

Julia Lopez MP

House of Commons

London

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Our ref: MOPAC170622-D4185

Your Case Ref: JL19635

25 August 2022

Dear Julia,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 July to the Mayor about the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the decision by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to move the MPS into the engage phase of monitoring, and the sale of Hornchurch Police station. I am replying on behalf of the Mayor and in my capacity as the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

HMICFRS has raised very serious concerns about the MPS's performance and I welcome the additional scrutiny and support that these measures will bring. The Mayor has long been clear that wide-ranging reforms are urgently needed for the MPS to regain the trust and confidence of Londoners. A series of appalling scandals have not only exposed deep cultural problems but have damaged the confidence of Londoners in the capital's police service. As the Mayor has been saying for some time, Londoners deserve better. The decision by HMICFRS to move the MPS to the engage phase has laid bare the substantial performance failings by the force. That's why we now need to see nothing less than a new contract forged between the police and the public in London. This means root and branch reforms and systemic change to the MPS's performance and culture.

It will be a crucial first step for the new Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, to start rebuilding trust and credibility with our communities. Sir Mark has made clear that he is determined to be a reforming Commissioner, committed to implementing a robust plan to rebuild trust and confidence in the police and to drive through the urgent reforms and step change in culture and performance Londoners deserve. He has been developing his '100 day plan' which will set the immediate direction for the MPS when he takes office. This plan is being closely linked with the MPS response to the HMICFRS engage process. The Mayor and I will work with HMICFRS and will hold the MPS to account in delivering the police reforms and step change in policing performance and culture that all our communities deserve.

With regards to your specific concerns on resourcing and local policing, the Mayor and I have been clear that this is a priority for the MPS. We have lobbied strongly to ensure the MPS has the officers it needs. Thanks to the Mayor's investment and the national uplift in police officers, the MPS now has more officers than at any time in its history.

In accordance with the Mayor's manifesto commitment to strengthen local policing, a further 650 officers have been committed to the frontline this year. 500 of these are in the new Town Centre Teams. Each team consists of 25 officers and every Basic Command Unit (BCU) in London has at least one team – East Area BCU has two, located in Barking and Ilford. These teams have been deployed to areas of the highest demand as determined by the MPS,

and will no doubt benefit a wide variety of Londoners - not just those who live nearby, but those who visit, work and travel through the areas. In 2018, East Area BCU had 1,210 officers (Full Time Equivalent). It now has 1,560, a substantial increase in resources.

I have been assured by the MPS that the proposed estate in Havering (after taking account of the sale of Hornchurch Police Station) is sufficient to meet the operational requirements including the uplift in police officers, and to meet the commitment that Dedicated Ward Officers start and end their shifts within a 20-minute journey time of their ward.

I can confirm that the discussions regarding the sale of the Hornchurch police station to Havering Council are still ongoing. As you will understand, the content of those discussions remains commercially confidential and any final decisions and timescales will be published by MOPAC in the usual manner.

Thank you for raising your concerns with the Mayor.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime