

Police and Crime Committee – 9 July 2015**Transcript of Agenda Item 5 - Question and Answer Session with the Mayor of London, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service**

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Then onto item 5, our substantive item today, to question the Mayor of London. Boris, do you wish to make a short statement? Thank you.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I shall, Joanne, and I have quite a lot to say. I will try to get through it quickly. Obviously there has been a great deal of progress in the last year in policing and crime-fighting in London. One of our priorities, as you will recall, was to keep police officers at or around 32,000, and we have made a huge amount of progress with that. That number was achieved in March and it continues to hover roughly at that level, obviously going up and down.

We are making progress with our building stock, with reusing and making better use of our police buildings. We sold Scotland Yard for £370 million, as you will recall. Total receipts now from building sales are £900 million, and that has to be set in context with the satisfaction with ease of getting into contact with the police is at its highest ever level. In spite of disposing of those police stations, people are confident that they can get in touch with the police.

We are doing a lot to ensure that victims get a better service. We are spending £12 million a year across London on victim services since October 2014, doubling the amount of support for victims. It is very, very important. If we are going to get our criminal justice system working properly, we have to get victims willing and able to testify, to reassure them and provide them with the support and the services that they need.

In fighting crime by preventing it, we have the MetTrace SmartWater plan, which I announced the rollout of in the spring, to one in seven of all London homes. We hope to protect against burglary with SmartWater.

We have made substantial progress, though obviously there is a lot more to be done, in making the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) look more like the London that it serves, and now up to 22% of recruits in the MPS are from a black and minority ethnic (BAME) background. I think I am right in saying that the overall mix in the MPS has gone from about 8% to about 12%, maybe more. Maybe it is even as high as 14% now who are BAME. There has been a big increase in the number of volunteer police cadets, up to over 3,600 in the capital. Fantastic progress. There were only 2,400 in 2012. It is a big advance in police cadets, and 54% of those are BAME.

We are doing all sorts of things to crack down on hate crime. We have launched a hate crime reduction strategy. Overall, we are well on target - we are actually ahead of target - to reduce the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) seven key neighbourhood crimes, and they are down by 20% since we launched the programme. Burglary is at its lowest level since 1974. Robbery has fallen by a third. Last year, the fewest murders on record. A great deal has been done, but there are still some challenges and I am sure the Committee will want to come to those because they are important, and we are seeing some crime types stubbornly difficult to get down - the Committee will be familiar with what they are - particularly in domestic violence, rape and sexual crimes, hate crimes and homophobic hate crimes and religious hate crimes. Those are proving quite tough numbers to get down. That may be because of improvements in reporting. There is also an anxiety about some of the figures in violent crime, and I know the Committee will want to talk about that.

We think that this upturn can be explained at least partly by changes in the method of reporting, and you will remember Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) said last year they wanted to see a change in the way these crimes were reported, they wanted to see better reporting, and I am sure that the Commissioner when he arrives may want to say more about that. We think that is one of the factors there because it is a phenomenon that is being repeated across the country. Virtually every force is showing this, and we think there is something going on there with the numbers whilst all other crime types continue to fall. As I say, there is no possible reason for complacency about that. Yes, it is true that we are not seeing these numbers showing up in the accident and emergency (A&E) figures, but they still must be a cause for concern for us. On some of the crimes that have troubled Londoners most profoundly over the years, knife crime, we are still seeing substantial progress. I think knife crime overall is at its lowest level for seven years, but there are still too many kids being stabbed. I look at the numbers every week and it is absolutely heartrending to see how many kids are victims of this kind of crime.

That is the picture at the moment. One thing you will remember is that we are very, very keen to increase confidence. Confidence is rising but too slowly. Confidence is definitely rising but we want to see a much bigger increase in confidence. That is why the body-worn cameras are so important. 20,000 body-worn cameras we are rolling out. I hope they will have a big impact on confidence and on the public's interactions with the police.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you for that. Before we start the questions, we had until about five minutes before this meeting a draft annual report. In fact, five minutes ago we were handed the actual MOPAC Annual Report 2014/15. Can I just check there were no changes between the two versions?

Helen Bailey (Chief Operating Officer, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime): No significant changes, Chair. The final one has the foreword in it. It has a few typos corrected, and one table that was flagged up in the text that was not actually included last time because we were waiting for it.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Perfectly understandable. I apologise to you.

Helen Bailey (Chief Operating Officer, Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime): I do not think you should find any significant changes.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you for that, Helen. That is useful. OK. Can I then go on to start with the questions, and can I just welcome the Commissioner of Police and the Deputy Commissioner for Police?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Chair, sorry we are late.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Morning, Chair. Apologies.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I should congratulate the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner on getting here at all. I know that there is a Tube strike and I apologise to them and to all Londoners.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You should have cycled!

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): They never use the Tube.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You would have been here on time.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): We did set off early, I promise.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): I am sure you did.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Our first question anyway is about the MOPAC 7 data. You set a target to reduce MOPAC 7 crimes by 20%.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Yes.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): How is the MPS progressing against that target and what is still a concern for you? I am going to ask the Mayor first.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Yes, thank you, Joanne. The commitment was to reduce the MOPAC 7 crimes by 20%, and to the best of my knowledge we are well on target there. I think crime overall is down 18% since I became Mayor. The MOPAC 7 crimes: I saw a figure somewhere saying that it was down by - here we go - 19.8% overall since 2012. That is a pretty substantial level of progress. Overall, across the MOPAC 7 crime types, there were 25,000 fewer crimes in 2014 compared to 2013/14. Robbery has fallen by 44%, burglary at its lowest level since 1974, and you have just heard the figures for knife crime. We think substantial progress has been made.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): OK, but the concern, I am assuming, particularly is around violence with injury (VWI).

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Yes.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We can also see that criminal damage and theft of motor vehicles is rising this last year as well. Is that a concern?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Of course. Any increase in any crime type is a cause for concern. The figures I have for theft of motor vehicles actually say it is down 32% compared to March 2012, and obviously it depends which year you are looking at.

On the VWI, perhaps the Commissioner may want to say some more here. I certainly think we have to be very careful about what is happening and we have to --

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We have some questions on this in a moment. If I could hold you on that, and we will go to the reasons for it and whether it is reporting or not.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Sure.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Just on the MOPAC 7, when you originally set the target there was a MOPAC Challenge meeting where you indicated that it was going to be based on a four-year period, and that would mean that you are only about 17% meeting that. Is that still the case or not?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I think the intention of the 2020 Challenge and the MOPAC 7 Challenge was to get these key neighbourhood crimes which affect people very much, psychologically and materially and all the rest of it, down by 20% by 2016. I think that was the idea. It would be over a four-year period you would reduce the MOPAC 7 by 20%. As I understand it - and Stephen may bring fresh light to this question - the MOPAC 7 are down by about 19.8% overall, which is pretty close to 20%, I think the committee will appreciate.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): It was just that at one of the MOPAC Challenges it was indicated that it was over your mayoral term, compared to the previous mayoral term, which would have slightly affected the figures.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): The intention is that it should be down 20% on 2012.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Then can I ask --

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I think that is right. Is that right?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): At the end of the financial year, we achieved a reduction - we thought we were there - at that stage of 19.8% in MOPAC 7 crimes against an objective of 20%. Virtually a year early we were very much there.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We have that. Can I ask then, perhaps for the Commissioner, what is the purpose of Operation Omega? I understand that this is to challenge MOPAC 7 crimes over the next, in effect, two-month period. Is that because you have been given direction from the Mayor that that 20% definitely has to be broken and, therefore, you have been instructed to put extra focus on those MOPAC 7 crimes?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): No.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): No?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Only in a sense that we all want to reduce crime. We all want there to be less people who are stabbed. We want less violence. That is the reason that we have had that operation. The first part, you remember, we talked here previously about Operation Equinox.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Yes.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): That was about violence in public spaces, and that has been running now for a few months and we have seen some progress there in terms of that type of violence. We know that in terms of the violence, clearly there is an increase in the recording of violence, which we acknowledge, but we think a lot of that is because we are actually reporting and recording crime better. We have seen the transition between incidents in our command control logs turning up as better-recorded crime. That has gone from about 60% up to nearly 90%. We have improved our recording of crime. The reason we think that that is true is because we know that London Ambulance Service and health data shows that violence generally has not shifted. We think probably violence has not, but, as the Mayor was saying, there are some types of violence which we are more worried about. Stabbings for those under 25, there has been an increase over these last few weeks. That really is for me the most worrying thing.

In terms of Omega then, that has been about looking at all the crime types, all the seven crime types, and of course the reason they were selected was because although most of them are relatively rare, they are the ones that people most talk about - robbery - the things that people really care about. We want to make sure that we try to achieve that target, but mainly because we want to see less victims. Omega is really just refocusing the 32 boroughs on the things that are most important. We pay most attention to those boroughs and wards where obviously we can have most impact, and that is where we see most progress at the moment, where we start to see that rate of crime slow down and in fact get far better. That was the reason for it.

Len Duvall AM: Sorry, Chair. Can I just clarify that last point? Is Omega about the MOPAC 7 or is it wider crimes, then? I am not quite clear. We are told that this is specifically to deal with the MOPAC 7 issues, that is why you are launching Operation Omega, and it is not other crimes.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): That is how it has been reported to my local Safer Neighbourhood Team

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The short answer is it is about all crime. Although of course we respect and try our best to achieve this target about 20%, but if it was as precise as if we twisted that screwdriver burglary stops, criminal damage, car theft, car damage, it is never quite that precise, as you know, because some of the criminals that we have commit many types of crime. It is not just by crime type. What we are trying to do is to reduce their criminality, some of which will be violence and some of which will be theft. If we deal with the repeat offenders, we will have an impact on all of it, and the things that we know work are not so precise as to say it will only reduce burglary or it will only reduce shoplifting. What you have to do is bear down on criminals, and that is what this is about really, of which the seven are a very important part.

Len Duvall AM: If I hear locally in my area from police officers, "This is just about the MOPAC 7 crimes", I can rightly challenge that on the basis that you have just told me --

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I think it is true in both respects, is it not? One is that we want to have less criminals committing crime, of which the most important ones are the seven.

Len Duvall AM: The most important ones are the seven?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): All crimes are important, of course, but murder is probably more serious than shoplifting, and we treat it with appropriate seriousness. We are trying to reduce all crime, and I think we are showing generally crime has come down in the last two years. There was a 1% increase in all crime last year, as you are aware, but of course we have made great progress in the more serious types of crimes which we agreed were a priority. We want to make progress against all of them.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): In my boroughs, it is being talked about from police that the Operation Omega is about the Mayor's MOPAC 7 and making the Mayor meet his target of 20%.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Right. I cannot --

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I have asked questions in those meetings to police as to whether that means that other crimes are not going to get the same focus, and I have not had a confident answer back.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I cannot account exactly for how it has been communicated, but I think both things are true. We want to see less crime and we do want to see the MOPAC 7 come down. There is no doubt that we know that things like, for example, cyber-crime are hugely underreported. We need to do far more about it. That does not appear in everybody's list, but we have to do something about it. Sexual offences do not always get mentioned as often, and the investigation of it, but we try to increase reporting. As you know, it is a complex picture, but I think having some simple priorities, which the MOPAC 7 gives us, and trying to get a big reduction in that I think is a sensible thing. We were doing really well with it. We have a blip. We want to make sure a blip does not become a trend.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): How are you making sure that the targets, particularly around Operation Omega, do not lead to perverse incentives? This is a debate the Home Secretary has raised as well, that a target culture means that there is an incentive for officers perhaps not to record certain crimes because they do not want them to be showing up in the data. Are you monitoring that robustly?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes. My general position has always been that I have one very clear target, which is to reduce crime. I want to see less people who are victims of violence. I want to see less people who are victims of theft. That is the target because it means that whatever last year's figure was, I want to see less of it. Now, can we be precise and say, "If you do X, you get a 2.3% reduction"? We have not been that clever yet, but I do know that if we do some things well, crime will reduce. It is very difficult to be precise about how much it reduces in any one year, but I think with the simple determination to reduce it and working with partners, you can have a major impact. I think that is what we have shown. Equally, in this big city, sometimes you have to reassert yourself, and that is what we are in the process of doing.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Chair, there was a public statement very recently from the Office of National Statistics that still monitors crime recording, and it is very clear in the quote. It says,

"The renewed focus on the quality of crime recording is thought to have led to an improved compliance with national recording standards, leading to proportionately more crimes reported to the police being recorded by them."

