

MAYOR OF LONDON

Len Duvall OBE AM

Chair of the London Assembly
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Our ref: MGLA191124-5230

Date: 15 July 2025

Dear Len,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 7 November 2024 – Motions

Thank you for the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 7 November. My reply to motions 3.6 and 3.16 is below. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

Motion 3.6 – Prostitute's Caution

I recognise the detrimental impact that 'Prostitution Cautions' can have on people's lives. It should not be a stigma that anyone should have on their record for life. While I am supportive of the idea of reducing the retention time of a 'Prostitution Caution' to be comparable with a Simple Police Caution, this will require the lengthy process of legislative change, involving an evidential review. I am mindful that this does not go far enough. 'Prostitution Cautions' should be removed from the statute altogether. They are archaic and do nothing to reduce the vulnerability of those involved in prostitution.

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) is working closely with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to redefine its position on prostitution. This year, the MPS will publish a policy that parallels the stance taken by MOPAC. Prostitution will be placed within the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) space, and street-based police enforcement will move over to focusing on the buyers of sex rather than those selling sex.

The MPS is also moving to a risk-based, harm-reduction model regarding brothels. This will result in resources being focused on high-risk, high-harm venues where those involved in prostitution are being subjected to trafficking, exploitation, or harm. As such, these individuals will be treated as victims and not sellers of sex. In short, MOPAC will continue to work with the MPS, moving in a direction that will, in effect, render 'Prostitution Cautions' redundant by focusing on increasing the safety of those involved in prostitution, reducing vulnerability, and targeting those who exploit or cause harm.

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Motion 3.16 – OWL Funding to Support Police and Community Partnerships

MOPAC has stepped in to fund OWL for several years, and in order to be compliant with procurement regulations, we could no longer directly award funding to OWL.

Both Sir Mark Rowley and I are unequivocal. Neighbourhood policing is at the forefront of the MPS's work to deliver on its ambition for more trust, less crime and high standards. In the New Met for London plan, the Commissioner has been clear that policing should follow a communities-first approach to understand better their priorities and how to work together to solve crime. Neighbourhood policing is an extremely specialist role, and it is pivotal in helping the community to have confidence in the MPS.

On 24 June, we launched the MPS's new online engagement platform called Met Engage. Officers will use 'Met Engage' to provide their communities with crime prevention advice, updates on ongoing incidents and investigations, and information about successful outcomes and operations. We hope this new service will help restore the links between local neighbourhood police officers and the community, which is the cornerstone to tackling crime and restoring public confidence and trust in police.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London