



## FOI reveals grim extent of taxi driver rape cases against passengers in London

The grim reality of taxi driver sexual offences in Greater London has been revealed as shocking new data shows that recorded offences have more than tripled in three years.

According to harrowing new data obtained through a Freedom of Information request by Sexual Abuse Compensation Advice, the Metropolitan Police logged a total of 70 arrests leading to charges between January 2023 and December 2025, where the suspect's occupation was listed as a taxi or minicab driver.

In 2023, the force recorded 10 total offences—this figure more than doubled to 26 in 2024, before climbing further to 34 in 2025.

The data also shows that the number of taxi drivers raping and sexually assaulting passengers almost doubled in a single year.

While there were no recorded offences committed by on-duty cabbies against those in the back seat in 2023, there were six the following year.

However, that disturbing figure rose to 11-passenger-related sex offences in last year alone. Those offences ranged from one count of exposure, to another count of the rape of a woman aged 16 or older.

The Met Police also recorded seven counts of sexual assault on a female and a further two of assaulting a female aged 13 or over 'by penetration with part of body / a thing'.

Of the 70 total charges across the three years, 17 were committed directly against passengers during a journey. The remaining 52 offences were committed outside of work—31 of which were for rape, with a further three attempted rapes.

The dark figures also revealed that on 19 occasions, licensed cabbies targeted children, with the Met Police recording two counts of raping a girl aged between 13 and 15—both of which took place in 2024.

Just last year, a taxi driver was arrested and charged with causing / inciting a girl under 13 years old to engage in sexual activity by penetration.

The remaining 22 offences recorded against off-duty cabbies in 2025 include: one count of

attempting to engage in sexual communication with a child, each of the previously mentioned attempted rape cases, two counts in engaging in sexual communication with a child, seven counts of rape, eight of sexually assaulting a female and one of sharing a photograph or film of a person in an intimate state intending to cause alarm distress or humiliation.

Other chilling offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police across the three-year period included gross indecency with a child, indecent assault on a girl under 14 and assaulting a boy under 13 by touching.

A spokesperson for the force said: "The Met is committed to tackling sexual violence and abuse across the city.

"We are delivering major improvements in how we support victims of sexual offences throughout active investigations, providing more than 23,000 officers and staff with bespoke training and rolling out enhanced victim services to increase the quality of our communications.

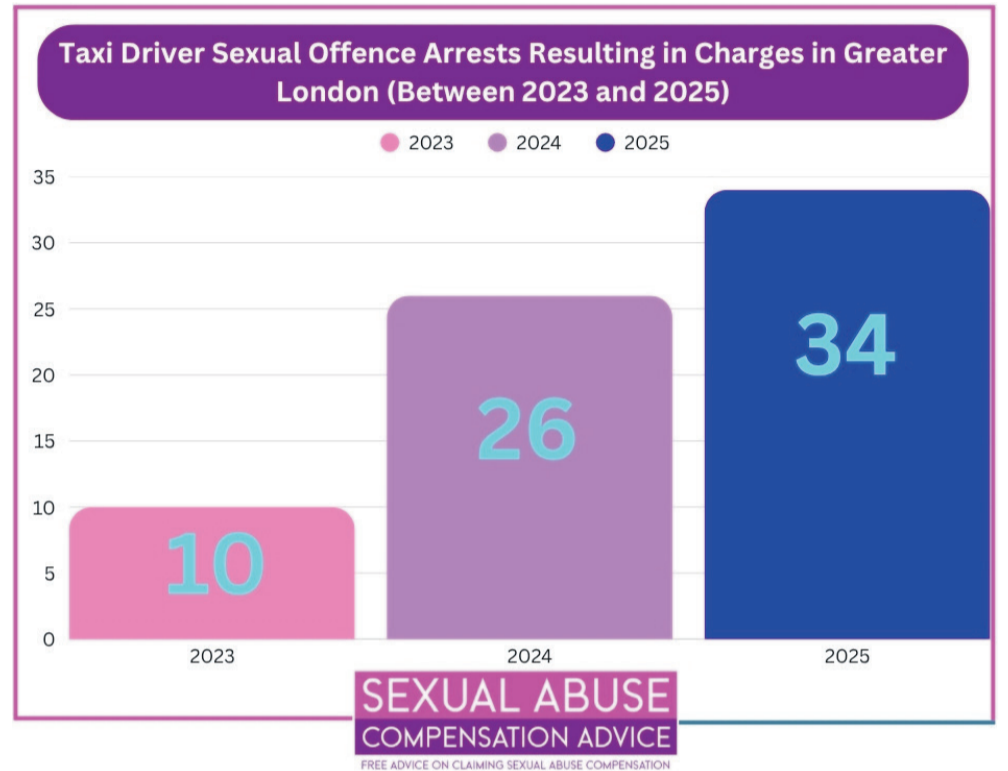
"Providing better support for victims, while expanding specialist teams to relentlessly pursue the highest risk predatory men, has seen stronger outcomes for victims and survivors, with the Met tripling charges for rape and serious sexual offences."