The ratio of those that are reported to recorded, there seems to be a renewed focus on that, quite properly, as we know, so many crimes are underreported. The MOPAC 7 crimes, which a great deal of thought was put in the selection of those seven crimes, all of them are victim-based crimes. All of them are the crimes that blight neighbourhoods right across London. There was a mission set by the Mayor to try to see those reduce over a four-year period, and I think we should celebrate the fact that there has been such a dramatic reduction in those very crimes that blight our neighbourhoods across London. We are not there yet but we are close to being there.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Craig [Mackey], I think you have a job on performance monitoring. Can I ask about the performance monitoring you are doing on the perverse incentives and targets? Particularly, I presume you could look at and compare boroughs to see whether there is anything that seems to be out of kilter.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes, we can, and we look at boroughs. To give some reassurance, we have not made any changes to the audit regime. The audit regime in terms of compliance with recording standards is in there. We have the data so that when Territorial Policing do their performance regime, you do not just look at the sheet that says whether you are red, green or yellow; you actually look at

the compliance regimes behind it as well to make sure that is there. We can do that down to a borough level. That data is available on our dashboard and is available for us to look at on a regular basis. As the Commissioner touched on, the compliance regime around violent crime is very high in terms of doing it. One of the things we look at in this as crimes move is we absolutely look at whether the compliance regime shows there has been any change in data at all alongside it. No, the two absolutely have to go together.

If people misinterpret it and somehow say that this is about trying to move crime, we have just been around that circle so many times in my policing career, it just defeats us. It has to be clear. The crime is there; put it on the system. That is the message that has been given consistently by all of us. That is why we look at the two bits of data together.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Mr Mayor, you mentioned the percentage of BAME in the MPS. Can you tell me how many women?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I am so sorry, Jenny, I do not have those numbers.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I am just curious from an equalities point of view.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Yes. 25%.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): 25%. That has gone up slightly, has it not?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes. I think we are recruiting female officers at the rate of about one in three. It is increasing, but it is not one in two yet.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): OK. Mr Mayor, I wanted to ask you about the rise in VWI. I have a chart here which shows that it is up 19%. You previously said that this is all to do with improved reporting rather than an increase in the violence. Is that still what you think?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): What I said was I think what I said to you just now, which is that I do not think you could rule out the role of the change in reporting that Stephen has just alluded to. As far as I understand the position, the figures are echoed around the country. There is a similar phenomenon going on everywhere, but that is no reason for complacency about what is happening in London, and I think we should be absolutely on top of it. I think the efforts to combat rowdiness in town centres, the effect of alcohol: all these things are part of the mix and we need to have a real drive on this.

The only consolation that I have at the moment is that the rise in VWI reporting is not being reflected in any of the A&E figures or the ambulance figures. There is a disjuncture there between the increase in the level of reporting and the real signs of injury. We have to get on top of it. We have to work out why it is happening, if it is a phenomenon of reporting or if there is more that we should be doing in town centres late at night with patrols and so on and so forth. We did have a big operation in the last year to look at what was going on in places like Croydon and Brixton and town centres where there were spikes.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You have touched on a wider issue actually, which is that there are other factors involved here, wider social issues that could impact on figures, but we do not have time to discuss those, unfortunately. I am sure you are aware that young people tend to report less crime than adults, i.e. they are less inclined to report crime, and not everybody of course will go to A&E; therefore, those figures may not represent the full picture.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I think that is absolutely true, but it is nonetheless curious that the increase in reporting has not been matched by an increase in A&E admissions, and that is something that I think is peculiar.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Why do you think criminal damage offences have increased in the last year?

Len Duvall AM: Quickly, we should know that when we started with the objective of the reduction of 20%, it would be fair to say criminal damage was lower than other similar cities to start with. We saw further reductions since 2012 and we are seeing a slight increase. This is very important --

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): We have seen a decline of 14% compared to 2012.

Len Duvall AM: A slight increase in them recently. It is against a background of low to start with, going down and then slightly rising.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): All these figures must be seen in the context of a very, very considerable decline. Criminal damage is down 14% on 2012. It is what I have said to you many times over the last seven years. When you descend a ski slope, you do not continue at the same gradient the whole way down. You jink, and you may even go up a bit, but then you continue your downward course, and that is obviously what we are intending to do.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Going back to VWI, presumably you think that this is all going to plateau off now because we have the reported figures and we have the reports from A&E and we have the recorded figures. Do you think that it is going to plateau, that it is not rising?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): The truth is we do not know exactly but we are digging into it as best we can and we are using every possible resource to combat it, particularly in town centres late at night and wherever the hotspots of VWI seem to be. Things like the murder rate, which is a very impressive and powerful indicator of what is going on really in a city, I think is still at an all-time low, or the lowest in our lifetimes, virtually, and that is an extraordinary achievement by everybody involved in policing in London.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It is probably also an extraordinary achievement by A&E, who probably are getting better and better at saving lives.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Yes. Conservative handling of the health service. I think that is absolutely right.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I was talking about wider social issues and not making life harder for people, which means that assaults and domestic violence, for example, are more likely to rise. I think the Commissioner wanted to say something.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I was only going to say about that point about plateauing. I think it is a fair point and one that we have talked about. The best advice that I can give at the moment: this conversion rate of reports to crimes, back in March 2014, just over a year ago, was running at about 59%. In May of this year, it was at 82%. Quite a significant change.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Good.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Assuming we want to get to 100%, it will never be perfect, but --

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): What is that figure about?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): 59% is the conversion rate between when we get a report and we get a log on the command and control log, and then how many of those which are reported as assault, when we investigate, get recorded as one. There is always a debate when we get to the scene, "Was it what was first said?" Equally, we want to see a high conversion rate. It had been running, as I say, in March of last year at 59%. It went up to 82% by May and it has gone up successively in intervening months.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): What do you put that down to?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I will just finish off. I will come to your point. That means that potentially is another 18% of better recording, potentially.

In terms of why it is better, it is because we have applied ourselves to it better. The HMIC said, "Look, you are not converting them. You should be recording more crime". Actually, as Craig said, we have put better audit regimes in to make sure that is true. We supported that. We have a crime registrar, an internal person who challenges us about whether we are recording properly. We have an incident registrar, who looks through and says, "Hang on, that was reported as a violence thing but it never transposed to be a crime". That has got far better. I think that is the reason for me, the main reason, but we have to be careful and make sure that that is the only reason. We are taking action regardless of that, but I think it is a reasonable explanation of where we are.

Len Duvall AM: Very quickly, sorry, can I go back to Operation Omega? It is about messages. For the last year you have been warning people like me up and the rest of the public, saying, "If we keep going in a certain direction about resources of policing, we are going to need to prioritise. We are going to need to start looking at how we tackle policing issues", in that sense. I welcome what you said that we should tackle all crime, because I think that is the mantra of the MPS and should not move off that, that you should never tell anybody, "Sorry, we are not doing it", despite your screening out policies, which I think should be more transparent, and you should be more open with people about what you can do and what you cannot do.

Operation Equinox. I welcome the Mayor's comments saying we should get to grips with this because I do not accept that the stabbings in the last weeks, which in my constituency have been considerable in terms of Greenwich and Lewisham – have been considerable – it has not just happened in the last couple of weeks. The trends in youth violence have been there for some time. I have raised this with you on a number of occasions, both of you, and I was not at the last Mayor's Question Time, but we have seen it there.

Plateauing in violence in public spaces, which Equinox was charged with and I think was doing a relatively good job in terms of outcomes, we are now moving to Operation Omega. Yes, you can have operations about doing that, but plateauing is not good enough. We need to go down.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): No. Absolutely.

Len Duvall AM: The question that I am really asking is: where does violence – against particularly young people now – feature in the hierarchy of crimes? Maybe we do not talk about that, but I think we do. I think we do. Where are we?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): You are right, Len. I think Bernard is right; all crimes matter, and every victim of crime matters to us and to the MPS. That has to be right. However, crimes of violence against kids, stabbings, these are things that are absolutely appalling. They have deep psychological consequences and of course terrible physical consequences. The culture of carrying a knife and going equipped has to be stamped on. In your area, you are absolutely right. I have seen the figures and you are right to raise it. You are totally right to continue your campaign. The Government, following a lot of pressure from City Hall, is bringing in a law that means if you are caught twice with a bladed weapon you will face a mandatory custodial sentence, and I think that is right. Compare gun crime and knife crime. We cracked down incredibly hard, I think I am right in saying, on guns. It became a really serious offence to be caught with a gun in London. Gun crime – you will have the figures, Bernard – has gone down by about 50%, perhaps more. We need to achieve the same with knife crime. I am not saying it will be easy because obviously anybody can have a kitchen knife, but it is perfectly obvious, if you are on the street with a knife, and you are caught once and you are caught again, we are going to come down on you very, very hard. I think that is the right message to be sending out. Bernard, you want to say more about tactics.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): First of all, just in terms of plateauing, it was not my proposal that we were trying to achieve a plateau. I think we are just trying to explain what might happen about recorded crime. I agree with you. It is exactly the same as the Mayor said: any knife crime is serious. Stabbing is always a risk of murder. For me it is always difficult. The point about weeks was only in the context of a few weeks. I think we would say something to the order of 12 to 16 weeks. Of course, that is three to four months. I do not disagree with you that the trend has been there.

We have only talked about Equinox and we have only talked about Omega. Actually, I have the wrong name there! As you know, we have a lot of operation names. I think two of the fundamental things we are changing too. Number one is to reinvigorate the gang work. I think we are doing some great work. I am proud of what we have achieved. The danger I think I might have mentioned to you before is, after we have been involved in looking at some of these gangs after a while, we can start to go for some of the longer-term hits, like people who are supplying drugs into the counties. Of course that needs doing, but we do not need to lose focus on the people who are stabbing people, and I think there is some sense in which that might have happened. Good work is being done but it is getting longer-term, so we have refocused that.

The second one is around stop and search. I am proud of the fact that we have reduced stop and search by two-thirds and are still arresting more people. However, assuming stop and search has a benefit, there is a point at which that will start to have a negative effect. I cannot say that that is happening here, but I am open-minded to the possibility we have to do more of it, provided it is well-targeted on the right people who are carrying knives. We are going to do that. I do not want to get back to 1.4 million, which is what we inherited. I think that was far too much. It is not only the things we have talked about. There are other things to be done.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): OK. Perhaps, Commissioner, can you clarify? The MOPAC 7 that you are monitoring, is it a 20% reduction in each borough or is it overall the whole of London?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Probably the Deputy Mayor would answer better. We take it as a London-wide target. Of course we would like every one of them to achieve 20% or more, frankly, but probably that does not always happen. We see a variable performance

right across London. It is a huge city, and with 32 boroughs that will happen. Our overall aim, broadly, is to reduce it by about a fifth, and everybody will play a part, and sometimes some will be up, some will be down, but it is our joint team objective to get it down by about a fifth.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): Is Operation Omega aimed at trying to reduce in particular boroughs where they have not achieved 20%, because ideally you would like it to be in every borough, to try to get those boroughs down?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): What it is noticing is that some are doing well and some are not doing as well. Of course, if you do more work with the ones who are not doing as well, either they are very unfortunate or they could work smarter. It could be a mixture of both at times. Our intention is to concentrate to get the whole down. One of the ways you best achieve that with those who are least effective is to make sure they work in a different way, if that is going to make a difference, and I think it can.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): Are you extracting officers from the boroughs that are doing well to go and target the boroughs that are not doing so well?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): No. We do not start shifting people around from Croydon to Lambeth in that way. The only thing we do have is some flexible resources which we can apply as a priority: the Territorial Support Group (TSG), the Dogs [Support Unit].

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): Yes, of course.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Some of our London-wide squads. That is one of the things that they can do in their tasking, is to say, "Right, we have a particular problem here, you can go and support that borough", more than you might support a borough that does not have the same pressure. It is the flexible resource across the MPS that we tend to task.

The other flexibility we have, frankly, is a financial one. Where we have the financial opportunity, if we can support the town centre with things like overtime, then we will do it. I do not like to run an organisation on overtime, but one of the benefits for an emergency service is that if you make money available, officers, frankly, will work longer and we get more out of them. They are the source of flexibilities we use.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): You are absolutely clear that you are not taking neighbourhood officers from, I do not know, somewhere like Kingston and putting them somewhere like Westminster or Lambeth.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): No. As you know, the only time we tend to do that is the aid issue, the perennial problem of essentially Westminster, quite often. When we saw 70,000 people marching in Westminster about ten days ago, I think we had 1,600 officers, and of course they came from the boroughs essentially. We had TSG as well. We have that type of drain. I think on average we are moving about 450 officers every day around London, mainly around protest or some big event. Generally, we would not move them for this sort of thing. You can get local arrangements. Two adjacent boroughs, perhaps Lambeth and Southwark, will work together if they have a joint problem. That is common sense. However, we will not move people around on the basis of that. We have a resource deployment formula, which is open and you have seen and you know where we put people, but we will not change the posting on the basis of this.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): No. I just wanted to be clear.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Sorry it is a long answer, but the only final thing I would say is that of course if it was a big trend, say a particular borough looked like things were really changing, there had been a mass migration and the population had shifted or something fundamental had moved, that should represent itself in the formula for how many officers. Once a year we will review that, but not short-term.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): No. For Operation Omega, you are not moving neighbourhood officers from one borough to another in order to meet the 20%?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): No.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): That is very clear. Thank you.

