

25 March 2025

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Comm.Po@met.police.uk

Dear Zoë,

Thank you for your letter. I fully appreciate this is a subject you care about deeply. I am replying as I lead on this issue for the Metropolitan Police Service.

As the Commissioner made clear during the London Plenary session on policing, your assessment does – at best – minimise the harm drugs can do and the harm done in connection with the supply of drugs. There is a very strong correlation between the drugs supply, violence (often serious violence), volume crime and exploitation, particularly the exploitation of children. Decriminalising the possession and use of illicit drugs will not make this significant problem disappear.

Perhaps more importantly in the context of your detailed letter, the issues you raise are fundamentally matters of policy. These would be better directed to those responsible for devising and deciding legislation. The role of the police is enforcement – enforcement of the law as it is. This is an important point the Commissioner also made clear at the Plenary session.

Of course, whilst the focus of the police must be eliminating the supply of drugs, we do recognise the importance of addressing demand too as part of a wider model that includes suppression, diversion, healthcare and education. That is why the MPS works closely with diversion agencies and thanks to funding from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Home Office, MPS officers and staff are able to do some brilliant work in this space via Project ADDER. This funding allows us to undertake our principal role whilst also working with partners to put in place interventions.

Any changes to our laws on drugs must be a matter for others. Until that time, I hope you will appreciate the core of the resources available to the MPS must be focused on enforcing the law as it stands and suppressing the drugs supply.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Brogden
**Commander – Specialist Crime
Metropolitan Police Service**