

Graffiti blitz at station sparks security fears

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VANDALS left their mark in six-foot high letters at Camden Town Tube Station

GRAVE weaknesses in security at Camden Town Tube station have been revealed by graffiti artists who ran riot there during a Christmas Day rampage.

Staff arriving on Boxing Day morning were shocked to find graffiti covering the station platforms from floor to ceiling after vandals got in by walking down train-tracks.



Graffiti "'attack'" has raised security fears

All four platforms were graffitied while the station was closed on Christmas Day - causing tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage.

But the cost of the damage has been overshadowed by the question of whether sloppy security at the station could have left it open to terrorism. The vandals spent several hours there undetected - raising fears that had they been terrorists they would have had ample time to lay explosives or sabotage tracks.

Neil Thompson is director of security at Red24, a company that specialises in analysing the risk of terrorist attacks.

He said: "If I was in charge there I would be saying 'How did this happen?' There are

a lot of questions to be asked.

"They have not got their security plans right. Transport for London will have to review its procedures.

"If it doesn't make changes and a terrorist attack did happen it would be taken to task. I feel sure an investigation will be going on."

The police are studying CCTV footage to catch the vandals - but Mr Thompson is concerned that cameras did not raise the alarm while the rampage was in progress.

He said: "Someone should have been studying the footage. If you have CCTV it needs to be monitored 24-7 or it's useless.

"Organisations think the threat level is lower on Christmas Day - but Al-Qaeda have a history of trying to stay one step ahead. Any organisation which is being targeted should be thinking like this."

A Transport for London spokesperson said: "Cleaners have been working around the clock to erase the graffiti and the clean-up operation is now nearly complete.

"Until we receive the results of the British Transport Police investigation we will not know what, if any, corrective measures need to be put in place.