Stephen Green Halgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Absolutely clear on the target is that it is a London-wide target. The spread between boroughs and performance is extremely wide. There are some boroughs that have achieved almost a 30% reduction since the baseline at 2012. Other boroughs, very small levels of reduction. It is right to have a borough-by-borough approach to these things, but the target is for London.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The other thing, just to feed in, targets are a generally good thing to try to encourage people to get better, but of course it depends where you start. If you have a really well performing borough with an excellent Borough Commander and you have already achieved great reduction, a 2% reduction will probably be the most you could achieve. If you have something that is not doing very well, someone who comes in and says, "Right, we are going to sort this out", and sorts it by a 30% reduction -- I think you always have to look at the context, and the best we can do here is probably to share the broad picture.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): That is fine. That is helpful. Thank you.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Commissioner, you reduced the amount of stop and search, which I thought was an incredibly smart thing to do, but you have now said that the reduction of stop and search has perhaps gone too far in some areas. I am finding it difficult to equate the things I am hearing here, because either we do not have an increase in violent crime, in which case the reduction in stop and search has not had an impact at all, or there is an increase in violence, in which case you might be justified in increasing stop and search.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The particular thing I would say, Jenny, is that first, in terms of general violence, what we are seeing as an increase looks to us, with all the evidence, as though it is more likely to be a recording issue. However - I said this right at the beginning - I am worried about the number of young people who have been stabbed. That I think is a definite change. We see that in the health data, and it is the sort of stuff that should get reported, I think, more often. As you said, not always people report things, but in this area, people who get stabbed generally go for medical attention. We have some good data on that.

The reason the stop and search is important, of course we are talking generally, not always, about the casual carrying of knives. Of course you can get a stabbing in a home where a knife is available; you can get a prearranged stabbing. On the whole, the ones that worry me the most, if you look at the data, it is where

there is either a casual meeting of gangs, there is a dispute in the street, which could have been a fight and ends up in a stabbing. What we have to do is, as the Mayor said, first of all, to have a legislative framework that dissuades people from carrying knives at all, and if they are going to carry them twice, they get locked up and go to prison. Number two is we have to find them with the knives, which is why I think stop and search can be effective, but not at the volume we were seeing before. It is that reason: yes, an increase in stabbing young people; I am not persuaded yet that the violence change is other than recording.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): If the stop and search did not work before, when a lot of stop and search was being done, and it did not actually affect the amount of violence then, why do you think it will now?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I think it did. If you remember what happened, we reduced the stop and search by two-thirds but increased the number of people we arrested. We had gone down from 1.4 million by two-thirds, and the number arrested every year went from 45,000 to 47,000 in that period. Instead of making arrests in only less than one in ten cases, about 7%, it has gone up to about one in five. It can be an effective tactic. What we saw was that as it dropped, we got more effective at it, but there will be a point at which by reducing it too much in some areas, if officers start to get worried about using the power, it could be that people wander around with knives and we are not intervening where we should.

Of course, as you know, there are two powers to stop and search. The first one is section 1. You have to have a clear reason for that stop and search, and that is set out in law. Now we have the section 60 powers. They have been reduced by about 95%. Those powers are random stop and search in an area declared by a senior police officer. It was the Deputy who noticed that they had become like confetti, and actually, ironically, the more you have, the less you can do, because you cannot police all of them. They have been reduced, and we will have a look at that to see whether we need more application of section 60s. We needed to reduce them. We needed to make them more effective.

The final thing is, in the time we are talking about this reduction and the increase in arrests, we have seen a two-thirds reduction in the number of complaints. I think, as you know, the trust in the MPS, one of the things that will lead it is not only how many we do, but how we do them, those stop and searches. I think we can show we have improved, but unless we are going to stop them, there will be a point at which it will have a negative effect. We have some evidence that that might be the case.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I do not understand. If it is only better recording, where is the evidence that more stop and search is going to have an impact?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I think what we have seen is --

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It is almost like saying, "A cat has a tail; a dog has a tail; therefore, a cat is a dog".

Tony Arbour AM: It is not.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I will not follow this metaphor too far, but --

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It is. If it is only a recording issue, where is the evidence that stop and search actually make a difference?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I understand exactly what you are saying, but surely what we are saying is over the last three and a half years, two or three things have happened. We have reduced stop and search by two-thirds, and during that time we have seen far less violence in terms of the serious violence: the shootings, the stabbings and the murders. It looked like it was working. We have seen a later increase in reporting of crime. Despite reducing stop and search during that time, we still increased the number of people arrested who were arrested with knives. We are sure we can do less of it generally, but made it more effective.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): No, I understand all that. I understand all that, but I am obviously not making myself clear. I had better draw a graph or something. If it is only better recording and actually you are getting more arrests, do you think perhaps the better recording is a result of doing less stop and search because there is a little bit less aggravation on the streets between the police and the public?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): It is always a possibility of other causes. Remember when I took that decision nearly four years ago now to reduce stop and search. There was a risk, because it could have been that murders went through the roof. It could have been that we were seeing lots more people stabbed, and you would have been now asking me, "Why the hell did you reduce stop and search and why did you let crime get out of hand?" but it was not the only thing we did. There were two things we did. We reduced stop and search and made it more effective. We did the gang work. The gangs, as you know, are a collection of young people who, sadly, get violent and are randomly violent. If you can do the two things together, I think you can make a real difference. You have good intelligence then about who to stop and search, you are concentrating on the people who are repeat offenders, you are making stop and search more effective and fair, and I think that has paid dividends for us, but you cannot keep doing something if there starts to be a change in the profile of crime. I think it is a reasonable reaction, but I do not want to see us go back to 1.4 million.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I will go the Mayor. You have talked or you have committed to introducing a new Sentencing Unit. Where are you with that?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Sentencing units, Stephen. Where are we with sentencing units?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is something that we are doing. It is a question of when you intervene and when you choose to challenge the criminal justice system. I am sure we can provide an update on where we are with that particular project, but I think as far as I am concerned we are delivering the manifesto commitment with regard to the monitoring of sentencing, but we are not choosing to intervene without due cause, and often --

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): A commitment is a commitment. I do not understand making promises and then breaking them. Anyway, if you will give us an update, that is absolutely fine.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Presumably there is a Sentencing Unit within the MOPAC, Stephen.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, there is. There is a Sentencing Unit, but it is choosing which sentences you challenge. There have been at least three or four occasions over the last year where we have been choosing whether we wanted to challenge the sentence or not.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): One thing, obviously, that there has been a conspicuous success on is the Enfield Law, where we led the way, saying there should be mandatory sentences for carrying a knife, and Michael Gove [Secretary of State for Justice] announced that the Government is going to enact that. That is terrific news.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): The reason we asked the question is because reference to the Sentencing Unit was not included in the latest update to the Greater London Authority's (GLA) Investment and Performance Board where it had previously been.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Right, well I --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We will make sure we do that in future. There has been an occasion where we have been on the cusp of challenging a particular sentence which we thought was far too lenient. The Sentencing Unit is there, and that happens on occasion. Obviously, as a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, I then review the situation with colleagues, with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and with the police, and then on advice and on extra information we have often chosen not to do that. What we do is we track areas where we think the criminal justice system is not performing, and then we would want to seek to challenge judiciously. That is the purpose of the Sentencing Unit. So far, that has not arisen.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): An update afterwards would be very useful --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Of course. We will do that.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): -- and perhaps any places where you have intervened, and the result would be --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We have not intervened so far, but we have been on the point of intervening on several occasions and we can give you an update on that.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: This question is about violence and serious youth violence, and obviously I state as a particular interest to me at the moment, having had a son beaten up in Leicester Square about ten days ago.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I am very sorry about that. I saw that. I was very sorry, Victoria.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: Not, fortunately, with a knife, but he tried to get help from local shops, and ran in and said, "I am being attacked" and was very upset that neither of the two establishments - I think is the best way of putting it - on Coventry Street offered him any place of safety. I think that is disappointing for our society.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I agree very much with you, Victoria. I wonder whether the Borough Commander in Westminster has been apprised of this and what steps they are taking to interrogate the management of those establishments about their treatment of somebody who is clearly in distress and in need of refuge.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: I did write to the Commissioner, and I hope that you have taken the opportunity of passing it on.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): One of the things I would say, though, is that there are schemes that work very well.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: Yes, I agree.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The CitySafe schemes.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: We are one at City Hall.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): They are wonderful. They are championed. The voluntary sector does an awful lot of good. I think particularly it started in this part of London, and I think what we are saying is that needs to extend more to other parts of London, to the West End, and it is a fantastic scheme. We have to have many more places of safety for young people to be able to turn to and get help.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Have they caught the kids concerned?

Victoria Borwick AM MP: Not yet, no.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Presumably there is closed-circuit television (CCTV) of the event.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: Absolutely, and such a public area. No, I just think that it is a shame, 10.30pm on a Saturday evening. We are not talking about late. We are talking about a busy area. It is just that I think it is a shame that people do not all feel that they have a duty --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): To have a safe haven, yes.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: If somebody turned up at your door, within reason, I am sure you would take them in --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You would help them, yes, definitely.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: -- as I am sure we would here and other places. I just want to really use this opportunity to say to people, for heaven's sake, it is part of our community duty.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Open your door.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: We talk about London being a friendlier city. This is all our duty.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): How is he now?

Victoria Borwick AM MP: Fortunately, making a recovery, but a bit shocked that at 10.30pm at night this sort of thing can happen. I am sure the Commissioner will have passed it on appropriately.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The Borough Commander will deal with it.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you. Victoria, do you want to do your formal question?

Victoria Borwick AM MP: Yes, of course. If we may, we are just moving on now to violence against women and girls, and of course particularly about rape victims, if we may. Perhaps you can give us an update about the performance monitoring framework and how that is progressing.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): If I start, this is an area obviously where we know these are under-reported and we want to get accurate recording. Therefore, the performance framework has to be very thoughtful. The first thing is not to be concerned by an increased amount of reporting of these offences, because clearly that is against the backdrop of many cases not being reported to the police. We keep monitoring that. When we see a rise in sexual offences, that should not be an unduly alarming fact. We want to see that confidence.

The next stage is obviously confidence within the criminal justice system, and the objective there is to see far fewer cases that fall down because of the lack of support for victims through that very difficult process, which is why the Mayor and I were very keen on ensuring that we co-commission with health effectively the safe havens, and I have visited several; I am sure the Mayor has as well. The one in St Mary's [Hospital] you will have seen as well. That is a fantastic service that is provided to victims. That is now being co-commissioned between the National Health Service (NHS) and MOPAC.

Lastly, we want more of the perpetrators to be held to account. We look not at the percentage, which is the wrong thing to do, but the absolute numbers that are brought to justice, and that is the performance framework we use for violence against women and girls. I chair a panel with Joan Smith [Co-Chair of the Mayor of London's Violence Against Women and Girls Panel], who is a great leader in this area. That meets regularly. The framework invites colleagues from both the police service and the wider charitable sector. The performance framework needs to be attuned to the problems of people not having the confidence to come forward in the first place.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: When do you take that balance? I think we all accept that more people reporting is good. When do you take the balance of, "OK, more people are reporting. How are we actually tackling it?" Eventually there must be the point that we have increased sufficiently so that people are confident of reporting, and yet we do need to make sure we are actually tackling the problem.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I would probably defer to the police about when that point would be, but my understanding is that there is such a lag between the rate of offences and those where people have the courage to come forward. That is why we see this plethora of historic cases, where people are so traumatised, they first of all want to feel safe, and then they come forward many years later. That is why the criminal justice system is spending so much time on historic cases as well as cases that are very current. I think we just have to recognise the difficulty of that in order to get justice for victims where the event happened some time ago.

I think it is hard to know the answer to that, and I do not want to give you a glib answer to something that is such a hard and difficult question to answer easily.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I think we asked this question because when we initially did our victims scrutiny we saw that MOPAC 7 had specific targets. We were concerned that other crimes perhaps would not get the same impetus. We asked MOPAC, and you said you were developing a robust performance monitoring framework for the MPS.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I have just outlined it to you. That is the framework.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We raised it specifically with --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): That is not for the MPS. That is actually for the whole system, including the part the police play in tackling this area. I have just outlined to you the three factors that we looked at.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): When we asked this question again last year, March 2014, we were told by MOPAC that you were still actively talking about how best to use the data to do that performance monitoring. I am just wondering whether that has become a more sophisticated performance monitoring --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It has become much clearer because we have invited the discussion and the debate, and I can provide you with the documentation that backs up that we are looking at success along those three dimensions.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): OK.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Chair, probably just to address one of the points that Victoria raised, first of all in terms of the numbers of crimes in this area, the amount of sexual violence is excluded from the reductions. Therefore, we are accepting that there is always this possibility -- well, we want to get more reporting.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: I had assumed you were totally overloaded. I did not ask the question with an answer. You might have said, "We are so overloaded with these historical cases, we are having a very difficult time with the current ones".

