

**Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP**

Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street,  
London, SW1P 4DF

**Our ref:** MOPAC200623-D4626

18 July 2023

Dear Home Secretary,

**An inspection of the Metropolitan Police Service's response to lessons from the Stephen Port murders**

I write with regard to the inspection I commissioned to examine whether the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) had learnt the lessons from the tragic murders by Stephen Port of four young men in East London between June 2014 and September 2015. The report was published on 27 April 2023.

In its report, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) found that the Met had made some improvements since the Port case, including better working arrangements between local officers and specialist murder investigation teams, and training and guidance for officers on chemsex.

However, inspectors also found that Met police officers admit they still rely on luck to identify links between deaths at a local level. Inspectors concluded that the Met's flawed handling of the Port investigations could broadly be explained by the following issues:

- poor training and supervision for inexperienced police officers responding to unexpected deaths;
- unacceptable record keeping, confusing case management systems and poor handling of property and exhibits;
- confusing policy and guidance; and
- inadequate intelligence and crime analysis processes, which make it difficult for officers to link deaths.

The 20 recommendations made by the HMICFRS is being overseen through the Operation Lilford Gold Group, which MOPAC officials attend and continue to oversee the progress. HMICFRS commented positively about this Gold Group in its report and I am assured that the Met recognize the challenge to not only to implement these recommendations, but also ensure practice is embedded to ensure learning is fully realized.

I am grateful to the HMICFRS for conducting this inspection which reinforced a number of Baroness Casey's findings.

I remain fully focused on both supporting and holding the Met to account in delivering a police service that is trusted, representative and delivers the highest possible service to every community in our city as we work to build a safer London for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie Linden', followed by a period.

Sophie Linden

**Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**