

MDA No.	1	1	8	2
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Title: Crown Court Backlog

Executive Summary

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 3 June 2020, the Committee held its monthly Q&A session with the Metropolitan Police Service and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. At the meeting, the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree any output from the discussion.

Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Lead members, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed the Committee's letter to the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice.

Decision

That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead Members, agree the Police and Crime Committee's letter to the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice.

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Date 16/06/2020



Printed Name Unmesh Desai AM (Chair, Police and Crime Committee)

Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Notes:

1. The Lead Officer should prepare this form for signature by relevant Members of the Assembly to record any instance where the Member proposes to take action under a specific delegated authority. The purpose of the form is to record the advice received from officers, and the decision made.
2. **The 'background' section (below) should be used to include an indication as to whether the information contained in / referred to in this Form should be considered as exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). If so, the specimen Annexe (attached below) should be used. If this form does deal with exempt information, you must submit both parts of this form for approval together.**

Background and proposed next steps:

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 3 June 2020, the Committee held its monthly Q&A session with the Metropolitan Police Service and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. At the meeting, the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree any output from the discussion.

Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman and party Group Lead members, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed the Committee's letter to the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice. A copy of the letter will be reported back to the Police and Crime Committee at its next formal meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision

Signed by Committee
Services

L J Harvey

Date 12/06/2020

Print Name: Lauren Harvey

Tel: x4383

Financial implications NOT REQUIRED

NOTE: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signed by Finance

Date

Print Name

Tel:

Legal implications

The Police and Crime Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signed by Legal



Date 12/06/20

Print Name

Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Tel: X 4399

Supporting detail/List of Consultees:

Steve O'Connell AM
Sian Berry AM
Peter Whittle AM
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM

Public Access to Information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 – Deferral

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? No

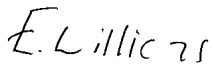
Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

Part 2 – Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form - No

Lead Officer/Author

Signed	Philippa Goffe	Date 12/6/20
Print Name	Philippa Goffe	Tel:
Job Title	Senior Policy Adviser	
Countersigned by Executive Director		Date 12.06.2020
Print Name	Ed Williams	Tel: X4399

Unmesh Desai AM
London Assembly Member for City and East
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee



City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Rt Hon. Robert Buckland QC MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1A 9AJ

(Via email)

10 June 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

Backlog of criminal cases in the Crown Court

I write on behalf of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee to ask you to take urgent action to tackle the growing backlog of criminal cases waiting to be dealt with in the Crown Court. These are the most serious cases and it is vital for victims, witnesses and defendants that such cases proceed as soon as possible.

The Metropolitan Police Service has been targeting serious offenders in the capital to remove danger from our streets. It is important for both the public and the police that this work is supported by these cases getting to court so the offenders can be brought to justice. It is known that time delays add pressure to victims and witnesses and raise the case attrition rate.

The Committee understands the difficulties and delays that the Covid-19 crisis has caused, however, the country is now adapting to a new normal and that must include the criminal justice system.

You will of course be aware of the legal maxim that justice delayed is justice denied, and in that spirit we ask you to acknowledge that the backlog of cases building in the Crown Courts is reaching an unacceptable level and needs to be addressed urgently. This requires action to not only ensure a return to cases being dealt with promptly, but also how to erode the backlog.

I urge you to work with the judiciary to ensure that our criminal justice system is seen to be dealing with serious offenders swiftly and effectively to ensure that the public at large can see justice being done. I would be grateful if you could let the Committee know what steps you and your department will be taking to resolve this by 9 July 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Unmesh Desai', with a horizontal line underneath.

Unmesh Desai AM
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee