

# Policing and Safer Neighbourhood Report

## Cambridge City West / Central Neighbourhood

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## CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Aim</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. PREVIOUS PRIORITIES &amp; ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Previous Priorities</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. EMERGING ISSUES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5. CURRENT CRIME AND INCIDENT LEVELS</b>	<b>13</b>

### **1. Introduction**

#### **Aim**

The aim of the Neighbourhood profile update is to provide an overview of action taken since the last reporting period, identify ongoing and emerging crime and disorder issues, and provide recommendations for future priorities and activity in order to facilitate effective policing and partnership working in the area.

The document should be used to inform Area Committee meetings, multi-agency Neighbourhood Action Groups and Neighbourhood Policing Teams, so that issues can be identified, effectively prioritised and partnership problem solving activity undertaken.

#### **Methodology**

This document was produced using the following data sources:

- Crime and Incident data from April – June 09 and as a comparison data from January – March 09 and April – June 08
- Information from the Neighbourhood Policing teams, July 2009
- Cambridge City Council, City Services data, April – June 2009

## 2. Previous Priorities & Engagement Activity

### Previous Priorities

At the Area Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009, the following issues were adopted as priorities. The tables below summarise action taken and the current situation regarding the priorities which were set:

1.	
<b>Objective</b>	Anti-social behaviour by vehicles in the City Centre
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>Patrols have been carried out by Police Officers and PCSOs in the areas highlighted as a concern.</p> <p>Penalty tickets have been issued for obstruction in St Andrews street to both Taxis and private vehicles. 1 driver has been reported for a Public Order Offence.</p> <p>Officers have also continued to take action against cyclists. Penalty tickets have been issued for cycling on footpaths and in pedestrian areas during the restricted times.</p> <p>Police have attended workshops set up by 'Love Cambridge'<sup>1</sup> to assist with reviewing the availability of taxi bays within the city. Also in attendance were representatives from taxi associations, CAMBAC, Taxi Marshals and Ward Councillors.</p> <p>27 tickets issued for obstruction in the City centre. 27 tickets issued for cyclists contravening traffic signals within the city centre and 17 tickets issued for cycling on the pavement.</p> <p>The issue raised at the last meeting concerning enforcement of 20mph speed limits has received further consideration. Currently, those areas that have 20mph limits also have traffic calming measures. These measures affect the ability to lawfully enforce the limit using hand held equipment because of the short distances involved.</p>
<b>Current</b>	There is still a problem with taxis backing up along St Andrew's

<sup>1</sup> Love Cambridge was officially launched on 1 April 2009, its core function will be to develop a vision and action plan for the city centre through working in partnership with a diverse range of key stakeholders to ensure the city's ongoing accessibility, vitality, vibrancy, safety and sustainability. Visit [www.cambridge.gov.uk](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk) for more information.

<b>Situation</b>	<p>Street at those times of day when the city centre is at its busiest. There has been evidence of a significant increase in awareness amongst drivers of the problems this can cause and understanding as to the action Police will take. Tickets and instruction to those still parking in such a way will continue to be issued.</p> <p>NB. Further cycling enforcement evenings planned for the late autumn and winter months</p>
<b>Continue or Discharge?</b>	<p><b>Continue</b> – as well as a continued focus on the issues highlighted above, October sees new students arrive into the city and the clocks moving back, so a focus on raising awareness of, and tackling, anti-social cycling is required.</p>

<b>2.</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Anti-social behaviour in Castle ward
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>Planned patrols conducted in areas that reported the incidents of Anti-social behaviour (ASB). Routine patrols by officers responsible for area have continued.</p> <p>These patrols have not identified any pattern to the ASB as the incidents vary from youths being rowdy to drunks on their way home from the city centre.</p> <p>“Free runners” (thrill seeking young people running/climbing over buildings) have been identified and given words of advice regarding their actions. Activity has concentrated in and around Shire Hall. Although no damage has been reported to the buildings they visit at this time they are now aware of the possibility of finding themselves arrested for criminal damage. Discussions have been held with county staff and details of those caught have been taken and the colleges attended by the youths have been made aware along with their parents.</p>
<b>Current Situation</b>	<p>Incidents of ASB are lower than the previous period (49 compared to 59).</p> <p>Low levels of ASB generated by persons passing through the area on their way home continue to occur.</p>
<b>Continue or</b>	<b>Discharge.</b> Patrols are carried out routinely by officers with responsibility for area.

