

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Dr Onkar Sahota AM**

Deputy Chair of the London Assembly  
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**Our ref:** MGLA130923-6377

**Date:** 24 November 2023

Dear Onkar,

Thank you for your letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 7 September. Please see my response to Motion 3.3 Retail Crime.

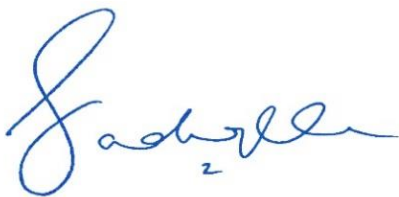
## **Motion 3.3 – Retail Crime**

I understand the very real impact that retail crime can have on businesses and their staff, particularly serious organised shoplifting and the impacts of violence suffered by shop workers. I have heard from the British Retail Consortium and directly from concerned companies about the impact that thefts, assaults and abuse are having. My Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden, attended the London Business Improvement District Summit on 5 September to hear first-hand the issues affecting businesses and talk about best practice, the operational work the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is undertaking and the oversight role my office has of this work.

The MPS is aware of and shares the concerns of businesses and their employees about the increase in retail crime. Its Business Crime Hub works closely with Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, Business Improvement Districts, and directly with retailers to prevent offences from happening and provide advice on how to keep their staff and businesses safe.

And in recognition of the growing concern around retail crime, the MPS is further developing its approach to tackling this offending. This work is aligned to the New Met for London plan, in which the MPS has committed to working with all communities, including businesses, and responding to crime concerns accordingly. There are ongoing policing operations across London focussing on investigating organised criminal networks that exploit children and vulnerable adults to shoplift for them. I have long supported the need to better protect retail workers from violence, and I am pleased to see this protection included as part of the Policing, Crime Sentencing and Courts Act, which sees tougher sentences in place for those committing aggravated assault on retail workers.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadiq Khan**

Mayor of London