



Southwark Liberal Democrat Group
Southwark Council
Liberal Democrat Group Room
160 Tooley Street
London SE1P 5LX
Email: Jane.Salmon@southwark.gov.uk

1 May 2025

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
Kamal Chunchie Way
E16 1ZE

Cc: Althea Loderick, Chief Executive, Southwark Council

Dear Sir Sadiq

Urgent Action Needed on Southwark's Escalating Phone Theft Crisis

I am writing on behalf of Southwark Liberal Democrat Group to raise our deep concerns about the alarming rise in phone thefts in Southwark, and to call for urgent, decisive action from your office and the Metropolitan Police.

New data released by the Met shows that in March 2025 alone, there were 502 phone thefts recorded across Southwark - the highest monthly figure since records began in April 2021. For context, there were just 150 incidents recorded when records started.

Southwark now has the third highest rate of phone theft across London, and this data is reflected by a strength of feeling in conversations with residents at casework surgeries and on the doorstep. Residents and visitors feel unsafe, frustrated, and increasingly abandoned by those in charge.

We are therefore urging you to act swiftly and strategically to address this epidemic. Specifically, we call for:

- More visible policing, particularly in known hotspot areas across Southwark.
- Targeted, intelligence-led operations in Borough and Bankside, London Bridge and West Bermondsey, and other high-risk wards.
- Support for councils to invest in youth services, youth clubs, and employment programmes that tackle the root causes of criminal behaviour.
- A review of police presence and resources in Southwark, especially following the decision to abandon the current base in Canada Water.

It is clear that the current approach is not working. Residents need to see real action — both to bring down crime rates now and to prevent further young people being drawn into criminal activity in the future.

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We would welcome a meeting to discuss your plans to address this crisis and how we can work together to make Southwark safer for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Jane Salmon

Southwark Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Community Safety

Surrey Docks

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