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): That is what I was just about to go on to.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: Yes. Sorry.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): At the moment, the research generally shows that until probably about 18 months ago, about 80% of sexual crimes that are committed are not reported. We have a huge gap. A huge part of the iceberg is below the surface. We have seen over the last two years in the MPS alone an increase of about 82% in reporting of crime and recording of it. That has been matched around the country. We think it is a post Jimmy Savile effect. Of that 80% that has increased, around a quarter of it is older crimes, and by older we mean one year or more. Of course, some of it is clearly older. It is a significant proportion. There will come a point, as you say, and it is a question I ask quite a lot: when do you get to a point when it is a real increase or it is a real reduction? It has all been increases over the last few years. I am not sure we can be precise, but that is the best piece of information I can give you that we work with. Broadly, there has been seen to be an 80% underreporting, and they are the figures we have, and we have had an 82% increase over the last two years, of which a quarter is old stuff.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: Do these figures include male rape too? Inevitably that is an area that is underreported. Again, it is rather secretive.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): They do, but I think that is even more under-recorded, or underreported and under-recorded. Virtually any sexual offence is a difficult thing for people to talk about. I think it also is for men.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: Absolutely. Thank you very much.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Sorry. The only final thing I would say is that of course what we also look at are the different categories of rape. All are serious and all are subject to life imprisonment, should that happen, but also by the circumstances. Is it where the people involved had no previous relationship, which I will term “stranger”? Is it where they had a very brief relationship, they met for one night and then the attack happened? Is it one where there has been a long-term relationship of 20 years and then it is sometimes a break by divorce or whatever? Unfortunately human behaviour is ultimately variable, and in this area particularly. We try to look at that, if ‘typology’ is the right word, that we look in that way as well. They all are going in a broadly similar way, except that stranger rape, the attack in the street where people have never met, does not seem to be raising at the same rate we see in the reporting of the more private thing that often happens in people’s homes.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): It may be a further thought to throw into the increase in reporting. I do not think it is just necessarily the effect of the wider publicity that Savile and other cases have given the whole syndrome. It is also possible, I think, that the greater availability of people in whom you can confide may be important, and in that sense the investment that we have been making in rape crisis centres, in havens and so on, is valuable in the sense that it is bringing more of these crimes to light.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The other thing, Chair, I would mention, I think we have shared already, we had the piece of work carried out by The Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC¹.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): She came to our last meeting, actually, and Pat Gallan QPM [Assistant Commissioner, MPS] was here as well.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Good. In my view it was a profound piece of work and she has made some excellent suggestions about how we deal with things, the whole service and of course statutory change, because she makes a point particularly I presume she made with you, that we know that 80% of the victims who come forward are vulnerable, sometimes by alcohol usage or drugs or sometimes psychiatrically ill, but to remove the defence that the victim was drunk and, therefore, they could not consent. I think that is a profound thing that Parliament will have to consider.

Victoria Borwick AM MP: OK. We will have to take the message back.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): I want to move on to public confidence and perception. I would like to ask the Mayor. Given you had a target to increase confidence by 20%, as measured by the Independent Crime Survey for England and Wales, that would be moving from 62% to 75% by March next year.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): We are nowhere near there.

¹The Rt Hon Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC was commissioned by the MPS and CPS to conduct an independent review into the investigation and prosecution of rape in London.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): In your opening remarks you said confidence is rising but too slowly, but actually it has flatlined. It is now at 63%; you have only gone up 1% overall. Do you accept that you are not going to meet this target in increasing public confidence in the police?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Right. I think that what you have described coheres with what I said earlier on, which is it is rising but too slowly.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): 1%. A small rise. Very small rise.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I think the terms I was using were accurate. What we have to do is boost that. I think that there are lots of parts of it. There are the recruitment policies. It is making the MPS look more like London. The handling of things like stop and search, I think the Commissioner has been very clear about that. I think we are all agreed about the importance of stop and search as a tool of crime-fighting but that it has to be done sensitively and you cannot have communities feeling that they are systemically being made to feel adversarial to the police. That is no good at all. There has to be trust, there has to be communication, there has to be contact, and that is hugely important to building up confidence.

I am pleased by the changes in the composition of the MPS, again, that we have made progress but it is not fast enough. 8% to whatever it is now, 12% BAME is something, and I think the cohort that is being recruited now has a much higher BAME proportion, but again, not fully reflecting [London]. I think it is up to 22%. What may be a game-changer, my hope is - we have discussed this before - that one thing that will really help relations is body worn cameras because people will think when they do interact with the police whatever happens they cannot be 'fitted up' or it will be less easy for them to be 'fitted up'. You will recall a recent case of a demonstrator in Parliament Square who was very badly treated by the police. That was totally recorded on the officer's camera in such a way as to protect or vindicate that victim and to give him his rights, and to make sure the officer concerned was properly dealt with. The other way around, the police will have the confidence of knowing that when someone makes a false complaint against them they have some protection themselves. That will also be beneficial.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): I want to ask the Mayor - because Stephen [Greenhalgh] we ask you things every month - Mr Mayor, you said that body worn cameras are going to be the game-changer.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I said I hoped they would.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): That is a really good point.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I hope they will be. I cannot promise that they will be, I hope that they will be.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): That is going to take, obviously, some time for people to know about it, see it and be aware of these cases. Do you think maybe the target was overly ambitious? 20-20-20 sounded very convenient. It is a great number and it is a great headline, but actually was it too ambitious to try to increase confidence by that amount?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Why should we be anything less than ambitious about something as important as confidence in policing in London? It is our duty to be ambitious.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): Do you think then maybe something has gone wrong in how the MPS has approached trying to deal with this?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): This is a difficult problem. There are all sorts of historic issues wrapped up in this whole question of confidence in policing. It cannot be tackled overnight. Confidence is something that can vanish very fast and needs to be restored very painstakingly.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Can I say that you are right to say and challenge us that this is going to be a target that is extremely hard, if not impossible, to meet. The boldness of the ambition was founded on the fact that public confidence in policing is driven by very clear factors. The ability to engage with all communities in London is an absolutely critical driver; how you handle and tackle crime, how you deal with antisocial behaviour, and the just use of the powers that the police have. We know that is incredibly important that does rise.

We need to recognise that whilst the London figure is flat there are parts of London that have seen seismic increases in public confidence in policing. Greenwich, for instance, has had a 14% increase in public confidence. Richmond upon Thames, 11%. Southwark, 11%. Islington, 10%. Haringey - the Chair's borough - 8% increase in confidence from an incredibly low base.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Well, there must be some that are declining.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The difficulty actually, Caroline, is how do you operationalise something like public confidence in policing so the police can do something about that. That is a tougher challenge and one which the MPS are, bit by bit, putting into place. As the Deputy Commissioner once put it, you walk and you chew gum. You cut crime and you seek to boost the confidence in the service that you provide the public.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): You boost confidence by cutting crime. It may be that if we continue with the progress that we are seeing in cutting crime - and all the reassurances and accessibility remain high and indeed improves - there will come a tipping point. People will suddenly start to view the MPS in a much more favourable way. That is obviously what I would hope.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): Also your point that you muttered was absolutely right, if some boroughs are going up considerably there are clearly some that may well be falling. That needs to be looked at.

I wanted to ask the Deputy Mayor something specific. It was very clear that your target was based using the Crime Survey for England and Wales. In the annual report you have now changed it and you are quoting the MPS's own Public Attitude Survey. Are you now changing the basis on which you measure it or is this a mistake in your report?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Absolutely not. There is one Police and Crime Plan that starts out and sets the direction of travel. The Crime Survey for England and Wales is extremely useful as an indicator of public confidence for London. It then can be compared to how the MPS performs against other police forces in the country. Therefore the Crime Survey for England and Wales is the target that we are trying to reach and that is what we look at.

The Public Attitude Survey enables us to have a richer feel for where public confidence in policing is rising. Also, as you quite rightly said, where public confidence in policing is flat-lining or even declining.

We use both surveys to get the full picture. The mission is around ensuring that we see the rise in the Crime Survey for England and Wales data.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): I am glad you have clarified that because that is what we had expected. It feels a bit misleading that you are bringing in the other.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We sent a draft for you to comment on so we can sort that out and make sure that we are very clear about that. That is the position.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): That will be very helpful. Thank you for that.

Then to the Commissioner, I wanted to look at victim satisfaction, where the MPS is 80%, the second lowest of all forces in England and Wales. When our most similar group is 85% that must be a worry to you. Why do you think the MPS is so behind in this area?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): When I arrived we were 43 out of 43 forces. We have actually risen up about three places in the country. We have gone from 76% to about 80%.

I was worried about that, you are quite right. I would like to see more progress more quickly. If you look right across the country at the 43 forces, Northumbria got well over 90% and then you had the MPS down at 76%. It was a huge gap. We have gained that 4%. It was a big gap to number two. We had to fill that and we have now filled it.

We know that we are doing pretty well in some aspects of satisfaction but not as well in others. If you look, for example, at what makes up "ease of contact" we only get 94%. We answer the phone quickly. People are confident when they phone. Our call handling is the best in the country. If you look at "police treatment" - how do we treat people - that has increased from a low of about 86% up to 92%. These are good figures. I am going to come to the ones where we are not as good, I promise you. Then if you go to overall satisfaction - that is the number that you have referred to, that 80% - that has risen. It got down as low as 74% so it is about an 8% increase.

The areas in which we need to do far better are "police action". It was running as low as 69%. We have managed to get that up to 76%. The other one is "follow-up". "Follow-up" was running as low as 65% and we got it up to 73%. All the contributing things which combine to, "How do you feel overall?" are all showing an upward trend. I would like it to be quicker.

We have done an awful lot of work with the sergeants and the inspectors. They are the ones who are best able to make sure that we deliver satisfaction. We do a lot of training with our officers. London is a complex place, as you know, and people have different needs sometimes here than we see in different parts of the country. Second languages is just one of the issues that is a bit of an issue.. I would like to see it develop quicker. We have put a huge amount of effort through with the Assistant Commissioner Territorial Policing.

It is not just Territorial Policing because, of course, it also measures serious crime. Frankly I think we do very well with victims of serious crime. There are fewer of them and we are able to take more care. It is the quick

volume crimes where I would like to see far better performance. Some areas are good. Some we could do far better.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): It is clearly looking at how you improve the action police take and how you keep the victim informed. Actually with technology that should be a bit easier. Being able to really keep victims informed may well boost satisfaction and confidence.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes. We have two big things that we are going to pilot this year. One is an app called, "Rate My PC". There will be an opportunity for people having met somebody to give us some direct feedback. Another one is "Track My Crime", can somebody actively track on line their crime. It is a real challenge for us. It is like "Track Your Parcel", can you track your crime. I have to tell you with the Response Investigation Teams that has been bit of a challenge. We hope to resolve that this year. It is the progress of your crime investigation. This is meant to be a positive thing. If people cannot get hold of the officer they cannot find out what the heck is happening with this thing, it has been a real challenge for us. I am not happy that others seem to be doing it better than us.

Individual officers have made a lot of progress in how they treat people. I agree with the Mayor, where we could record the interaction more that will lead to a lot of improvement in our behaviour and it might lead to improvement in the behaviour of others. Where victims are concerned I expect that we have high standards.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): Yes, absolutely.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): It is still pretty high at 80%. Any other service organisation would still be pretty impressed. We are not content when Northumbria are getting 90%-odd.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): Absolutely.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Just to reassure you, I know there were some wry looks around, "Rate My PC". I saw them. We are doing that at the moment in Waltham Forest. Not app-based but the officer will leave a card.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): That will be very good.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I suppose the simplest ones are TripAdvisor and other similar applications, where you grade the service you have received. It is a way of us doing that. Some Members will remember from Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) days we did that with stop and search in the MPS some years ago.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): Good, thank you.

Len Duvall AM: It is all very well to do that as long as we take it in context. I am great for performance managing people and staff. However, in terms of the context of an investigation and a victim and the follow-up of those issues, the Police Constable (PC) may be unfairly treated in terms of outcomes. There are issues of simplicity about rating your PC at different stages of the process that, quite frankly, leave me in horror. Nevertheless, we live in that society where people want apps of some description and want to comment on that.

Chair, if I can continue on with my question which is on performance considering where you were? I was surprised. I do take that cultural attitudinal changes within the service have contributed to levels of confidence. I want to return to sanction detection rates (SDRs), which do not seem to appear in a number of figures that we are given. Quite frankly, when I have asked you questions before - both you, Commissioner, and the Mayor - you have said these are matters of concern in our poor performance. That adds in part - not wholly - around confidence levels. You are right, we have got some high confidence levels, but there is still a view amongst opinion formers and amongst victims of crime that our performance is not good. 22% - which I think we are now - is still not good.

Commissioner, I was heartened to hear you say we had done a lot of training with our new staff. We have got around about 50% of people with less than four years' experience now. We are a young service. That is a good thing but it also presents some challenges and complexity in terms of policing in our communities. Can you tell us, in terms of sanction detection, where is that on your radar about trying to move off this 22% issue and get it higher? Where is it in terms of the training that may go along with that, with the inexperienced workforce that we may have? That may also contribute to people's perception of the service and confidence in the service?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): First of all, I agree. It is a contributory factor. There is no doubt if there is a fair chance of someone being caught - there is evidence there or good information - we should catch them. As you know, and we have talked about this before, we are excellent when it comes to the very serious crimes. Murder, there is no one to beat us - I suspect in the world actually - certainly not in this country where we only get 94% detection. What we struggle with is the volume end.

