

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

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Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 6 July – Motions

Thank you for your letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 6 July. My reply to motion 8 is set out below and I apologise for the delay in responding.

Motion 8 – Clarity needed on decision to keep Uxbridge Police Station open

This Assembly seeks urgent clarification around this process and what it means for the Metropolitan Police's Estate Strategy and other police stations going forward. The Assembly calls on the Chair to write to the Mayor to ask that:

- *The long delayed Metropolitan Police's Estates Strategy is now published for the Assembly and public to view and he accounts for why such a significant delay has occurred.*

The previous draft of the Estate Strategy was devised under the former Commissioner. I fully support the current Commissioner reviewing the assumptions that underpin it.

Sir Mark Rowley has been clear about the need for the Estate Strategy to reflect the decisions he is taking around workforce, reform of the MPS, and neighbourhood policing. It is right that the MPS would also review the operational requirements in light of the officer uplift and take into consideration wider pieces of work, such as the Kerslake review of housing delivery.

Additionally, the publication of Baroness Casey's review and the subsequent acceptance of the full recommendations by the Commissioner have had an impact on the considerations of the Estate Strategy. Baroness Casey's review was clear about the need to reinvigorate and reinvest in frontline policing, and I share an ambition with the Commissioner to build the strongest ever neighbourhood policing presence. I am sure you will understand the relationship between this and the Estates Strategy.

- *The Mayor clarifies the process by which the reversal of his planned closure of Uxbridge Police Station occurred and when an official mayoral Decision can be expected.*

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I wrote a private letter to the Commissioner on 2 July regarding the MPS Estate Strategy, which highlighted the important role that police stations play in providing community trust and confidence and asked for the MPS to expedite decisions around key stations. In this letter, I outlined my view that Uxbridge Police Station should be retained. This has been fed into the MPS's review of its Estate Strategy. With an increased number of police officers and PSCOs now serving in London, I believe there is a stronger case for the MPS to retain more police buildings in the capital.

- *The Mayor clarifies why it took over five years to reach this conclusion and why it is only Uxbridge that is receiving an update on the status of their Police Station and not other residents across London.*

Decisions around the MPS's estate must be led by operational need while also taking into account the wider reform agenda. The previous draft of the Estate Strategy was devised under the former Commissioner and was subsequently reviewed by the current Commissioner.

While I have been supportive of the Commissioner reviewing the assumptions that underpin the strategy, I equally understand the important role that police stations play in providing community trust and confidence. My letter to the Commissioner sought to strike a balance between these considerations.

- *The Mayor clarifies what this means for other stations earmarked for closure and when residents will receive further information on this.*

Given the points raised by the Casey Review around invigorating the frontline of policing and the additional mayoral investment to support recruitment, I have acknowledged that there is an increased likelihood that the MPS will need to retain more buildings than previously thought.

I am aware that the uncertainty over the future of several of London's police buildings has unfortunately impacted some local communities, but at this stage, I am not in a position to comment on specific sites.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London