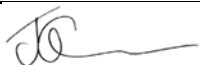


LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE State of the Borough	
REPORT OF Metropolitan Police Service – Central North Borough Command Unit	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	DATE 7 October 2024
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>The report from the Metropolitan Police Service’s Central North Borough Command Unit provides an overview of crime trends and policing efforts in Camden.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report</p> <p>Contact Officer:</p> <p>Patrick Coulson Head of Community Safety Safer Communities 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Telephone: 0207 974 5325 Email: patrick.coulson2@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.</p>	

Signed:



Date:

17th September 2024

1. Introduction

1.1. The State of the Borough report, presented by the Metropolitan Police Service's (Met/MPS) Central North Borough Command Unit (CN BCU), provides an overview of crime trends, policing strategies, and community engagement within the London Borough of Camden. This report outlines key objectives, current crime performance data, and ongoing initiatives that address issues such as violence, anti-social behaviour (ASB), property crime, and public safety. The report also highlights efforts to improve the safety of women and girls, tackle serious and organised crime, and engage with vulnerable communities through various programmes and operations.

2. Camden's Precision Crime-Fighting Plan

2.1. To be able to deliver the Met's mission of More Trust, Less Crime, High Standards and a Precision Crime Fighting Plan has been developed for Camden. This plan adopts a strategic approach to target crime more effectively and efficiently by focusing on specific areas, individuals, or types of crime. This plan includes:

2.2. Property Crime

- A proactive approach to reducing local-level crime focusing on offenders, effective use of police resources and crime prevention.

2.3. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- Identify and target the most dangerous predatory individuals, reduce harm and protect women and children.

2.4. Serious and Organised Crime

- Reduce the impact of Organised Crime Groups through targeting offenders, dismantle enablers and reduce harm

2.5. Terrorism

- Protect the public by preventing, deterring and investigating terrorist activity.

2.6. Fraud

- Strengthen the prevention of high frequency crime, including technology enabled across business, public and person victims.

2.7. Violent Crime

Target the most dangerous individuals and hotspot locations to reduce homicides, violence and robbery

3. **Current Borough Objectives**

3.1. The following objectives have been identified as key priorities for Camden:

3.2. Robbery and Theft

3.3. A significant proportion of these offences occur in Camden Town, particularly in relation to the Nighttime Economy (NTE) with Bloomsbury remaining a hotspot for such incidents. Responsibility for this area lies with the Camden/Euston Town Centre Team (TCT) Inspector.

3.4. Violence with Injury

3.5. Incidents of violence with injury have increased in Camden Town and Kings Cross, primarily linked to the NTE and football match days. This rise is also in line with seasonal trends, with higher levels of serious offences typically occurring during the summer months. The Camden South Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Inspector oversees this priority.

3.6. Anti-Social Behaviour and Drugs

Camden Town continues to be a focal point for ASB and drug-related activities, largely due to the NTE. However, overall ASB reports across all Wards have shown a decline over the past three months. This objective is managed by the Camden North NPT Inspector.

