

Police and Crime Committee – 25 February 2016

Transcript of Agenda Item 5 – Question and Answer Session with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime and the Metropolitan Police Service

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Now we go to our main item today, which is our monthly question and answer session with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). I am going to start, if I can, on Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) report that was published last week. Whilst that report stated that the MPS did some things very well, the overall judgment was that the MPS required improvement, and it highlighted a few key issues where that improvement needs to take place. One of those was the way the MPS investigates different types of crime, and, I think, it made some comments that some of these findings had been made two years previously as well in a 2014 report, and it was very disappointed that they had not been improved. Perhaps you could tell us what progress the MPS has made since this assessment and how you are going to go about addressing the concerns with regards to investigation in the report.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Thank you, Chair. Last week’s report was one of a series of reports that have come out in the last month. PEEL (police, effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy programme) is the new totality assessment for policing. It has effectiveness, efficiency and leadership, and you will be aware we have been graded ‘good’ on both efficiency and leadership. Effectiveness came out last week. There are two areas where we are not happy in terms of the outcome, but there is slightly different nuance, I think, in terms of where they are. Around volume crime and volume crime investigation, it quite rightly highlighted the progress that has been made around volume crime reduction, but the actual effectiveness of crime investigation is not as good as it should be. We have spoken here a number of times around that. It talks about our policy and approach, which we touched on a little bit last time we met, where, probably different to many other forces in the country, the first officer attending the scene does not own the crime in London. There is a hand-off straight away. If I attend, I record the crime and pass it to Stephen [Greenhalgh] to do an investigation, and go on to the next thing. That is quite a different model to what you would see in most other parts of policing, certainly in England and Wales.

One of the things that we spoke about last time with the changes we are bringing up is about individual officers owning the crime from start to finish. We have been running a pilot around what we call ‘My Crime’, which is a way of personalising it for the person who is the victim of crime. Although it is only a small pilot, we have seen quite a big increase in victim satisfaction from that first officer attending.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Does that include response officers as well?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): It does not improve response times; it improves outcomes both in terms of the satisfaction of the person having it and the chances of solving it. I think the report is quite useful in terms of saying, “Look, you have made some real progress on some of these volume crimes in terms of crime reduction”, and I will come on to serious crime, the high end, “but you are not as effective as you could be about those volume crime investigations, and also you are inconsistent”. They found pockets where they said, “That is a really good thing going on in Richmond”, or wherever it may be, “but you go to Bromley and they have no idea about that”. It is about getting that consistency in the volume crime investigation piece to make that far more effective progress. We are doing some work around ‘My Crime.

We have spoken here before about the work we have been doing around training front line supervisors in something called Professionalising Investigation Programme (PIP), so we have been doing a piece of work, and by the end of this month all of the Territorial Policing (TP) sergeants will have gone through a training programme around supervising crime investigations. The feedback both anecdotally and on our interactive forums is very positive around that course. The sergeants who have done it think it is a really good programme. There is a way of taking that forward. We have always been clear that one of those big focuses around that volume crime investigation has to be about getting it right the first time you do it, avoiding the number of hand-offs you have, and being consistent around it.

They then highlighted some other areas in volume crime investigation. This was done at the time we were rolling out what we call the forensic hubs. It highlighted something which we highlighted ourselves, that actually, in our days, we talk about digital crime as if it is something new. The reality is every crime has a digital footprint in some way. If I am arrested for harassment or a public order offence now, when I arrive at custody I have a mobile phone, and I may have done some of that harassment on Facebook. What we have done is put some forensic hubs in each of our custody units that allow for that bulk interrogation of mobile and digital devices. We had already recognised that was a pinch-point in terms of getting that bit of the investigation right. Those hubs are out there and we should see an increase in that.

There is still a problem if you require a very high level of investigation of digital devices or digital media, but that is not unique to the MPS. That is a pinch-point across the country in terms of our ability to access some of that very high-end stuff and the fact that it is in a pipeline. You might be investigating me for harassment, but the next one might be a murder. For obvious reasons, that is going to be a higher priority and will go higher up the forensic list than a harassment type of thing. That is the work around that volume crime investigation, the hand-offs.

The other one to highlight is the shortage of detectives. There is a shortage of detectives in the area they looked at, but I think it has to be put into context. If you go back to the year 2000 and compare that year to today, we have 50% more detective posts in the MPS than we had in 2000. We have massively grown the number of detectives in the MPS over the last ten years. If you just look at the four or five years that we have been coming before this Committee, we have grown detectives in counter-terrorism, we have grown detectives in what we call FALCON (Fraud and Linked Crime Online), we have grown detectives in rape and serious sexual offences command, so we have seen that pull through. The figures I saw for last month - for the end of January 2016 rather than the end of February 2016 - if you look at posts we think you need a detective's skill in and gaps we have, it is between somewhere like 700 to 800 gaps in terms of pulling those through. The balance that we look at each month is making sure that the gaps and the pain are shared as equitably as possible against the risk. The tendency they highlight, which is quite right, is that if you look at the areas of the MPS where I expect, if you talk to the staff, they would feel the most pressure - we have talked about rape and serious sexual offences before - what I would call the general office on borough, which is Borough CID (Criminal Investigation Department), borough investigators, they would also feel a challenge in terms of it. That is the work we have been doing at that end of it.

It quite helpfully then says, "Actually, on the serious end of it, the MPS have a lot they can show to the rest of the country". It also highlights as well, which is one of the things that people will pick up, a graph on page nine of the full report, the volume of serious and organised crime in London and how far out of kilter it is with every other force in the country. Therefore, to some extent, you would expect to see that the investment has been made there and the focus has been around that.

I can go on to vulnerability and other bits, but it is a rather long answer.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Certainly the issue that HMIC talked about was that sometimes it can take three days for an investigating officer to be assigned a case, by which time some crucial evidence could have been lost.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Are you saying that the work you are doing will stop that delay from happening?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): There will always be some cases that have to be handed over. If I think back 30-plus years when I started, there were always some cases you went to that you never kept yourself. If you are first on the scene at a murder, if you follow it to its logical conclusion, you do not leave it with the first-response officer. The predominance of volume crime investigation will stay with the officer that first attends the incident, and that is a big change. As we talked about last time, there is a lot of training that goes behind that, but it avoids then the three-day handover and those sorts of issues. You should not lose evidence even with a handover because you should make sure that all the evidence is captured, even as a first-responder. I get frustrated when I see things like, say, we lost evidence because it was a three-day handover. All that evidence should be captured at the time.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): OK. When you refer to volume crime, is that your common assaults and your burglaries?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. Sorry. My apologies.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): They are the things that affect people in everyday life most?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. It is the stuff that you would expect to see reported in a borough, 90% of the volume that comes in. Sorry. Shorthand, volume crime.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): HMIC, in a previous report, I remember, had said that because neighbourhood officers were now given more investigative roles, there was concern that they were not having sufficient training. I know you have said you have rolled out training for sergeants, but what are you doing to make sure that those initial investigating officers will be better trained?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. We have changed the initial package at Hendon [Police College] as part of your initial training in terms of putting parts of the PIP investigative programme in there to train people. It will take a time to bring people through those systems. Most people, at some point in their career, have had some investigative training, and often in cases it is refreshing it. It is interesting. The critique, nearly 18 months ago now, was, "Why are you giving volume crime to neighbourhood officers?" The critique this year is, "Why are you handing over volume crime?" You have to settle on one model or the other. You cannot say forever that people going to things will not hold a crime level. There is a balance. With the one dedicated ward officer, they end up holding a lot of crimes. They are not going to be able to do many of those things that are the public expectation of a ward officer. It is also about making sure - again, we touched on this last time - we are getting the modelling for the number of officers we are going to require to carry out that function right.

Andrew Dismore AM: Just picking up on the issue of detectives, you saw that it is between 700 and 800 short. Is that right?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. That is right across the MPS.

Andrew Dismore AM: Across the MPS. OK. What proportion of those are on the boroughs then?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I do not have that figure to hand. I would be going from memory. I am quite happy to give it to you but I do not have it to hand.

Andrew Dismore AM: OK. I think that would be useful to know. It has been said that you are covering the gaps with people in training. Is that right?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): We have always done that. If I am uniformed officer and I want to become a detective, there is a series of training that I would go through. There is a national programme now, the national investigators programme. As I am going through that, I am a trainee.

Andrew Dismore AM: Are trainees put effectively in charge of an investigation?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): You would be, in the same way that a uniformed officer would be, but that is around supervision. If I was a detective sergeant and I have six detectives in my team, I would not be giving the most complex grievous bodily harm [cases] to the trainee. I might be giving it to the experienced detective to work with the trainee. That is part of the training and development.

Andrew Dismore AM: You do not see that as a problem?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I would like more detectives, but there is a reality about how quickly you can grow detectives and train people in terms of doing it. It is also about the uplift that we put into serious areas of the organisation as well.

Andrew Dismore AM: That is the next question. To what extent are you having to draw officers off the boroughs permanently or temporarily to staff these mega-investigations, like the historic sex abuse cases? Obviously, doing counter-terrorism or fraud or serious sex crimes, it may be - to use a colloquialism - a bit more sexy than doing the borough burglaries.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): They are a bit more high-risk as well. I do not think I would use the word "sexy". I think the public would say to you, "So, you prioritised criminal damage of ten motor vehicles in a street, or burglary, over a roaming terrorist" or whatever the issue might be. The reality is that the resources will always go where the risk is. The reality about the detectives thing, there are colleagues here, people like the Federation [Police Federation of England and Wales] and others, who can probably tell you chapter and verse. When we change some of the allowances and you look at the volume of work that is going through some of these teams, being a detective becomes a lot less attractive.

Andrew Dismore AM: I am going to come on to that in a minute. Can I also go back to what is supposed to happen in the borough clusters now? My understanding of when the borough clusters were first set up was that they are going to have ownership of the crime and investigate themselves.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: It seems to me that at the moment we are facing in two different directions from what you have just said. What actually is supposed to happen? Somebody phones up, reports a burglary, somebody

goes around immediately, and if it is one way, you think there is something you can do straight away, otherwise it is going to be two or three days, perhaps --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Burglary will almost certainly get a scene attendance fairly quickly. It will be graded accordingly.

Andrew Dismore AM: Then what is supposed to happen? The next question is what does happen?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Two things will happen. First of all, it will be recorded and put on the system. At the moment it will be allocated to someone to investigate. The response officer, with a few exceptions, will not carry the caseload.

Andrew Dismore AM: All right. The "someone to investigate": is that somebody who is allocated to the cluster, or is it somebody who is centred in the borough, or is it somebody else?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): It will be in the borough, almost certainly. If you are doing a stabbing, it may well leave the borough. If it is a murder, it may well leave the borough. It will be in the borough, so it will be part of --

Andrew Dismore AM: An ordinary burglary.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): An ordinary burglary will stay in the borough.

Andrew Dismore AM: All right. The original idea, as I understand it, was that you would have a detective attached to the cluster and they would be doing it. Is that right, or am I wrong about that?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): The detective attached to the cluster of neighbourhoods.

Andrew Dismore AM: Yes.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): It will be a detective who is specialised for those neighbourhoods that will get it. Yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: Yes, the half-a-dozen wards in the cluster. Right.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: Now, do you have enough people doing that?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I do not have that figure. We do have people doing that, yes, and some will go into a volume crime team, where they still have some volume teams.

Andrew Dismore AM: Is that model working or not working?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): We will move, over a period of time, to the model that keeps the initial investigation - where it is appropriate to be done - at that level, so there will be a threshold with it with the officer who attends the crime scene.