You are right, I do regard it as a priority. We have seen some improvements, not in the overall figure I acknowledge. These are small percentage points and we could have a very arcane discussion. What we are seeing is a trend of improvement. What we are doing is providing more training to probationers as they come through to, first of all, change their mind-set: You are not there just to record it, we do expect you to investigate it. In fact, over the last four years I must have seen about 4,000 new probationers go through and I say a few words. I am not saying this is a life changing experience for them but one of the points I always make is, "We are paying you to go out and investigate, just not to record it. This is not a bureaucracy you are joining. We expect, the public expect you to go and do something reasonable. You cannot solve every crime but take reasonable action". We try to change their mind-set.

The final thing, there have been disputes about the Neighbourhood Policing Model. At the end of the day we have put far more people in there. One of the big changes we said to them, "We do not want you to just attend meetings and smile. We would like you to investigate some of the crimes that people report to you. That is your job. You are a police officer."

Culturally we are trying to change it, doing it by persuasion and training. Secondly, we are going to ask hard questions. The final area is around our forensics. A big part of the detections can be: are we getting our bang for the buck for the millions of pounds we spend on people who gather the evidence and then check it. As part of this Omega response to the rising crime that we have seen has been every seven days I am sitting down with each of the Assistant Commissioners and saying, "Go on, tell me what we are doing". Last week we had a big discussion about forensics, for the very real reason - as you said - detection is a very important thing professionally and even if the public did not care, and they do, I do. We are asking lots of questions about that.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Can I just add on that, SDR just tests how many crimes are actually followed up with an arrest or a charge, is it not?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes, it a complex art in itself. Fundamentally, it is either a charge which is successful in court, it is a caution; it is something where the person accepts responsibility for that crime.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): It is vital that if you are going to improve your SDR you have a much better functioning criminal justice system in London. There is no doubt in my mind that that is one of the things that we really need to be moving forward on very, very rigorously. Trying to get a lot more co-ordination between all the bodies that are responsible for getting these people into court and getting the thing done. That really undermines people's faith in the police and the whole system when they see the culprits being caught and then out on the streets again virtually immediately doing the same thing again, or perhaps not even receiving a punishment at all because of some failure of evidence or some failure in the criminal justice system. That is something we really need to be focusing on. It is an argument we are pursuing with The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, with the Government, about trying to give us more of a role in co-ordinating the criminal justice system in London.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): May I just add to something the Mayor said earlier about body worn video? I entirely agree. I hate the word "game-changer". It will be a fundamental difference in the way we are held to account.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Why do you hate it, Bernard?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Did you say "game-changer"?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Yes. I used the word "game-changer".

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): It is a fantastic word! It can be a quantum leap!

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Quantum leap, step-change.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I do believe it. When what the police are doing is available for the courts to see - and we are looking at whether or not the footage we take we can make more available through our websites and things like YouTube - it will make a big difference. The officers will know they are on notice but so will the people we arrest. For me it will make a real difference. It has been a big financial commitment. It is £9 million to buy at a time when we are financially challenged but it is that important. I agree entirely.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We are going to move onto neighbourhood policing visibility.

Andrew Dismore AM: Before that can I just follow-up on the SDR issues that Len [Duvall AM] raised? It goes beyond SDR. It is also a question of the number of people who are actually charged. That is even lower than the SDR. I have got the figures for Barnet and Camden here. Look at burglary, only 4% are SDR but only 3% end up being charged for burglary in Barnet. The figures are slightly better in Camden, 7% and 4%. If you look at the MOPAC 7 figures for Barnet, 16% are considered to be SDR but only 6% are charged and in Camden 14% and 7%.

My concern first of all here is that SDR is only half the story. It is only when we actually prosecute somebody that – picking up Boris’s point – then you are starting to put them in the criminal justice system. So far as I can see there are no statistics kept at all of the outcomes of the criminal justice system.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): It is a good point, Andrew, but we do know. We do.

Andrew Dismore AM: I will start asking questions about it.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Huge numbers of cases in London fail. The witnesses do not turn up.

Andrew Dismore AM: Getting onto your point about people walking away with impunity, we need to start to really look into the figures – why people are not charged and when they are charged why the prosecution succeeds or does not succeed – to deal with the point that you are making of people going around, “Oh, well, they got away with it again”. If you are only actually charging a tiny number of people compared to the number of offences – in Barnet we had all but 2,000 burglaries and only 3% resulted in a charge – that is quite a low proportion.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): What we have got to bear in mind is, of course, you are asking us what the police are doing. The whole system has to take account. The charging decisions are with the CPS. Quite properly they are independent. They have to make a rational choice and there is a test about whether they think it will succeed in court. That is not our test.

Andrew Dismore AM: No, but if your SDR is not linked to the number of people who are actually prosecuted but are dealt with in another way then to my mind they are not being sanctioned. The sanction is put them in court.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): That may be your choice but it is not the Government’s. The Government says that they measure a sanction by either a charge in court – which I agree is a very substantial test – but also a caution. A 15-year-old who commits burglary will not always go to court.

Andrew Dismore AM: Yes. Then taking up Boris’s point, they are wandering around again.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): There are many times where people get a sanction which is not always the one that you or I may prefer but is one that the Government counts.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): This is a fundamental problem of today’s criminal justice system and the one that we are grappling with. The criminal justice agencies individually have a different performance framework. We saw that with the Angiolini Report when it comes to rape and sexual offences, pretty much every crime. If the police have a target around arrests then they arrest people. If the CPS has a target around conviction rate then it will only pick those cases where it thinks it has got, in all probability, a chance to convict.

What we have actually got to think is about the system in the round and ensure that we drive down the reoffending rate, in particular, and stop the first time criminals getting into the system. That is the duty that we have to keep people safe.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): It may seem slightly off the point but SDR is in addition to confidence and satisfaction.

I did not refer to something which is quite important. London is different. We always say that. We are unique, we are big and complex. We do make some comparisons with our family forces. That family of forces are Greater Manchester, West Midlands and West Yorkshire. At a time when we are only getting 80% satisfaction - which we have already said we would like to get better - Greater Manchester is only 82%. We have already seen a 6% shift to 80%. West Midlands is only 83%. We will haul them back. West Yorkshire has only got 88%. They are obviously quite a bit higher, that looks a bit harder. My point being that I am disappointed with where we are nationally. In terms of big cities we are not a million miles away from achieving what we want to achieve, which is obviously to get to the top of the pile. Reasonable comparisons can be made and the size of the shift has been significant.

Andrew Dismore AM: Going back to the point I was making, where the CPS is not charging. The MOPAC figure for Barnet and Camden is that roughly half the people that you arrest are not ultimately charged. Are you looking at the reasons for that and trying to narrow that gap, and what are you doing to narrow that gap?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): We do. We sit down with CPS and look at individual cases. We have a joint Criminal Justice Board which is chaired by a Deputy Assistant Commissioner from the MPS. Having chaired one of these in my past in Merseyside you cannot go into each individual charging decision. You look at what is failing? Is it the identification process? Is it poor file preparation? Is it poor investigation? Is it that the CPS are applying the wrong charging decision? It is always a possibility they do something wrong.

Andrew Dismore AM: It is a big gap. If we look at just the MOPAC ones, it is a big gap, 50%.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I am not disputing that, Andrew. You asked the question, do we monitor it, and we professionally do together with the Court Service as well. We look at first of all timeliness, second quality, and thirdly if there are any systemic problems. Say we were transcribing things very late or there was something in the way that we investigated which was not good. We were not capturing CCTV properly or something that was not working well with the courts.

We also look at things around London. You always see different performers. The north might be a bit better than the south. We do ask the question, what is it down to? Is it down to leadership? Is it down to systemic things? Is it down to things that we should be doing better? We do ask those questions regularly. You may argue it could be better monitoring, but we do that.

Andrew Dismore AM: You are now starting to monitor the outcomes of court cases, giving statistics on the outcomes of court cases. That was not done before.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes, it has been available. Whether it has been published and shared before is a fair challenge.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We found great difficulty, to be fair, getting data out of the criminal justice system as a whole. Getting anything other than extremely historic data

has been a trial. We are building the performance framework. We are happy to share that with the Committee. It is a work in progress.

One of the things we have been able to do, Andrew, for the first time is real-time tracking of those few thousand offenders that really create mayhem, that reoffend time and time and time again. In a city of 8.6 million we are talking about 5,000 of those priority offenders. We now have a real-time view of where they are in the criminal justice system which is absolutely the right way to go to get a grip on those people that cause the problem across London. That is what we have been able to do for the first time. We are getting the performance framework in place. It has, by no means, been easy when you have three departments of state at least, if not more, involved to try to get information from. Ministry of Justice (MOJ) publish data that is almost so historic as to be irrelevant. Bit by bit we have now got more current data from them.

Andrew Dismore AM: Can I just test this a little bit further? That is all very helpful. Does not anybody report back if somebody pleads guilty at the Magistrates' Court or the Crown Court to the police? Does nobody tell you they have pleaded guilty? If an officer has to go to court to give evidence - which will be the case presumably if there was a not guilty plea - does that officer not know the outcome of the case?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): They might not be there for the end. You can give your evidence on day one, another four cases, so they will get the result back eventually.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): What you find, Andrew, is that the police have always been interested in the outcome but more generally Government has not. I will not say they are not interested, but each department has got its own priority. We have always been interested, as has the CPS and the courts to be fair. Presenting that and pulling that together is difficult. Of course, we work in quick time. The courts work a bit slower and somewhere in between is the CPS. It has got far better.

There is no doubt there are challenges in London about performance. If you look at the effective trial rate in London it is pretty good. It is the best in the country. The ineffective trial rate is the lowest. Despite the challenges we see - where sometimes people do not understand our system because they are not always born here or have not lived here for very long, language challenges and many other things - the system does work. One of the things we have to be careful of - and I have been the worst at times - if we start to make people believe the system does not work that is a real silly thing. Most of the time witnesses stand up in court. They stand their ground and people get convicted. That is how the system works. You can get 80% to 90% of the time people getting convicted because they did it. The system can work. However, we want to make sure that it works as effectively as possible and quickly. Speed is a great thief of quality, I am afraid, at the moment.

Andrew Dismore AM: The other issue I wanted to look at on public confidence - before I go onto neighbourhood policing - is I & S calls² which is an issue I have raised on a number of occasions before. There is no record in the annual report of I & S calls response times. There is nothing in the annual report about that. I am concerned to note we have not got those figures in here. Certainly I have raised this issue before in relation to the boroughs I represent and it has been a problem. Concerning public confidence, if you phone 999 and the police do not turn up promptly it is an issue.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The only thing I would say is I guarantee if the figures were there you would ask me no questions about them because they are excellent.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I-calls has outstanding performance.

² I grade "immediate response" calls and S grade "significant priority" calls.

Andrew Dismore AM: I would ask about Barnet, but that is another story.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I am quite happy outside - if it helps, Chair - to share Barnet's figures later.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Off the top I know we are answering the phones quickly. We are the best in the country. In terms of responding to incidents - the I-calls - it is 94% at the moment within 15 minutes. For S-calls - the within one hour - it is rating about 91%.

Andrew Dismore AM: That is MPS wide. There are variations, particularly affecting the outer London boroughs.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Of course. It cannot be both ways. You have asked me could we get you figures.

Andrew Dismore AM: If you look at the outer London boroughs you might find a different story because some of them have a very large geography and it takes a long time to get around.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): There will always be issues in some places. We cannot have it both ways. Challenge me about corporate things and then when I say, "Well, the corporate is good" you find a place where it is not. Of course.

Andrew Dismore AM: Can I go onto neighbourhood policing anyway? It is picking up the points that Stephen [Greenhalgh] was making, about issues that affect public confidence. One issue you did refer to was the question of visibility. Do you think - Boris and Stephen - that visibility is important in public confidence?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I did not mention visibility. Visibility is not mentioned as a key driver. It is driven by community engagement, just use of powers, being effective how you handle crime and how you tackle anti-social behaviour. They are the four key drivers. Visibility is not seen as a major driver of public confidence.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): That is the academic research.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I want to stress that is not to say that I, in any way, minimise the importance of visibility. That is one of the reasons why we have got another 2,600 officers on the neighbourhood teams and why I want to see a Safer Neighbourhood team in every ward and so on. Londoners do talk to me about visibility of police still. Joanne [McCartney AM] brings it up regularly. People do want to see the police out and about. Personally, I go all over the city on my bike and I see the police a lot at the moment. That is a good thing.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The other thing is you see them when you need them. The key thing about the visibility that this Commissioner has brought in is that we need police officers at those times of the day when a crime is likely to occur. It is very often late into the evening or at night time. They are anti-social times. We cannot have them on at the times of the day and in the places where crime is not likely to occur. It is about deploying those 2,600 extra officers in the frontline, in the right places and in the right way.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The big things for me is about visibility. It works both ways. First of all, I think the public tell us that is what they want, there is no doubt, and the principal thing is we have 32,000 cops and the rest of the country has less. We have kept our numbers overall. We have put 2,600 more. If you remember, we had a review of neighbourhood policing, because you challenged us - and others did - about whether we had that balance right. We had a shift review and people have now been moved to where people will see them more as well as they will do the work, so these are big things.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I think it is an outstanding achievement when you consider the incredible call on MPS resources. All these things like [Operations] Weeting and Elveden and the continual abstraction of officers to do that sort of thing, and then massive public order events that suck police officers out of the boroughs repeatedly. Considering the pressures the MPS face - for which I do not think it is properly compensated by central Government, by the way, and the point we continue to make - I do not think the Capital City Grant adequately reflects the national role of the MPS. The tragic appalling events in Tunisia, I think to the best of my knowledge you have 23 people out there. The MPS is a national force and it is important that that is reflected in its funding.