4. **Camden Late Night Levy**

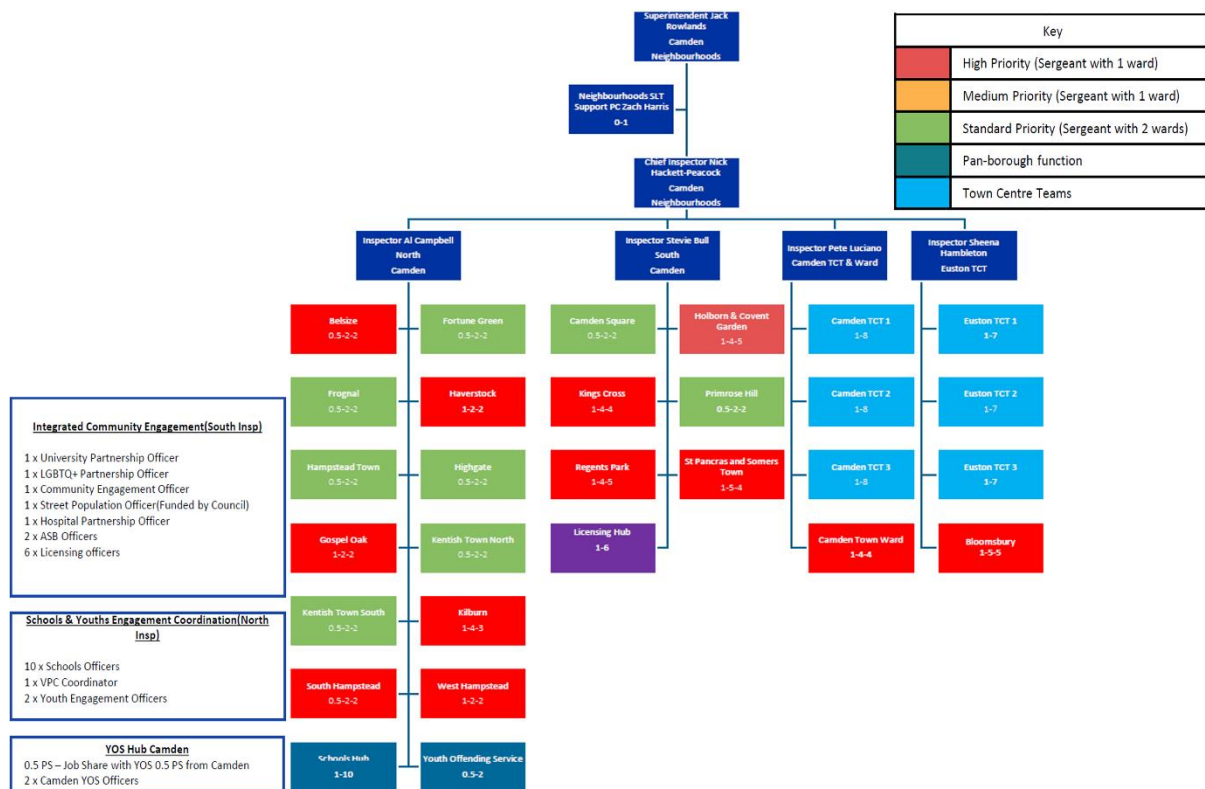
4.1. Funding for the Camden NTE Levy has been approved for the current financial year, totalling £210,000. This funding will support police efforts in addressing ongoing priorities related to the NTE, including tackling crime and ASB in high-traffic areas during late-night hours. The allocation of these resources aims to enhance public safety and address key challenges associated with Camden's nightlife. Below is a breakdown of the NTE Levy costing allocations:

Funds	Allocated	
£125,000	NPT Patrols	This fund is allocated for NPT to conduct patrols (1-6) within the NTE on peak days/hours, Fridays and Saturdays starting from September 2024.
£15,000	Clear, Hold, Build	Clear, Hold, Build for Somerstown. This is impacted by the NTE drug dealing and ASB.

		NPT and Proactive will most likely bid in for this.
£20,000	Public Protection (PP)	This fund will support work such as Operation Vigilant and wider prevention within the NTE. PP, Emergency Response and Patrol Team (ERPT), NPT to bid.
£20,000	Emergency Response and Patrol Team	This fund is for additional work from the ERPT to tackle crime within hotspot areas, working alongside NPT to active.
£20,000	Proactive/Gangs	This fund is for Proactive and Gangs to tackle gangs and robbery nominal committing crime within the NTE.
£10,000	Contingency	This fund is allocated to Contingency in case needed.

5. Camden Strongest Ever Neighbourhoods and Partnerships Design

Year 1 Business Workforce Target	
Superintendent	1
Chief Inspector	1
Inspector	4
Sergeant	24.5
Constable	129
PCSO	56



6. Crime Performance Data

6.1. The below statistics provide a comprehensive overview of key trends within Camden, reflecting both increases and reductions in specific crime categories. All data is as of August 2024 is Financial Year to Date (FYTD) 2023 – 2024 versus 2022 – 2023.