Andrew Dismore AM: Is the shortage of detectives impacting on your success rate in detecting crime and indeed prosecuting crime? If you look at burglary figures in Barnet, only 6% are detected and only half of those result in a prosecution.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): At its margins, it must have some effect, but it will be different for different types of crime across London.

Andrew Dismore AM: Examples of what is different across London?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): It would depend. If you look at things like the work around gangs, the increase in officers will have had a positive effect in terms of the people under judicial restriction around gangs. If you look at the work around fraud and cyber, it is a very different outcome now to three years ago. If you look at the 20% plus year-on-year increase in sex and serious sexual offences, it will be different. You made the point about the historic investigations and they have to be put in the context. I think I will get the figure wrong - there has been a lot of media talk about Operation Midland - that is about 20 or 22 detectives. In an organisation of our size, that is not a big number. The big numbers where the detectives have moved to and gone have been around those three big blocks I talked about.

Andrew Dismore AM: And Operation Yewtree?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): As I say, that is that team. It is about 20 to 22 people.

Andrew Dismore AM: About 20, OK. If we go on to recruitment, you said that it does not seem to be quite so attractive. Why is that? Is it because it is boring or because it is not --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Gosh, no. I do not think many operational detectives would describe it as boring. It is very high-volume work; hours are incredibly unpredictable. We ask some of these people to do at times quite amazing things and they do it. Detectives will often talk about coming to what they think is the end of a shift and something coming in, and they are just in there and staying on. Also, when we changed some of the national terms and conditions, at the moment there is no additional reward for taking additional skills. We cannot alter that, as the MPS. It is not in our gift to do it. Part of the work we are doing nationally - myself and Robin Wilkinson [Human Resources Director, MPS] sit on the two national review bodies on this - is looking at how we can give people additional money and additional reward for additional skills. We touched on it the month before last when we spoke about firearms officers. If I come into the MPS as a constable and choose to take additional responsibilities, skills and accredited training, how can you reflect that in what I get rewarded? I think that is part of the challenge.

Andrew Dismore AM: The reason you are having difficulty recruiting is because they do not get enough money?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No, it is never as simple as one thing. It will be that, it will be the demands - these are high-pressure roles - and it will also be some people look and say, "Do I want that level of scrutiny and inquiry into everything I do?" because by the very nature, they are more high-profile. There will be people who say, "I want my work/life balance". I am only going on the interactive forums; you can actually look and see what people are saying. They are saying, "Look, that will not fit my work/life mix. I am not going to do that".

Andrew Dismore AM: How long is it going to take to address this detective shortage?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): To get up to our new model of numbers, there is probably another 18 to 24 months of work there. There will be turnover in the meantime. Part of the other work we are doing is looking at how you can stream people earlier in their career, so can you identify people far earlier in their career who have a preference or a prevalence for this? People are talking about things, and it is quite right we have the conversations: could you enter the service, complete a much shorter period of time in a uniformed role or even enter the service as a detective?

Andrew Dismore AM: A lot will depend on looking at aptitude and so forth, but you have started to recruit your additional firearms officers; now you want to recruit additional detectives, quite rightly.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: In the end, is the pool big enough to support all these specialist skills roles, bearing in mind you have lost some 4,000 officers over the year?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No, the pool is big enough and people do come through that pool. If you think over the last four years, the volume of recruitment we are going through, you go through that thing as people have to build experience, how the organisation has traditionally worked, and that is why some of the traditional solutions are challenging going forward. People join an organisation on a sort of horizontal career path or a horizontal time path, they build experience, move into specialisms and continue through the organisation and exit. That is a model that has probably worked when it was a fixed 30-year career and all the rest. It probably will not work for the future.

Andrew Dismore AM: Do you think it is going to take another couple of years?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Before we get to that level. In an organisation of our size, you are always going to be 100, 150, more or less close to that and people will always want experienced detectives. The telling statistic for us, as I say, when we look back at our history over time, I think we had a fall last month, but it was November 2015 or December 2015 we had the most detectives in the MPS that it has ever had.

Andrew Dismore AM: Yes, but if they are being concentrated in specialist roles rather than on the boroughs, that is not actually helping what you call the volume crime and what people in my borough talk about, burglary and mugging and all the rest of it.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No, I absolutely get that, but it is not as simple as just saying, "All I have to do is fill the boroughs". If you are sitting there looking at the entire risk matrix, I assure you, you would probably make exactly the same decisions.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Another thing mentioned in the report was lack of basic equipment. I was shocked with this line:

"Digital cameras are often not available and preventing officers from capturing evidence such as injuries or the crime scene itself at the earliest opportunity."

Has that been rectified?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): A lot of work has been done to rectify those issues. We were slightly surprised to see the one around the digital camera not available. There is a wider issue about digital evidence and that is something that we have to reinforce quite often. For a variety of reasons, officers often use initiative and, like many of us, will take their personal phone out and capture it. Of course, at the point you do that, you put your phone in the evidence chain, so while it is a great initiative and a really good idea that people show, it is making sure they are using force equipment, as in the MPS equipment.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Will those first responders have that equipment after this?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): They will have digital cameras, and with the rollout now in Lewisham of the Windows-based tablets, increasingly they will have tablets that can do the same, because the endgame has to be - many of you are using tablets today or similar types of devices - to capture the evidence and be able to put it straight into the file there and then digitally.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): OK. The other area I wanted to ask about was offender management.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes, the Integrated Offender Management (IOM).

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): It did highlight a shortage of staff on boroughs and also lack of resilience.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I think the lack of resilience was highlighted. I am just looking at the detail. One of the critiques about IOM which we were slightly surprised at was - to some extent I will paraphrase - we should impose the structure on partners.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): It said there were inconsistencies.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): There always is with working with 32 partners. I am sure they get as frustrated and they get reports saying that the MPS are inconsistent. I thought the shortage of staff was much more. Most of the boroughs, depending on their volume in their cohort, only have one member. It was when people were away and on leave that the challenge was, I thought.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Yes, they said that. They said:

"It is inconsistent among boroughs and that boroughs usually only have one member of staff to manage offenders, and when they were absent, there was no resource to continue the work."

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): In fairness, one person does not manage all the offenders; they just physically cannot do it. They co-ordinate, they do the packages and they do some of the high-end stuff, so I think there was a bit of misnomer that that one person is the only person doing IOM. If I go and do a warrant check tonight or I go and do a bail check, I am doing offender management. Where it is absolutely fair is this issue about whether it is consistent across the 32 London boroughs. There is actually now a central team, so there is an IOM Continuous Improvement Team at the centre within TP that is going out, doing inspections, checking where things are and then coming back to suggest how you could change that.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): OK. Obviously last year you changed the staffing complements in the IOM teams.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I know it caused some concerns among some boroughs. Are you planning to do a review?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): We will certainly look at it. Alison Newcomb [Area Commander for Westminster, MPS], who has done an awful lot of the work on that, will look at it. It does highlight one of the challenges in the report, and this is where the consistency debate is always quite difficult. We got to a situation where we said, "That is the cohort" and then at a local level, people said, "Yes, but I want to include 50 more people" and you go, "Right". The staffing model has been built on one thing, but the cohort you are actually managing is something different. We have to resolve that debate. How much flexibility do you give to local partners and the local borough to say, "That is our cohort, these are the people it should be" vis-à-vis something where you are working with ourselves, the National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company, who say, "No, this is the cohort"? Because when we get on to vulnerability, you will see one of the challenges that HMIC keep highlighting is if you draw your boundaries too wide, it becomes unmanageable because we get critiqued in the vulnerability one, saying basically London has too much vulnerability. I am not sure how we address that.

Tony Arbour AM: Yes, I did. When these reports were published, I was quite confident that London's finest - this is really for the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime - were going to be right there at the top, outstanding and so on, and yet the verdict is "requiring improvement". I want to ask you, Stephen, whether or not that came as a surprise to you.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Let us understand the process. This is the first time a comprehensive inspection regime by the HMIC does not just look, as the Deputy Commissioner said, at the effectiveness, it also looks at efficiency, legitimacy and there is a narrative judgment on leadership. If we look within effectiveness, some of the broad criticisms of the MPS I recognise. That is not a surprise to me, but coming to a binary judgment for each of those separate pillars I think is a very nuanced thing and it is quite difficult to understand why an inspector might come one way or the other. For instance, let us take the two areas of "requires improvement" within the effectiveness judgment. The HMIC are very, very clear, and I think they are right to say that the MPS really leads the country when it comes to the investigation of serious and organised crime, so the fact is that when you have a homicide or a murder in our capital city, the MPS solves pretty much virtually all of those. There is a conviction rate that is around 85% and they detect around 95% of that sort of crime - that is mentioned - and serious and organised crime has been very strong. Also victim satisfaction: the MPS has seen a seismic improvement in the victim satisfaction rate, from 74% to 80%.

I take the criticisms as well, and I think that is fair, but do I think that it is easy to grade a force relative to other forces when the challenges are so different. I think it is very hard. Within the report it says that the MPS is dealing with a capital city with now 217.5 organised crime groups per 1 million population, compared to in England and Wales an average of 75, so there are three times the number of organised crime groups. That is part of policing a capital city. Comparing the performance of the MPS to the performance of Dyfed-Powys [Police] is pretty difficult, I would have thought, given that context.

Tony Arbour AM: I think you are choosing rather an extreme example, Dyfed-Powys and the MPS.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am just saying that it is difficult to rate each individual force when they have different challenges.

Tony Arbour AM: We are accustomed here in the capital to knowing that the MPS is the sort of difference between - I do not know - the Third Division South and the Premier Division. What this report is showing is not really a comparison between those things, I suggest to you, but HMIC looking at the MPS pretty much on its own and saying, "These are places where it --"

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Tony, that is absolutely not the case. The State of Policing report was laid before Parliament yesterday. There is a table that grades every single force on the same measures and what I am contending to you is it is quite difficult to do that, given the public safety challenges of a global metropolis and the challenges faced by some rural forces. The reality is there is not a single urban force that does not have a "requires improvement" judgment, according to the HMIC, when it comes to policing effectiveness. Therefore, I would contend to you that I take the criticisms; they are very familiar. I think the MPS have been acting against those, so I am not trying to duck that, but it is extremely difficult to provide a binary judgment when forces are in very, very different positions.

You should also recognise, as do the inspectors, the HMIC, that the MPS has done extremely well when it comes to being able to balance the books. It is a very positive judgment with regard to the leadership of the force and also the progress that has been made around legitimacy. Everything needs to be handled in context and I think it is extremely hard just to have a fixed view on performance and to say we have now been graded in a way that puts us in the middle of pack, so to speak.

Tony Arbour AM: You describe the thing as nuanced; you say it could just as easily --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, I do, because there are four areas where you measure effectiveness. Two of them have been judged good and two of them have been "requires improvement". If you deep-dive into the "requires improvement", there are aspects of this narrative judgment that describe the performance of the MPS as good. I have been in the offices when HMIC is reviewing the MPS where they have said, "I am just contending whether I am going to make it a 'requires improvement' or a 'good'". They are sitting in their offices saying, "On the balance, do I go this way or do I go that way?" and I contend to you that it is that sort of thinking that indicates it is extremely difficult to grade something one way or the other. Within all the judgments there are areas for improvement, which we recognise, but to fall one way or the other I think is nuanced.

