

Email 1

From: [REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Sent: 17 August 2023 13:55

To: MOPAC FOI <FOI@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Baton rounds - Met update for MOPAC

From: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

Sent: 01 August 2023 18:30

To: [REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk; [REDACTED]@met.police.uk

Subject: Baton rounds - Met update for MOPAC

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Please find attached a one-pager about the authorisation of baton rounds. This follows an FOI response that noted that they had been made available as a tactical option in protests in 2020 between 12 and 15 June, and at some previous Notting Hill Carnivals.

This sets out the general position on decisions to authorise baton rounds as an available tactical option, and then provides points in relation to Notting Hill Carnival and the 2020 protests.

Liberty Investigates has been working on this story with the Guardian. We do not know when the Guardian will publish their article, but wanted to ensure you were sighted ahead of that.

All best,

Met Police | Communication & Engagement | New Scotland Yard

[REDACTED]@met.police.uk | [REDACTED]



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Email 2

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 August 2023 17:45

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Baton rounds - Met update for MOPAC

Circulated on sep chain [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 August 2023 17:43

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Baton rounds - Met update for MOPAC

See the attached on the baton rounds stuff.

Can I leave to you both to engage with the met press team on their lines – and also prepare our line on it.

- [REDACTED] you may also wish to follow up on this around a clarification letter

Thanks

[REDACTED] Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime | Email

Website www.london.gov.uk/policing | Address 169

Union Street, Southwark, London SE1 0LL

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk> <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

Sent: 02 August 2023 17:37

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

Subject: RE: Baton rounds - Met update for MOPAC

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OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Thanks [REDACTED] The FOI response that was sent (not published) to the FOIA requester is attached here for you. As you can see, the response did not provide any context or explanation for the authorisations, so if you are updating colleagues in MOPAC, grateful if you could deploy the one-pager that sets out the context. With thanks in advance and best wishes for your leave.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Sent: 01 August 2023 20:35

To: [REDACTED] - Communication & Engagement <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] - Communication & Engagement <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>; [REDACTED]

HQ Strategy & Governance <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

Subject: Re: Baton rounds - Met update for MOPAC

Thanks [REDACTED]

May I ask that you also share a copy of the FOI which has been published as well please?

Thank you

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk> <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 6:29:55 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk> <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

<[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

Subject: Baton rounds - Met update for MOPAC

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All best,

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@met.police.uk |



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Email 3

From: [REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 August 2023 13:54
To: MOPAC FOI <FOI@mopac.london.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Baton rounds - Met update for MOPAC

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>
Sent: 03 August 2023 18:17
To: [REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk; [REDACTED]@met.police.uk; [REDACTED]@met.police.uk
Subject: RE: Baton rounds - Met update for MOPAC

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In [REDACTED] absence, quick update on this to let you know that we have updated the statement provided to the Guardian to include an explicit denial that decisions on tactical options are taken based on the ethnicity of those in attendance at an event. The full updated statement is set out below.

All best,
[REDACTED]

A Met Police spokesperson said: "Decisions on the tactical options that are appropriate ahead of any pre-planned event or protest are carefully considered and take into account a full intelligence, threat and risk assessment.

"Any suggestion that those decisions are taken based on the ethnicity of those likely to be in attendance at an event is not accurate.

"The decision to authorise baton rounds as an available tactical option is one that can only be taken by an Assistant Commissioner.

"It is primarily a preparatory step that provides the operational commander for the event with the ability to consider authorising its use where a situation involving a risk of either loss of life or serious injury develops, and after conventional methods have been tried and failed (or would in all of the circumstances not succeed).

"While authorisations have been given ahead of a very limited number of events and protests in recent years, baton rounds have never actually been used by the Met in a public order situation.

"In recent years, authorisation has been given to operational commanders to consider baton rounds as a tactical option for Notting Hill Carnival and for three days during protests in central London in 2020."

Notting Hill Carnival

Around one million people attend Notting Hill Carnival each year and most have a fantastic experience. We recognise its significance to communities across London as a celebration of the city's cultural diversity and history.

But it is that same unrivalled scale, the fact it takes place in a built up residential area rather than a dedicated event venue and the convergence of groups – in particular groups of young men – from across London and beyond, that makes Carnival such a unique policing challenge.

