

**The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
The Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF**

Our ref: MOPAC300124-D4858

5 March 2024

Dear James,

Homicide prevention - An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide

I write regarding the national thematic inspection which assessed how well the police contribute to the prevention of homicide. I have considered this report alongside the inspection that I commissioned HMICFRS to conduct regarding the lessons learned by the MPS in relation to the Stephen Port murders.

I am pleased that Inspectors highlighted good work by the MPS throughout this report. With specific mention of the importance of communication and engagement with the public, and how the MPS worked with social media influencers to communicate with audiences that it had previously struggled to reach to prevent youth homicides.

Inspectors also noted the good work the MPS has done around high-risk offenders through operation Bassano – an algorithm identified the top 100 people likely to offend which allowed officers the opportunity to target these people by obtaining protective orders, executing warrants and disrupting them in other ways, such as taking steps to revoke their driving licence.

My office holds a bi-monthly partnership meeting to drive down the levels of homicide in the capital through collaborative working. The meetings bring together the police, Local Authorities/London Councils, Youth Justice Board, HM Prisons and Probation, TfL and the London Adolescent Safeguarding Board. We have committed to review the recommendations from this inspection at a meeting in the new year, to oversee the progress the MPS has made over the last 6 months.

Recommendation - By 1 December 2023, chief constables should make sure their force can quickly identify lessons from homicides and serious violence incidents. The process should be capable of involving partner organisations when appropriate, so that lessons can be learned more widely.

The MPS have diagnostic initiatives, process review and improvement projects via their commissioning processes (via COG meeting). They are currently progressing their project to embed permanent learning, assurance and improvement, including a wider pilot of BCU Organisational learning hubs. Whilst this action is not complete the MPS are progressing a centralised service, with recruitment commencing in February 2024.

Recommendation: By 31 August 2024, chief constables in England and Wales should devise an approach to make sure their force can, on a sufficiently frequent basis, produce an analytical report concerning its death investigations. This will help the force to:

- **better understand the pattern of death reports across the force area, drawing on force data and information gathered by other organisations, including the NHS and local authorities; and**
- **identify any linked series of death reports.**

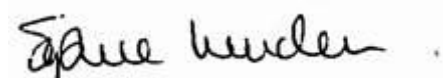
The MPS are progressing this action, with work focussing on developing terms of reference and monitoring through their Specialist Crime Flex.

In addition to the MPS work to reduce homicides the Mayoral funded Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) works closely with the MPS to coordinate partnership activities in response to homicides and serious violence incidents in London. It has focused on regular and responsive borough engagement, support and resource offered through the Critical Incident Funds, the launch of the Research and Evaluation Fund, and engagement and coordination with boroughs and partners around the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) and the Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews.

Additionally, the VRU are working with partners including the MPS and NHS England, to review a range of data and intelligence on individuals and locations to better understand how best to support local partners. In 2020, the VRU commissioned Behavioural Insights Team to develop a comprehensive dataset to improve understanding of homicide dynamics, enhance targeting of resource and identify early intervention and prevention opportunities. The Initial Homicide Framework was developed (report published last year), which underlined potential. The VRU have funded the MPS to expand the number of cases on the framework and the Behavioural Insights Team are supporting the MPS with this process to establish sustainability of the framework as business as usual. Supported by a working group with VRU, MPS and MOPAC representatives, this work is expected to update in early 2024, with an in-depth analysis of the representative dataset, pulling out key themes and drivers and highlighting future potential, currently being commissioned.

I hope this response shows that the Mayor and I are committed to providing support and challenge to the MPS in this area. The recent establishment of the London Policing Board provides a key mechanism for the Mayor to hold the MPS to account in public. I will use this and our oversight meetings to hold the Commissioner and his senior team to account on this important issue for Londoners.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime

Cc: Lee Freeman KPM
HM Inspector of Constabulary and HM Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services