Tony Arbour AM: All right. Was there anything in the report which you were not expecting to see? In other words, were you surprised by anything? I think it is a question for you both.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): When it comes to the investigation of volume crime and the improvements, I am not surprised at all. That is something that there has been a move at reducing the number of hand-offs. It is something that the leadership are well aware of and have been trying to do. The reality is that the poor information response - the IT processes and the digital issue in the front line - I am not surprised about either, but then we are doing something about it. There is the largest rollout in the country or anywhere in the world of body-worn video. We are going to be introducing 20,000 tablets to the MPS in October 2016, so the plans are in place to ensure that we have a very digital front line from later on in this year. Yes, there is nothing that surprises me in this report with regard to the investigation of volume crime, the issues around IOM, where clearly often it is the relationship between the borough-based IOMs and the specialist units that are also trying to grip these offenders, nor I am surprised about the consistency around the support for vulnerable victims.

Tony Arbour AM: I take that. Before asking Craig [Mackey] on that one, you talked about visiting HMIC and there is a guy sitting in there and he says, "Well, it could be 'good' or it could be 'requires improvement'" or

something. Do you think, therefore, that the method of HMIC could perhaps be refined so you do not get that kind of value judgment?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, I do. We are both former borough leaders; Len [Duvall AM] is a former borough leader. We all remember at its very height the Audit Commission trying to create a oneness and a sameness around local authorities that, frankly, had very different challenges. It is very hard to provide that oneness and sameness, and in some ways I see echoes of the comprehensive performance assessment and some of the limitations of broadly narrative judgments that lead to a box where you get graded.

There are areas of concern, and I will point to one in particular which I think is very pertinent to the capital around stop and search and the legitimacy strand, where you publish in the statistics the amount of stop and searches per million population and it shows that London is very, very high. The narrative, however, explains that what we want to see is the intelligent and fair use of an important intrusive power and for police to have the confidence to use it. With the numbers as they are published, that jars with the narrative, which I actually support, which is we do want to see proper use of stop and search and we do want to take the weapons off our streets. I think we need to be very careful about overuse of something which has, for me, echoes of the Audit Commission comprehensive performance assessment. We have to recognise the valuable role of the inspectors, but what we do not want to create is an inspection industry that grades each individual force in the same way, because policing this capital and policing the rest of the country are very different challenges.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Schools would say the same thing about the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) as well.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Deputy Commissioner, we have heard much from you about, say, the senior grades or the specialist activities involved, and that was picked up by HMIC. Can you say to me that these concerns are separate from the numbers of police - we are talking bobbies - in an area? By that I am referring to perhaps this vexed question of abstractions. The scenario I see and I am told about from the three boroughs I represent - I am not saying it is common, but I am saying it may well be that it is common to the high-crime, high-volume boroughs - is that when you look at the figures, say, for instance, Islington has had over 2,000 uniformed officers lost since 2010, either through abstractions or reduced numbers. Surely that then plays into the ability of the borough to actually then go out and identify crime and work with the specialists so that we can bring criminals to court.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): If I am honest, there are two quite different answers to that one, depending on where you look at it. You would have to ask the HMIC. I think the HMIC would say, because they have not mentioned resourcing as issue, having sat with them, "This is about the effectiveness of the process that kicks in when a crime is recorded" which to some extent - and I know this is a very purist argument, but I think it is how they would say it - is divorced from how many resources you have to do it. You remember on the day that this was announced there was an awful lot of talk around what was going on with neighbourhood policing across the country. It slightly confused us because we had not any conversation with HMIC about that. I think it is divorced from that.

No, the reality is, if you are on a borough like Islington, I cannot confirm that figure. I have never heard it presented over that length of time, but we have spoken before about the volume of abstractions running on an average day at in excess of 400 from across London boroughs to support central London and/or particular issues that happened. It is why it was so important when we spoke about it here and at the Budget Committee [Budget and Performance Committee], the work we did around trying to ensure London gets the recompense for that, both in money terms and recognition for those demands that come with policing an international

capital city, so I think it is important it is seen in that context. At its margins, of course resourcing will affect how effective you can be around this, but it is very marginal.

As the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime said in answer to the earlier question, I think, the reality around volume crime investigation and around those critiques in there are things that we would all say, yes, are right, and we have all recognised. I suspect if you spoke to Catherine [Roper, Borough Commander, Islington] or someone else on Islington Borough, they would say, "Yes, on some of those things, are we as consistent as we should be? Are we sure that every officer attending the scene has all the appropriate and up-to-date training?" We just have to keep driving at that.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Can I then look at it this way? You are saying the fact that HMIC, in its report, does not link resource with the critique it gives to, say, investigation, then there is no link?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No, in fact, I said something quite different. I said I think they take a very pure view of investigation. I am doing this second-hand. As I say, I would emphasise that it would have to be that HMIC answer it. They have not said, with the exception of trained detectives, anywhere in there this has anything to do with whether there is the right number of people at Islington, Murder Command or wherever it will be. They have not said that, so I cannot make that assumption for them. I said to you, absolutely, the reality is, if it is busy, there are a number of events going on in central London, you have lost a lot of people off your borough for aid, you turn up for the late turn and look around the table and think, "Tonight is going to be a busy night. There are not many of us to go out tonight". That will have an effect, absolutely, I agree with you.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Just lastly, I am with you there, because that is the sort of common sense view that any Londoner will take and then they will make the links when they see the headlines, "The MPS failing". I think it is linked to what Tony [Arbour AM] was saying: how helpful then are the HMIC reports in the overall effectiveness of the MPS for Londoners to understand when they get these billboard headings, "The MPS is failing"?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): It is really important that they did not say "failing". There are categories below this where nobody wants to be, but sadly some of our colleagues have those. The "requires improvement" in this category, this one, when it was published last week - I will get it wrong - it is either 12 or 14 forces that were all graded as "requires improvement". I would be in violent agreement with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. You have to read the whole report; you have to look at the detail. How it fits with the grading I think is more challenging. I will be honest with you: I think the one around volume crime is a fair grading. The vulnerability one I would push back on. I am not sure the commentary supports the grading, but that is a very personal view.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): I should say that issues about child protection we are going to deal with in our meeting next week when we have some other guests.

We are going to move on now to gangs and gang violence.

Roger Evans AM: Deputy Commissioner, can you just update us on the approach you are taking to gang crime now and how you are dealing with the way this type of crime is evolving?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Thank you, yes. Members will remember, probably going back to 2011 and 2012, we had started to see some increases and some of the highest levels we have seen of knife crime injuries in under 25-year-olds and also the challenge around gangs was very real,

very large. We collectively spent a lot of time focusing on the issues around gangs. We created the Gangs Command and brought together a number of resources that previously had been quite dislocated across the organisation to give that focus on gangs and those people causing most harm to our communities. We brought people together and we used a whole range of innovative tactics, from prevention work all the way through to some of the high-end stuff that we do. It involved some of our most sensitive tactics, and a real focus then on trying to get gang members into a situation where the number of gang members were manageable for London and we had the right interventions that work.

We moved to a position where about 40% of the people we think are on our gangs matrix are under some form of what we call judicial restriction, and that can be they are either in custody, they are being managed by the Probation Service or there is a proper plan around them. What we have seen over a number of years with the gangs, if we look at a period of time, that gang activity, some of the things we saw four or five years ago with gang videos, with firearms and those sorts of things, it is quite rare you see that now. It is the emergence and prevalence of knives and the predominance of people to carry knives that is the challenge now around gangs.

Also - probably I will get the timing wrong - towards the end of 2013 or 2014, we started to see the gangs, we think as the activity in London increased, moving to what has been referred to now as "county lines", where a gang will go to an area like where I started, like Swindon, and deposit people in Swindon to start to take over the volume drugs trade there. We have seen an emergence of work that we are doing with Bedfordshire, Wiltshire and many other forces around some of the challenges of London gangs' influence and trying to control drugs traffic and drugs trade outside London, because at the bottom of all of these things around gangs, there is either a territory or a trade. They would not describe it thus, but they are dealing in commodities. It is just that all the commodities are illegal.

What we have done alongside that is the work with MOPAC and other colleagues across London around all the gang intervention work. With the language we have used, we would be pretty clear that we cannot just arrest our way out of the challenge of gangs in London. There have to be realistic proposals where any of us - be it a teacher, a youth worker, someone running an after school club - could spot someone and think, "They need an intervention". We have to have a collective response that we all know works around that.

Roger Evans AM: You mentioned the phenomenon of gangs moving out of London. Certainly our experience with other public services is that the London boundary tends to be a bit of an "Iron Curtain". It is quite difficult to get people to work across it. How do you deal with that challenge in policing?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): To some extent there are some existing structures that help around it. I would be misleading you if I said it was perfect. We have always had an arrangement in the south east where forces can talk to each other, and of course we also in policing, unlike some other parts of the public sector - if you take something like the National Crime Agency - have organisations with a national footprint that allow those processes and information to come through. At its heart it is sharing information and intelligence.

It is also about one-to-one relationships. You will often talk now to someone in our Gangs Command and they probably know far better - I will make it up now - the Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) they are dealing with at Brighton than they do the DCI at Bromley because their links in that particular area are into that part of the country. It is really about sharing that information and intelligence to allow it to be effective and then mounting proactive operations. We have seen a number of them where things happen in forces outside London but the operation also has a footprint in London. The 'Mr Bigs' and the people at the back end of it we tackle. The issue about the street dealing that is affecting local crime in Swindon or wherever that force deals with.

Roger Evans AM: Do you feel that provincial forces are up to the job of dealing with this?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): As someone who came from a provincial force --

Roger Evan AM: Cumbria is quite a long way away. I do not think they have been hit by --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I started in Wiltshire so I should probably stop using references to Swindon, should I not? It is probably unfair on it, and it does affect far beyond Swindon and elsewhere. Yes, I think it is a different phenomenon for them but that is where policing is quite a collaborative and supportive culture. I have never met an operational officer in the MPS who says, "Phew, that problem has gone. It is on Colchester or wherever it is now. We do not have to worry about it". There is a real desire to help and assist in any way we can, and if it is about locking up people who are causing harm in our community as well as other communities we are all up for that.

Roger Evans AM: You talked about the increase in knife crime. What do you think is driving that?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I do not know is the honest answer. We have done quite a lot around this. A number of Members, Jennette [Arnold OBE AM] and others, have been very passionate about trying to drive this issue forward to see if we can understand what is behind it.

We saw up to the middle of last year about a 20% increase in knife crime injuries to people under the age of 21. It is now sitting at, I think yesterday, about 3%. That has plateaued a bit. We are doing a range of things, and yesterday evening was the first in the country where we ran an event of [New] Scotland Yard for retailers. Along with colleagues from the Home Office and from national policing we had in excess of 100 retailers in to talk about the responsible sale and retail of knives, both in real space and virtual space, to see what we can do around the prevention and control of knives.

At its heart, and it is only from talking to colleagues who spend far more of their day dealing with this than me, it is addressing the culture where it says that it is OK for a young Londoner, because it is predominantly young Londoners, to carry a knife and to take it out on the street, and my first response if I get into a confrontation is to use it. Somehow we have to address that culture and there are many, many people working on it.

There is a very powerful video that I will try to get for Members to see that has been done by one of the academies in East London that talks to young people around, "Why do you carry a knife?" and the answers are quite interesting. A lot of the young people actually think that knife crime is falling so they regard the city as safer. There are some quite contradictory messages in it. I think you have a knife crime one coming up again soon, and I will ask Duncan Ball [Commander, Gangs and Organised Crime Command, MPS] but it is certainly worth looking at.

Roger Evans AM: We will save it for then, but there has also been a more recent uptick in gun crime as well just in 2015 from 2014. Is that statistically significant? Should we worry about it?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): That is gun discharges predominantly, yes.

Roger Evans AM: Yes, that has gone up, a quite large increase really.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. They are small numbers but they are ones we look at every week. Of course we worry about it. There are two things I can guarantee on a Wednesday morning will always be looked at in the performance meeting. It is going to be gun discharges. It is going to be knife crime and where are we overall?