Andrew Dismore AM: Can I come back to that point about the new policing model because I think a couple of issues arise out of that? The first question, I suppose, is: do you think you have more officers on the beat compared to the former Safer Neighbourhoods model, bearing in mind all the additional jobs that the new teams have to do that are not specific ward related? They have ten different functions now, as opposed to the couple of functions they had before. Can they be on the beat as often as they were, bearing in mind they are going around the area cars, investigating crimes, responding to non-emergency calls, compared to when they were out on the beat before?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I think it is a reasonable challenge because it sounds like, "Well, you can't do both" but I think you can. It seems to me that if you are walking between a burglary or, let us say, the damage to a garden shed, you have to take the report and you talk to local people. I hope you are going to investigate it, talk to the neighbours. You do not have to spend four hours on it but a couple of conversations - you might find a new friend. It seems to me that if you are out there investigating crime people will see what you are doing, so you can do these things.

Where I think you have a fair point is that if they have to go back to the police station and write it down, you have a danger of being taken away. That is where the technology strategy will make the real difference. As we roll out the iPads over the next 18 months every officer will have the opportunity to record it.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You mean the tablets, Bernard.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): What did I say?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You said "iPads". That is a brand.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes, I meant tablets. We have not gone through any procurement process yet and that is one of the options that might be considered, but to be fair --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) That is a vendor neutral answer.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The pilot is iPads, isn't it?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): The pilot is iPads, so you will have heard of iPads but the rollout will be tablets.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): To be device agnostic is the answer. Anyway, as they roll out and we have found already - I think it is Hammersmith where they are already experimenting with it - they are recording crime at the scene. They do not have to go back to the police station. They are taking statements at the place. Therefore, I think you are right at the moment, there will be some places where they get pulled off to record crime but, overall, I think it is a positive thing.

Andrew Dismore AM: The question that follows on from what Boris was saying is about abstractions, and again this is an issue I have raised before. On the one hand you say you have these additional officers in the neighbourhood clusters. On the other hand, if they are all being pulled off for abstractions that inevitably reduces the numbers. In Barnet the average is 80 a week shifts a week and in Camden 100 shifts a week; on average we are losing.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I would say you are right and wrong. I am acknowledging there is a risk that if you give them more tasks that the individuals might spend a little bit less time if they have to go the police station but, overall, if you put 2,600 more in, even 10% of their time spent at the police station is still as an overall outcome a net benefit, I think. You will know that the other thing we were challenged about was the amount of aid, so that the neighbourhood officers were getting pulled off for the big marches, well we have stopped that and we have some more plans to reduce the amount of aid that is dragged out from the boroughs. We will still have to move people but we hope we have a clever way of deployment that will mean there is less abstractions than we have had.

Andrew Dismore AM: We are going to see fewer abstractions?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): That problem that was identified probably a year ago, we would argue has either drastically reduced or stopped.

Andrew Dismore AM: These are the figures up to May this year.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I do not know the figures, I am afraid.

Andrew Dismore AM: They are still quite high. I don't know about the other boroughs because the only ones I looked at were the ones I represent. Going back to the new model and the review, you say you are going to review the shift patterns.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): No, we have.

Andrew Dismore AM: I think the argument was, put the officers around where the problems are, which is not necessarily where people are going to see them. How do you square that circle or have you?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I think the feedback was that we had applied one rule to 32 boroughs and 32 boroughs said, "We want some more flexibility". They have now completed 25 of the 32 boroughs' shift reviews. The 25 have been implemented and the final seven will be implemented by October. We have made a local assessment. We have given them some more flexibility

about employment, so whether it be Barnet - I may get this wrong, Andrew - which I do not think it has a big night time economy --

Andrew Dismore AM: No. Well, in Edgware it has.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): No. But each borough has its own challenges, so it is trying to give a bit more flexibility. The broad direction is that officers are going to be around in daylight when they are more seen. We are still going to have to cover the night time period when it is dark, even if people do not see them in the night. When people go to the shops or to the theatre they expect to see officers, so we are going to get a balance. The bottom line is we do not have 500,000. We have 32,000 to do many things. I think we are getting an optimum - it will never be a perfect solution - around visibility, but I think we have put a lot more people into it.

Andrew Dismore AM: OK.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We are going to move now to some issues about criminal justice, which we touched on earlier.

Tony Arbour AM: I was pleased to hear you talking about the unconscionable delays there are in the court system and I have been looking at the MOPAC Annual Report 2014/15 where you have a single page on reducing court delay. If I may suggest, this is the area of the biggest failure of your intentions because your intention was that you would reduce delays in the system by 20%. You have barely reduced them at all. I listened to the Commissioner a few minutes ago saying how good we were compared to the other metropolitan areas in the country, as far as delays are concerned, but the truth of the matter is that we are the best of a very poor bunch.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): That is not true. To be fair - sorry to interrupt - that is the best in the country.

Tony Arbour AM: All right. We are still the best of a very poor bunch. I have the figures here, which relate to 2012. Indeed, I very much hope that the Mayor will remember that I produced a report on justice delayed in London in 2013 --

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Yes, I do indeed.

Tony Arbour AM: -- where we listed some quite simple things which the police could do. If I can briefly refresh your memory. In 2012, 184 cases on average a week were dropped or delayed because of failures either of the prosecution or failure of the court system. We suggested truly simple things, like ensuring that the night before a case goes on that there is some kind of co-operation, simply ensuring that witnesses appear and that includes police witnesses and policemen themselves. If I can briefly - through you, Chair - link that with public satisfaction. The truth of the matter is that most Londoners never come into contact with the police. They see what they read in the paper and they see the marvellous performances that you have and they say, "Yes, the police are doing a good job" but if you ask citizens of London - and perhaps I can suggest this as part of a survey that you perhaps do with the MOJ, asking people how they feel about police - if they have gone through the justice system, when they have sat there in court and a case has been cracked because the police have failed to turn up or the papers have not turned up or something of this kind. I am really getting this off my chest because I think --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Really, yes?

Tony Arbour AM: Seriously, Stephen, it is not a joking matter. It is all very well for us to come along and talk about how successful we are in catching criminals and so on --

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Can I try and give my perspective, Tony, on this because I think what you are saying is incredibly important. It goes back to what I was saying to Len and to Andrew about confidence in policing and in the Criminal Justice System. At the moment, I think we are doing a great job in driving crime down, in arresting criminals and all the rest of it. I do not think that the follow through is good enough. There is one reason that we in London government might advance for that: there is no single democratic oversight for that. There is no accountability for that whole side of it. It is, yes, of course, the MOJ has responsibility but that is a very remote body and Londoners who are victims of crime do not feel any particular affinity with it. It is something that is very remote. If we were in this body in the GLA and given more oversight of the consolation of criminal justice bodies and we were able to hold them to account in the way that, for instance, that I hold Transport for London (TfL) to account for Tube delays, then I think you might see some action. In the end delays on the Tube, today notwithstanding --

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): No delays today!

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Thank you, Caroline, for that extremely fine, logical point. There are no delays today! I think this must be one of the first days we have had absolutely no delays whatever on the Tube. It is a 100% success; 100% success today, but, generally speaking, on days when we do run a full service we have seen substantial reductions in delays because basically people in London know that if their Tube is delayed there is somebody responsible for it and they know fine well who it is. It is the Mayor, it is TfL and if they do not think it is any good they can kick them out. I think that we need to seek --

Tony Arbour AM: No, no, Boris, that is awful.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Or they can elect a green candidate.

Tony Arbour AM: That is all very fine and large, Boris, but what have you actually done in relation to bringing the justice system under scrutiny by us?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): What have we done?

Tony Arbour AM: There is nothing in here about it.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): No, that is not true at all. Come on, Tony, you are well educated enough in this matter to know exactly what we have done. We --

Tony Arbour AM: No, no, I truly do not know --

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Well, that is very shocking.

Tony Arbour AM: -- what we have actually done.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): OK. Well, we have created the London Crime Reduction Board (LCRB), and I chair it, it meets regularly. It is a forum in which we go over all these issues. It brings together the CPS, the police, the courts, all the bodies that have responsibility for the CJS in

London and we go over what is going on. At the moment, however, I have what you might call a convening power. I have the power to get people together, which we have taken, to do things. It is not yet, frankly producing the improvements in performance that I would like. I thought Stephen [Greenhalgh] gave one of the very good reasons for that, which is that all these bodies basically have different priorities and different agendas.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Tony, I agree with you up to a point that it is frustrating. I share your frustration and I was not in any way belittling your point. It is having the levers to do something that we have to recognise. At the moment we have tried to get a performance management lever in the same way that we set a mission for the policing over a four-year period. We have tried to introduce that with the CJS. It has proved very difficult even to have the basic data to track progress, until recently.

There has been some progress. Compliance with community orders, before we looked at it and said, "If we are going to have any confidence in community sentencing, as an alternative to a custodial sentence, we have to see some compliance with those community orders". OK we have not hit the target but, by focusing on that as an objective, there has been a modest increase in compliance of community sentences. I think this you will agree is a step in the right direction.

Tony Arbour AM: Well, I do --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Can I just finish? Can I just finish? When it comes to court delays, you are absolutely right, we have set an objective to say, "Why should we have a slower criminal justice system than the rest of the country?" We are not making the progress we would like and I would hazard a guess it is partly because we have not had the levers to get the performance to improve and we have found it very difficult to even get it down to the court level. We are given the so-called Local Justice Areas that give you a bunch of courts, so actually being able to drive performance there has proved very, very difficult. I accept that we are not making progress but we are trying at least.

On reducing reoffending, I agree with you, that is something where we could do better but we are right to set an objective to say, "We don't want to have the cycle of reoffending continue at rates that are above the level of the country". It is right that the Mayor set these objectives and it is right that we try to make progress against --

Tony Arbour AM: Can I remind you of how things were a couple of years ago? Praise was heaped on all of you here about the swiftness of the response to the riots we had in Croydon, where the whole thing was done and it showed it could be done.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes.

Tony Arbour AM: At that time somebody had their hands on the levers. Somebody knew how to make the thing work and now we seem to have lost our grip. Indeed, I think you describe it --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We do not want a riot to get the criminal justice system to work, though.

Tony Arbour AM: No, Stephen, it has been demonstrated that the system can work, that the system can deliver and we now seem to have slipped back into the bad old ways.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I do not agree with that. I think - as Bernard has said - we are doing better than other regions in the country and I do not think it is sensible or productive to undermine the whole efforts of the CJS. On the whole they do a terrific job. It is not fast enough, too much stuff gets lost and there is not enough co-ordination. What we want to do is to have an approach that looks in an integrated way at the families that are likely to be involved in crime, the people who are likely to be criminals. I think the environment is propitious, in the sense that savings, economies in budgets will force boroughs, the criminal justice system to co-ordinate these activities and really focus on the relatively small number of people who are causing crime in this city.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Tony, just to outline the way forward because, I agree with you, we saw a phenomenal response from the criminal justice system in the wake of the riots, absolutely commendable. Courts sitting - what was it 24 hours a day sessions. I completely agree with you. However, what can we practically do to move things into a place where we see a far better, more responsive system? Well, performance oversight is one lever. The other one is a budgetary lever. If there is budgetary devolution - and that is what we are calling for collectively, all of us, and under the Mayor's leadership and the London Crime Reduction Board, if we see budgetary devolution to London, working with the boroughs, as you have said, Boris, there is an opportunity to reduce first time criminals into the system, speed up the system and reduce reoffending and that would - just by Treasury approved statistics - save £0.5 billion, so not only could you have a better system but you could also ensure that it works in a way that reduces the amount of criminality by reducing reoffending over time. To do that you do need the addition of devolution of the budgets. That is what the Mayor is calling and he is quite right to do so.

Tony Arbour AM: I am kind of sorry about the tone of the talk a few minutes ago. Our job here is to be your critical friends and I am a particular friend, if I may say so, as far as these matters are concerned. If we can see something that appears to be going against the clearly published intentions -- and I am referring to the reductions that we said that there were going to be and the delays and the working together on this, because this mainly refers to partners. There is no suggestion really that some of the delays might be due to processes that are carried out, not by MOPAC but perhaps part of the MPS in failing to ensure that your people are there on time and evidence is there on time. Of course I concede that in the overwhelming majority of cases they do go ahead in the proper way but the backwash of a case not going ahead because the police, for one reason or another, failed to deliver, that is going to show considerable unhappiness. I did draw to your attention, Boris, the principal problem with delays in the courts, and cracked cases in particular, means that those people of goodwill, ordinary citizens who want to contribute to the criminal justice system will not do so again. I think this truly is of considerable importance and would quite like to see --

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): You mean, potential witnesses or --

Tony Arbour AM: Yes.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Yes, absolutely.