They continued: "As part of our work under Operation Soteria, we are working tirelessly to build confidence and encourage victim survivors to come forward and report sexual offending to us.

"We will continue to work closely with TfL (Transport for London), BTP (British Transport Police) and local partners, recognising that lasting safety on all aspects of the capital's transport network requires a coordinated, city-wide response."

The statistics however paint a devastating picture of the dangers faced by vulnerable individuals, particularly women, who place their trust and physical safety in the hands of licensed drivers within an isolated, enclosed environment.

"These disclosures highlight a deeply concerning breach of public trust," said CICA (Criminal



Injuries Compensation Authority) specialist Ellie Lamey, of Sexual Abuse Compensation Advice. "Passengers place their physical safety entirely in the hands of drivers within an isolated, enclosed environment.

"To see licensed professionals exploiting this dynamic is unacceptable. The trauma of an assault in a taxi can be devastating, yet many survivors feel too intimidated or frightened to report the abuse."

"This data must be a wake-up call for licensing boards. We need universally stringent vetting and robust safeguarding measures so passengers can travel without fear, and perpetrators face absolute accountability."

The findings in Greater London reflect a growing national concern regarding the vetting processes for taxi and private cab licenses. Currently,

licensing standards can vary significantly between different local authorities, leading to calls for a more unified, stringent approach to driver background checks.

"What these figures show is a pattern that cannot be ignored," added Lamey. "When a passenger enters a vehicle, they are in a position of extreme vulnerability. These statistics suggest that for dozens of people in London, that trust was met with life-changing trauma."

Sexual Abuse Compensation Advice offers expert legal support and advice to those affected by sexual abuse. Call or book a free consultation by visiting their website:

<https://www.sexualabusecompensationadvice.org.uk/>

Ovara Health

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At Every Age

Women's Wellness Clinic

020 77 51 44 88 reception@ovarhealth.co.uk



## Local News

# ACAA highlights Iran war could trigger “unprecedented” refugee crisis, surge in UK asylum seekers and calls for greater refugee support

**The Afghanistan & Central Asian Association (ACAA), an award-winning UK-based refugee charity headquartered in West London and the largest charity supporting Afghan and Central Asian communities in the United Kingdom highlights that the ongoing war in Iran is already driving large-scale displacement and risks triggering a major international refugee crisis, significantly increasing the number of refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the United Kingdom.**

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), up to 3.2 million people have already been displaced inside Iran as the conflict intensifies, with hundreds of thousands of households forced to flee major cities in search of safety. The UN warns that these numbers are likely to rise further as hostilities continue, signalling a rapidly worsening humanitarian emergency.

International analysis highlights the global implications of the crisis. Experts warn that the conflict could “fuel a new international refugee crisis,” while European policymakers caution that even partial destabilisation of Iran, a country of around 90 million people,

could lead to refugee movements of “unprecedented magnitude,” potentially overwhelming asylum systems across Europe.

ACAA also highlights that the Iran conflict is unfolding alongside escalating instability in other parts of the Middle East, including Lebanon, raising the risk of a wider regional displacement crisis. Multiple, overlapping conflicts could significantly increase refugee flows, amplifying pressure on migration routes into Europe and the UK.

Recent reports also indicate that the UK is already bracing for a potential surge in Iranian asylum seekers. Iranian nationals are already among the top three largest groups of asylum seekers in the UK, underlining the likelihood that the conflict will have a direct and immediate impact on Britain’s asylum system.

Darius Nasimi, Head of Funding and Partnerships at the Afghanistan & Central Asian Association (ACAA), said:

“The fact that millions of people have already been displaced inside Iran shows the scale of this crisis. Iranian nationals are already one of the largest groups seeking asylum in the UK, and this conflict will only increase those

numbers. The UK must prepare now for a significant rise in refugees and asylum seekers. Iran already hosts millions of refugees, particularly from Afghanistan, meaning further instability could trigger wider regional displacement and secondary migration towards Europe and the UK. The reality is that refugees will arrive. The question is how well we support them. Charities like ACAA are on the frontline, helping people integrate, learn English, find employment, and rebuild their lives. As this crisis grows, our work and the need for sustained support become more important than ever. ACAA is ready to work in partnership with the UK Government to support refugees and asylum seekers, but this requires sustained investment. With funding cuts affecting the sector, it is more important than ever to strengthen support for organisations on the frontline”.