No, it is absolutely right to do it. We have seen it around a few boroughs. There is some analysis going on at the moment to work out if it is linked. That is almost one of those questions where, whatever the answer that comes back, it could be worrying. If it is linked, it might be in relation to a particular gang feud that is going on. If it is not linked, that is probably more worrying because it might mean there are more firearms out there. That is the one we focus on for obvious reasons quite closely.

Roger Evans AM: Yes. You talk as well about gun crime. Given that that is not discharges, is that possession by and large?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Both. There is a very particular --

Roger Evans AM: What about use of a gun in commissioning a crime where it is not discharged?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): You will pick up some of those in that but this is where we get very legal and technical, so apologies. The definition of a gun: it is a lethal barrelled weapon.

Roger Evans AM: We have some lawyers here so you will be all right.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No, but you get into a debate, so how do you classify a BB gun? What do you classify an imitation gun as? We just say, "Look, if people are pointing a gun at someone, we want to know about it". They are absolutely in there.

You will not pick always some of those ones where - I do not know - you get a report of a robbery at a local convenience store and the person who is robbed says, "They had a gun in the waistband of their trousers". You might pick that up in a different way.

Roger Evans AM: Looking at Operations Teal and Sceptre, can you just update us on what is happening with those and their success?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes, of course. Operation Teal is our pan-London response to prevent, disrupt and suppress violent incidents around gangs, which was another refresh which happened in June 2015. Since then 10,000 arrests, 2,000 knives seized, 500 firearms, 800 kilograms of drugs and about £3.9 million in cash and assets. Operation Sceptre has been three weeks of focused action which is particularly around knife crime, and this is part of what we were talking about yesterday also with colleagues from across the country. A lot of the work we have done around Sceptre has been around really focusing on people who habitually carry knives. We have a proper definition of habitual knife-carriers so we know those people who, even when you take the knife off them or you stop and search or you recover it in a weapons sweep, will go back out and get another knife before they go out, so focussing on those and focussing on areas where people keep knives.

We saw this start when we changed our approach to stop and search probably four years ago. There is an increasing predominance that knives will be kept somewhere in the locality rather than carried. Two gangs will meet. They will be somewhere where the knives are either stored or kept. We pick those up during knife sweeps, so knife sweep activity. In the weeks of action we have undertaken - we did 17 to 23 July last year,

October 2015 and again in February 2016 - under Sceptre, 1,800 knives have been surrendered, 512 have been seized and we have done nearly 3,000 weapons sweeps across various parts of London. That involves putting in things like the Territorial Support Group and specialist officers and literally just clearing an area.

Roger Evans AM: 1,800 surrendered, is that an amnesty?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): We and Jennette [Arnold OBE AM] and others have done some work with an amnesty and there is a work now - I have forgotten the name of the organisation - where we now have some bins available across London to deposit knives in. The bins are located in areas that are not covered by CCTV. It is not a way of trying to catch people. It is absolutely a way of trying to get those knives off the streets, and thank you to Jennette for help on that.

Roger Evans AM: Good.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: No, thank you. Our thanks should go to all those organisations and individuals who are out there, and also of course I am sure that you will join us, Deputy Commissioner, in thanking all the families who it is their loss, it is their loved ones who have been killed by a knife crime, who are out there working day in, day out to try to reduce the use of knives on our streets.

I wonder if we cannot give them some more support. I do not know if you have spoken to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime because it seems to me that we could maybe get a little bit more awareness if we got Transport for London (TfL) on board because that is part of the Greater London Authority (GLA) family. I cannot see that they cannot be thinking of the bus shelters, a co-ordinated approach where across London at some key sites the message could come out to people who are standing and who are there and ready to be informed. I do not think we have done enough on that yet. I do not know whether the Deputy Commissioner would have anything to say about that.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I would absolutely support that. I am meeting the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the Deputy Mayor for Transport [Isabel Dedring] and so I will absolutely raise that. The other thing is - and we spoke about this, and I mentioned it was last night this first session with the retailers - some of you may be aware a number of years ago through Crimestoppers there was a campaign launched called Fearless. This is something that the Commissioner was very passionate about. You will remember for many things we have Crimestoppers and those sorts of things where, if I see something wrong I can phone Crimestoppers. If I know someone regularly carries a knife, be it a friend, be it a family member, what do I do? Where do I go? Fearless was a way of providing that anonymous support. That is being relaunched and re-energised so I think it would fit entirely with your proposals to say, "If you are worried about your son, your daughter, your friend, your colleague, your co-worker, this is just a way you can get information there and provide yourself some reassurance that something will be done about it".

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes, and working with Crimestoppers they come and there is an integrity. I am not saying that there is not an integrity in the force, I am not saying anything like that, but I am just saying, when you see a notice from Crimestoppers, you know that this is a voluntary organisation and their work continues.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): It is a big ask to say to people, "Your only option is to ring the police". Clearly I would say all the time ring the police, but if your expectation of us or your previous dealings with us is different, I absolutely understand you want other avenues and other options.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes, thank you. Deputy Mayor, have you picked up anything that you think we could do more on in your last days in your office? This would be a great legacy.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Jennette, clearly I support what the Deputy Commissioner said, that this problem requires a focus that is beyond enforcement and we have to look within the GLA family and at a strategy that focuses not only on ways of intervening, and we are going to be discussing that, I know, as part of this morning, but equally in prevention. The idea of working with colleagues in TfL is a good one and we will pursue that.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Deputy Mayor, I am very keen that a lot more London schools do knife prevention and anti-violence education, and I put this to the Mayor before and he seemed to be a bit concerned that it could backfire and glorify knife crime. When we went to visit the St Giles Trust recently as a Committee we heard that there are schemes that demystify and debunk the myths associated with gangs, and it is not all about a quick buck and bling. It is a life of misery and being left behind. Do you think that there is more that can be done from MOPAC or from the GLA family to make sure schools - and a lot of them do take a great interest in this but some do not - instil that in their educational establishments?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Absolutely, and one of the things I do is chair a gangs panel, and within the prevention strand we have a head teacher, Dr Susan Tranter who attends regularly and has been working on the sort of curriculum that would work within schools. It is about working with professionals to find the sorts of materials that they would find useful that would avoid the glorification of violence but be an effective intervention. I have spoken alongside the Commissioner [MPS] to people within education to try to ensure that we can then disseminate that.

Equally beyond schools I think health is another area that we need to work effectively in, and recognising that a lot of people involved in gang violence are suffering from mental health issues, emotional trauma, and ensuring front line professionals are trained adequately is something that we have taken active steps to commission support for and to make sure that thousands of front line professionals are now trained as part of the Mental Health Awareness and Safeguarding programme.

Yes, of course there is more we can do to make sure people that encounter these problems day to day have the tools that they need to support young people and keep them away from a life that puts them in danger.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you. Perhaps outside of the meeting if you could just write to the Committee and let us know about that work that Susan Tranter is undertaking, as that would be very interesting.

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

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I am interested in a timeline on that work. You are trying to find a formula that works for schools. How close do you think you are to finding that?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Your lever is to be able to find something that works for everyone. First of all, you have to get engagement, and we have goes at raising this with schools, and I think this is one that does not have a beginning, middle and end. I am not sure it is easy to form this as part of the National Curriculum because we know this is a problem that is fairly localised. Any picture of London will show the corridor of gang violence runs pretty much along the north-south area and so it is appropriate as an intervention not in every part of London.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I am just curious about how much further forward you are going to be because it sounds a bit vague. It sounds very well intentioned and we are all very supportive of it, but what is the timeline here? Will we see some real progress in three months?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No, we have a strategy around gangs, Jenny, which is published. It has preventative strands and we have delivered against that strategy but we do recognise that there is more that can be done in schools. Do I think that MOPAC holds all the keys to that? No, I do not, but there are initiatives that we have taken and should continue to take beyond my time that make sure that those schools that are affected know how to deal with this.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It is obviously something that the next Committee will have to pick up quite seriously. Mr Mackey, something like only a fifth of knife crime is associated with gangs, so do you think there is more apart from such school interventions that could be done in this area? Are you giving advice on --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes, there are a whole range of things. Last night's event was really around trying to tackle the prevention issue. There was a statistic that I picked up last night, and I had not seen it before in terms of where we go. We have had a prosecution of a supplier of knives in London. You will be aware, I think we have spoken here before about this prevalence at the moment to market these 'zombie-killing' knives, as they are called, and it is rather sobering if you put that in any of the search engines and look at what comes up because you realise they are only manufactured for one thing. There is no actual lawful or reasonable purpose for them. This one related to someone using a particular word where we can prosecute under an Act, so there has been a prosecution of a supplier around those.

What I got yesterday from the suppliers, as you do with every other group of business people when you talk to them, is that they want to do the right thing: "Help me. Show me how responsible supply works. How do I train my staff to ask the right questions?" All of those sorts of things, I think, will play a part in doing this. In terms of the premise of your question, it is a much wider education and cultural piece for all of us about the carriage of knives.

I think it will be there for some considerable time. There will be a lot of work to do around it. I think a number of the programmes are starting to show some success. You talk to health colleagues, you talk to local authority colleagues, putting a youth worker in the four major trauma centres, so that when young people come in with knife crime injuries, even if there is no involvement of the police, we get much better information passed and we do get involved, but even if there is not, there is then an intervention and an opportunity to do something about that young person at risk.

One of the people on the video spoke last night in terms of having been stabbed six times, and thankfully in that case surviving, but you realise the huge impact it has and the ripples that go way beyond the person. It goes into the family and the community.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): More people carry knives out of fear for the same thing.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): What that must be like for the parent who gets the call one can only imagine, but you are right, we have to break out of that reinforcing thing that is, "I need this to be able to protect myself because everybody else is doing it". The statistics do not support that.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I did get a promise from the Mayor of London yesterday that he would raise this issue with you and discuss resources, so do let us know if he does.

I wanted to move on to Operation Shield. Could you tell us the current state of play?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes. Obviously this is one of many initiatives. We are investing nearly £7 million in a programme in both prevention and intervention. The Shield pilot, as you know, is based on a model that has shown huge reductions in serious violence in cities – Boston under ceasefire, Cincinnati, but also closer to home in Glasgow – and is part of our broad approach. In the pilot so far we have had 144 arrests, six knives and four firearms recovered. There have been 17 community meetings and 81 individuals have been engaged with the offer to help.

Obviously, the final evaluation which is going to be carried out by the MOPAC Evidence and Insight Team is expected towards the end of 2016.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You are talking about successes but it does not seem to be going down quite so well with the boroughs. There has been some resistance.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): There are three pilot boroughs and very much a continuation of some of the good practice we have seen in Lambeth. I have been to Lambeth and visited that, and they are working with it extremely well. There have been 78 arrests, 57 individuals engaged with the offer of help and two incidences of collective enforcement. In Westminster, 66 arrests and 24 individuals engaged with the offer of help. There is no doubt that it has been more problematic in Haringey, and I recognise that, but they are looking like they are going to effectively only go live next month. That is definitely a borough where it has been difficult to implement this. That is why we have been doing pilots but --

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Do you expect to extend any of those pilots?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You obviously pilot it with a view to test how this works and you expand what works. Clearly there are lessons to be learnt from all three boroughs and I do not want to tie the hands of my successor about what they do with this, but I recognise that there will be lessons to be learnt and you will not roll this out until it works as a model. Clearly, there are signs of some impact for relatively little investment in two of the three boroughs.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Where there has been scepticism about Shield, are you making changes at the moment?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I think there has been a misinterpretation of some things. There has obviously been a conflation of the term “collective enforcement” with “joint enterprise” which has not been helpful, and we have done our very best to make sure that that misunderstanding is overcome.