Camden – FYTD 23-24 v 22-23

	Offences			% Change
	Current FYTD to 25/08/24	Previous FYTD to 25/08/23		
Community Focus				
Personal Robbery	607	621	-2.3%	↓
Theft Person	3825	2286	67.3%	↑
Residential Burglary	458	437	4.8%	↑
Theft Of Motor Vehicle	286	296	-3.4%	↓
Theft From Motor Vehicle	836	973	-14.1%	↓
Interfering with MV	107	89	20.2%	↑
Aggravated Taking of MV	4	4	0.0%	↔
Serious Violence				
Homicide	1	0	0.0%	↔
VAWG_Offences	800			
Violence with Injury	798	1116	-28.5%	↓
Other Priorities				
Hate Crime (ex DA)	401			
LBDs	2	0	0.0%	↔
Knife Crime	197	182	8.2%	↑

MPS – FYTD 23-24 v 22-23

	Offences			% Change
	Current FYTD to 25/08/24	Previous FYTD to 25/08/23		
Community Focus				
Personal Robbery	11045	11600	-4.8%	↓
Theft Person	38824	26256	47.9%	↑
Residential Burglary	12732	14719	-13.5%	↓
Theft Of Motor Vehicle	13394	13187	1.6%	↑
Theft From Motor Vehicle	22783	23291	-2.2%	↓
Interfering with MV	4615	4147	11.3%	↑
Aggravated Taking of MV	234	279	-16.1%	↓
Serious Violence				
Homicide	48	50	-4.0%	↓
VAWG_Offences	24802			
Violence with Injury	27904	33954	-17.8%	↓
Other Priorities				
Hate Crime (ex DA)	9380			
LBDs	75	71	5.6%	↑
Knife Crime	6011	5716	5.2%	↑

6.2. Knife Crime FYTD 23-24 v 22-23

- Camden has experienced an 8.2% **increase** in knife crime, with 15 more incidents reported compared to the previous financial year.
- The MPS overall has seen a 5.2% **increase** in knife crime during the same period.

6.3. Personal Robbery FYTD 23-24 v 22-23

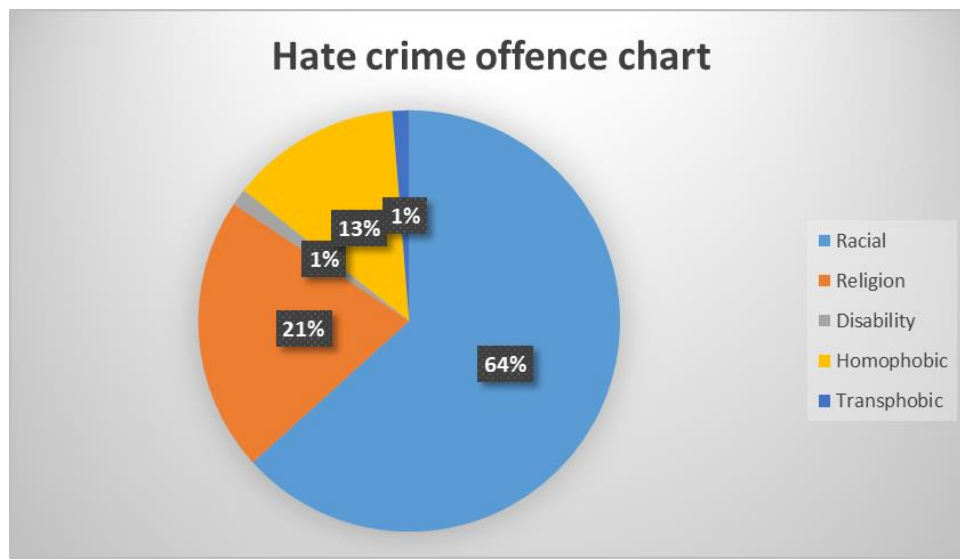
- Camden has recorded a 2.3% **reduction** in personal robbery incidents compared to the previous year.
- Across the MPS, personal robbery incidents have **decreased** by 4.8%.

6.4. Violence with Injury (VWI) FYTD 23-24 v 22-23

- Camden has seen a significant **reduction** in VWI, equating to 318 fewer reported offences compared to the previous year.
- The MPS has recorded a 17.8% **reduction** in VWI offences during the same period.

