

Rt Hon Theresa May MP

Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

23February 2016

MOPAC081215-22378

Dear Theresa,

Regional Organised Crime Units, A review of capability and effectiveness

I write with regard to the report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary on 1st December 2015 as part of the inspection into Regional Organised Crime Units.

I welcome the report and I am pleased to note that the Report recognises that London is different and operates the ROCU in a manner that reflects London's uniqueness, while maintaining its effectiveness.

As you will be aware it is my view that the Home Office should modify its position regarding London's ROCU. This year's funding decisions concerning the ROCU only exemplifies this need. First, I do not agree that the money concerning tackling organised crime in London should be ring fenced: the grant for the ROCU persists with this model. Second, the decision then to impose in year cuts on that budget and to exclude London's ability to bid into the Home Office for additional ROCU funding meant in effect we were penalised twice. The Home Office recognised our difference from other ROCU's with one set of rules but was not willing to release the whole ring fence with a second set of rules.

None of the above comments should be read as MOPAC and the Metropolitan Police Service being complacent about its performance against serious and organised crime. We are all determined to drive through performance and to bring about substantial improvements in the way we operate.

MOPAC has to date put in place a public facing dashboard looking at performance and I have regular meetings with the Commissioner and other senior officers to discuss performance against serious crime. I have worked hard to ensure the right balance is achieved between affording this area of work the secrecy required against a presumption that police work should be open and transparent. The recommendation concerning the need for Forces to understand the nature of threat in new and emerging areas of criminality is a challenge for us all, nowhere is this more true than in the area of cyber crime. I have also worked with the City of London Police and associated bodies to gain a better understanding of fraud and how the Metropolitan Police perform against these criminals.

I was particularly interested and pleased that the Report highlighted the need to develop much a more active strategy and tactics regarding preventing serious and organised crime. This is a key strand of the reforming agenda within the MPS and MOPAC and one that I recognise must be driven through if we are going to get ahead of demand.

This is overwhelmingly a valuable report which I shall be closely following through with the Metropolitan Police, ensuring that the lessons are learnt and the good practice highlighted is taken forward.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Greenhalgh', is positioned above the typed name.

Stephen Greenhalgh
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

CC: PCC@hmic.gsi.gov.uk