You also need to make sure it is done first and foremost with the support of the community, and that takes time, and it reflects that in Haringey that has been a bigger challenge than in both Lambeth and in Westminster. These are all lessons, but first and foremost whether you carry on and roll something out is dependent on the outcomes, which are clear. There are some outcomes around, do we see a reduced frequency of offence and seriousness of offence? Are we seeing engagement at exit gap activity? Are more gang members exiting that life as a result of this? The outcomes are clear and we need to measure those.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You feel that it is definitely reducing gang activity?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No, I am not saying that. I am saying these are some measures of what is going on in two of the boroughs. I have been very candid about that it has been more problematic to get this started in Haringey but that is partly because you need to get the community buy-in. I said that what you need to do is then measure the outcomes and that comes later in the year.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): With regards to Haringey there was a great community backlash against the notion of Shield. I think the borough commander has said about the need for anti-violence work, so I am just wondering, if you are going to launch it in Haringey, is it going to be under the banner of Shield or under a broader anti-violence strategy? I think the word "Shield" now is so damaged it is going to be very difficult to launch it again in Haringey and certainly in other boroughs. It is just inappropriate.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): My understanding is that it does not go live until early March 2016, so I do not have a sense that it is not going live. I take the point on branding. We spent far too much time deciding whether it was going to be Community Shield, Shield or Knife Drop and all these other things. It does not matter what you want to call it. The purpose of this programme is focused deterrence to crack down on those very few gangs that cause the vast majority of violence on our streets, and getting the community buy-in and support to tackle that. I do not think that is a key success factor, what you call the initiative, but getting community support and working with the community is a key part of this programme in order for it to be successful.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Yes, it is going to be vital. You talked a little bit about the two boroughs and some of the statistics arising out of that. Do you have any initial feedback about how the community feel, after having seen the work?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is better that I write to you with the specifics of how the community have reacted.

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

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): What we do have obviously in two of the three boroughs is a substantial amount of activity and the use of collective enforcement, so we are seeing that the model is essentially working according to the way it should work. Professor Kennedy, who designed this group violence intervention method, has been over and is satisfied that they are on the right lines and provided support to those boroughs, but I can give you any specific community involvement. Certainly, when I visited Lambeth recently, they felt that a lot of the community scepticism had been overcome. I have not made a visit to Westminster personally, but I am going on the comments of the professionals at the front line and what they have said to me. Equally, as you know, the situation in Haringey has been very different.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): It is. It strikes me that if it is working - I do not know whether it is or not - and you do have community buy-in in some boroughs, it might be you could do work with those community leaders to dispel any myths that you feel might be elsewhere.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You will know this better than me - this is your patch - but there are different community leaders. There is a cacophony of voices, and I am not sure it is directly applicable about how you deal with some of the issues in one part of London with the other, but there is no doubt that you cannot proceed in the teeth of vigorous opposition, and I think that is why it has taken so long.

My latest information is that, very late admittedly, the pilot is beginning early next month. There is some sign that even in Haringey it has been overcome. It is just taking longer.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Perhaps I should have said those that have been affected by gang violence, family members or --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Sorry, yes, absolutely, and they are often the best advocates of course, are they not? Yes, I take that point.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I would like to get into the evaluation of Shield. Presumably the Shield Programme Board does that. It meets fortnightly, does it not? Does it do the evaluation?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No. The evaluation of this pilot will be undertaken after the pilot ends at the end of March 2016, and that is going to be by the MOPAC Evidence and Insight Team. The outcomes - I can go through them - are the ones that will be evaluated.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): What role does the Shield Programme Board do then? Is that just --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): That is about ensuring that you implement the pilot and that it is the oversight of the programme. It is not there to evaluate it and score it.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): There is the Community Development Fund, which sits on the programme board.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): That is right.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): If you do a word search on their website and you use words like "gang crime", "knife crime" or "Shield", you get no results. Why is that?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You have asked me this before, Jenny.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Yes. I did not get a good answer then so I am asking you now.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We can go around in circles.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It is sad we can never get a reply.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You can do a word search on many organisations. This is an organisation that has experience working in these areas and building the community capital you need in order to get a programme like this to work. Rather than asking this repeatedly, I am very happy to outline the base upon which they were successful in being commissioned to support councils in their ability to work with communities to introduce this particular programme.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): They are apparently closing down at the end of March 2016.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): That I did not know.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Let me give you some more information.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Luckily the pilot ends at the end of the March 2016. I have not checked. That is news to me. I am surprised.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Apparently, it is hoping to move all of its assets to another organisation, but I do not think that is --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): To be perfectly honest with you, what you are describing there is happening within quite a considerable amount of the charitable sector, where there are mergers and changes as they look to try to take out administrative costs. You see that quite a lot. It does not mean that they end as a charity. They have a new delivery model. The way you put it, it sounded like they were suddenly being rubbed off the face of the earth.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): All right. Let us come back to the evaluation. What exactly will be the process of the evaluation? All the information will come in. You will have various criteria. Who will be looking and working out whether or not it was a valid --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): As I said to you before, the organisation that carries out the evaluation is MOPAC's Evidence and Insight team. I can go through the outcomes. It is reduced seriousness and frequency of offending, it is engagement in activity, improved self-esteem, reductions in risk for gang-involved young women, the numbers of individuals in education, training or employment, improved health and wellbeing, and getting individuals into stable and secure housing. Ultimately, the central purpose of the programme is to reduce gang-related violence.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): We look forward to that happening. Perhaps you could send us that? Then we will not have to ask you.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I have just given it to you verbally but I will give it to you in writing as well.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): It is always good to see it on paper.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I will give it to you in however many languages you request.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: We are going on now to the pan-London Gang Exit programme. My questions are to you, Deputy Mayor, but let me just put my questions in context. In January 2016, the Mayor announced a new pan-London Gang Exit programme and I have information that says, "The £1.5 million programme aims to ensure that any young Londoner identified as either a gang member or vulnerable to being exploited or recruited by gangs could be referred to receive intensive specialist support from trained mentors". My first question to you, Deputy Mayor, is whether from January 2016 until now you have any information for us about the operation of this programme.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Hang on a minute: we launched the service on 2 February 2106 and we have not yet exited the month. It is probably a bit premature to give you feedback on how it is working. You are right, we launched and announced earlier this month a £1.5 million programme that is co-funded by MOPAC and the Community Rehabilitation Company in London. That will affect 300 young people aged between 16 and 18.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: OK. Let me ask you some questions about the programme, then. You just said to us it will affect 300 --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is open to around 300. It will fund 300 people.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: From my information, that means that you have funding for 300 places available on the programme. Is that split evenly to ten per borough?

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

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: How? It is just for our information. How and who are going to make the decisions about the level of resource given to these individuals, if we are talking about a group of 300 people?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No, this is not about splitting the resources equally by borough because it is about ensuring that there is an adequate amount of support for those people who choose to move away from gangs. It recognises that in parts of the capital we have very good services for gang exit. In fact, MOPAC through other funding streams supports some of those. It is important that this extra, additional resource improves the amount of resource available in areas where it is a bit patchier. Specifically, there is the case work support, which is the first component, and then we also want to ensure adequate access to the specialist services as well.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Again, I have information that says that the access - it sounds fabulous - is going to range from professional mental health and substance misuse support to help finding a job or a new home. The young person can be referred by a teacher, a police officer, a care worker or bodies such as prisons and probation services. There is a wide base. Who will determine the measure of success for individuals and the organisations that MOPAC are working with to get this programme going?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): They sound like the most overworked department in City Hall, but again it is the MOPAC Evidence and Insight team that will be looking into it. They were previously with the MPS but transferred to MOPAC and they will be looking at the outcomes. Obviously, unlike the previous thing that we discussed, where the aim of the programme is to reduce the level of violence related to gangs, here it is getting a number of people to exit from being involved with gangs.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Is that the unit headed by Betsy -- forgive me, is she "Professor" or "Doctor"?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Professor Betsy Stanko, but Dr Paul Dawson and others also sit within the team.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: In that team?

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

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Going back to the partners or the organisations that will be working with these individuals, can you say whether the payment is a 'payment by result' contract?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): This is, again, a consortium as opposed to an individual. The three organisations, Safer London, Only Connect and Redthread, were already

commissioned. There are those three. It is contingent around supporting numbers of people as opposed to being performance-based.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: OK. Would we be able to see how this specific programme is helping these young people and keeping them away from the criminal justice system, so that less money is being spent in the criminal justice system? That is the whole thing, is it not, to keep them away from gang involvement? They do not then get into crime and they do not get involved in the justice system.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): That is correct. Remember one of the key determinants about whether they go on the programme is that the individual has to make a choice that they want to do this.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Right.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is implicit that there is a desire from the individual that they want to move away from this and that they do not want to be caught up in a life of gang violence and gangs.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: I know a number of these young people who have come back to one of my boroughs. They got involved in gangs when they were about 12 to 14. They had to be moved out of London because the gang leaders, once they have them, are determined to keep them, at all costs sometimes.

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

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: I am aware of the intensity that is needed to help and save these young people. I have met many of them who, when they grow up, are back now in the boroughs, working alongside others. It has cost a lot. The amount of money that you need to spend is a lot. That is why I am concerned about this £1.5 million and then linking that to 300, because I am not sure that that is enough to do the job.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We are not scoping the amount of money that you spend around these young people, but remember what we do need to have is essentially the case work support, which needs to be there in the first instance. Then there is the specialist support, but equally then being able to navigate around a system that - you are right - can often involve relocation. That is not costed within this. Neither is dealing with the mental health issues. The full cost of supporting someone from gang exit will not necessarily be captured in a programme like this but, without those building blocks, having case work and some of the specialist support provided through a commissioned programme like this, it simply will not happen in certain parts of London. That is why we think this is an important programme.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Then, as far as you are concerned, you are looking to the three partner organisations that you have named? You are not looking to work with local government, which of course owns the responsibility for this young person?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Certainly, that is not what we are seeking to do. In fact, we spent nearly £17 million through the London Crime Prevention Fund and we fund specifically many of the integrated gangs units that are running very effectively in places like Hackney and Haringey. We support local government. Our choice is to co-commission, alongside them, funds to be able to do this. This is not about disintermediating but it is recognising that the support for young people who want to exit that particular lifestyle is a bit patchy and, therefore, we want to add to the ability to provide a more consistent service across London, which I think you would agree is necessary.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: OK. You will be capturing data, of course. I do hope that the data-gathering will be based on the geographical address in a borough so that we will be able to see where this money has been spent. Do you know about the evaluation of this project and what sort of data will be captured?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Certainly I would have assumed it would be data around the individuals that we are providing support for, seeing whether we were able to help them to exit with the outcomes that show they are getting into a better place. We would certainly then be able to say where those individuals are based, I would have thought, but the evaluation is around those people the programme is designed to support as opposed to specifically area-based. That is opposite to Shield, which is obviously three boroughs.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Sorry, what did you say about Shield?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Obviously, Shield is around borough pilots. This is around individuals who may be anywhere in the capital.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes, and it might be individuals in Shield boroughs. It gets so complex.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): That is true. That certainly could be true.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: That is why the data-gathering has to be spot on. Is this an annual programme?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The funding is running for two years.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: £1.5 million for two years?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The funding has been guaranteed for two years, yes.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: It is £1.5 million over two years?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is not quite two years because the timeframe is from now, February 2016, to October 2017. The funding is, broadly speaking, for around 18 months, to help 300 people.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: £1.5 million over two years?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): 18 months is what I have said.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Over 18 months?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I have used the fact it is from 2016 to 2017 but, given that it started on 2 February 2016 and the programme ends in October 2017, that is about 18 months.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes. That includes, of course, the evaluation report and associated costs with such a programme. Will that evaluation then be available for Assembly Members to see on this Committee?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Importantly, if we commission a service, we will obviously want to evaluate it and we are very happy to supply you with that evaluation.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: We will come back to it through scrutiny form and request that information.