<b>Discharge?</b>	
<b>3.</b>	
<b>Objective</b>	Prostitution – Histon Road
<b>Action Taken</b>	<p>Meetings held with 'Addaction' and the Community Drug Intervention Programme (CDIP) in order to identify any assistance that could be offered to the street workers to reduce their need to sell sex. Patrols have since been carried out in Histon Road and surrounding areas. Officers are engaging with the Street Workers to establish why they work the streets and to offer advice on organisations that can assist with housing, benefits and scripts. CDIP and Addaction provided contact cards which have been issued to the street workers.</p> <p>Action to date has concentrated on information gathering and the need for workers to remain safe whilst at the same time minimising the anti-social effects on the local community.</p> <p>During the engagement, officers have discussed their situation with the street workers in order to establish why they worked on the streets.</p> <p>A multi-agency meeting has been held in order to establish the extent of the problem and the assistance that the various organisations can offer. Attendees included representatives from Police, Healthcare, housing, CDIP and Addaction. This meeting has led to the formation of a Sex Workers Advisory Network to provide support and help for sex workers, funding has been provided by the Safer City Grant scheme to enable the network to develop the support it can offer sex workers.</p>
<b>Current Situation</b>	Isolated and infrequent reports of prostitution received.
<b>Continue or Discharge?</b>	<b>Discharge.</b> We will continue to work with the other agencies to assist the street workers. The next meeting of the Sex Workers Advisory Network run by the CDIP is planned for early September 2009.

## Engagement Activity

- Monthly surgeries have continued using the mobile library facility on the Market Square. There have also been numerous surgeries held around the area at supermarkets, in schools. Impromptu surgeries have been held in areas such as Lammas Land in the warm weather to engage with the people using the facilities.
- PCSOs from within the team have organised activities at events organised by other organisations. An example of this is an event held by the Folk Museum. A stall was set up by the PCSO for the area to allow visitors to take part in fingerprinting and gain an understanding of Scenes of Crime work.
- Members of the team have attended the local Community College to give drugs talks to groups of youths selected by the school. They have also continued to visit groups such as cubs and brownies with further visits planned in the coming months.
- Following the warm weather patrols were set up along the river to assist with ASB mainly targeting the Punt users. Hotspot areas also targeted by PCSOs and the City Council's Public Realm Enforcement Team. Advice has been given to punt operators and touts over the City Byelaw and the consequences of breaches, with fewer complaints being received than in previous years. Greater on street presence in the areas affected and an officer responsible for dealing with issues during the season has made a noticeable difference.
- Officers have assisted with the organisation and running of surgeries to promote immobilise and offer prevention in relation to cycle crime at various venues within the City centre and surrounding areas.
- An open day was held at Parkside Police Station to which members of the public were invited. Activities included visits to the custody block and force helicopter. Specialist departments from within Cambridgeshire Constabulary were in attendance to give an insight into the service that they provide. City West Team was on hand to provide information and engage with those attending.
- This period has seen Strawberry Fair, Mid Summer Fair and the Big Weekend take place within the City West Neighbourhood Area. Police Officers have worked with residents, councillors, Council Officers and partner agencies to ensure that these events ran smoothly and to minimise

disruption, Anti social behaviour and associated crime. During the events, officers patrolled the surrounding areas to liaise with the community and offer reassurance. Mobile police stations were set up in vulnerable areas to provide a permanent point of contact during the running of the events

### 3. Emerging Issues

#### Neighbourhood trends

Total crime in City West has increased compared to the previous period, but is at a lower level than the same period last year. Cycle theft has seen a large rise particularly in Market Ward. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents were higher than the previous period, however, this remains at a much lower level than that reported in the same period last year.

