

George Michael told: 'You need help'

Record label bosses are urging George Michael to seek urgent professional help to overcome his cannabis addiction.

The 42-year-old singer, who faces questioning by police for the second time in less than two months, has been told he must check himself into rehab in a last-ditch effort to revive his music career.

The former Wham! star is being investigated by police after he allegedly smashed into three parked cars near his home in Highgate, North London, on Sunday morning.

It is claimed Michael was seen looking dishevelled and staring blankly out of his £60,000 navy blue Range Rover Vogue after it hit a Ford Fiesta at around 7.45am.

After apparently smashing his 4x4's right headlight and scratching its bumper, Michael is said to have hit a Peugeot which then shunted into a third car, a white Rover, stationed a few feet away.

Carole Mallett, a teacher who lives nearby, said: 'I heard a big crash and it sounded quite a long way away. An alarm went off and I thought, "That's nothing serious".

'Then, a few seconds later, I heard an almighty crash, at which point I jumped out of bed and looked out of the window.

'I saw a Land Rover with tinted windows and it had bashed into a Peugeot. I thought it was a criminal from looking at the car. It reversed into a gateway and rushed off.'

She added: 'The three cars were absolutely squashed. There was not an inch between them.

'There were a lot of people milling about in dressing gowns and slippers looking quite shocked and panicked. A little while later, a pick-up truck took away two of the cars.'

Insurance details

Michael is alleged to have driven off without leaving his insurance details - a criminal offence that could see him jailed for up to six months.

He is believed to have dumped his car in a nearby road. A police spokesman said the Range Rover had been left 'unattended' but did not confirm the identity of the driver.

In February Michael was cautioned for possession of cannabis after being found slumped at the wheel of his parked car near Hyde Park.

'George is mortified by this latest embarrassment and is terrified that it will quash his hopes of a career comeback,' said a music insider.

'He has made no secret of his penchant for weed and although he has cut down his smoking in recent months, he has been unable to give it up altogether.

'The main problem is that George believes that lyrically, weed makes him at his most creative. However, this is a crucial year for George and, quite simply, he has got to clean up his act. To this end, he has been urged by both friends and senior record label

executives to spend a few days in a clinic to show that he is willing and able to change his ways.'

Michael's long-term partner, Kenny Goss, spent two months in rehab after checking himself in for alcohol abuse. He is thought to be encouraging Michael to seek similar help for cannabis addiction. It is not known whether Sunday's driving incident was cannabis-related.

Michael started using the class C drug after the death of his mother in 1997 and recently admitted to having smoked up to 25 joints a day.

Despite threatening to retire two years ago after his last album flopped, Michael has secretly been planning a comeback. The star, worth an estimated £60million, has an album and UK tour scheduled for this year.

Yesterday, he remained at home and refused to speak to reporters through his mansion's intercom. A spokesman for the singer was unavailable for comment.

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