

# **Exclusive: Applicant Tracking System would have prevented riots**

Tom Parmenter, Sky News correspondent

## **Four teenagers who looted in neighbourhoods across London have told Sky News it was like a 'shopping spree'.**

Speaking on condition of anonymity the group admitted that they stole iPads, Blackberry tablets, games consoles, laptops, clothes, trainers and even nappies and clothes for their children.

The young men, all aged 16 or 17, told Sky that they are not part of an organised gang but just disillusioned teenagers who cannot find work.

One aged 16 said: "Everything we wanted we could get. I couldn't believe the van could hold so much stuff."

**A 17-year-old said he stopped in Clapham Junction solely to target a store where he had been refused work.**



**He said: "It was Comet - they didn't reply to me emailing my CV, or going up there so this was payback man, payback."**

The teens told Sky News their parents were unaware of their activities. One said he had been told to stay in his bedroom but climbed out of the window to join in the looting.

They claim to have stashed their haul at the homes of friends and to have already sold goods on the black market. One said he had got £400 for a Blackberry tablet on the Gumtree website.

Another, wearing a pair of stolen Nike trainers, said: "Right now it looks like there isn't a future for young people, that's how I see it."

He added: "We are not doing it for the fun of it, we are doing it for money to survive."

None of the group was concerned about the unprecedented police efforts to catch those responsible.

Because there were so many people looting they believed their chances of not getting caught were "quite good."

The teenagers, speaking on the banks of the Thames opposite the financial centre of Canary Wharf, said they believe inequality is part of the problem.

Referring to wealthy bankers and businessmen, one said: "They are only interested in one pocket, not ours, the pocket over there."



**All insisted they have been doing voluntary work while applying for jobs but often their job applications are not even acknowledged.**

One teenager appealed for the Government to help them and said: "They say are going to help us but I don't see any of it, there has to be more opportunities and jobs.

"Help us at least and then maybe everyone will settle down."