Impact on the United Kingdom

ACAA warns that the consequences for the UK are likely to include:

- A significant rise in asylum applications, including from Iranian nationals
- Increased pressure on housing, legal systems, and support services

- Longer waiting times and growing backlogs in asylum decisions

- More dangerous journeys as people attempt to reach safety

- Greater strain on an already stretched asylum system

Call for Greater Support and Integration

ACAA is calling on the UK Government, local authorities, and partners to prioritise long-term support and integration for refugees and asylum seekers once they arrive in the UK. This includes:

- Expanding access to English language education, employment support, and skills training

- Strengthening community-based grassroots integration programmes

- Providing adequate housing and mental health support

- Supporting frontline charities delivering essential services

As a UK-based charity working directly with refugees and asylum seekers, ACAA emphasises that its work is becoming increasingly vital in the face of growing global displacement. Through education, advice, and community support programmes, ACAA helps individuals rebuild their lives, integrate into

society, and contribute to their communities. As a frontline charity supporting refugees and asylum seekers, ACAA stands ready to collaborate with policymakers to deliver practical, community-based solutions.

Now more than ever, ACAA urges greater investment in integration services and stronger collaboration between government and civil society to ensure that refugees are supported effectively, integrated successfully, and able to contribute positively to their communities. At a time when many organisations in the refugee sector face significant funding cuts, ACAA calls for greater investment in its work and in the refugee sector as a whole, to ensure that those arriving in the UK receive the support they need to rebuild their lives with dignity and independence.

ACAA also warns that increases in refugee arrivals, alongside the rise of far-right rhetoric across parts of Europe, will contribute to growing hostility towards refugees and asylum seekers. The charity stresses the importance of promoting social cohesion and ensuring that vulnerable communities are protected from discrimination and harm.

### Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

#### We are sending out this statement in response to the piece that has appeared on Brentford TW8 (copied below)

Brentford Community Boat House Charity never left Ferry Quays, they have always been there. It was they who forcibly evicted Brentford Boat Club from the site under the false pretence that the landlord wanted the site cleared by 20 January. Brentford Community Boat House also locked us out of the gym space in Pump Alley and prevented us using our rowing machines.

With regards to trauma, it was entirely Brentford Community Boat House and Paul Keane that caused the trauma to our young athletes, by trying to prevent them from training in the most cruel and disruptive manner possible.

We did nothing to cause trauma to Paul Keane or BCBH. This matter did not have to turn into a ‘bitter dispute’. All we did was ask for proof of ownership of the boats which we were being pressured to buy from Team Keane Ltd for £122,000. Mr Keane still has not provided us or our solicitors with any proof that the boats belonged to him personally or to his company. And we have proof that many of these boats belong to charity, not to Mr Keane.

We didn’t ‘debunk’ to Chiswick, we are Brentford Boat Club, and our young athletes really wanted to stay at Ferry Quays. We were up to date with our rent payments, and yet we were forcibly evicted from the site. Hounslow Council threw us a life-line by allowing us to move on to the Old Chiswick Boat House site. If the Council had not done this, our Club would not still exist.

Brentford Boat Club is a charity run entirely by parent volunteers, we are not ‘joining the private boat clubs’. On the other hand Paul Keane runs a private company teaching rowing.

Brentford Boat Club is a diverse and inclusive rowing club with 88 young athletes who come from 30 different local schools, the vast majority of which are state schools.

Six weeks ago we had no boats, no gym space and no water access. Thanks to the support of the Council, Bolder Academy and the incredible rowing community, we have been able to establish a new home and continue training and racing. Despite all they have been through, our wonderful young athletes won Gold at the National Junior Sculling Head.

We continue to work with local schools, and we are launching learn to row classes for local children. We believe that all children should have access to the wonderful sport of rowing.

Yours Sincerely,

Admin team  
Brentford Boat Club  
www.brentfordboatclub.com

## The Pet Vet secures Feltham retail park site



**Award-winning, independent, family-owned veterinary group The Pet Vet will be moving into the former Poundland unit at The Centre, Feltham. Development of the 5,200 sq ft site is currently underway, transforming it into a state-of-the-art veterinary surgery, ready to open its doors 7 days a week from August 2026.**

The Pet Vet Feltham will feature 8 consultation rooms, including a dedicated St Francis Suite, providing a peaceful, less clinical environment for anxious pets, administering chemotherapy and end of life care. The surgery will have 4 operating theatres, including a theatre for orthopaedic procedures and a dental suite. There will be an in-house laboratory and imaging facilities, including a CT scanning unit which is unique within the local area.