6.5. Hate Crime Summary

- **Racial hate crime** accounts for 64% of all recorded hate crime incidents in Camden, with **religious hate crime** comprising 21%.
- Of these religious hate crime incidents, **193** are anti-Semitic and **49** are Islamophobic in nature.
- **Anti-Semitic hate crimes** accounts for 80% of all religious hate crime reported in Camden.



7. **Stop and Search**

7.1. Recent Activity

7.2. Over a past three-month period (Jul-Sep), **487 stop and search incidents** were recorded in Camden, representing **57.7% reduction** compared to the previous three-month period (Apr-Jul), where **1,148 stops** were conducted.

7.3. The average **criminal detection rate** for stop and search during the July to September period was 30.14%.

7.4. Governance and Oversight

7.5. Camden has an **independently chaired Community Monitoring Group**, which provides oversight of stop and search practices.

7.6. An **effective governance** is in place, including Leadership and Practitioner Working Groups, to ensure accountability and best practices in stop and search operations.

7.7. Data Access and Proportionality

7.8. Due to maintenance on the MPS Police Stop and Search Dashboard, the latest data on proportionality related to stop reasons and outcomes is currently unavailable. When the dashboard is operational, this information can be accessed through [MPS Stop and Search Monthly Report | Tableau Public](#).

7.9. This summary highlights the key trends and governance measures surrounding stop and search activity in Camden, while also noting the reduction in stop and search incidents and the ongoing monitoring and accountability mechanisms in place.

8. Central North Workforce Diversity

8.1. Gender

Date	Number of officers	Percentage of AWT	BCU Headcount	MPS (FLP)	CE BCU
May 2021	427.1	32.2%	1326.1		
April 2022	472.4	33.2%	1422.2		
April 2023	508.7	35.2%	1446.3	34.9%	33.9%
April 2024	476.7	35.3%	1351.1	35.2%	33.9%
Overall, 24 vs 21	49.6 officer increase	3.1 percentage points	25 officers increase	CN 0.1% above	CN 1.6% above

- Camden is above the MPS average by 0.1 percentage points.

8.2. Ethnicity – Black, Asian and Multiple Ethnic Heritage

Date	Number of officers	Percentage of AWT	BCU Headcount	MPS (FLP)	CE BCU
May 2021	262.9	19.8%	1326.1		
April 2022	277.9	19.5%	1422.2		
April 2023	271.9	18.8%	1446.3	18.9%	21.9%
	266.8	19.7%	1351.1	19.6%	22.1%
Overall, 23 vs 21	3.9 officer increase	0.1% percentage reduction	25 officers increase	CN 0.1% above	CN 2.4% below

- Camden is above the MPS average by 0.1 percentage points.
- We do not have control of where officers are posted however work to do in relation to retention.

9. Right Care, Right Person – Mental Health

9.1. Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) is a model developed by Humberside Police to ensure that health-related calls are handled by the appropriate agency, rather than the police. This approach has been shown to improve outcomes, reduce demand

on all services, and ensure patients receive the right care from the right professionals.

9.2. In London, it currently takes an average of **14.2 hours in A&E** and **8.5 hours at a health-based place of safety** for police to transfer patients into medical care.

9.3. Nationally, police forces spend nearly 1 million hours annually waiting in hospitals with mental health patients pending assessment.

9.4. The MPS will still provide support in cases where patients are violent or have assaulted healthcare workers or clinicians.

9.5. There are four pillars of RCRP, ensuring that people with health and/or social care needs are responded to by the right person with the right skills, training and experience to meet their needs:

9.6. Pillar 1: Medical Support

9.7. When a member of the public requests medical support incidents in which police are already present when medical support is requested or required.

9.8. Pillar 2: Concern for Welfare

9.9. When a member of the public or partner agency reports a concern for the welfare of a person and requests that police visit the individual.

9.10. Pillar 3: Walk-out / Absent Without Leave (AWOL)

9.11. When a person has walked out from a healthcare setting, has abandoned medical care / treatment or is AWOL from mental health services.

9.12. Pillar 4: Transport Under Section 136

9.13. Transporting a person detained under S136 to a health-based place of safety and undertaking a timely handover to a medical professional.

