

<b>MDA No.</b>	7	2	8	6
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Title: Letter to Commissioner – Sarah Everard Case and Policing of Vigil

### **Executive Summary**

At the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 17 March 2021, the Committee resolved:

*That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree any outputs arising from the meeting.*

Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed a letter to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on the Sarah Everard case and the policing of the subsequent vigil, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

The letters will be formally noted at the Committee's next appropriate meeting.

### **Decision**

That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, agrees a letter to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on the Sarah Everard case and the policing of the subsequent vigil, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

### **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.

**Signature**

**Date** 19/03/2021



**Printed Name** Unmesh Desai AM (Chair, Police and Crime Committee)

# 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 17 March 2021, the Committee resolved:

*That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with party Group Lead Members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, to agree any outputs arising from the meeting.*

Following consultation with the Deputy Chairman, party Group Lead members and Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM, the Chair of the Committee, Unmesh Desai AM, agreed a letter to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on the Sarah Everard case and the policing of the subsequent vigil, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

The letters will be formally noted at the Committee's next appropriate meeting.

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

Signed by Committee Services		L J Harvey	Date	18/03/2021
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Print Name: Lauren Harvey	Tel:	x4383
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**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	.....
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Print Name	Tel:	.....
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**Legal implications**

The Chair of the Police and Crime Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signed by Legal



Date 18/03/2021

Print Name

Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Tel: X 4399

**Supporting detail/List of Consultees:**

Steve O'Connell AM, Sian Berry AM, Peter Whittle AM, and 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? No**

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

J Roker

Date  
18/03/2021

Print Name

**Janette Roker**

Tel: x6562

Job Title

**Senior Policy Adviser**

Countersigned by  
Executive Director

*E. Williams*

Date 19.03.2021

Print Name

**Ed Williams**

Tel: X4399

# LONDON ASSEMBLY



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

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**Dame Cressida Dick QPM**  
**Commissioner**  
**Metropolitan Police Service**

(Sent by email)

19 March 2021

Dear Commissioner

## **Sarah Everard case and policing of the subsequent vigil**

I am writing to you on behalf of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee in the light of the tragic abduction and murder of Sarah Everard to highlight our view that urgent action must be taken on violence against women and girls in London. Women in our city must be able to go about their business without fear of violence.

What happened to Sarah was shocking and has shone a light on how women often face abuse and violence, feel unsupported in confronting it and lack confidence in a positive response from the police if they report it. The Committee wants to see the Met take a robust approach to reports of such behaviour from women to provide assurance that this will not be tolerated on the capital's streets and for the Met to act promptly in response. We will, of course, continue to press the Government to deliver the right legislation to provide the police with the powers to deal effectively with violence and abuse of women.

The Committee also wanted to express its concern about the policing of the vigil to mark Sarah's death. We understand the balancing act the police face when dealing with the challenges of allowing lawful protest whilst also enforcing the COVID-19 regulations and the need to protect the wider public from transmission of the virus when people gather together in close quarters. We also recognise the risks that police officers themselves face when confronted with situations that require intervention and close contact with members of the public, as demonstrated by our call for the Met's frontline officers to be prioritised for vaccination.

As discussed with Sir Steve House, Deputy Commissioner, in our meeting on 17 March we expressed our concern about some of the footage that emerged from the vigil that showed Met officers pulling women out of the crowd as they made arrests. Another key concern is the Met's engagement with the organisers of the vigil and the failure to agree on arrangements for a COVID-19 secure event. An overarching issue as a result is the loss of confidence in the Met by many women who feel they have been let down by the very force that is meant to protect them.

We know that Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Sir Thomas Winsor, has been asked by the Home Secretary to undertake a review of the Met's actions in relation to the vigil but, as the elected body tasked with scrutinising London's policing, we wish to play our part in this conversation.

Our Committee urges you to take clear, accountable action to rebuild the confidence of women in London that they can feel protected on the streets, and have the confidence to report abuse or violence to the Met in the knowledge that they will get a positive and supportive response.

The Committee welcomes the work of the Met's 'Predatory Offender Units' discussed at its meeting earlier this week. We would like to see the number of officers assigned to these units increase, and would be grateful if you could let us know the number of extra officers you aspire to assign to these units by the end of the 2021/22 financial year.

The Committee would also like to see greater consistency in the way in which the Met uses its powers to tackle domestic abuse and would like to know what targets are in place for Basic Command Units use of Domestic Violence Prevention Orders and Notices and which Basic Command Units are currently meeting their targets and which require improvement.

We look forward to your response on this important issue by 15 April 2021.

Yours sincerely,



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