On moving into the Feltham area, The Pet Vet’s CEO, Dr Mel Fuller, says: “We’re delighted to have secured this site, which will allow us to bring The Pet Vet’s family values, and exceptional standards of clinical care and customer experience to the communities in and around Feltham.

“For anyone looking to join us as a new customer, I’d recommend visiting the surgery page on our website and registering your details. A member of our team will then be in touch to extend a very warm welcome to you and your pet. Please follow us on Facebook to stay up to date with all the latest developments from The Pet Vet Feltham. We can’t wait to welcome you into our new surgery this summer!”

<https://www.thepetvet.co.uk/locations/feltham-ashford-sunbury>

## Local Government News

# £30k of fly-tipping fines issued in Cranford crackdown

**Church Road in Cranford was recently the focus of a joint day of action led by Hounslow Highways with support from Hounslow Council.**

The operation saw years of large-scale illegal dumping of commercial and household waste in the area cleaned up and £30,000 worth of fines issued to 30 individuals for fly-tipping offences.

The area has been a hotspot for illegal waste dumping, also known as fly-tipping, for some time. Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and, if caught, offenders face a £1,000 fixed penalty notice (FPN). For large or dangerous fly-tips, an unlimited fine or even face a prison sentence in a magistrate's court.

Teams from Hounslow Highways and the Council joined up on Thursday, 5th March to remove about 30 tonnes of waste, repair about 70 highways defects, cut back overhanging vegetation and clear the encroachment of vegetation to clear footpaths.

The Council's enforcement officers and Hounslow Highways Network Stewards were also in attendance, gathering evidence from the fly tipped waste to fine 30 individuals – many of whom may have paid rogue waste disposal companies to dispose of bulky waste, who then dumped truckloads full of waste in Cranford.

Councillor Pritam Grewal, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Customer Experience and Enforcement,

said: "I'd like to thank the teams at the Council and Hounslow Highways for their hard work in cleaning up Church Road, and for investigating and fining offenders to deter waste criminals from using our Borough as a dumping ground in future.

"As well as making our streets messy and unpleasant, fly-tipping costs the Council millions every year. This is taxpayers' money which should be spent on the things our communities value.

"Our residents have told us that cleaner, safer streets are a top priority for them, and they rightly expect us to take a zero-tolerance approach. That's why if you dump rubbish or pay an illegal waste carrier to take your rubbish away, you should expect to be caught and handed a hefty fine."

Tim Hurley, Divisional Director for Hounslow Highways said: "Church Road has long been a priority for us, and the operation carried out shows what can be achieved when everyone pulls in the same direction. By closing the road and bringing together our Hounslow Highways crews with the Council's enforcement officers, we were able to clear tonnes of illegally dumped waste, tackle long-standing issues on both public and private land, carry out essential repairs and issue fines. I'm incredibly proud of the dedication shown by every team involved. Their combined efforts have made a visible and meaningful

improvement for local residents and businesses, and we will continue working together to keep this area clean, safe and welcoming."

The action day comes as the Council launches a dedicated team of officers set to tackle fly-tipping, littering, anti-social behaviour and parking offences. Each area of the borough, based on Council wards, will have a dedicated team of Enforcement Officers, who will get to know the community and work to keep their local area clean and safe.

The team will also be equipped with hand-held devices allowing them to identify, capture, report and respond to issues in real-time and reassure residents that issues are being identified and dealt with.

Residents can play a key role in the fight against illegal waste dumping on the public roads and footpaths, by reporting fly-tipping online through Fix My Street and disposing of waste correctly.

Bulky waste items can be collected from residents' homes or can be taken to the Reuse and Recycling Centre in Feltham.

Local businesses can dispose of their waste with a commercial waste subscription.

If you're considering paying a waste carrier to dispose of waste, remember to carry out proper checks beforehand, including checking the waste carrier is licensed on the Environment Agency's official register.

# Success at community clean-up in Bedfont

**Hounslow Council Leader, Councillor Shantanu Rajawat, joined local residents & Cabinet Members Shivraj & Pritam Grewal, along with local ward councillors, at Bedfont Pits for a community litter pick.**

They continued recent improvements made to the much-loved local green space, on Friday, 20 March.

