



**Lancashire
Constabulary**

police and communities together

News Information

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I remember when in 1973... Lancashire as safe as the seventies

Glam rock, Space Hoppers, Ford Cortinas and Chopper bikes.

The energy crisis and some distinctly dodgy fashions and hair cuts.

Lots of things have changed since the 1970's.

Although lots of things are different, however, crime levels in Lancashire are one thing that haven't changed much.

In fact, some crimes in Lancashire haven't been this low for 37 years.

Domestic burglary and vehicle crime are both at their lowest levels since 1973.

And, there are more than 10,000 fewer victims of crime this year than last year, and ten years ago for that matter (see full table of figures below).

Over the last five years, Lancashire has consistently been among the top performing forces in the country. Indeed, last month Lancashire Constabulary was rated as one of the strongest performing forces in England and Wales by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) as part of the new Police Report Card assessment.

As for detection rates, Lancashire is consistently in the top ten performing forces at 35 per cent - this means there is a good chance that people committing crime will be caught.

Chief Constable Steve Finnigan said: 'Those who can remember back that far will have their own memories, either good or bad, about the 1970's - the clothes, the music and more.

'But what these figures show is that, although many things have changed out of all recognition since then, crime in Lancashire is at historically low levels.

'In 1973, I was doing my 'O' levels and thinking about what the future might hold, and it now makes me really proud to be part of what is a great news story for people living in Lancashire.

'The figures clearly demonstrate that we are enjoying more success in our determination to ensure that the county continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit. But we couldn't have achieved this success without help from our partners, and from members of the public, so I want to say a big thank-you to them.'

'It is really encouraging that fewer people are now becoming victims of crime and that our grip on offenders is tightening.

There is now an even better chance that, if you commit crime in Lancashire, you will get caught and you will be dealt with.

'Despite these positive figures, we are not complacent and we remain committed to keeping our communities safe from harm, and through our local policing teams we will ensure that we remain accessible and in touch with community priorities.'

'Above all, the Constabulary will continue to deliver a top quality service to the people of Lancashire, which is tailored to their needs and aimed at increasing confidence in local policing.'

Miranda Carruthers-Watt, Chief Executive of Lancashire Police Authority, said: "These figures will give people confidence that crime in Lancashire is low - and getting lower. I'm also pleased to see that the types of crime that people have told us matter most to them, such as burglary, vehicle crime and criminal damage, are being successfully tackled.

"This is why we set very challenging targets for the Constabulary and have scrutinized performance closely. The results show the commitment and professionalism of Lancashire officers and I'm delighted for them and Lancashire residents that their work has been rewarded so well."

ENDS

Breakdown of all figures

	2008-2009	2009-2010	Number change	% change
All crime	117,544	107,327	- 10,217	- 8.7
Serious acquisitive crime	16,850	13,900	- 2,950	- 17.5
Burglary dwelling	5,110	4,433	- 677	- 13.2
Vehicle crime	10,875	8,777	-2,098	- 19.3
Criminal damage and arson	29,527	25,021	- 4,506	-15.3
Assault less serious injury	10,745	9,596	- 1,149	-10.7
Serious violent crime	1,353	1,199	- 154	-11.4

Notes to newsdesks:

- (a) The Home Office changed the counting rules in 1998/99 and comparisons of all crime data is difficult before then

Factfile:

In 1973:

A loaf of bread cost 10p

A pint of beer was 38p

A bag of spuds was 4p

The average cost of a house was less than £5,000

Red Rum won the Grand National

Slade notched up three number ones including 'Cum on feel the

Noize- and the Christmas classic, ' Merry Xmas Everybody

Long running BBC TV series Last of the Summer Wine started