



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **ANNUAL CRIME BRIEF 2014** **(Updated on 18 September 2015)**

#### **Overview**

**Overall Crime in 2014 increased by 7.8%**, from 29,984 cases in 2013 to 32,315 cases in 2014.

2. The increase was largely due to **Cheating involving E-Commerce** cases. The rise in the number of youths arrested is also a cause for concern. On the other hand, the unlicensed moneylending (UML) situation continued to improve, with **UML-related Harassment** cases declining significantly.

3. **Housebreaking and Related Crimes** and **Theft and Related Crimes** also continued to decline in 2014. The breakdown of **Overall Crime** by crime classes is at [Annex A](#).

#### **Unlicensed Money Lending (UML) Situation**

4. Concerted efforts by the Police and our partners have led to a sustained fall in **UML-related Harassment** offences since 2010. The number of harassment cases declined by 1,289 cases (-18.3%), from 7,052 in 2013 to 5,763 in 2014. Likewise, the number of harassment cases where property was damaged, decreased by 2,404 cases (-46.4%) from 5,176 in 2013 to 2,772 in 2014.

5. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Police developed a comprehensive operational strategy to deal with the UML problem at multiple levels. MHA amended the Moneylenders Act to provide for stiffer penalties against unlicensed moneylenders and those who worked for them.

6. Neighbourhood Police Centres (NPCs) also stepped up efforts to raise public awareness about the problem, and provide prompt assistance to victims of UML-related harassment. This motivated members of public to step forward and provide timely information on suspected-UML activities. In November 2014, the Police and the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) rolled out the 2<sup>nd</sup> nationwide Anti-Unlicensed Moneylending (AUML) Public Education and

Awareness Campaign. This campaign is targeted at two specific groups – potential borrowers to dissuade them from borrowing from unlicensed moneylenders, and potential harassers to deter them from committing UML-related crimes.

7. The Police developed specialised capabilities to better assess the UML threat in order to guide enforcement and preventive efforts. The Police also leveraged technology and deployed Police cameras to provide round-the-clock deterrence and collect useful information for investigations.

8. This approach has enabled the Police to keep the UML menace in check. The Police will continue to tap on various outreach platforms to raise public awareness about anti-UML initiatives. The NPCs will conduct localised road shows to increase public awareness on UML-related crimes. The Police will also work with Resident’s Committees, Neighbourhood Committees and Citizens’ Consultative Committees to educate the public on the dire consequences of borrowing from unlicensed moneylenders.

9. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Investigations and Intelligence), Tan Chye Hee, said: “The sustained decline in the overall Unlicensed Money Lending (UML) and Harassment cases in recent years is the result of the Police’s tough enforcement efforts against these activities. Our partnership with the community to raise public awareness on the severe consequences of getting involved in UML activities has also contributed to this downward trend. We will not rest on our laurels and will continue to work hard to eradicate UML activities.”

## **Key Crime Concerns in 2014**

### **Crimes Shift Online**

10. **Cheating involving E-Commerce** cases increased by 1,155 cases (+226.5%), from 510 in 2013 to 1,665 in 2014. This is likely due to an increase in the number of Internet users who use online shopping facilities<sup>1</sup>.

11. “Internet Love” scam increased by 117 cases (+144.4%) from 81 in 2013 to 198 in 2014. **Cyber Extortion** cases continued to form the majority of the increase in both **Attempted Extortion** and **Extortion** cases.

12. Please refer to Annex B for the breakdown of online crimes-of-concern in 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> IDA’s most recent survey on Infocomm Usage in Households and by Individuals (2012) showed that from 2003 to 2012, the percentage of Internet users who engaged in online shopping has been steadily increasing from 17% (2003) to 52%(2012).

## **Other Scams-of-Concern**

### *Credit-for-Sex Scam*

13. In 2014, there was a growing trend of a new type of scam where culprits would use mobile messaging platforms to ask their victims to purchase gift cards or virtual credits in exchange for escort/sexual services. 66 cases were reported in 2014, amounting to \$118,000 cheated.

### *Kidnap Hoax Phone Scam*

14. “Kidnap Hoax Phone” scam increased by 27 cases (+207.7%) from 13 in 2013 to 40 in 2014. The total amount cheated also increased from \$81,400 in 2013 to \$113,700 in 2014.

## **Youth Involvement in Crimes**

15. The number of youths arrested increased by 89 (+2.9%) from 3,031 in 2013 to 3,120 in 2014. More youths were arrested for rioting in 2014, registering an increase of 39 persons (+13.8%) from 283 in 2013 to 322 in 2014. Youths arrested for shop theft also increased by 12 persons (+1.5%) from 791 in 2013 to 803 in 2014.