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

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: I am just wanting to find out when we can request that information, based on the programme that you have put together. If you cannot do it today, maybe we should write to the heads of service and just get a full overview of how this programme --

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Clearly, as it only started a few weeks ago, we are not ready to evaluate it.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Yes.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am sure there will be an interim evaluation and then a full evaluation that will be shared with the future members of this Committee.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Thank you. I hope you do not mind if we just write back and ask for a full overview about what I have touched on and other questions that I will not put to you now. Yes?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Of course, yes.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: Thank you.

Len Duvall AM: I want to come over on the point of view about mixed messages, about how the MPS works and the cultural and attitudinal issues for these crimes, and how we investigate the crime per se or how the MPS deals with high-profile crimes. There are some lessons here.

I was surprised to see Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM [Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis] come out - rightly, the MPS needed to defend itself - in the way that he defended himself. He says that he wanted to reformulate the policy within the MPS of handling allegations of sex abuse. He used words like "institutional belief" in terms of victims. Tom Winsor [Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary], I am told, clarified the issues. Tom Winsor was saying, "Hold on. It is not about institutional belief in victims, it is about recording the crime and then following the evidence", which in my limited way of dealing with the police is what I thought was going on. Please correct me if I am incorrect. In some ways I thought the Commissioner was muddying the waters and sending the wrong messages to the men and women who need to investigate these crimes properly and appropriately.

Can you give an assurance to the Committee? What is the test of going through now in terms of the Commissioner's statement? If I report what I believe I have been subjected to, is that being recorded appropriately - as in the right way - as a starting point?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I know the Deputy Commissioner will come to this but I --

Len Duvall AM: I am going to ask you a set of questions, Stephen. I want to bring you in as well.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): There are three people who have advanced an opinion on this, Len. Dame Elish Angiolini is quoted by Tom Winsor and I found it useful to read her report, as a lawyer. It obviously informs the views of the Commissioner, as referred to on page 57 at paragraph 221. I do not think there is any doubt or pushback around the institutionalisation of belief when it comes to the recording of someone who is coming in as a victim of rape or any other form of sex crime.

What Dame Elish says - and this is the point where there is a bit of a difference - is about the extent to which institutionalisation of belief extends beyond the recording of crime, and that officers are unclear - and this is how she puts it - "are confused about whether this extends towards the investigation of crime". Therefore, I find it is very clear that both agree. In fact, Sir Bernard [Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM] says in reply to Tom Winsor, "I accept that".

The difference is the explicit nature, that it ends at the point of recording. When you investigate a crime, you investigate without fear or favour, with a view to finding out whether you are going to charge and bring someone to justice. You obviously have to enter into that investigation with an open mind.

Len Duvall AM: Which I always assumed was happening. Am I wrong?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): What Dame Elish points out is that officers, when you use words like "institutionalisation of belief", even if they are framed within the context of recording, were interpreting it potentially - this is according to Dame Elish - beyond the process of recording the crime.

Len Duvall AM: That is the problem. No doubt the Deputy Commissioner can tell me many stories of confusion and mixed messages: confusion and mixed messages around stop and search, confusion and mixed messages going back to the basket of ten, some of the performance indicators. I suspect there are probably confusion and mixed messages around the MOPAC 7.

What we have here is a much more serious issue in terms of the nature of these crimes, and going back into the historical nature of people feeling confident to report but also to be taken seriously about what they are saying. We have a range of other organisations and other commentators saying, "OK, you have said that". Again, the mixed message that the Commissioner inadvertently has stumbled into is that we go back to a different era of the MPS.

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

Len Duvall AM: What is the strategy to stop us drifting back? You have the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children saying they are deeply disturbed. Vera Baird [Police and Crime Commissioner, Northumbria] had some interesting commentary around that based on some of her experience of the past. Certainly that is the bit. How do we stop, in the mixed messages issue, going back and saying, "Let us stop here" and now we go back to disbelief?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No. In that last comment you have highlighted it. The challenge with the word "belief" is that it is a completely polar argument. What Dame Elish is highlighting - and a number of other people have highlighted it and there is a problem - is that if you look nationally at all our various codes, whether it is female genital mutilation or rape investigations, we use that word "belief" and a number of different words in different ways in different guidance.

There are a number of things we have done as a result of this. One of them is to say to Alex Marshall, who chairs the College of Policing, "As a police service, as we approach a public inquiry on these when we could have thousands and thousands of cases being referred to policing across the country, we need to be consistent on what we do".

I think the Commissioner was clear: absolutely accept what people say at the point they report it. Coming back to your question quite directly, if you report to me something, I can sit here and think it completely fanciful but it is recorded, I accept it and it goes through. The other end of the process where the belief thing starts to get very difficult - and we have just started to see this as a line coming forward - is that if I now sit with you as a suspect and I believe everything this person told me, your solicitor says to me, "You have a mindset, officer. This is not a free and fair investigation. You have approached this with a mindset that this victim is right". Getting that balance right and being clear that that message is right for staff has been really difficult.

Len Duvall AM: I am sorry to interrupt, but you would always be open to that because the nature of the question to a suspect will presume you are trying to get to the bottom of the evidence and get their answers to that. You will always be open to that charge.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): If you say that we have institutionalised a belief of everything this person says, it makes that far more likely.

Len Duvall AM: I did not believe that was what you were doing.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): The guidance talks about --

Len Duvall AM: That is what you have been doing?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No. What we have ended up with is, exactly as Dame Elish said, officers who are confused. At the point at which I take the crime from you, when I walk out the room, am I allowed to question it? When I see you again in a month's time and you say to me, "Do you believe me?" what is the answer? At the moment, officers --

Len Duvall AM: I believe over the course of time you will be able to establish the facts. Sometimes you will not, and you will be able to say, "I cannot establish the facts. I have heard what you have said but I cannot do that. There is not the test to get into the courts".

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Absolutely.

Len Duvall AM: Over a period of time, you should be able to tell me that as a victim and I have to either wrestle with that or not wrestle with that and the implications of that thereafter.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): You have done exactly what we are suggesting. You have not used the "belief" word. The challenge around belief is it has become such a polar thing. I understand all the commentary on this, absolutely. We have done nothing over the last few months but read the various pieces of commentary. At the point you say to someone, "I have established the facts, I have checked the facts", I purposefully do not, now, go anywhere near "I believe you" or "I do not believe you" because it is as straight as that. We are being very careful to stay in the space of objective, impartial investigators who accept what people say to them but absolutely have to test it.

Len Duvall AM: It opens up all sorts of questions. I am not sure, still, that we have police taking seriously young people reporting crimes. I am not sure whether that is taken seriously by the first point of officers and either recorded or not. This territory goes back to the heart of whether you start to record or not record, or we go back to some dark period of time where it is in the 'too difficult' box.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No.

Len Duvall AM: We are grateful for your reassurances about the recording issue. Tell us, then, how you are going to monitor the behaviour of police officers in terms of implementing what I thought were impartial investigations looking at factual evidence. I thought that was the case. Do you know what I mean? How are you going to monitor, in light of the Commissioner's comments, those police officers handling these difficult investigations? They are difficult. I should not --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): They are difficult, and I do not think any of us are doing that at all. There are a number of things. There is this work nationally about getting all the guidance consistent, so that you can pick up a guidance on rape or serious sexual offences or on some of the highly complex and contentious sexual offences area and the guidance is consistent. At the moment there will be differences in those pieces of guidance and, if you are a specialist officer working in this area, that will be confusing. We have to get that consistent in terms of where you go.

In terms of that front-end test about recording, that is absolutely straightforward in the way that we do it now. That will not change at all. You can see --

Len Duvall AM: But --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Sorry, go on.

Len Duvall AM: Craig, my first contact with an officer is not going to be with a specialist officer.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No.

Len Duvall AM: It is going to be with someone else. First off I might talk to a friend or I might talk to my family and they are going to say to me, "Why do you want to trouble the police?" because they have read somewhere they are not interested. That is the bit. If I walk into the police station, if I stop a police officer or if I make that first phone call, it is who is going to be on the other end of that phone call.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. In the current climate and going forward, that will be recorded. If you allege a crime, it will be accepted, reported and recorded as a crime. Absolutely. Our crime system is full of many of those sorts of things. We have talked before about the 20% year-on-year uplift around sexual crime. We have to be careful to separate the different types of crime out here because something quite different happens in the response. If you have a sexual crime, you get a specialist officer. The first officer might not be a specialist but you will very quickly get a sexual offence investigative trained officer, an SOIT, alongside you as part of that reporting.

What we are saying here - and we have been really clear - is that there are a number of areas of learning we have picked up from these current cases we are going through. There is this notion about the word "belief". It has been portrayed a bit as if this is a big difference between the HMIC and the Commissioner. Someone described it as a "spat". It is professionals saying we ought to look at this collectively and - exactly your point - have some consistency and have some constant messages that everyone signs up to.

When we commissioned the Dame Elish report, she said, "Look, it does not matter what you think as the people who sit there and read this cold. Your officers are confused". We absolutely should look at this. There is then the issue around anonymity. We have to look at the issue around anonymity. Then there are some particular issues, we say, around how the Victim's Code currently works. It is not designed in a way that works with some of these types of enquiries.

This is learning from a particular set of investigations. At the moment, this is our view. This is why the Commissioner has asked a judge to come in to look at this, to say, "This is what we think. This is where we have got to. This is the professional learning. These are the bits really good people are wrestling with around this, about keeping that absolute balance right". That impartiality and fairness - none of us disagree - sits absolutely at the heart of everything we hold dear in the process we are part of.

Len Duvall AM: Of course, we have come a long way in our view about victims in the police. Can you assure this Committee that as part of that conversation, discussion, "Let us look at it", review or whatever, victims will still be key to this?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Absolutely.

Len Duvall AM: If we can move on then, with the Commissioner speaking out publicly on this debate rather than privately pursuing that, it is clear the MPS were under pressure in the run-up to the radio interview and subsequently what has happened with the House of Commons and issues around that. Why not earlier? The problems were developing earlier with these investigations. Do you know what I mean?

There are issues - we can list a whole number of them - when the MPS gets into difficulty with the media. The Commissioner has described it as bullying by the media. I am not sure whether it is bullying by the media or by the parliamentary Select Committee or whatever, but the MPS's response to all this seems like a kneejerk reaction rather than a thoughtful approach. I am not one for criticising the Commissioner but he is usually very clear in his statements around that. Why public at that time? Why not some earlier indication at the beginning of these investigations? Clearly the pressure was on the MPS and you could see some of these were going to go this way.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): These are very different. What is different around these? First, a lot of the information on a current investigation was already being put in the public domain in a partial way.

Len Duvall AM: Yes.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): There are only a handful of people, even in the MPS, who know the full details of these investigations, and they are the team working on it. At the moment what we see in various publications from a variety of different sources are partial bits: it is this, it is that, it is not, it is this. We have had a long debate about the point at which you talk because we would not usually do it on current investigations.

You will have seen some of the Commissioner's answers at Home Affairs Select Committee yesterday or the day before, "There are still bits of this that are live. I am not going there", which I absolutely support. That is the way we should do it. I do not think it should be a commentary between us and defence teams or whoever else is involved in the media. I know some would like that but I just do not think that is how we should work as a system and process. There was a lot of thought before stepping over that line.

