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Carillion collapse forces firm to lay off staff

A DECORATING firm has lost contracts worth nearly half-a-million pounds and has had to let staff go after the collapse of construction giant Carillion, writes *Samantha Booth*.

Kevin McLoughlin received a call at 7am on Monday telling him 30 of his staff had been

turned away from construction sites, including one in King's Cross.

His business, K&M McLoughlin Decorating, joint-founded with wife Maxine, is one of thousands affected by Carillion going into liquidation on Monday.

Mr McLoughlin, 60, considers himself "lucky", because the company can afford to meet the expected £230,000 loss out of existing profits, but he fears for smaller businesses.

"I couldn't bear to think what would happen if we were a

small business," said Mr McLoughlin, who was born and raised in Islington.

"Because we've got a long history and it's my company, we just leave the money in the business for a rainy day. That's

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Figures reveal bosses let fewer than one-in-five chases go ahead

COPS PURSUING MOPED THIEVES TOLD: BACK OFF

EXCLUSIVE by EMILY FINCH

POLICE are told by their bosses to stop chasing moped criminals at least once a week, with permission to pursue granted in fewer than 20 per cent of cases, new figures reveal.

Officers in Islington radioed to their superiors requesting authorisation to follow a suspect 65 times in 2017, but figures obtained by the *Tribune* show they were told to back off in all but 10 occasions.

The rise in moped crime, in which suspects use stolen bikes to commit a range of offences including phone snatches and smash-and-grab raids, has been a thorn in the side of the Met in recent years.

Islington is among the worst-affected boroughs, with an average of more than 10 offences reported each day.

The *Tribune* understands some street-level police officers often feel frustrated that their bosses do not allow them to pursue chases.

Caledonian ward councillor Paul Convery, the Town Hall's former community safety chief, said he was "amazed at how low" the figures for authorised pursuits were.

Cllr Convery said: "It's pretty plain moped-riding criminals are aware that the Met are

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STREET ATTACK

Homeless man hit by stranger



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Backing for Corbyn's allies on ruling body

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'GHOST TOWN...'

Traders' struggle to survive



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Boxers set to fight on

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Sport? It's girls allowed! See page 5



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Road closed as tree falls in storm

A FALLEN tree brought down by Storm Fionn closed a road yesterday (Thursday), causing a headache for commuters, writes *Emily Finch*.

Council workers were seen cutting up the tree, which came down in front of a house in Tufnell Park Road, causing damage to a brick wall. Police closed the road.

A car was damaged by the fallen tree but no one was injured.

Early yesterday the capital was whipped by strong winds which reached 95mph in other parts of the country.



Workmen clear debris after a tree smashed into a brick wall in Tufnell Park Road when Storm Fionn winds lashed the capital early on Thursday

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Police urged to change rules on moped pursuits

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apprehensive of giving chase and this has emboldened them, paradoxically.

"We need a more sensible approach where the default should be the police should pursue unless there is a very, very good set of reasons they should not."

The pursuit numbers, obtained under Freedom of Information laws, show a 20 per cent dip in the number of requests approved between 2016 and 2017, while moped enabled crime soared, especially over the summer months.

Out of 37 requests made by officers in 2016, 13 were authorised.

The figures show the number of times officers in marked and unmarked vehicles requested permission for a "spontaneous" pursuit and do not include planned operations.

Cllr Convery said: "It's hard to exactly interpret those numbers. The change in attitude occurred in the immediate aftermath of the Henry Hicks fatality. Tactically, the Met have been very cautious in authorising chases."



Paul Convery: 'We need a more sensible approach'

Henry Hicks was a popular Angel teenager who crashed his moped and died in Wheelwright Street, near Pentonville Prison, while being followed by police in 2014. Thousands turned out for his funeral near Exmouth Market.

A police misconduct panel held last year cleared the four police officers in the two unmarked vehicles behind Henry of gross misconduct, but the results have been contested by his family.

Met guidelines dictate police officers must seek authorisation from central command, where a supervisor carries out a risk assessment before a pursuit is given authorisation.

Between January and September 2017, there were 3,587 reports of "moped-enabled crime"

in Islington alone, with a further 4,147 in neighbouring Camden.

Asked by the *Tribune* last year about the approach to moped pursuits, Superintendent Mark Payne said: "The Met Police pursues all criminals. Just because we are not riding around in fast cars behind them doesn't mean we are not pursuing the criminal."

"We use DNA. If we have got their face we do facial recognition. It may well be that we break off a pursuit because we think we have the evidence."

He added that it was a case of "we know who you are and there's no point taking that pursuit any further today. We'll go and bang on your door at 2am tomorrow when we know we can get you in bed."

A Metropolitan Police spokesman also said that officers rely on methods other than pursuits to catch moped criminals.

"We can and will undertake pursuits in any situation where it is necessary and proportionate to do so – in line with nationally-approved guidance on pursuing motorcycles and in line with approved tactics."

Robbers' knife threat

A PEDESTRIAN was robbed at knifepoint near the Emirates Stadium, police have said in an appeal for witnesses.

Two men on a scooter snatched a mobile phone out of the hand of a 24-year-old man walking in Hornsey Road, Holloway, at about 6pm on January 3.

When the man tried to get his phone back one of the suspects brandished a knife at him before the thieves rode off along Hornsey Road, Met Police said in a statement.

They are appealing

for information. No arrests have been made yet.

Detective Inspector Thomas Kearney, of Central North Command Unit, said: "It is important that the public are aware of their surroundings at all times and protect their personal property, as these criminals can strike in an instant."

Anyone with information about the robbery should call 101. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or tweet @MetCC with information.

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