



**Navin Shah**  
**Chair of the London Assembly**  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

**Cressida Dick**  
**Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis**  
New Scotland Yard  
Victoria Embankment  
London  
SW1A 2JL

Tel: 020 7230 2346

[www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)

25th January 2021

*Dear Mr. Shah*

My thanks once again to you and the Assembly for your condolences following the tragic murder of PS Matt Ratana, and for your letter of 11 November urging the Mayor and MPS to work together 'to ensure that all practical measures are put in place to ensure the safety of officers'.

We have always regarded the safety of our officers and staff as being vitally important, but PS Ratana's murder was a terrible reminder of the risks that they face daily when simply doing their job. The investigation into the shooting is ongoing, and will establish exactly what happened during the incident. Any safety issues identified will be responded to and we will not wait for the end of the investigation to take action.

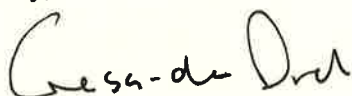
Whilst it's important to stress that officer and staff safety has always been at the forefront of our operational work, we are reviewing our existing policies, guidance and training to ensure we're doing everything possible to keep our people safe on the frontline. Immediately after PS Ratana's death, we reinforced to all Met personnel the key safety considerations to take as they continue to stop and speak to people, search them, arrests suspects, and bring them to our custody centres. We also put search wands into vehicles being used to transport suspects, to be used after officers have arrested and searched a person and there is a need to bring them into custody. In addition, we have set up a separate custody review to consider safety specific to the custody environment.

We welcomed the NPCC's separate national review of officer and staff safety – which of course pre-dated PS Ratana's death – and on relevant issues we have implemented their recommendations. I know we touched on this during the Plenary meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December, and DAC Twist will be writing separately to detail that implementation.

Throughout the pandemic we have seen too many instances of violence directed at our officers. Indeed, at New Year's alone 63 MPS officers sustained injuries. This is unacceptable. We have a strong stance on the small minority of people insistent on causing injury to our officers, who are working to keep the public safe 24 hours a day, seven days a week – their violence will not be tolerated and will be met with the full force of the law. Since its launch in February 2019, the MPS Operation Hampshire team has delivered the clear message that being assaulted is not 'part of the job'. They ensure that there is a consistent professional response to each incident, with long-term wellbeing support in place where needed for victims, and they work closely with the CPS so that offenders are held properly to account.

I welcome your concern for the safety of all officers and staff, and am grateful for all the Assembly does to underline its importance. Ultimately, the safety of our personnel helps ensure that of all Londoners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cressida Dick', written in a cursive style.

**Cressida Dick**  
**Commissioner**