

<b>MDA No.</b>	7	7	5	0
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**Title:** Letter to the Home Office regarding Released Under Investigation Legislation

**Executive Summary**

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on the 9 January 2020, the Committee held a Question and Answer session with the Metropolitan Police Service and the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime. At the meeting the Committee discussed the matter of Released Under Investigation Legislation.

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 22 January 2020, the Committee agreed:

*That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Leads and Caroline Pidgeon MBE, to agree the wording of a letter to the Home Office regarding Released Under Investigation legislation.*

Following consultation with the party Group Leads and Caroline Pidgeon MBE, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed the Police and Crime Committee's letter to the Home Office regarding Released Under Investigation legislation.

A copy of the letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.

**Decision**

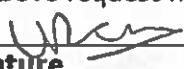
That the Chair, in consultation with party Group Leads and Caroline Pidgeon MBE, agree the Police and Crime Committee's letter to the Home Office on Released Under Investigation legislation.

**Assembly Member**

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

The above request has my approval.

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**Signature**  **Date** 6/7/20

**Printed Name** UNMESH DESAI

## Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

*Notes:*

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

### Background and proposed next steps:

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on the 9 January 2020, the Committee held a Question and Answer session with the Metropolitan Police Service and the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime. At the meeting the Committee discussed the matter of Released Under Investigation Legislation.

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 22 January 2020, the Committee agreed:

*That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Leads and Caroline Pidgeon MBE, to agree the wording of a letter to the Home Office regarding Released Under Investigation legislation.*

Following consultation with the party Group Leads and Caroline Pidgeon MBE, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed the Police and Crime Committee's letter to the Home Office regarding Released Under Investigation legislation.

A copy of the letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.

### Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision

Signed by Committee  
Services



Date 02/03/20

Print Name: J A Baker

Tel: x2825

### Financial implications NOT REQUIRED

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

Signed by Finance

Date .....

Print Name

Tel: .....

**Legal implications**

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

Signed by Legal		Date	6.3.2020
Print Name	Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer	Tel:	X 4399

**Supporting detail/List of Consultees:**

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

**Public Access to Information**

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

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

**Part 1 – Deferral**

**Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred?**

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

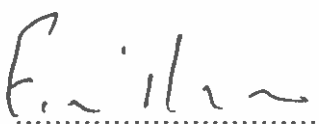
**Part 2 – Sensitive information**

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

**Is there a part 2 form - NO**

**Lead Officer/Author**

Signed		Date	9 March 2020
Print Name		Tel: x	6562

Job Title			
Countersigned by Executive Director		Date	06.03.20
Print Name	Ed Williams	Tel:	X4399



## Unmesh Desai AM

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



City Hall  
More London Estate  
London  
SE1 2AA

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

(Via email)

6 March 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

### Suspects released under investigation

On 9 January 2020, the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee held a regular Q&A meeting with Sir Stephen House QPM, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (the Met) and Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime in London. The Committee's statutory role includes both holding the Mayor and MOPAC to account and investigating and reporting on issues of importance to policing and crime reduction in London. At the meeting on 9 January, we discussed the dramatic increase in the number of suspects being Released Under Investigation (RUI), rather than Police Bail.

In the meeting, we found that there is an increasing reliance on the use of RUI by police services, including the Met. I understand that this is due to the changes in the Police and Crime Act of 2017, that RUI provides more time for police to complete investigations, and that, due to reductions in police officers and staff, prior to these changes, it had become increasingly difficult to complete many investigations within the 28-day police bail period.

However, the Committee shares the Met's concerns that the increasing use of RUI does not sufficiently protect victims. We also have wider concerns regarding the lengthy investigative periods commonplace under RUIs. The Committee appreciates that the legislative changes in 2017 were made to prevent suspects being placed under police bail conditions for long periods of time. However, this Committee feels that a revision to the use of bail that would provide enough time for the police to complete investigations relating to high-risk suspects, whilst avoiding imposing indefinite bail conditions, is a plausible ask.

Sir Stephen House QPM advised the Committee that the Met has lobbied significantly to Government for a review of the current legislation. The Police and Crime Committee wholeheartedly supports this campaign.

We believe that, in support of the Met, the current presumption to release suspects under investigation should be reversed for high harm offences, cases with a vulnerable victim, and crimes of national concern. For example, it cannot be right that domestic violence offenders are routinely released under investigation, free to return to their home address without conditions. The reversal of the presumption to use RUI in such cases should be accompanied by a review of authorisation levels and timescales for the use of police bail. These timescales must reflect the time it can take to investigate cases, secure evidence and lab results, and prepare quality and comprehensive cases.

We welcome the Government's current consultation to review the recent bail legislation. We will ensure that we share this letter with the consultation and look forward to hearing the Government's proposals on how the current system can be improved so that the needs of victims come first and police are supported to investigate crimes.

If you would like to discuss this in more detail with myself or the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact Janette Roker, Senior Policy Advisor on 020 7983 6562 or [Janette.roker@london.gov.uk](mailto:Janette.roker@london.gov.uk).

I look forward from hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



**Unmesh Desai AM**  
**Chair of the Police and Crime Committee**