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James Martin Says He Now Brings Protection Dog to London Amid Rising Crime Concerns

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— Categories: Crime



ITV chef James Martin has voiced serious concerns about soaring crime in the capital, revealing he now brings a Belgian Malinois protection dog with him on visits to London. His remarks come after his own car was targeted by vandals in broad daylight earlier this year, and as several of his friends have also fallen victim to criminal acts in central London.

Martin, known for presenting Saturday Morning, shared a photo on social media of himself with one of his dogs in a “working dog” harness, captioning it simply: “London.” The 52-year-old said he no longer feels safe in the city and declared, “London is broken big time.”

The celebrity chef, who also fronted James Martin's Great British Adventure, Islands to Highlands, and James Martin's French Adventure, described a series of incidents that prompted his concern. He revealed, "Two of my friends' cars got stolen, one other mate got mugged, and now I had this happen, all in broad daylight, all in central London." Following the attack on his own car, he warned that on his next visit, he would be "bringing the Malis," referencing his two highly trained Belgian Malinois dogs.

Personal Protection

The Belgian Malinois is widely used by police and military units worldwide for its intelligence, agility, and ability to protect under pressure. For Martin, the choice to bring one along is not for show but a serious response to what he views as a growing threat in the capital. His experience mirrors that of many residents and visitors who have voiced concern that city streets no longer feel safe.

While Martin stopped short of naming specific officials, his stark message reflects the growing public frustration with how crime is handled in London. For many, crime in the capital feels out of control, and confidence in authorities to restore order continues to erode.

Beyond crime, Martin has also been dealing with personal health challenges. In 2018, he was diagnosed with facial cancer and announced in November 2023 that he would be taking a short break to undergo further treatment. Speaking during a live tour, he told audiences, "I've been through a lot with cancer, but I'm getting sorted at the end of next month. I'll be back fighting at the end of February."

His candid update was met with an outpouring of support from fans, but they were left disappointed again recently when he announced he would no longer appear at the Yorkshire Dales Food and Drink Festival. Just days before the popular event, Martin shared, "I'm so sorry but unfortunately, due to circumstances outside of my control, I will no longer be appearing."

The festival, held from July 18 to 20 at Aireville Park in Skipton, is returning after a one-year break and features musical acts like The Feeling and Go West. Martin had been a headline name.