Each year thousands of officers are deployed to police the event, and while we work closely with the community, organisers and partners to ensure it can take place as safely as possible, we do

have to acknowledge that the likelihood of violence and disorder is higher than at other events we police.

Last year, 74 officers were injured, there were a number of serious assaults on members of the public and tragically, a young man was murdered.

It is in this context that the decision has been taken, on a number of occasions, to authorise the availability of baton rounds as a tactical option to the officer in overall command of the policing operation.

Again, this is a preparatory step to ensure officers have the resources available to intervene quickly in the most serious circumstances. It is not the same as authorising their use.

Protests in central London in 2020

In the summer of 2020, the death of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer in Minneapolis prompted significant protests, first in the United States and then in other cities around the world, including London.

While the majority of protests in London were peaceful, there had been outbreaks of disorder and by 10 June, more than 40 officers had been injured.

As part of a wider policing plan, authorisation was given for baton rounds to be available to the overall policing commander, as a tactical option, between 12 June and 15 June.

This was prompted by serious concerns about a further escalation in disorder with large numbers of people anticipated and an indication that counter protesters could travel to London leading to potential confrontations between groups.

While baton rounds were available as an option, there was no eventual need for their use to be authorised.

From: [REDACTED] - Communication & Engagement

Sent: 01 August 2023 18:30

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] Communication & Engagement <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>; [REDACTED] - HQ Strategy & Governance <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

Subject: Baton rounds - Met update for MOPAC

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All best,

[REDACTED]
Met Police | Communication & Engagement | New Scotland Yard

[REDACTED] @met.police.uk | [REDACTED]



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Email 4

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 August 2023 14:36
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Line on Baton rounds

For FOI

[REDACTED] | Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime | Email
[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk | Website www.london.gov.uk/policing | Address City Hall, Kamal
Churchie Way, E16 1ZE

From: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>
Sent: 04 August 2023 13:18
To: [REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Line on Baton rounds

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Yes, it has only been pre-authorised for those events, because those have been the only major public order incidents where they would be relevant in the period – it would have been pre-authorised in the 2011 riots and I think for the student protests – it's a very rarely authorised tactic. We brief MOPAC and the Mayor ahead of every NHC on the approach we are taking – I certainly recall being briefed on the pre-authorisation of baton rounds in the past when I was in MOPAC.

[REDACTED]
Metropolitan Police Service



From: [REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk
Sent: 04 August 2023 10:00
To: [REDACTED] Communication & Engagement <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>; [REDACTED]
MOPAC London <[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Line on Baton rounds

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is on leave today, so picking up in her absence.

I've just spoken to our comms team and I'm afraid the line was already issued to the journalist, so they're not going to be able to amend it. Regardless, I think the line is a fair reflection of the concerns from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The concerns don't derive solely from the pre-authorisation being used for NHC, but rather the full picture provided by the FOI that pre-authorisation has only been used for NHC and for the BLM protests (although they appreciate the nuance around counter-protests).

I can understand your point about briefing to MOPAC and would be useful to understand where this has taken place and in what form, as we aren't aware from Sophie's office of her being proactively briefed on this point. I will of course also make enquiries our side on this, but I'm conscious of a lot of people being on leave this week, hence me asking you.

■ Thanks,

[REDACTED] | Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime | Email
[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk | Website www.london.gov.uk/policing | Address City Hall, Kamal
Churchie Way, E16 1ZE

From: [REDACTED]@met.police.uk <[REDACTED]@met.police.uk>

Sent: 04 August 2023 09:05

To: [REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]@mopac.london.gov.uk>

Subject: Line on Baton rounds

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Hi Both,

We provided a briefing earlier this week on an FOI from the Guardian about our deployment of baton rounds. We understand the Mayor is issuing the following line, which is really unhelpful. Baton rounds are often pre-authorised for NHC, and MOPAC have been regularly briefed about this, so the suggestion that it is a new thing which needs raising with senior Met leaders is wrong: **A spokesperson for the Mayor of London said:** *"The approval of the tactical option of baton rounds in these events only is very concerning and the Mayor will be raising this matter with senior Met leaders. The Met must account for their decision making – and Black Londoners will rightly want to know that they are being treated equally."*

Ahead of NHC it risks raising community concerns and tensions, as well as limiting operational tactics.

[REDACTED] – this is precisely the kind of unhelpful line we were talking about on the bilat yesterday. Is it possible to have another look and see if it can be revised please?



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