#### Newnham

- Total crime in Newnham has fallen over the three month period from 147 offences to 138 offences. However this is an increase compared to the same period last year when there were 111 offences.
- Dwelling burglary offences have more than halved from 25 offences in the previous period to 10 in this period. Two of the offences occurred at Clare Hall, Herschel Road, both on separate occasions. In one offence electrical items disappeared over approximately a two week period and in the other items were stolen from the lounge area whilst the occupant slept.
- Violent crime offences have fallen from 22 offences in the previous period to 16 in this period. This is the same number of offences as the same period last year. Three of the offences occurred at the same location on Barton Road on the same date and appear to be related to the same incident.
- Thefts from vehicles have increased to 22 offences compared to 12 offences in the previous period and 13 offences in the same period last year. Two offences occurred on Selwyn Road on the same evening. In one offence offenders have tried to start the vehicle by tampering with the ignition wires, in the other offence the stereo was stolen. Offences of criminal damage also increased and included damage to several vehicles.
- Action was taken in response to this rise in vehicle crime. A warrant was executed in Selwyn Road and a 'Sat nav' was recovered and identified to have come from one of the vehicles attached. An individual was arrested and charged and it is noticeable that since this action occurred offences have fallen in the ward.
- There were 30 cycle thefts in this period compared to 21 in the previous period and 30 in the same period last year. Eight of the offences took place



at the colleges across the West of the City and in five of these offences the cycle had been secured to something to stop it from being stolen.

- ASB incidents have increased to 68 incidents in this period compared to 42 in the previous period and 59 in the same period last year. Thirteen of the incidents involve youths engaging in rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour such as drinking, shouting and fighting.
- Between April and June there were 6 reports of abandoned vehicles in the ward, compared with 5 during the previous three months. One vehicle was not on site following inspection and 3 vehicles were later claimed by their owners. Cambridge City Council also impounded 2 vehicles on behalf of the DVLA for not being taxed on a public highway. These vehicles were returned to their owners following payment of a £100 fine to the DVLA, plus payment of road tax.
- Between April and June there were 17 reports of flytipping in the ward, compared with 13 during the previous three months. All were removed within 24 hours. 2 formal warning letters were sent (one each to a domestic and trade offender) and 2 reports are currently pending further investigation. Lammas Land (12), primarily at the recycling centre, was the hotspot during this period and resulted in the formal warning letter to the domestic offender.
- 16 derelict cycles were dealt with between April and June, compared with 21 during the previous three months.
- 10 items of graffiti were removed between April and June, compared with 13 during the previous three months. Lammas Land (5) was a hotspot during this period.
- 31 needles were removed between April and June, compared with 2 during the previous three months. 30 of which were removed on one occasion from the side of the road at Grange Road, these were unused needles.

## **Castle**

- Total crime in the ward has fallen from 127 offences in the previous period compared to 120 in this period.
- Dwelling burglary offences have remained stable compared to the previous period, with 19 offences occurring in each period. Two of the offences occurred at the flats on Canterbury Street on the same date and time. Items were stolen from one property only. Three offences occurred on

Huntingdon Road on different dates. In two of the offences, entry to the property was gained via the rear.

- There were 16 violent crime offences in this period and 14 in the previous period. This is double the number of offences in the same period last year (8). Five of the offences occurred on Huntingdon Road on different dates and appear to be unrelated. Two offences occurred at Churchill College, Storeys Way on different dates. In both offences a window on the vehicle was smashed and items were stolen.
- Cycle theft offences have increased from 32 offences in the previous period to 42 in this period. This is a similar level to the same period last year when there were 41 offences. Nineteen of the offences occurred at college premises across Castle Ward.
- There were 49 ASB incidents in this period compared to 59 in the previous period and 50 in the same period last year. Only seven of the incidents mentioned the involvement of youths.
- Between April and June there 4 reports of abandoned vehicles in the ward, compared with 7 during the previous three months. One vehicle was not on site following inspection and the owner of another vehicle was fined by the DVLA for not displaying road tax. Cambridge City Council also impounded 2 vehicles, which were returned to their owners following a £120 fixed penalty notice to one owner and a £100 DVLA fine to the other owner, plus payment of road tax. In addition, a prosecution process against a registered keeper has been set for September following non-payment of a fixed penalty notice for a vehicle found abandoned at Madingely Road Park and Ride early this year.
- Between April and June there were 7 reports of flytipping in the ward, compared with 17 during the previous three months. All were removed within 24 hours, but there was insufficient evidence to take enforcement action.
- 20 derelict cycles were dealt with between April and June, compared with 27 during the previous three months. Shelly Row (4) and Huntingdon Road (3) were the hotspots during this period.
- There were no reports of needles in the ward between April and June, compared with 18 during the previous three months.