16. **Statutory Rape**, where a person has consensual sex with a female below 14 years old, continued to increase. It rose by 17 cases (+33.3%) from 51 in 2013 to 68 in 2014. Most of the **Statutory Rape** offenders were youths and known to the victims.

17. The Police will continue to work with our partners especially from the education and social services sectors, to tackle youth crime. The Police will also continue to work with the relevant agencies to focus on early intervention and youth education programmes.

## **Other Crimes-of-Concern**

### **Outrage of Modesty**

18. **Outrage of Modesty** (OM) cases increased by 47 cases (+3.5%) from 1,325 in 2013 to 1,372 in 2014. More OM cases had occurred onboard trains and open areas.

19. The Public Transport Security Command (TransCom) conducts regular patrols at the train networks to deter would-be perpetrators. TransCom also works with Public Transport Operators to broadcast an anti-OM video on TV screens at MRT platforms to educate the public on how they can avoid being OM

victims. The Police would like to encourage OM victims to expose perpetrators at the earliest possible opportunity so that these perpetrators can be arrested swiftly.

### **Holistic approach in fighting crime**

20. Singapore remains a safe place to live and work in, but this should not be taken for granted. In addition to the Police's tough enforcement efforts, we will continue to invest in public education and community engagement initiatives as part of the overall strategy to combat crime.

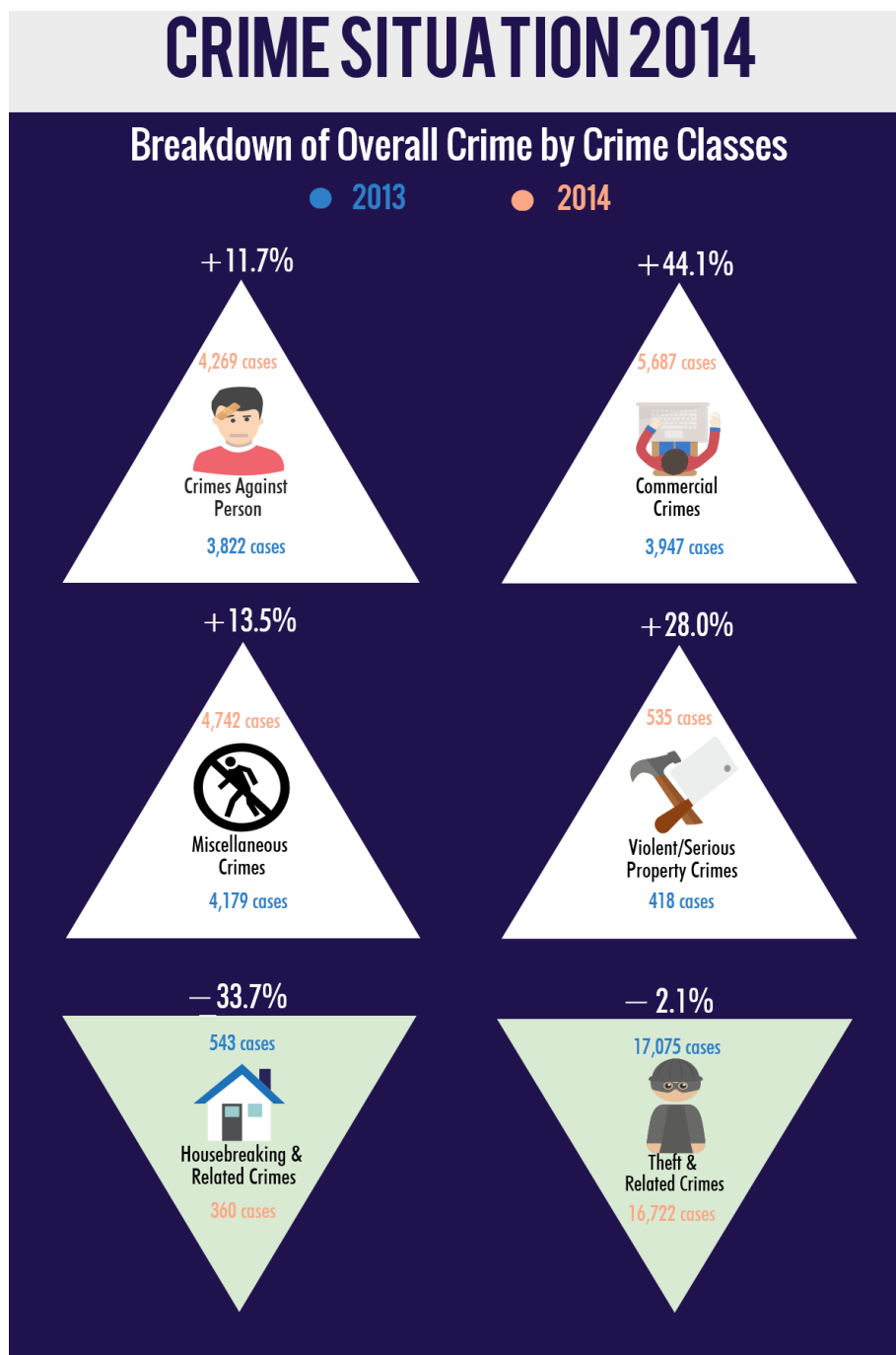
21. To enhance the Police's frontline crime-fighting capabilities, the Police will deploy Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) in phases at all 35 NPCs, starting from 30 January 2015. Please refer to [Annex C](#) for more information on the deployment of the BWCs.