Tony Arbour AM: Ordinary members of the public who are caught up in this it --

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): The Commissioner wants to comment on that, Tony.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): First of all, I am going to agree with you. I think that the emotion that this debate drives is that there is a basic tension in the system because victims want speedy justice and suspects want thorough justice, and sometimes the two are antagonistic; is the bottom line. As I said before, short time is a thief of quality and the suspect always wants a

very thorough assessment of that case and the victim wants it done quickly because they are very clear it happened. They are very clear who did it on the whole. Therefore, I think there is always that tension in the system and it is difficult for that complexity, plus the ones that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] have described. You have different ministries sometimes trying to achieve different things and I am sure it could be better.

I think technology would be a great help. It is not the whole answer but one of the things we found from the riots was that, first of all, it was people intensive. We put nearly 1,000 people into viewing CCTV and the conviction rate was huge. Well, the guilty plea rate was huge but we did have lots of CCTV. It was incredibly intensive. I know the Lord Chief Justice, the present one, has a very high priority to make sure that our IT, being the CPS, courts, probation and the police, works together. There is a grave danger that we get ours right and we are still different to national systems, CPS and courts, so I am going to agree with you but I think there are some very fundamental challenges in the system as well, as well as our competence in managing it.

Andrew Dismore AM: A couple of quick observations. First of all, I was going to agree that we need to have better co-ordination oversight but, at the same time, we must not lose the separation of powers between these different organisations because they were created for very specific reasons to deal with other problems. The other issue I was going to particularly highlight was the cuts in the MOJ budget that are really going to impact. We have already seen Magistrates' Court closures. If you close the local Magistrates' Court it means the witness has to go further afield and half the time they are not going to turn up as a result as they have a horrible journey to get to court, so you get these false economies built in.

We also now have the problem with the cuts in criminal legal aid, meaning that lawyers are on strike half the time or they are not going to get proper representation or it is going to take longer for the suspect to get proper representation. All these are militating against it, so the question for Boris is: what are you going to do about trying to tackle these cuts in the MOJ budget?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): It is very interesting you raise that, Andrew. In fact, at the last LCRB, I asked everybody around the table to be very candid with us about the impact of cuts in their budgets on delays and on effectiveness in the criminal justice system and I have to say they assured me that that was not having an impact yet. There was no change to what they felt was their ability to deliver justice. Your point is nonetheless a good one and, in a climate of budget reductions, it is vital that these services work together and particularly the boroughs. They are overwhelmingly the people who will be involved in managing the social services, managing the offenders when they come out. You know, so much of this job is about stopping the ex-offenders getting back into the system. That is about co-ordinating the activity of the police, social services, healthcare, mental healthcare, everybody working together.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): It might help for a bit of context because the points are well made, it is also worth for those -- and I am aware some of the Members may well have sat as magistrates, the work going through the Magistrates' Court looks quite different. About 30% of cases in London are domestic abuse, so 30% of all work at the Magistrates' Court is domestic abuse. One of the things we are working with magistrates colleagues for is dedicated courts, which some of us have seen in other parts of the country work well.

If you look at Crown Court listings it is predominantly sexual offences. We are getting more trials and more complexity in the court system. That will introduce a time challenge around it. Some of the things we have done around improving the timeliness: we have been one of the pilot areas for transforming summary justice, which is again - we are terrible for acronyms - put three services together and it gets even worse. That is a way of getting the files, particularly those that we are anticipating guilty pleas, into courts quicker and we are

seeing those going through quicker, timeliness improving and the quality improving. It is early days in that trial but it shows some real positivity around it. I do not think we should underestimate, for colleagues who sit in court, both in higher courts and Magistrates', the complexity and volumes have changed dramatically, certainly from the days as a young officer where the staple stuff in Magistrates' Court was public order and shop lifting, 30% of work is domestic abuse. I think it should reassure us all that that is following through into the court system and that will change the dynamic of what is going on in court.

Len Duvall AM: We are moving on to funding now and the shape of the service over the coming years. First question to the Mayor. How much further to you think the MPS budget can be reduced without degrading the services?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): How much could it be reduced without eroding services? I think we ought to be clear about where we are. We have managed to deliver very considerable savings already, while maintaining very high numbers of officers and driving crime down. The MPS are going to deliver savings of £573 million by the end of 2015/16. Although, as Bernard has said repeatedly - and everybody acknowledges - there are still substantial savings to be found of the order of £800 million and that is going to be very challenging but the opportunity is there in the technology that we have discussed quite a lot already this morning. I think there is still more work that can be done on the police estate and there are other ways, I am sure, of finding savings.

However, there has to be a limit - and I would not want to say where exactly that limit is but I think you and I would be in agreement, Len, that in the end central Government has to recognise that this is a vast growing city with huge social issues, and huge challenges. I think the MPS and the city generally cope phenomenally well when you consider the breadth of the challenges in London, but it is going to get bigger; you know, 10 million people in the next few years, colossal increases in population. That is going to need more police officers. You cannot have a city growing as fast as London, with the challenges London faces, without putting more money into the MPS.

Len Duvall AM: If I can hone in to one specific area of policing, on the counter-terrorism (CT), the announcement yesterday.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Yes.

Len Duvall AM: There was a further announcement made that I think defence and intelligence services were going to get extra resources but no mention around policing. Can you just say how are you making that case for funding? I know your Deputy moved into that area and made a very strong case but how do we keep the pressure on about the policing resource that is needed, particularly in light of the recent press statement of police officers now being maintained, we are increasing our capacity abroad to help and advise other Governments abroad - we already have officers overseas but we are going to increase that. Where is that money going to come from? What is the strategy?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): The strategy: I think to be fair this was an argument that we had quite vociferously last year with Government and I think it did produce some good results, in the sense that it is much more widely acknowledged now in the Home Office, in Whitehall generally, that if you are going to have an effective CT strategy you have to recognise the primary role of policing. It is the community policing out there on the street engaging with families who might be at risk of radicalisation, or whatever, that is going to be absolutely fundamental to our success. Funding for basic CT has to mean funding for police and that is a point that we continue to make, and I made it repeatedly to the Home Secretary, the Prime Minister, everybody else, the Chancellor.

Len Duvall AM: I think it is fair to say, Mr Mayor, without giving any of your budget secrets away, that your final year budget you are going to try to position before you leave this administration roughly a budget for about the 32,000 [police officers] mark, depending on where they are. That would be your plan anyway.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I think that would be the right thing to do. I do not want to anticipate the budget but that would be the right thing to do.

Len Duvall AM: If I can turn to the Commissioner then. It appears that, probably around 2017, 2018 or is it 2020, it may well be later - you know the budget more than most - when we cannot determine what settlements are going to be, whether we see three-year settlements, in terms of some of those issues coming from the Government. When does it become difficult for you to plan long-term with some certainty about police numbers and what capacity? Is there a point where we have to start worrying a little bit? Do you know what I mean? We are worried now but even more so.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): When will we be more worried?

Len Duvall AM: Yes, more worried.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): We have only seen what was announced by the Chancellor yesterday but what they said, first of all, was that CT expenditure would be maintained, so that is around CT, I presume, nationally. The only thing that is not yet clear is that will be real cash because, of course, what was also announced broadly was that public sector workers will be getting a 1% pay rise for the next four years. I presume that applies to the police - I don't know - so we would have to have that discussion. That is some reassurance.

There is no doubt that the compound effect of eight and six, £1.4 billion-ish is a lot. It is in the order of one-third, so that will be a challenging environment. We think we have some clever plans. I think we have been challenged over the last few years, well, could we be more efficient? I think we have shown we can be and still maintain our crime fighting strength, and we kept 32,000 [police offices].

I cannot be precise at the moment. We thought we might get an indication of the amount of public spending on police yesterday, and the Mayor was in Parliament. I watched it. I did not see anything clearly said about policing. The CSR [Comprehensive Spending Review] will be announced in the autumn, which is usually by November. We have to get plans to present to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor by November-ish of something that anticipates the worst. Our worst case scenario is around £800 million. It could be they say sometimes as little as £400 million. I do not know that anybody realistically thinks £400 million. It is nearer to £800 million, so that is what we will present plans for. When you are reducing your costs - your funds - by one-third, and 80%-odd of your spending is people, that will have to give and that is the thing I have been clear about. We would end up with some less police but I am not going to be precise. I cannot be until we know the size of the envelope, nor what our reasonable efficiencies are.

Len Duvall AM: In terms of the case, it is autumn we need to focus on and any lobbying to Government is going to be at that time to influence those issues and probably around about January [2016] we will get a good indication of the direction of travel of what you have to be able to plan for.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): If I can just mention one of the things that is happening in parallel, which is really important particularly, as the Mayor said, about

London. First of all, there is a review of the general funding formula for police. Obviously, as people know, this is the formula that says, "London should have X and Cumbria should have a different amount". That will be a big bun fight. There is no perfect formula. Everybody will have sparsity, density, complexity and everybody will want their own local thing recognising, so that has got to happen. Secondly, we are already in discussions with the Government, as the Mayor has indicated, about our capital element and, thirdly, the CT element. They are three big things and, number four, we know that the envelope is reducing. That is quite a volatile combination, so that is what we are planning for over the next few months.

Len Duvall AM: Just in terms of the shape of the service, and of course we do not know the specific numbers for the future but I think politically, I think where the Mayor has said he has resources, and I think you have said, in terms of statements, publicly, where you have resources they should go into warranted police officers because that is what the public expects. I am paraphrasing there. I think that is fair. We have had both a political and professional strategy. If in terms the money becomes tighter, then, does the nature of the police service -- are we going to go back to some of the debates that we had around the mixed nature of crime fighters so, at the most extreme when financial pressures were on in terms of your colleagues in Surrey, they were playing around with - you know, people used to talk about part-warranted and whatever - the nature and mix of investigation teams. Is that where we could be heading if we do not get the funding? Where is it? I think we know what the strategy has been up to now. I am asking you to think of the future: are they issues? Then, given the decision time, and leading time for some of those discussions, what does the shape of future policing look like with even less resources?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): OK. First of all, what we said is, in terms of our strategy, we would invest as much as we can frontline. That is our ambition, to keep as much as possible, reducing our back office costs. We have been set a target by the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] to reduce our support costs to around 15% of our overall turnover. It seems to me that is achievable; not easy. In fact we took a decision yesterday, which we will share with the Deputy Mayor over the next few days, which I think will be a substantial contribution to the savings. We are generally trying to get the balance right in terms of the officers - the investment in the frontline.

Secondly, you are quite right, Surrey were an extreme example of something some police forces did. Professionally I did not agree with it, if I am honest, for a couple of reasons and I think in a big city like this it would be dangerous for us to do it. They got to a position where around half of the police force were police officers, so half were not. The trouble is you do not have much reserve capacity when it comes to a city like this and we have to find 2,000 for something. I worry about that. Therefore, I argue that you need far greater. You could argue all day, "Is it 75% or 80%?" but I think broadly across policing two-thirds of police forces have been cops and one-third has been support. That balance has stood us well. The MPS has been different for the usual reasons. So I think if it shifts from that ratio you have a bit of a problem at times. I think what we have shown is that we can reduce our police support staff base and still maintain efficiency, and there will be a discussion about out-sourcing. That is yet to come.

Going to your particular point: so, therefore, I would not argue to replace police officers with -- I think Surrey went for interviewers and somebody did the analysis. The other thing --

Len Duvall AM: They were in financial difficulty at the time, weren't they? --

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes, I think a very high percentage of their costs were maintained by local precept. They got that as well, so that was their issue.

All of my problems, apart from having a reserve of police officers, professionalism is my worry. If you said, "Well, look, I tell you what, I just interview people. I am your interviewer. I am a member of police staff. The people who do the arresting, that is not me. You just bring to me a compliant prisoner", the problem for me then the only time you see a police officer is when it could become confrontational and I think we ought to be better than that. I think we ought to be a friend as well as sometimes the enforcer. Therefore, I worry about putting the police officer solely in that enforcement place, which is what happens if you compartmentalise a job for me. Sometimes it is a false saving because then you end up with people who can only do that.