I do not agree that you can always know the ones that are going to go wrong. If you can, help me. You and I have spoken before about this. I think there are some. If you have prominent people, if you have the press involved, and if the prominent person is a politician, then it is going to attract a completely different level of interest to anything else.

There is an issue around people being public and then this ongoing conversation around live investigations, because frankly that damages everyone. It makes the investigator's job incredibly difficult. It is going to make witnesses far more reluctant to step forward if they think, "My God, I am going to end up on the front of the paper as soon as I make this allegation". That is a real challenge for us going forward. Then there is that increasing thing - and I know I got some critique for it - where people want to call officers right down doing the investigation. That is not right. We should stop that.

Len Duvall AM: I am on record about politicians: we are no different from other citizens in this country and we should be investigated regardless of status, including Members of Parliament if they have done something wrong or there is evidence that suggests there is something wrong. They can defend themselves like other citizens of the country.

Can you reassure this Committee that the next time we come into contact with the rich and powerful, friends of the media and all the rest of it, you are going to conduct it impartially, you are going to pursue it, and someone who may have committed a crime will not get away with it if they happen to be rich and powerful or have connections with others?

There is the other side of this debate that has not really come out. I agree with you that these are live issues and these are carrying on but there is a touch of, "We know something a little bit more" that carries the story on, if the story is not being carried on.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Len Duvall AM: There is a touch of that that comes across. Some of that is about the representation, which maybe is the shorthand of the media in what comes through, but it does not do justice or the victims any good in some of the investigations.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No.

Len Duvall AM: What is the MPS thinking about that then?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): That comes to the heart of this issue around anonymity in these cases. We have talked before about the anonymity obviously of the victims but also the anonymity of people suspected of these offences. I know this is an issue that colleagues in the media have some very strong views on - we get pushbacks around things like secret justice - but the very challenge you highlight is a direct consequence of having this played out live. You could never put out all the allegations about a particular case into the public domain. It would be wholly inappropriate, if not illegal. It is illegal in parts. You cannot ever have that informed public debate around investigation X or Y.

That is why things like the judge coming in, those sorts of cold, sober looks at who knew what, where and when, and whether there are things you could do differently, are absolutely the right way to go. The advantage of the individual we have selected for that [Sir Richard Henriques, former High Court Justice] is, as you will be aware, he did the work around the Lord Janner investigation where the broad thrust of the

allegation was exactly as you suggest, that police backed off and did not go far enough. He will have a very good perspective from which to look at this issue.

Len Duvall AM: Is that part of the professional conversation, professional rue, that you will come out with a view about --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. Now, again --

Len Duvall AM: -- those issues?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Sorry. I did not mean to cut across you.

Len Duvall AM: Can I just ask about the other side of that? I am a bit of a fence-sitter. I can see that it could be quite good but in the past, where a name has been put in place, it has almost allowed other victims of sexual crimes to come forward.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Len Duvall AM: There is a pro-plus point on that.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): We think that should be a conscious decision even if it is necessary, as a protection, that you have to go to a court as an investigator to do it. You are absolutely right. We have seen it with some of these historic cases. The other thing, and it goes to the heart of your thing, is that what happens with the public debate, informed to an extent by the media, is that people think that these investigations are quite straightforward and simple. They are not. The fact that a witness comes to you two years after a public appeal, these things happen with these sorts of historic investigations. People come out at various times along the way.

We should be getting to a point where you say, "Look, anonymity is guaranteed, anonymity for people suspected of these offences, until the point of charge", because, as we have said, the threshold to arrest is relatively low. It is reasonable suspicion. The threshold to charge is much higher. At the point of charge, absolutely release a name. You have that threshold. If I am sitting there investigating this offence and I have some credible evidence that supports that this individual has been involved in far more, I should have some form of gateway to name before charge.

Len Duvall AM: The cynical part of me says that the rich and powerful will get that anonymity but others who are less in that position will not, partly because of the representations they make to yourself and partly because of threats they may make to yourself about their issues. There is something about justice that says that if you are rightly connected in different ways, you get treated differently.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. Sorry, I obviously did not make that clear. I am saying the anonymity is for everyone suspected of these offences. The only time you would go to put it in the public domain is the point at which you, as a senior investigating officer, were happy that - I will make it up - in this particular crime, it would encourage more witnesses or bring more people forward. Perhaps we think it is a serial rapist-type offence. All I am suggesting is you would have some gateway to make that decision. Whether I am Bill Smith or Bill Smith, the Prime Minister, at that point everybody is equal. We are clear on that.

Going back to your point, to give you the reassurance, if you look at the time we have worked together with the Police and Crime Committee, from the work we have done around the investigations into newspaper groups and those sorts of things, I think we have shown we do it without fear or favour. We do not always do it to please people. That is not what it is about. We do it without fear or favour.

Len Duvall AM: Thank you. I am grateful for Stephen's [Greenhalgh] earlier comments. He answered some of the points I would have raised. Unless Stephen wants to raise anything else?

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): The issue of anonymity would obviously need to be national debate. We probably have different views on the Committee as well, in regard to that.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): At our last thematic meeting we discussed the issue of road crime with a lot of organisations.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): The feeling was that it did not have a high enough priority in the MPS. Mr Greenhalgh, would you like to comment on that?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): First and foremost, the term "road crime" is quite broad in the sense that it does cover crimes associated with the road. They are recorded in the same ways as other crimes. Also, it could cover other offences connected with the use of cars on the public road that are not normally associated with the term "crime". For instance, that would be failing to comply with a road traffic sign.

Broadly speaking, for safety on our roads and ensuring that Londoners are safe - because we know that although it has fallen dramatically, the number of people that are killed on our roads is higher than the number of people murdered - we are doing all we can in this mayoralty and certainly playing our part to ensure that our roads become ever safer.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): One of the things that came up, as you point out, was that the number of people killed on roads is more than the number of murders, but the relative funding shows a huge discrepancy. Much more is spent on murders than on people killed on the roads. Do you think that balance is right?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I do think that we take this extremely seriously. TfL published their strategy, which you will be aware of, for safer London streets. There is also a partnership of all the law enforcement agencies that can do their bit to improve safety on our transport systems, including our roads. We do put in a huge amount of resources.

As you know, recently the MPS have - it may have been last year - created a new Roads and Transport Policing Command that brought together all the elements of policing that look to transport, and specifically policing our roads, together into one place. This is something that has had organisation focus and certainly has been a priority for the Mayor. We have called for a continued reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads. Certainly seeing a further reduction by 2020 was the latest ambition.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You are forcing me to repeat the question because you have not answered it. Do you think the discrepancy between what is spent on murders and what is spent on road death is the right balance?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I have oversight for the MPS. Trying to respond to you, I think the MPS is proportionate in the amount of resources it puts into making sure our roads are safe and also to investigate homicide. I do not think there is a disproportionality. The battle to reduce the number of killed or seriously injured involves more than the MPS's budget. Therefore, it is not something that I'm in a position to comment on. Certainly, with regard to my oversight of the MPS, I do not accept that.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You do not think it should have been one of the priorities?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I did not say that. You are putting words into my mouth.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): No, I --

Tony Arbour AM: It is proportionate.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you. Did you just defend me, Tony?

Tony Arbour AM: I was defending Stephen. He said it was proportionate.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): That was not my question. Do you feel that it should have been one of the Mayor's priorities?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Say what you think should be one of the Mayor's priorities.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): The issue of road crime. Reduction of road crime.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The Mayor is focused on this with a Police and Crime Plan, on the one hand, which looks to reduce crime and makes a statement about the importance of road safety, and then he has a separate strategy that involves TfL and other agencies that are involved in road safety. He takes that extremely seriously but it is beyond my remit. You are better off addressing these comments to the Mayor.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): That is a good idea.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): With regard to my oversight of the MPS, I can say that I think we do have the balance of resourcing right.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): A very senior police officer in the MPS once told me that if he wanted to kill somebody, he would kill them with his car because he would never get caught. He could make it look as if it was an accident.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am not going to comment on what an individual in the MPS said.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): I am just letting you know that.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Do you want me to answer that?

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Was that you, Craig, was it?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): No, no. I --

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: He may not be currently serving.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): No. He has left now. He has left.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I agree with some of your line. I am going to disagree with you. I will probably upset you here, Jenny, but I do not think the comparator of spend is right. That is a bit of an apples and pears one, for the following reasons. We will come to the issue around road deaths. On the spend for different reasons, for the spend around a murder you usually have something where one person or another has left the scene and is trying to do everything they can to avoid being captured. We do get that with road deaths --

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You definitely do.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): -- but that is not the predominance. The predominance is that the offending person has remained at the scene. I think there is a wider issue, and I have thought this for many years, about how we as a society talk about deaths that occur on the roads. We do talk about them very differently to what happens when people are murdered. I suspect if you have been unfortunate enough to lose someone like that, that definition is lost on you. I do think there is an issue collectively as a society about how we treat that, but that comparator is slightly different.

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime touched on this. The Roads and Transport Policing Command in London is one of the biggest single commands in the country. There are 2,500 people doing this.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): We were told it was the biggest command in the country.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. It is substantial. Could we do more? Of course we can. You can always do more. I mentioned in response to a question earlier on a meeting where myself and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime were sitting with the Deputy Mayor for Transport, talking about how we could do more in a co-ordinated way that focuses on those high-end issues where what we do will have the most benefit.

The interesting comparator - and I have never seen the figures - might be the total cost to the public of a road death versus the total cost to the public of a murder. There are some interesting figures around what road deaths cost when you include disruption, cost to the health service and that wider issue.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You are making the case for me. That is exactly what I have done, of course, and have been saying for some time. The cost of a road death is approaching £2 million.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): What about including road crime in your crime statistics?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): That would not be down to us. It goes back to the question we had earlier. It is a national system around crime statistics. Your definition of road crime and

the potential to include what some people would describe as anti-social behaviour of the roads, all of that would have to be done by changing the crime statistics.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): That is not something you are pursuing?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I do not have the ability to make that change happen.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You could lobby Government. You could lobby the Mayor. He sits in the Cabinet.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): It will almost certainly be the Home Office. Some of the other ideas I know you talked about absolutely are worth pursuing.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): What like?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I know you talked in the session around things like mapping. We can do mapping for crime. We can do mapping for this. One of the things you would need to be careful of with our mapping around road collisions is that of course often now it does not include all non-injury road collisions. Apart from that, it is a good idea.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): We heard that - I am hopeless on acronyms - the Road Traffic --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): The Road Transport and Policing Command.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): That unit is lobbying the Department for Transport to use more technology for things like cars driving into advanced stop lines at a red light and so on. Are you supporting that?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. We have also, with colleagues at TfL some time ago, talked about regulation of other road users. We have talked about the pedicabs challenge. That is, at the moment, completely unregulated. Could we do something around that?

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Enforcing, for example, cycle lanes?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. Looking at all of those, technology absolutely has a part to play. What we have to get right - we were doing a lot of this last time - is that balance between the police being seen to revenue-raise, which is what it is portrayed as, versus what it is, which is proper enforcement of road safety.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): We all know where the money goes. It does not go to the MPS.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Not much of it comes to us, no.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): No. It goes into the Treasury coffers.

