

# Increasing Crimes Near Royal Palaces Revealed

## VOCABULARY WORDS

1. astonishing /ə'stænəSHɪŋ/ (adjective) extremely surprising or impressive; amazing.  
Example: It was an astonishing achievement for the 14 year old kid to graduate top of her class.
2. unpunished /,ən'pəniSHt/ (adjective) (of an offense or offender) not receiving a penalty or sanction as retribution for transgression. not receiving or having received a penalty or sanction as punishment for any crime or offense.  
Example: If a referee allows a foul like that to go unpunished he's asking for trouble.
3. offense /ə'fens/ (noun) a violation or breaking of a social or moral rule  
Example: Drunk driving is a major offense for some countries.
4. arson /'ärs(ə)n/ (noun) the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property.  
Example: Police are treating the fire as arson.
5. safeguard /'säf.gärd/ (noun) a measure taken to protect someone or something or to prevent something undesirable.  
Example: There were multiple safeguards to prevent the accidental release of a virus.



People would expect the highest of security measures at London's royal palaces. However, an "**astonishing**" statistic recently released revealed that in the past three years, hundreds of crimes have taken place in or near royal households, with the majority going **unpunished**.

London's Metropolitan Police reported that 470 **offenses** were recorded at Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, St James' Palace and Clarence House between. The crimes included **arson**, theft, drug possession, robbery, and violence against a person. Less than one percent of the crimes led to anyone being cautioned, fined or charged.

Dai Davies, a former Head of Royal Protection, said the number of crimes reported was "frightening". He told Britain's Sky News: "If you can steal or cause incidents at or near the royals, what does that say about the current security? If these offenses have an impact on the personal safety of the royals, that would give me great concern."

The Metropolitan Police said that while there is a public interest in the effectiveness of the police forces against the threat posed to the Royal Family and royal residences, there is likewise a very strong public interest in **safeguarding**.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Who should pay for the security of royals?
2. Why do you think crimes are going unpunished?
3. How effective are the police in your country?
4. How safe do you think royals feel in public?
5. Would you like to live in a royal palace?