

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Marina Ahmad AM**

Chair of the Police and Crime Committee  
London Assembly  
C/o [Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk](mailto:Lauren.Harvey@london.gov.uk)

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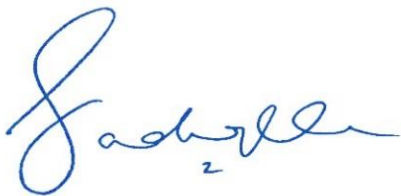
Dear Marina,

Thank you for the Police and Crime Committee's report on Public order policing – the Met's approach. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

As outlined in my new Police and Crime Plan for London (2025–2029), it is clear that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) continues to face unique and growing public order pressures on its resources, many of which are unique to the MPS, with its responsibilities for policing our nation's capital, as well as a range of major sporting, cultural and business events, along with managing protests.

Please find responses to the recommendations that relate to me and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) in turn below.

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



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## Annex

### **Mayor of London's response to the recommendations of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee's report on public order policing in London**

#### **Recommendation 2**

**MOPAC should undertake analysis into how the NICC grant is used within the next 6 months, including how the grant could be better calculated to meet the unique demands of policing protest in London.**

It is clear that the current National International and Capital Cities (NICC) grant is not sufficient for the demands on the MPS – a point the Mayor has made to both the current and previous Governments. The Home Office's independent expert review recognised the range of costs that were not met by the funding formula and concluded in 2015 that the MPS faced a £240 million annual shortfall (at 2015 prices). The current Home Secretary, to her credit, has increased our NICC grant by 34%; however, this does not mean that the funding gap has been closed.

Considering inflation and the additional £63.3 million announced by the Home Office for 2025-2026 and adding the average annual cost of policing protests, there remains a gap of at least £180 million each year.

As the Committee will be aware, the Spending Review confirmed an increase in police core spending power in the Spending Review period. The exact details of what this means for the MPS will not be known until later in 2025, but the Mayor has been clear that this is an incredibly challenging outcome for policing, which may result in more pressure on our already overstretched police service. Whilst this detail is worked out, the Mayor will continue to pull every lever at his disposal to support the MPS, as he did this year with a record £1.16 billion for the police in his 2025-2026 budget.

#### **Recommendation 6**

**The Mayor and the Met should provide mental health support for officers who have undertaken extensive public order duties, particularly for those who are exposed to criticism and personal attack on social media.**

The MPS offers its officers various mental health support options, including an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). The EAP provides 24/7 counselling, legal advice, debt advice, and an online wellbeing platform. Occupational Health (OH) also provides counselling and psychological support. Officers can refer themselves or be referred by a supervisor.

The MPS is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of its workforce and to creating an environment where health and wellbeing are not just aspirational but are also sustainable and embedded in the psyche of the business. Police work is unique. It is highly rewarding and offers diverse opportunities; however, it is also one of the most physically and psychologically challenging sectors to work in. The MPS's OH service has specially trained staff who have additional access to internal and external health support functions. OH will provide or signpost the most appropriate support and help get officers and staff back to work where and when appropriate.



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Guidance on being visible on social media, including applying the right privacy settings, is available to officers generally, but it is reiterated, with further support as necessary, if an officer becomes the subject of unwanted attention in a viral video context.

## **Recommendation 7**

**The Mayor must commission a review of crowd density and crowd safety at Notting Hill Carnival to inform stewarding requirements. This must include a full review of pinch points and strict guidance for the number of stewards required across the Carnival. The findings of this review should be made public at least three months in advance of Carnival 2026.**

Notting Hill Carnival is an event that, since its founding in 1966, has celebrated the Caribbean community, not only in London but across the UK. Organised by the local community, the Carnival has become the second biggest street festival in the world, attracting around two million attendees annually from around the globe and generating an estimated £396 million in economic impact.

Notting Hill Carnival Ltd (NHCL) is the official organiser of the Notting Hill Carnival and is responsible for the event and managing public safety for the Carnival, including stewarding. NHCL receives funding from the Greater London Authority (GLA) for its stewarding provision. The organiser works closely with key agencies that support the planning and delivery of the event, including the MPS, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC), and Westminster City Council (WCC), through a series of governance groups focused on long-term development of the event and strategic funding. Alongside the governance of the event, multi-agency planning for Notting Hill Carnival is also reviewed through the Licensing, Operational Safety Planning Group (LOSPG), chaired by WCC, and includes representatives from key stakeholders such as the MPS, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service, and local authorities. The group meets monthly, with several smaller subgroups progressing specific elements, such as crowd and visitor management, communications, traffic and transport.

As the Mayor made clear at Mayor's Question Time, Carnival has become a victim of its own success in terms of popularity, and he has been concerned about the risk of a crowd crush. NHCL has already commissioned an independent public safety review funded by the GLA, MPS, WCC, and RBKC, which identified a cost of £2.2 million to deliver improvements for 2025's Carnival.

As the Committee will be aware, the Mayor is very proud that City Hall, RBKC and WCC agreed to provide nearly £1 million of additional funding, on top of the funding City Hall already provides, to help deliver these security improvements for this year's Carnival.