If technology is such a good answer, why are 40 officers being allocated to prevent people from loading and unloading in restricted places?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I did not know they were.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You do not know about that? 40 officers have been allocated to do that specifically, with a view to increasing that to 80 officers. It just seems like a slight waste of officers, to do something like that. They are going to deal with problems like illegal stopping or unloading of deliveries. It seems to me that technology can do that.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): In fairness then, that may well be part of it. You go to that challenge. Stopping or unloading deliveries might be someone blocking a cycle lane. The cyclist goes out on to the highway --

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): That is what I mean. You just said you can do that with technology.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): We can. I thought, the way you asked the question, it was 40 dedicated to just doing that. It is one of their functions.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Right.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I suspect what we are describing is part of the team who are keeping London moving, for want of a better word.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): You mentioned improving the mapping, for example.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Is there anything else that you feel would help with recording road crime?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Having a proper public debate about the impact of road deaths. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime touched on it. More people die on the roads in London than are murdered. A murder makes the front page, quite rightly so. We collectively as a society sometimes treat road deaths as inevitable. They do not have to be.

Jenny Jones AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you.

Kemi Badenoch AM: We have moved on a little bit from it and you partly answered my question, Deputy Commissioner, but just following on from what Jenny [Jones AM] mentioned about us spending more resources on investigating homicides than road crime, is it not the fact that homicide is so much more complex?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Kemi Badenoch AM: Of course you need more officers to do that. In terms of priorities, I was quite surprised because quite a few of the things that fall under homicide are domestic assault, knife crime and so on, which we have made part of the Mayor's Strategy. If we include everything as a priority, does that not mean that nothing is?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. I have worked in places where you try to make everything a priority. On the issue about road crime, when I have talked to colleagues in TfL over the

last few years, all of my conversations with them have this front and centre as a priority for this place, trying to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured and keeping people safe on London's roads.

Kemi Badenoch AM: As far as I can see, the key difference between road crime and others is that the intent is much harder to prove in court.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): It is, and the legislative framework, of course, is different. That is one of the challenges and it does lead to a considerable amount of dissatisfaction from either people who have been unfortunate enough to have been involved in a collision, and survived, where another driver is prosecuted, or family members who have an expectation that an outcome will be up here. The challenge around things like intent and proving the *mens rea*, the mental state, it is much harder with road death than it is with manslaughter, murder and so on.

Kemi Badenoch AM: Would you say that perhaps solving this issue is something that requires a legislative solution rather than changing strategies within the MPS or MOPAC?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Around roads, it is a much wider picture and it has never changed in 20-odd years. We used to talk about engineering, enforcement and education as the three Es of a road safety strategy. They absolutely still are. We all know that road designs and bad junctions are a contributory factor. People might think I am responsible for that. I am not. I am not going to be able to solve that.

Kemi Badenoch AM: Thank you.

Andrew Dismore AM: I would like to ask about the engagement of adults with learning disabilities in the criminal justice system. There are two aspects. One is people with learning disabilities who are victims, which is probably for Stephen [Greenhalgh], and there is another one where they are accused of crimes, which is probably one for Craig [Mackey]. Perhaps we should start with the issue of victims, Stephen. This is an issue that has been raised on several occasions. Most recently, Baroness Newlove's [Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales] 2014 review of victim services highlighted a gap in provision of support for people with disabilities. That is particularly the case for people with learning disabilities. What are you doing through MOPAC to commission services to help support victims in those circumstances? It could be hate crime; it could be an ordinary crime.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): You are right, we did get Baroness Newlove to conduct an independent review of victims' services and it did highlight the support for victims with disabilities as being a gap in provision. We are working with partners to improve the support for that. We recognise within the sector that supports victims, the charitable sector and the social enterprises that provide victim services, there is a gap. Therefore, we have put a modest grant of £20,000 to an organisation called Respond to capacity-build.

That is not the extent of the money that we are putting into this. This is really to ensure that we improve the support. We spend around £13 million a year in victim services. Victims with learning disabilities or any disability would fall under those victims within the Code of Practice that have enhanced status. That is the approach that we are taking to try to capacity-build and, therefore, ensure that more of them get the support they deserve as victims.

Andrew Dismore AM: How long is that going to take?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Capacity-building takes time. We look at this in terms of whether we see an increase - we know this is woefully under-reported and under-recorded - in the reports and recording of those crimes. In fact, we are. That is something that we track consistently. When it comes to hate crime, very early on in my tenure it was the very effective lobbying of groups that are particularly affected, including disability hate crime, that made sure it was very much part of London's first all-encompassing Hate Crime Strategy. We continue to look at examples of disability hate crime and other forms of hate crime as well.

Andrew Dismore AM: What about independent advocacy for people in similar circumstances? I should say my wife works as an administrator for a charity that does independent advocacy for people with learning disabilities. It is an important issue. When people engage with the justice system, they are in a difficult circumstance. It is making sure they can understand what is going on and how they can go around raising their concerns. Having an advocate helps them understand those circumstances and also what to do about it.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am a huge supporter of independent advocacy and, of course, as you know, we were very concerned, when it came to certain forms of crime, at the number of crimes where the failure to support victims meant that they were not able to step through the judicial process. The conviction rate for things like domestic abuse was affected by that. Uplifting the number of independent domestic violence advocates is something we did last year and that is having a positive effect.

Equally, we are supporting advocates now - although there always need to be more - with ISVAs, independent sexual violence advocates. I am not sure - I do not have the statistics in front of me - the extent to which being able to be supported through the criminal justice system is the key issue. I always understood it was the confidence to come forward and report and record the crime. Maybe you have some statistics on that.

Andrew Dismore AM: No. I remember the Committee recommended this was one of the ways forward several years ago, the need for advocacy, and I think it is a question of helping people through the system. It is not just a question of explaining to people what their rights are. People with learning difficulties, particularly if they are quite profound learning difficulties, do need support to follow the system through.

I remember when I was in Parliament we did an inquiry on the Human Rights Committee into the engagement of adults with learning disabilities across a range of services, including the criminal justice system. Part of the problem was that when they got to court, for example, there was a risk of them not being believed because they found it difficult to give evidence as witnesses to what had happened to them. That is why the issue of independent advocacy becomes quite important to support them.

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I need to look into it. Also I would want to reflect on the insights that we get from the Respond work, the capacity-building work, and see whether we need to separately commission advocacy for people who are suffering from learning disabilities.

Andrew Dismore AM: You will look into this?

Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I will look into it. You raise an important point, yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: Come back to us on that.

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

Andrew Dismore AM: Thank you. Craig, it is the other side of the coin, really, because people with learning disabilities do often get accused of crime, sometimes rightly, sometimes wrongly. I understand that officers are supposed to have had at least an e-course in how to deal with this. How do you make sure that they have all had that training?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): We can do straight compliance on the training in terms of looking at the numbers who have been through it. Going back to the first area we started this morning on, we spoke about the HMIC assessment. One of the critiques they make of us is that we have drawn our vulnerability too widely.

We have talked before around the fact that we have trained our staff against a Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF). That is as broad as 'for people you meet'. It does not distinguish. There is not one VAF if you are a witness or a victim and something different if you are an alleged offender. We talk there about things like appearance, behaviour, communication, danger and environment, as broad headings. It is in a toolkit that explains to them how you would apply that.

If we come across someone who is vulnerable, when they go into a custody unit, which is all recorded, they will go through a risk assessment process. If that risk assessment process says they are vulnerable, we will then talk about the levels of support they need from, at its most basic, appropriate adult support, all the way through to a much more bespoke wraparound package. There will be a care plan in place for that individual.

We have also done some training with some support from adults with learning disabilities around specialist interview training and exactly the points you raise. As you do some of these interviews and you get into some of those areas around both witnesses and potential offenders, you have people who have received some proper training to understand and interact with those responses.

Andrew Dismore AM: OK. That is all very helpful as a policy. The question is whether it is happening on the ground and in particular whether appropriate adults are being engaged as often as they should be. The point about communication is very important. When we were doing our inquiry that I mentioned earlier on, I made sure the Committee went on a little training course ourselves on how to communicate with the people we were trying to get evidence from. Going back to our earlier discussion about detectives, for example, who may find themselves having to interview adults with learning disabilities in these circumstances, have they all had that training?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): They will not all have had it. The specialists who are going to do that --

Andrew Dismore AM: Especially the trainees, presumably?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes. It is part of a specialist package that is given to officers increasingly as they move up. Going back to your first point, whether you can ensure that it always happens, you know there have been challenges and it is patchy in various parts of London with things like who provides the appropriate adult service and who does get called out when those sorts of things happen. If there is an area we have made huge progress in, it is in how things are dealt with in custody environments. The custody environment is probably the most regulated space that we work in now in all of our police processes. You have people doing that role now that if they are dealing with an individual and they assess a learning difficulty and either that person says, "I want" or the officer will say to them, "You need some support for this", they will not go into an interview room or take them through a process until they have the

proper support to do it. That could be anyone on the range from local authority all the way to carer or member of the family.

Andrew Dismore AM: You are confident that always happens when it should do?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): As confident as I can be, sitting on 800,000 or whatever it is crimes a year and a quarter of a million people arrested.

Andrew Dismore AM: The issue about appropriate adults is a very important one.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: You said that is a very patchy response across London.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: Is there a particular problem in particular boroughs? If so, how are you addressing it?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I do not have that current data. I am more than happy to share it with you.

Andrew Dismore AM: It would be helpful if we had that.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I think you picked it up in the custody review around different levels of response time. The moment you realise that with the individual standing in front of you, you cannot go into an interview room with them and you cannot continue the criminal justice process until you have some support, we are delaying the time that individual is in custody. For us, it is important that we keep that moving. No, I am more than happy to share the current data with you.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: It is to the Deputy Commissioner. Firstly, I should declare that I am the patron of Pan Intercultural Arts, an organisation that has been at the forefront of working with young people to raise awareness about the principle of joint enterprise. There was a recent landmark --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Appeal Court.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: -- appeal won about recognising that, over 30 years, judges have been misinterpreting the principle. Will this impact on your officers? Will you now have to look at the cases that you present to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)? Surely it starts with the police, does it not, in recognising - I am especially talking about young people here - when you are looking at a group of young people, who it is that you are going to be charging for that crime? Rather than doing the fishing net approach, will your officers not now have to be quite clear and leave those other young people out of the charge?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): I have seen the reporting, obviously, on the case. I have not read the judgment yet so I have to put a qualification there. It will be much more an issue around the point at which you charge and who you charge, because I understand from the reporting I have seen that the issue around joint enterprise is the level of engagement or involvement of the person who did not stab or did not shoot. From the reporting I have seen, I do not think it is quite as clear-cut as "joint enterprise is wrong". It was the way it has been applied in some cases, maybe.

Clearly when you get a judgment from the Court of Appeal it will filter into the court process and it will filter into the CPS. Let us say there is a gang murder this afternoon where there are a number of people involved. Long before you get to the point of charging, the CPS are involved in the detail. They will be doing all the advice around things like that, including what the current guidance is in the prosecutor's guidance as to joint enterprise. Yes, absolutely, the judgment will affect some of those things going forward. The exact detail on that we all need to see and work through.

Jennette Arnold OBE AM: For something like this, what is the timeline? This is a very important, certainly with the young people across my three boroughs, because many of them have had friends that have been involved in charges related to joint enterprise. How long will it take for that to trickle down to the MPS in terms of practice?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Police Commissioner, MPS): Going forward, that will come in through the CPS. They will look at files that we send to them. I would assume if we sent a file to them this afternoon, they will look at it against whatever their current guidance is. I know there are a number of cases that people have spoken about over the last 30 years. There is a process for all of those that is nothing to do with the police. That is very much around how the criminal justice system will work with them and how individual legal teams will give advice. Looking back and looking forward, I would separate.

Joanne McCartney AM (Chair): Thank you. That comes to the end of our questions. Thank you both.