The session followed the Council's initial visit to Bedfont Pits in October, when concerns raised by residents led to an authorised cleanup and safety improvement programme. That first phase of work, which focused on tackling fly tipping, improving recycling and addressing environmental issues in the area, was completed in December.

This week's follow up event formed part of the national Great British Spring Clean (Opens in new tab), the country's largest mass action cleanup organised by Keep Britain Tidy. Held between 13 and 29 March, the campaign sees thousands of people across the UK take part in litter picking to protect nature and show pride in their local environment.

Together, the volunteers helped tidy the area commonly known as Bedfont Pits. This included the alleyway connecting the Westmacott Estate and South Bedfont Estate, a route where enforcement activity and environmental improvements had recently taken place.

Bedfont Pits is a large, publicly accessible green space used by surrounding communities, including South Bedfont and Waterfields Estates.

As a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and part of the Green Belt, the area plays a valuable role in supporting local wildlife and biodiversity. Recent efforts to open access and restore habitats have helped improve the environmental value of the site and the wellbeing of residents who use it.

Hounslow Council has also commissioned ecological surveys of all 47 SINC sites across the borough, including Bedfont Pits, with findings due to be published online later this year.

Reflecting on the event, the Leader of Hounslow Council Cllr Shantanu Rajawat, said:

"It was fantastic to see so many residents joining us for this cleanup. By coming together, we not only improved the local environment but also built on the momentum started last year.

"Thank you to everyone who took part and to all those across the borough who continue to help keep Hounslow clean and tidy."

Mark, who lives locally and volunteered at the session, said: "All these initiatives are really good, they keep our neighbourhoods cleaner and tidier and help the environment. People go by and they say it looks so much better, you know, so the general public thank you—it's great!"

The event encouraged greater community ownership of the space and highlighted the positive impact of continued partnership working between residents and the Council.

There are many clean up sessions happening in parks and green spaces across Hounslow. More information about these can be found on the council website <https://talk.hounslow.gov.uk/volunteering-in-hounslow-parks>

## Public Notices



### London Borough of Hounslow

#### Notice of Application for Grant of Premises Licence Under Section 17 of The Licensing Act 2003

Notice is hereby given that Eltham Leap Ltd on behalf of (Nakshatra Banqueting Hall) has applied for the GRANT of a Premises Licence to supply of alcohol, between the hours of 11:45–23:00 hours Monday to Sunday, regulated entertainment including live and recorded music between 11:00–23:00 hours Monday to Sunday and performances of dance between 18:00–22:00 hours Monday to Sunday. The following opening hours are applied for: 11:00–23:00 hours Monday to Sundays for the premises Nakshatra Hall situated at Snakey Lane, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 7NA

Application has also been made for the following opening hours: 10:00–23:00 hours, Monday to Sundays.

Anyone wishing to make representations to this application must give notice in writing via email by 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to: [licensing@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@hounslow.gov.uk) or letter to the following address:

Regeneration, Housing & Environmental Services, London Borough of Hounslow, Hounslow House, 7 Bath Road, Hounslow, TW3 3EB

Representations will still be accepted via post, however there could be a delay in us receiving them within the limited 28-day time period.

To view the application please go to: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/licensing)

Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services, London Borough of Hounslow

Hounslow House, 7 Bath Road, Hounslow, TW3 3EB

To view the application please go to: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/licensing)

Within 28 days of the date of this notice specifying the grounds of your representation. Should any representations be received, members of the Licensing Committee will determine the application. Any person who has made representation will be invited to attend the hearing, although all valid representations will be read and taken into consideration in the determination process. The Council are required to copy all representations received in full (name & addresses) to the applicant.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application; the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.

#### Goods Vehicle Operators Licence

**AL MUADH LTD**  
2 Brunel Way,  
Slough,  
SL1 1FQ

is applying to change existing operator's licence to use:

**Crowne Plaza Parking,**  
London Heathrow,  
Stockley Road,  
West Drayton,  
UB7 9NA

as an operating centre for 2 tractor units and 2 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

A Guide to Making Representations is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing)

**To list legal and public notices  
please call 020 3286 0102  
or email: [pn@hounslowgazette.co.uk](mailto:pn@hounslowgazette.co.uk)**

imagine ideas, advice  
and design options  
sketched out on a  
4 or 7 hour initial visit

imagine how a  
'pay as you go' menu  
of services would allow  
you to stay in control

imagine a local architect  
to help you explore all  
the possibilities and the  
likely costs and pitfalls



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or visit: [www.architect-yourhome.com](http://www.architect-yourhome.com)