## **Market**

- Total crime in Market Ward has increased from 987 offences in the previous period to 1058 in this period. This is lower than in the same period last year when there were 1164.
- Violent crime offences have increased from 190 offences in the previous period to 209 in this period. This is lower than in the same period last year when there were 243 offences. Common locations for violent offences were Christ's Pieces, Downing Street, Lion Yard, Market Hill, Midsummer Common, Regent Street, Rose Crescent, Sidney Street and St Andrews Street.
- Cycle theft offences have increased from 144 offences in the previous period to 189 in this period. Common locations for cycle thefts were the Grafton Centre, Parkside, Regent Street, Sidney Street and Trumpington Street.
- Thefts from shops have decreased from 237 offences in the previous period to 197 offences in this period. This is also a decrease compared to the same period last year when there were 218 offences. In 143 of these offences an offender has been arrested and charged.
- There were 82 criminal damage offences in this period compared to 65 in the previous period and 76 in the same period last year. There appears to be no patterns or trends in the criminal damage offences in this period.
- Other crime offences have increased from 289 offences in the previous period to 315 offences in this period. This is a decrease from 394 offences in the same period last year. Of these offences 40 were for the possession of cannabis, 27 of which occurred on the green spaces within the ward. There were also 134 of the offences where the aggrieved person's purse/wallet or bag was stolen, whilst in 58 offences their mobile phone was stolen.
- There were 460 ASB incidents in this period compared to 452 in the previous period and 587 in the same period last year. Of these incidents 60 occurred on the green spaces throughout the ward. There were 51 offences which involve youths engaged in rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, 13 of which occurred on the green spaces.
- There were no reports of abandoned vehicles in the ward between April and June, compared with 10 during the previous three months.
- Between April and June there were 104 reports of flytipping in the ward, compared with 141 during the previous three months. All were removed

within 24 hours. 3 formal warning letters were sent to domestic offenders and six Section 47 notices were issued to trade offenders, one of which resulted in a fixed penalty notice. In addition, waste transfer documentation has also been requested from 11 trade offenders. One report is also pending further investigation. Market Street, Earl Street, Bridge Street, Market Hill and Trinity Street (all 5) were the hotspots during this period and between them accounted for 6 of the enforcement actions above.