22. With the growing trend of online crime, the Police will continue our public education efforts to address scammers' changing *modus operandi*, through both online and mainstream media platforms. Internet users are also urged to exercise heightened vigilance to avoid falling victim to such preventable crimes.

23. Rounding up the Police's annual crime statistics, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Investigations and Intelligence), Tan Chye Hee, said: "Overall crime has increased but our crime rate remains low. Crimes are shifting online and new scams are constantly emerging, with victims falling prey every day. On a positive note, the Unlicensed Moneylending and Harassment situation has been improving steadily. The Police will continue to raise awareness of scams so that members of public will not fall prey to them. We will also press on with our tough enforcement efforts against unlicensed moneylending-related activities."

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE  
29 JANUARY 2015 @ 10.00AM  
(UPDATED ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2015)**

Details of Overall Crime Situation



Breakdown of Online Crimes-of-Concern

## CRIMES SHIFT ONLINE

**Cheating involving E-Commerce increased by 226.5%**

**2013: 510 cases**

**2014: 1665 cases**

### MULTIPLE PAYMENT ONLINE PURCHASE SCAM

### PHONY PAYPAL EMAIL SCAM



2013: 269 cases



2014: 938 cases



2013: 9 cases



2014: 122 cases

**Internet Love Scam increased by 143.2%**

**Cyber Extortion increased by 138%**



2013: 81 cases



2014: 198 cases



2013: 108 cases



2014: 257 cases

**The Police to Deploy Body-Worn Cameras**

The Police will deploy Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) at all 35 Neighbourhood Police Centres (NPCs) to enhance our frontline crime fighting capabilities. This deployment will be done in phases starting from this year.

2. In the first phase, frontline Police officers from the Bukit Merah West NPC will don the BWCs from 30 January 2015. Officers from five other NPCs will don the BWCs by June 2015:

- Ang Mo Kio North NPC, Ang Mo Kio Police Division
- Bedok South NPC, Bedok Police Division
- Bukit Merah East NPC, Central Police Division
- Jurong West NPC, Jurong Police Division
- Toa Payoh NPC, Tanglin Police Division

3. Deployment of the BWCs at all NPCs will be completed by June 2016. The Police are also studying the use of BWCs by other Police units.

4. The BWCs worn by officers are currently trialled by the Hong Kong Police Force and the United Kingdom's Metropolitan Police Service. Both Police Forces have found these cameras useful in deterring crime, and collecting information or evidence which can provide valuable investigative leads.

5. The BWCs can capture audio and video recordings, and will be worn in a visible manner on the front of an officer's uniform (Please see below for photos of the BWC in recording and non-recording mode). The BWCs will be switched on and in recording mode when the officers are performing their duties. Officers will have the discretion to stop recording in certain situations, for example, when dealing with victims of sexual offences. The Police have put in place strict safeguards and limits on the use of the camera footage. The footage will be deleted after 31 days from the date of recording, unless it is required for official use such as Police investigations.

6. On the deployment of the BWCs, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) Lau Peet Meng said, "The body-worn camera will facilitate Police investigations and the gathering of evidence. It will complement existing forensic methods to allow the Police to piece together what actually happened at an incident. The body-worn camera is part of the SPF's technology roadmap to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of policing in Singapore for a safe and secure home for all of us."

## Body Worn Camera in Non-Recording and Recording Modes



### **BWC in non-recording standby mode**

Side view of the body-worn camera in non-recording standby mode. In standby mode, the LED indicator will either be solid red or off.



### **BWC in recording mode**

Side view of the body-worn camera in recording mode. When recording, the LED indicator will be blinking red, though there may not always be an image on the LED screen.



### **BWC in recording mode**

Screen capture from video footage recorded by the body-worn camera.