

MAYOR OF LONDON

Steve O'Connell AM
Chair of the Police & Crime Committee
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
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London SE1 2AA

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Date: 26 JUL 2016

Dear Steve,

Please accept my congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee.

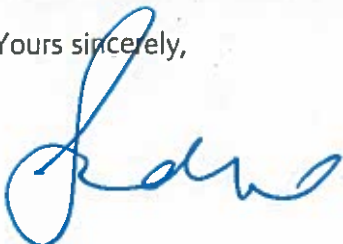
I welcome this chance to respond to the scrutiny carried out by the Committee on crime on public transport, which was submitted to my predecessor by Joanne McCartney. Please also accept my apologies for the delay in providing this formal response during the transition to my new team.

While public transport is a relatively safe, low crime environment, fear of crime and safety can and does affect people's willingness to use public transport. We need to do all we can to ensure highly visible policing is available to keep Londoners safe and feeling reassured when travelling in London.

That is why I have committed to providing a greater police presence on public transport at key times, and will be working with TfL and the police to review how the transport system is policed. In particular, I will be working to further clamp down on harassment and sexual offences on the transport network.

The enclosed note responds to the Committee's recommendations in turn and reiterates my determination to make public transport in London as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

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Police and Crime Committee report: Crime on public transport

Recommendation 1

Robust monitoring of the increase in reports of sexual offences is essential to understand the nature and true extent of unwanted sexual behaviour on London's public transport network. The level of under-reporting should come down if the increase is due to confidence to report rather than an actual increase in crime. TfL must establish a clear baseline to ensure transparency in progress made.

I agree. I am committed to building on the work done to date by TfL and its policing partners through Project Guardian and the 'Report it to Stop it' campaign, to eliminate unwanted sexual behaviour on London's public transport.

Robust monitoring will be an essential part of this. TfL has confirmed that continuous monitoring and evaluation is a key part of Project Guardian. The evaluation incorporates police reported crime data and survey work, alongside feedback from, and research with, equality groups and the evaluation of customer information from 'Report it to stop it'. This will help inform future action to tackle unwanted sexual behaviour.

The work of TfL and the police to improve confidence in the reporting of unwanted sexual behaviour has resulted in an increase in reports of 104 per cent in 2015/16 compared with the agreed 2012/13 baseline. This has provided a better understanding of the nature of unwanted sexual behaviour and helps target policing and enforcement activity to bring more offenders to justice.

TfL and the police continue their important work to improve confidence to report unwanted sexual behaviour. Data shows that there is still under-reporting in this area, so further increases in reporting are predicted over the coming year. As a result, parallel increases in arrests and detections over this time and reductions in the rate of sexual offences per million passenger journeys from 2017/18 are expected.

Recommendation 2

The new Mayor should review the outcomes from Project Guardian. The new Mayor should also explore how to further increase public awareness and confidence to report sexual offences on public transport, maximising on the communication techniques that are available.

I will closely review the progress made to date by TfL and its policing partners on Project Guardian, so we can agree a new approach for how to prioritise and step up efforts to clamp down on sexual offences on public transport.

Communications activity has been an important part of Project Guardian and I have asked TfL to explore what more can be done to further increase public awareness and confidence to report sexual offences on public transport.

In order to further increase public awareness and confidence to report sexual offences on public transport, another phase of the 'Report it to Stop It' campaign will be launched in autumn.

Recommendation 3

There are lessons to be learned from Project Guardian that could be applied to other crimes across the network. The new Mayor should bring TfL, the Met, BTP and City of London Police together to develop a new strategy for enabling travellers to report all crimes and anti-social behaviour more easily on public transport in London.

I agree. Best practice and lessons learned from Project Guardian need to be applied elsewhere. I have asked TfL to work with the police to review reporting processes and look at how they can simplify and improve them.

Work is already underway to look at reporting processes for hate crime. As with sexual offences, hate crime often goes unreported. TfL and the police are looking at ways to improve public confidence to report hate crime and how to make it easier for customers to do so.

The review is planned for completion by the end of this year and identified improvements will then be considered as part of TfL's 2017/18 business planning processes.

Recommendation 4

Increased enforcement powers should be given to TfL and the police to ensure stronger sanctions for touting, including seizure of vehicles. The new Mayor needs to lobby the Ministry of Justice on this.

I am committed to improving safety by driving up standards in the private hire industry. A key part of this is ensuring that we have the right level and quality of enforcement activity. I will work with TfL and the police to lobby Government so we can ensure that we have the powers needed to effectively enforce illegal and non-compliant activity, and that sanctions are strong enough to serve as a deterrent. This includes powers to seize vehicles for specific offences, and automatic driver licence disqualification for anyone found guilty of touting or unlawful plying for hire. I am also seeking powers to deal swiftly with minor taxi and private hire offences with fixed penalties.

Recommendation 5

The new Mayor must ensure strong partnership structures to constantly monitor, review and learn from the Night Tube, and to enable a swift response to any emerging police and crime concerns, including fear of crime. TfL should publish a crime assessment report in three, six and 12 months following the commencement of the Night Tube.

The Night Tube will launch on Friday 19 August on the Central and Victoria lines, followed by the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines in autumn. It will be a fantastic boost to London's night-time economy, as well as cutting some journey times by up to an hour.

It is, of course, very important that the Night Tube is safe for all Londoners. This is why TfL has been working closely with the British Transport Police (BTP) and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) throughout and will ensure that over 100 additional officers are deployed to patrol the Night Tube. Following its launch, this collaborative work will continue and will include regular reviews with all agencies including the BTP and MPS. This will allow for any changes needed as a result of those reviews to be able made quickly.

In addition to this regular reporting, a number of periodic reviews, which will be published on TfL's website from early 2017, are planned:

- An immediate review after the launch;
- A three-month review to be held in December so as to incorporate information from all lines;
- Reviews after further three and six months.