10. Right Care Right Person Updates

10.1. The MPS is satisfied with the implementation of the RCRP initiative and continues to work effectively with partners to address any emerging challenges. Key developments include:

- **Escalation Processes:** the twice daily RCRP Partner meetings have been stood down, as slow-time escalation process is proving effective in identifying and resolving concerns while promoting organisational learning across all partners.

- **Oversight:** formal RCRP Boards remain operational to provide senior oversight and ensure the continued effective implementation of the initiative.

10.2. Since the launch of RCRP on the 1 November 2023, MPS deployment to RCRP-related calls have reduced from 41% to 29%, representing a 12% decrease compared to the same period in 2022.

10.3. While partners organisations have not reported significant increases in demand directly attributable to RCRP, there have been some increases in specific areas. For instance, the London Ambulance Service (LAS) has experienced a rise in demand for certain call types, the National Health Service (NHS) has seen increased demand on its 111 services.

10.4. Further work is ongoing to assess the broader impact of the reduction in MPS deployments of partner organisations and London residents. A partners' data group, led by the NHS, is reviewing this data to understand the full scope of these changes.

10.5. Statistics since Go-Live

	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	April 2024	May 2024
Total Incidents	34,613	34,576	33,785	28,786	28,005	28,762	28,181	30,095	29,114	32,117
Deployments	14,220	14,195	12,639	7,760	7,616	8,370	8,153	9,049	8,593	9,009
Deployment Rate	41.1%	41.1%	37.6%	27%	29.2%	29.1%	29.7%	30.1%	29.5%	29.9%

RCRP related calls, deployment reduction and officer hours saved	11% deployment reduction year on year (May 23 v May 24)	40,000 April officer hours saved including travel time, time on scene and after call work	Since Go-Live, there has been 250,000+ officer hours saved
Section 136 incidents, reductions and officer hours saved	74% year on year reduction of S136, including custody and health care detentions	2,000 April officer hours saved on S136 detentions	Since Go-Live, 25,000+ officer hours saved.

11. Central North Borough Command Unit Violence Against Women and Girls Police Delivery Plan 2024 – 2025

11.1. This strategy is the CN BCU VAWG mechanism to deliver against the MPS VAWG action plan 10 commitments under the strategic objectives of building trust and confidence, relentless pursuit of perpetrators and safer spaces.

11.2. CN BCU remains committed to addressing this significant societal issue. Over the past two years of formal delivery in this area, the unit has led several key initiatives, implementing innovative solutions to enhance women's safety. These efforts have included the local deployment of Project Vigilant in Camden and Islington, Operation Sentinel to target VAWG offenders, Operation Ambrosia, which focused on gender-based violence during the 16 Days of Action, and Operation Medema, which concentrated on domestic abuse.

11.3. This section of the report outlines the key activities and initiative undertaken by the BCU VAWG Delivery and Strategic Groups during the last quarter. These efforts are aligned with the three pillars of the VAWG strategy: Trust and Confidence, Perpetrator Focus, and Safer Spaces.

11.4. Pillar 1: Trust and Confidence

11.5. Efforts under this pillar focus on eliminating police-perpetrated domestic abuse and sexual offences, improving the police response and strengthening trust with communities impacted by VAWG.

- **Operation Pledge:** this operation was implemented to tackle and reduce police-perpetrated domestic abuse.
- **Vetting Audit:** a comprehensive vetting audit was completed for all MPS officers and staff.
- **Victim-Led Survivor Groups:** these groups were created and supported to ensure survivors of domestic abuse have a voice in decision-making and planning processes.
- **Governance and Engagement:** monthly VAWG Delivery Group meetings and quarterly VAWG Strategic Group meetings were held to ensure continuous prioritisation of VAWG.
- **Operation Signa:** rolled out across CN BCU, this tool aims to transform police culture, focusing on addressing sexism and misogyny.
- **External Learning:** senior leaders attended a College of Policing Seminar to integrate national best practices into CB BCU's VAWG strategy.

11.6. Pillar 2: Perpetrator Focus

11.7. This pillar concentrates on identifying and managing high-risk VAWG offenders, improving the use of police powers to protect women, and enhancing the criminal justice experience for victims.

- **Perpetrator Identification:** governance structures, such as the VAWG Delivery and Strategic Groups, have been established to ensure consistent focus on identifying and managing dangerous perpetrators.

