

Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee



Steve O'Connell AM
Member for Croydon & Sutton

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Date: 19 July 2016

Cllr Philippa Roe
Leader, Westminster Council
Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philippa'.

Police and Crime Committee Meeting on 29 June 2016: CCTV

I am writing to you on behalf of the London Assembly Police & Crime Committee to express our concern about the recent decision by Westminster Council to decommission its CCTV estate.

The Committee discussed the issue and the importance of CCTV cameras as a tool for keeping people safe in London with Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and Craig Mackey QPM, Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service at its monthly question and answer session at its meeting on 29 June 2016.

We acknowledge and understand the challenging financial position that Westminster Council faces, and the ongoing requirement that the Council evaluates each of its services to determine value for money. However, we heard that the Council's CCTV network provides an invaluable tool to help prevent crime, detect criminals and ensure a safer environment for Londoners and visitors. We are of the opinion that CCTV is an important element in the fight against crime and note that the majority of London boroughs have no plan to revise their CCTV estates. As such the Committee is disappointed in your decision.

The Committee is encouraged that the Council is continuing discussions with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Metropolitan Police to address the issue. We urge all parties to come to an agreement that satisfies the Council's budgetary needs, while also ensuring the Met has all the tools it needs to ensure public order and safety.

I would be grateful if you could provide an update on the Council's position once any agreement is reached. As a Committee, we will continue to scrutinise the strategic future of CCTV and what

role the Mayor and MOPAC can play to help London councils provide a more effective CCTV service.

Further information about the 29 June meeting is available from: Teresa Young and Joanna Brown, Senior Committee Officers, on 020 7983 6559 or at teresa.young@london.gov.uk and joanna.brown@london.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve O'Connell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve O'Connell AM
Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee