

MAYOR OF LONDON

Caroline Russell AM
Chair of the Meeting
assemblychair@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA191224-6838

Date: 1 April 2025

Dear Caroline,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 5 December 2024 – Motions

Thank you for your letter about the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 5 December 2024. My reply to motions 3.3 and 3.4 is below.

Motion 3.3 – Blue Badge Theft

It is crucial to emphasise that all forms of theft, including Blue Badge theft, are unacceptable. I understand the detrimental impact these thefts can have on Blue Badge holders who rely on them to travel and live independently. This is one of the reasons why I have launched a new Robbery Reduction Partnership, a forum to reduce robbery and improve joint working between local businesses, London Councils, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the Crown Prosecution Service, the Youth Offending Service, Transport for London, the Safer Business Network, London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), and the British Transport Police. This partnership will continue in 2025 to jointly tackle the pan-London issues we are seeing.

I have been clear that a focus on local policing is vital. I have invested in boosting neighbourhood policing, increasing the number of Dedicated Ward Officers and Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Their role is to know and be known to their community and to work with residents and partner agencies to take a problem-solving approach to crime and ASB.

The Blue Badge scheme is administered and enforced by local authorities, and therefore it is their responsibility to address the issues related to detecting the fraudulent use of Blue Badges and implementing improvements where needed. I will write to all London boroughs to request that they issue theft prevention advice alongside blue badges.

The MPS continues to encourage individuals to report their stolen Blue Badge promptly, enabling officers and their partners to investigate and take necessary actions swiftly. As part of the MPS's New Met for London plan, the MPS has committed to improving the speed and quality of its investigations. Detection of the fraudulent use of Blue Badges by local authorities is also critical in addressing this issue.

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Motion 3.4 – Remembering Knife Crime Victims

Every young life taken due to knife crime is a tragedy, and I fully support the need to remember victims of knife crime across the capital and to recognise the impact of these terrible crimes on the families of those whose lives have been so cruelly taken and the wider community.

Knife Crime Awareness Week is an important moment each year, initiated by the Ben Kinsella Trust, to focus on the work we, our partners and the MPS do every single day to help tackle this important issue. Quite rightly, this includes remembering the victims and the wider impact of these terrible crimes.

I am clear that the safety of Londoners is my top priority, and I will do everything in my power to tackle the scourge of knife crime. That is why I set up and fund London's Violence VRU – the first in England and Wales – to pioneer a partnership approach to tackling violence that is rooted in prevention and early intervention. This includes additional youth workers, more support for families and local communities, and programmes for inside and outside school hours to divert young people away from violence and towards employment. Over the last six years, London's VRU has invested in more than 350,000 positive opportunities for young people. Since it was set up in 2019, there has been a 24% reduction in homicides, a 27% fall in knife injury of a person aged under 25, and a 17% reduction in personal robbery (compared to when the VRU was established). I have committed to investing in a further 250,000 positive opportunities for young Londoners over the course of my third term.

As our work to tackle knife crime continues, we will raise the idea of a dedicated day of remembrance for victims with the VRU, the MPS, the Ben Kinsella Trust, and other partners to seek a consensus on whether this is a helpful approach for families and communities affected and to help keep London safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the name.

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London