Covid regulations.

In addition to this, the Met is also aware a number of people may come to central London this Saturday, 1 May, for the purpose of protest.

People who are involved in planning one of these protest events ought to ensure they comply with the current legal restrictions on protest gatherings. This means they need to have carried out a risk assessment, which sets out how the gathering will be safe and minimise the risk of people transmitting Covid-19.

It is the responsibility of organisers to comply with the regulations and ensure their gathering is safe.

Throughout the weekend, the Met will have a significant policing operation in place and police will take steps against anyone who engages in violence or disorder.

In addition, the Met continues to work hard across London's communities to clamp down on illegal unlicensed music events. Officers are aware such gatherings are being organised and continue to make contact with those organisers to make sure these are prevented.

Police make no apology for taking action against unlicensed music events, particularly as they can attract violence and can be a significant risk to communities as well as children and young people.

Commander Simon Dobinson said: "This will be the first major Bank Holiday since the easing of restrictions and I know London's streets will be busy with people heading to the shops or to the outdoor areas of London's bars and restaurants. We also know that groups will be coming into London to demonstrate.

"If you are involved in planning a protest event, please ensure you comply with the current legal restrictions on protest gatherings. We are still in a global pandemic and the Met urges people to continue to comply with the restrictions that apply to gatherings and to follow government guidance.

"We have attempted to make contact with the organisers of Saturday's demonstrations. It is their responsibility to comply with the regulations and ensure their gathering is safe. Officers will be present to try to engage with protestors, to explain the restrictions, encourage compliance and take steps to enforce the restrictions if it is necessary to do so.

“Anyone intending to engage in violence or disorder needs to understand that police we will take steps to prevent that behaviour. We will not tolerate attacks on our officers and staff.

“We will also take action against any unlicensed music events – they can attract violence and can be a significant risk to communities as well as children and young people. We know communities do not want these events on their doorstep, I’d ask anyone with information on these events to report it and I would also like to thank the members of the public who have made us aware of when these events are taking place. Call us on 101 or report online at www.Met.police.uk.”