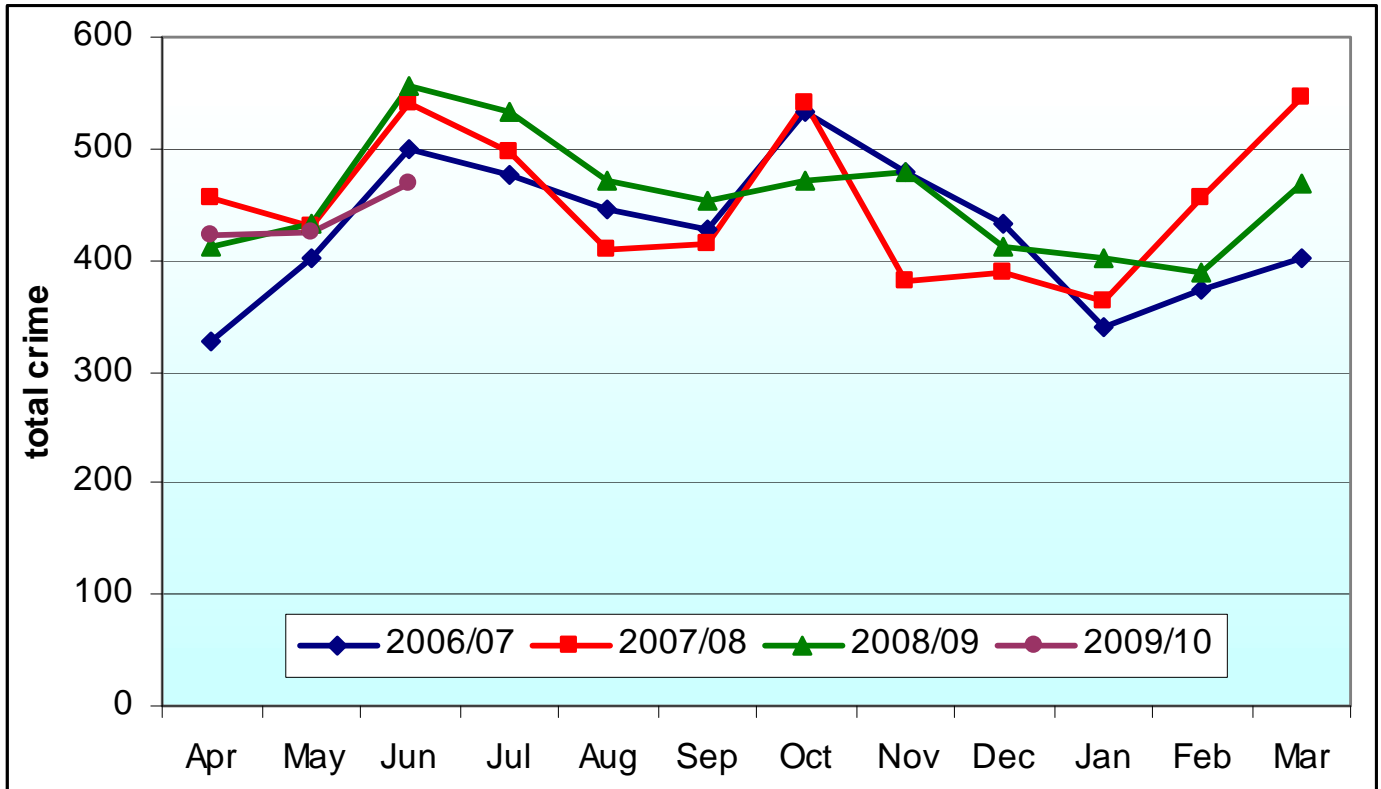
- 228 derelict cycles were dealt with between April and June, compared with 277 during the previous three months. St Andrew's Street (13) and Downing Street, Jesus Green and Little St Mary's Lane (each with 11) were the hotspots during this period.
- Approximately 883 incidents of anti-social cycling occurred between April and June, compared with 689 during the previous three months. Most of these occurred in Sidney Street (205), Bridge Street (190), Trinity Street (178) and Market Street (104). (These figures are provided by the City Rangers based on contact with cyclists in the city centre)
- 17 items of graffiti were removed between April and June, compared with 11 during the previous three months. Corn Exchange Street (5) and Kings Parade (3) were the hotspots during this period.
- 63 needles were removed between April and June, compared with 78 during the previous three months. This included 30 were removed on one occasion from a parking bay in Grafton West Car Park, 14 were removed on one occasion from bushes at Adam and Eve Street and 10 needles from Post Office Terrace found in cardboard, which had been put out for collection.