- **Claire's Law:** there has been proactive use of Claire's Law, with an emphasis on increasing the public's right to know.
- **Partnership Working:** CN BCU is working with organisations like Hopscotch to raise awareness to improve support for survivors of VAWG offences.

11.8. Pillar 3: Safer Spaces

11.9. This pillar aims to improve the safety of women and girls in public spaces by identifying high-risk locations, increasing police presence, and engaging with local communities.

- **Walk and Talk Events:** Camden NPT are using crime data and conducting public engagement events to gather feedback from women about unsafe areas, developing targeted patrol and problem-solving plans in collaboration with local partners.
- **Education and Prevention:** officers are working with schools and universities to deliver prevention programmes, including Operation Gwen and Women's Safety Classes.

12. Camden Community Engagement

12.1. CN BCU has engaged in several community-focused initiatives to enhance public safety and trust across Camden, with a focus on seldom-heard communities and vulnerable groups.

12.2. Somali Community Engagement

- **Partnership work in Kilburn:** Kilburn Ward Team has established connections within the Somali community, collaborating with council colleagues to address serious violence, particularly after incidents of violence earlier in 2024.
- **One Kilburn Initiative:** participation in this local partnership has facilitated engagement with businesses, organisations, and residents to improve safety and address community concerns.

12.3. A New Met for London Events

- **Hate Crime Awareness:** events held in May 2024 focused on raising awareness about hate crimes, particularly within the Somali community, encouraging reporting and promoting available support services.

12.4. Faith Liaison and Support for Jewish and Islamic Communities

- **Faith Liaison Officer:** CN BCUs Faith Liaison Officer has maintained regular communication with faith-based communities, particularly, Jewish and Islamic groups, during times of heightened tension, such as the Israel-Palestine conflict and far-right disorder across the UK.
- **Community Security Trust (CST):** close collaboration with CST ensures that security concerns within Camden's Jewish community are addressed, with ongoing support provided in response to risk events and emerging threats.

12.5. Protest and Engagement

- **Protests and Public Order Policing:** protests related to the Israel-Palestine conflict, including those organised by Camden Friends of Palestine, have been managed through close coordination between local and central policing teams. Officers were briefed on hate crime management, and outcomes were reviewed through the Camden Partnership Pacesetter meetings.

13. Key Achievements of Camden Neighbourhood Policing Teams

13.1. Counterfeit Goods and Financial Crimes

13.2. Joint operations with the City of London Police and Camden Council Trading Standards led to the arrest of 11 individuals and the seizure of counterfeit goods valued at approximately £6 million.

13.3. Youth Engagement and Offender Diversion

13.4. Through collaboration with Camden Council and local businesses, efforts to divert young offenders and enforce against serial offenders have led to arrest for key offences such as robbery and drug supply.

13.5. VAWG Patrols and Initiatives

13.6. Additional resources have been deployed to conduct high-visibility patrols in Camden's NTE areas, such as Operation Vigilant patrols and anti-spiking campaigns.

13.7. Operation Pantera and County Lines

13.8. Camden NPT has continued to contribute to national county lines operations, leading to key arrests and disruption of criminal networks.

13.9. Op Kishu

13.10. A successful Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act warrant was executed, leading to the seizure of firearms, ammunition, and drugs, further supporting community safety.

14. Conclusion

14.1. Camden's Central North Borough Command Unit continues to make significant strides in tackling crime through a combination of data-driven strategies and close community partnerships. Initiatives such as the Precision Crime Fighting Plan, operations focused on violence against women and girls, and targeted efforts in high-risk areas demonstrate the unit's commitment to creating safer spaces. Ongoing community engagement, particularly with faith-based and underrepresented communities, ensures that local concerns are heard and addressed. The report's findings and performance data highlight the effectiveness of these strategies, with noticeable reductions in key crime areas,

contributing to enhanced public safety across Camden. However, the Metropolitan Police Service recognises there is still more work to be done to achieve their mission of More Trust, Less Crime, High Standards.

15. Legal comments of the Borough Solicitor

15.1 There are no legal comments arising from this report.

16. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

16.1 There are no finance comments arising from this report.

Report Ends