With the police forces being challenged, we are a bit traditional at times, and one of the great things we have had over time is not only competence but a lot of flexibility. When the riots came along we did shift 2,000 people. We did shift 1,000. I think we would be foolish to throw that away, so I think we need a fighting strength - not literally but frontline - and I think there may be some areas where we could invest better, forensic accountants to chase for cash. Look in our control rooms, you have about a one in five ratio of police officers. Perhaps we could look at that to shift that. There are some benefits there but if people withdraw their labour, which I respect but we still have to answer the phone. That is why we keep officers in there. You could look at that, but as to your broad question I would not want to change our model of policing and some of the things that come under pressure around Community Support Officers. These are the harsh realities. You could say, "Right, you can have more visibility" but if when they get there they cannot arrest people we are no further forward. Those are some of the harsh things we are being pushed towards.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: I have some questions about demand for the Commissioner and the Mayor. I just wanted to get the Commissioner's reaction to the National Audit Office's (NAO) recent finding - that was in June of this year - when it published its paper *Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales*. It said that police forces have insufficient understanding of the demand for services. I think it relates to what you have just said, so I wonder if you could share with us what your initial reaction was and whether it is your view that politicians, in terms of funding, only focus on one aspect of policing and then that is really at the heart of the problem of getting adequate funding for policing?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I will probably ask Craig to fill a bit of the detail in but you are quite right that the NAO has been critical of the police. I think we are the first force now to do our demand assessment, but you are quite right - and it happens in this forum as well, to be fair, Jennette - that people concentrate on the visible but not necessarily, as we have seen, the big demand changes that we have seen already and we will see over the next three to five years: namely CT, cyber crime and sexual offences. I am afraid, because it is not seen as often, the amount of times we are asked, "How many resources did you put in there?" Just the final point, with sexual offences we have already moved around 100 people into sexual offence investigation and in the next few weeks we are probably going to have to move a few hundred more. If somebody says to me, "Then what about your visibility?" they often do not ask about what we are doing about sexual offences investigations but will often ask about visibility. It is entirely understandable but, to your point, people often do not ask us about that element of demand that is not visible.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I would agree with the NAO report. We worked with them. We are one of the forces that work with them along with a number. We have an internal demand profile, so we can talk now in some detail about the demand we face. I think I have shared in previous visits before you some of the demand you see around things, around missing people, calls. At its extreme, we have talked about calls to A&E units. What really triggered this was the work as we saw what people regard as that traditional pot of crime fall, the noise from within the police service was, "But actually we are busier than ever" so what is filling that time? The work we now do around looking at that demand is looking at: what is it end to end? What of it is rightly police demand and where are we focusing our resources, and then looking at things

like appetite to risks. I have talked about this one before about us attending incidents where people walk out of hospital with a catheter in their arm. We sort of go, "Well, what is our role in that?" I accept there might be some residual risk somewhere but it is not our risk. We are building a much, much better and more complete picture of demand. We have talked that through with other colleagues, so West Midlands as well, so that we have a complete picture across the piece.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: OK. Can I just quickly ask the Mayor before he leaves us, in terms of his view on this, because the NAO found that funding pressures in areas such as mental health, local authority funded, community service, ambulance services, that they all have a knock-on on the effect on police servicing but politicians, it seems, have no idea of this complexity. As a politician and as the Mayor, how can you take this message to Government about the complexity of the demand on policing?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): I think that on ambulance services, yes, there have been considerable challenges but I think it is common ground, I do not think those have been principally ones of funding. The difficulties in the ambulance service have been very complex and they are now being resolved. Great progress is being made that has had an impact on policing. It is diverted police officers to substitute for ambulance services.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Mental health --

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): On mental health I think there has been an under-emphasis in London systemically on mental health issues and I think that mental health is one of those things that has been basically falling into the crack between the NHS and borough social services. We need to be doing better on it and there is a massive impact on policing, in the sense that the police are in the frontline of dealing with mental health patients and if we were better at that, if we were better at helping people with their mental health issues I think that would lift a massive burden from the police and help them in their work.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes. Do you accept that the funding reduction in other sectors then has a direct effect on the MPS resources?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): If you will forgive me, I am not going to make general comments about funding because it may be that the funding envelope is not the problem. It may be that it is about co-ordination, it is about people working together to deal with, again, a relatively small number but extremely time-consuming and resource intensive characters who need care. I think there should be focus on those individuals and their families and there should be a real understanding between the NHS, between social services, the police, everybody about who they are in order, of course, not just to get a better result for them but to save money as well.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: OK. Lastly, finance is important, how secure a financial position will your successor find the MPS in next year?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Obviously, it will be the most robust budget possible. I have no doubt that we will be able to leave a golden legacy for the next Mayor, whoever he or she may be - doubtless, a Conservative - and I am confident the police numbers will be capable of being maintained at the current high level.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: So lots of Johnson optimism?

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Yes. Well, it has never let me down so far.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Can I thank you, Mayor, for attending. I am aware you have to get off to another meeting.

Boris Johnson MP (Mayor of London and occupant of MOPAC): Thank you. Thank you very much.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I wonder, Commissioner, do you share the optimism about maintaining 32,000 officers to 2020?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I share an optimism. We always work on cash!

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I have a couple of questions before you leave. You said that you will be having to present plans to the Mayor on financial planning in October/November. Will that be a one-year plan only or will it be a two to three-year plan going through to the next mayoralty?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Depending on what the CSR announcement is, but I think that the Government has been quite keen on trying to get three-year plans, so if they give us a three-year profile of spending then we will create a three-year plan.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): At that point you will share that with the Assembly as well?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Of course, yes. You will understand there is a private part and then we share options and proposals but, of course, as soon as possible.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): That will be helpful.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): I have a quick question, about the current budget, to the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime]. Considering the pressure that the budget is already under, I have raised with you before about the over £10 million that the police has had to fork out in terms of policing Julian Assange³ at the Ecuadorian Embassy. I believe you have been making representations to the Home Office for national funding for this. Can you give us an update on your latest meetings and whether you are making any progress on this because this is a large drain on policing in London?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I do not conduct the meetings myself, but you are quite right, the costs continue to be eye wateringly high. They continue to rise and I think the last reported figure was significantly higher than the £10 million figure; £12.5 million comes to mind. The resolution appears to be elusive, shall we say, and we continue to be in this impasse and it is costing us money. It is one of the difficulties of policing a great global city, these are the demands and the money and the resources that tend to get spent on things that we would otherwise want to spend our money on. Nevertheless, we will end my time as Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime with a balanced budget, with crime having fallen, with confidence not having taken a step back, if anything having gone up, and with the MPS having saved a phenomenal amount of money and that is the position we find ourselves with 32,000 police officers.

³ Co-founder of the website WikiLeaks.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): You have not made progress yet with the Home Office to secure funding on this?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am afraid we have not succeeded in getting --

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair): That is fine.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Sorry, I should give you a direct answer to a very simple question. I did not want to share with you my frustration that we have not been able to get any extra money from the Home Office.

Tony Arbour AM: Share it! Share it!

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Share it with you. I have failed again, mea culpa.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): It obviously is a drain on your resources. Am I right in thinking that under the Swedish legal system if it is not charged by this autumn then the charges will automatically fall anyway or not?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): No. I am not going to comment too much because I cannot recall all the detail but what I do know is it has been very staging post. You might remember that Swedish prosecutors came to this country to carry out an interview. That was a staging post. That has been and gone. Of course, Mr Assange said that he was coming out. That has been and gone. We are constantly reviewing what we will do next with this. I mean it is a farce, really. That said, we have extradition duties to other countries as they have to us. There are serious charges that he faces and none of us want to see him escape justice and, clearly, we know where he is at the moment. We are trying to find as smart a way to deal with this as possible. We do not want to be left in the position where someone walks out of the country and we do not fulfil our duty, so it is a bit of a dilemma at the moment. We are doing our best to come up with some other smart solutions. We thought the first two options might work, neither did.

Andrew Dismore AM: I wanted to come in about some of the few million quid. It is an issue that I have also been raising, which is the policing of football matches where I think we only get about a fifth of the money back. The last answer I had about that was that Mr Greenhalgh was approaching the Government to try to do something about it and I wondered if you had been able to get anywhere with that.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Certainly what we have been doing is working alongside the MPS to be very clear about the legislation, working with Commander [Peter] Terry - I think he has been promoted now, though, hasn't he now?

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Deputy Assistant Commissioner Terry. Sorry, I cannot keep track of the promotions in the MPS these days. Thoroughly deserved. He is a phenomenal officer. With the MPS we want to be very clear about - and that was not always clear - the legal framework about what the footprint was. The other thing that we have been very clear about with the clubs is that the MPS are not there to perform stewarding. What we see certainly at games -- and I live in a part of

London where we have three premiership clubs, quite properly we are beginning to see the stewarding out of the grounds to the Tube stations and other areas being undertaken by the clubs, which they do willingly, most of the clubs I think. We are seeing that shift, so that the police are able to focus on the touts, the criminality, the load of criminality that you might get around a ground. I am not aware that I have been leading a specific exhortation for funding from the Home Office but you are probably going to correct me.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): No, it is a fair point, we have, along with a number of other -- it will not surprise you that many police forces are talking again about this issue so --

Andrew Dismore AM: I have the answer here. Mayor's Question Time Question 2015/1568.

"My Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has made representations to Government about this."

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): The MPS has around --

Andrew Dismore AM: Well, it says "The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime".

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Well, the MPS has.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We have done it around a number of areas where we have no control over costs. We have discussed here the other one that we have raised, which is around dangerous dogs where we spend a phenomenal amount of money kennelling dogs across the MPS that we do not think should be a cost that falls on the taxpayer, so there are a whole range of those sorts of things that we have raised at a very senior official level with the Home Office to say, "As we are looking at these things, as we go into a much tougher funding environment, you have to address these issues and one of them is the true costs of policing football falling where it should fall".

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): There are some others like the Innovation fund. The Innovation Fund has existed for the last couple of years, £50 million is being top sliced from policing and then we are invited to bid for our own money back --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Which you do not get back.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): -- which we do not always get back. It seems to me at the moment that probably would be best spent locally rather than on national projects. There are things like that that we put forward as ideas but, you are quite right, if there are alternative sources of income for those people, the polluter pays, if you like, then perhaps that would not be a bad idea.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I will follow this up with a letter, Commissioner, but I have had a few complaints about the police's policing of the protest yesterday and one of them was that one of the organisers was threatened with arrest, simply for having organised it, and it does worry me that there is an appearance, at least, that there is some police encouragement not to protest at all.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The law is fairly clear; people have a right to protest. What they do not have the right to do is a right to commit crime. We had a 70,000 anti-austerity march, as you know, only probably about 14 days ago now. That was all carried out peacefully. I think we had four arrests for that, so I think we have plenty of evidence that we facilitate protest. If anybody has a complaint, of course, we will enquire into it but we always have to strike that balance between, of course, allowing protests, allowing democracy in Parliament to happen without intimidation and to

make sure that if people want to hurt people or damage things then they do not get away with it. They are the only tensions we have.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): That is all good to hear. Thank you.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you. Jennette.

Andrew Dismore AM: Can I just say --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Excuse me, no, can I come in?

Andrew Dismore AM: I just want to say thank you for the way you dealt with the Golders Green thing. That was all.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Can I come in? I need to ask the Deputy Commissioner, and we will have it in writing, Deputy Commissioner, and it goes back to what you were saying. There are some things that if you do not have the police presence and you do not have adequate stewarding then you end up in mayhem. I am thinking about the Wireless Festival last weekend in Finsbury Park, which Joanne and I have boundary responsibilities for. I think the best thing is if you could send us a copy of the report of that because, clearly, something happened that should not have. There were inadequate stewards and a small number of police. In some instances they appeared to be overwhelmed and that is not something that we want to see or that should happen again.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I do not disagree with you but, ultimately, that is the responsibility for the people who organise and licence the event.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes, but if it is not done it then falls back on the local policing. There was extra noise in the sky when you had to bring in extra surveillance. I am sure that you will find in your report then officers were called away from other duties, ie policing the streets because we are inundated with prostitutes at the moment. You should have some way, when there is a major festival like this over a weekend, of ticking a box so that there is adequate stewarding because if there is not the police will have to step in.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I absolutely agree with you, but I go back to the point: we do not licence these events. What I am trying desperately to avoid is the scenario that we had where everything, bar selling the ice creams, we used to do. It is absolutely clear, in licensing terms, there are various guides, there is various legislation, the stewarding failure will be down to the organisers of the event.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: No, but at licensing, Deputy Commissioner, you put in representations. I have been there.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We do put in representations.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: The representation you put in at this festival needs looking at because, clearly, it was not adequate.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Jennette, I think we are agreeing but we are not taking responsibility for their decision. I do not think it would be fair. There is a review being carried out of that event because, clearly, people were trying to get into it and it was proving difficult for the stewards.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: The review is being carried out? Yes, let us have a look at it.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): At the end of the day, the organisers have to take responsibility. I do not think it is for the MPS to be judged for the quality of our advice for a decision that they made. That is the point Craig makes but we agree broadly.

Joanne McCartney AM (chair): Extra or better trained stewards would be a given.

Tony Arbour AM: It is a very simple one. I think it is to you, Stephen. Does MOPAC own property that is used to accommodate non-MPS staff, for example, members of HMIC and the National Police Chiefs Council ?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am aware of one. Obviously, we have only 700 residential units and I am aware in one case, because of the new changes in governance around the Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) demise, that there may be a residential unit that is made available in that particular case.

Tony Arbour AM: Therefore, we do?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I can get you a written response on that, Tony.

Tony Arbour AM: OK. Thank you.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: To the Committee.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No, just Tony.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Yes. That would be helpful. Can I thank you all for your attendance today. It has been a very useful session.