#### **4. Recommendations**

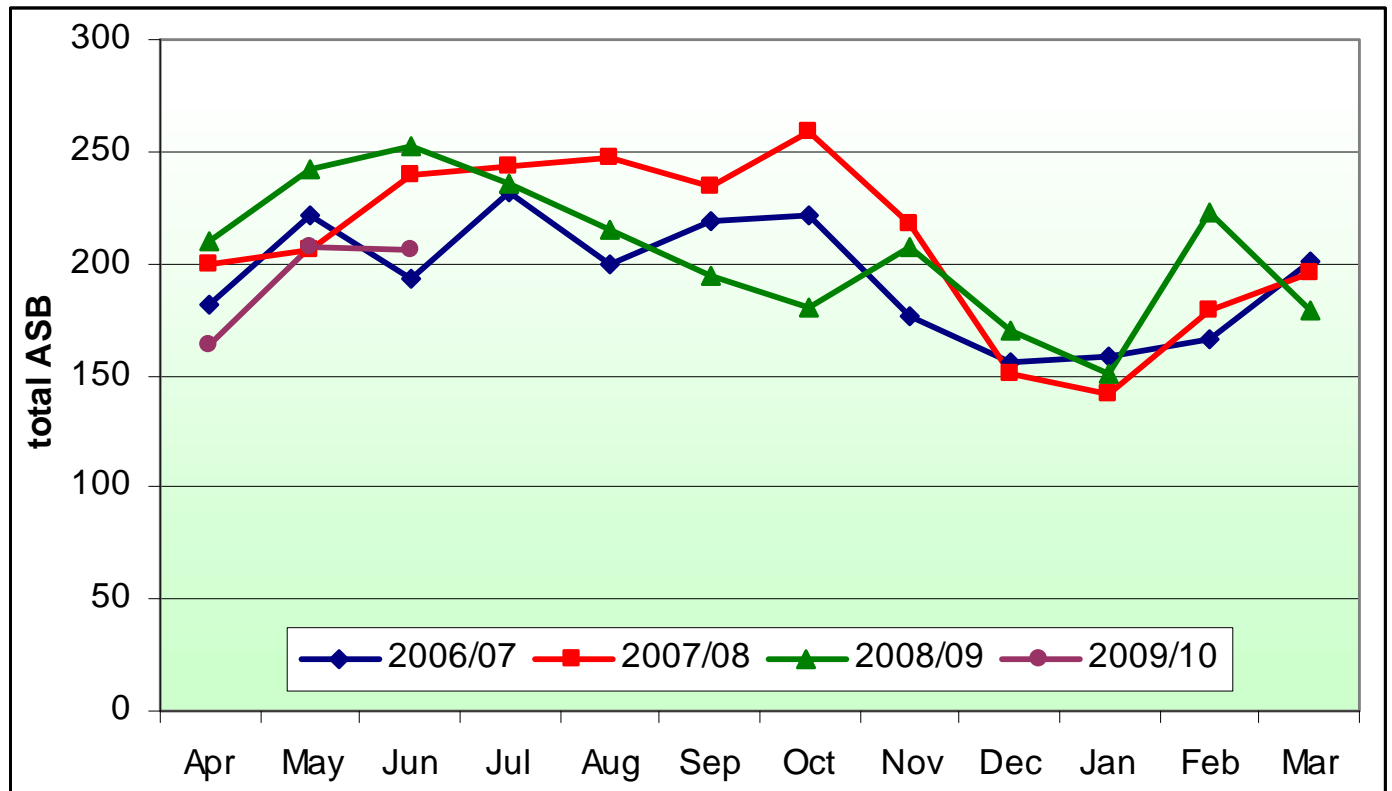
- Bag and purse thefts in City Centre
- Anti-social behaviour by vehicle in City Centre

### 5. Current Crime and Incident Levels

#### Total Crime



#### Total Anti-Social Behaviour



## Current Crime and Incident Levels in Neighbourhood, by Ward

			Dwell. Burg.	Other Burg.	Violent Crime	Robbery	Theft of Vehicle	Theft from Veh.	Cycle Theft	Theft from Shop	Criminal Damage	Other Crime	TOTAL CRIME	TOTAL ASB
Nhod	City West	Apr 09 – Jun 09	39	33	241	23	7	45	261	201	111	355	1316	577
		Jan 09 – Mar 09	60	41	226	30	7	39	197	238	91	332	1261	553
		Apr 08 – Jun 08	26	28	267	9	4	32	267	223	76	466	1398	704
Wards	Newnham	Apr 09 – Jun 09	10	7	16	1	4	22	30	0	19	29	138	68
		Jan 09 – Mar 09	25	13	22	8	3	12	21	1	13	29	147	42
		Apr 08 – Jun 08	4	15	16	0	1	13	30	3	6	23	111	59
	Castle	Apr 09 – Jun 09	19	6	16	1	0	11	42	3	10	12	120	49
		Jan 09 – Mar 09	19	13	14	4	2	16	32	1	13	13	127	59
		Apr 08 – Jun 08	13	3	8	2	1	10	41	2	9	34	123	50
	Market	Apr 09 – Jun 09	10	20	209	21	3	12	189	197	82	315	1058	460
		Jan 09 – Mar 09	16	15	190	18	2	11	144	237	65	289	987	452
		Apr 08 – Jun 08	9	10	243	7	2	9	196	218	76	394	1164	587