

MAYOR OF LONDON

Neil Garratt AM

Chairman of the London Assembly Budget and
Performance Committee
C/o Gino.Brand@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA221225-0721

Date: 28 January 2026

Dear Neil,

Thank you for your letter following the Budget and Performance Committee's meeting on the Draft 2026-27 Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) budget. I am grateful for the Committee's engagement and recommendations, my response to which is attached.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London

Cc: David Bellamy – Chief of Staff
Fay Hammond – Chief Finance Officer
Elliott Ball – Director, Group Finance and Performance
Gino Brand – Senior Policy Adviser, Scrutiny and Investigation (London Assembly)
Paul Goodchild – Principal Committee Manager, Secretariat (London Assembly)
Kaya Comer-Schwartz - Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

MAYOR OF LONDON

Annex

Mayor of London's response to the recommendations of the London Assembly Budget and Performance Committee on the draft 2026-27 Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) budget

Recommendation 1

The Mayor should provide updated budget proposals to the Committee when they are available. Given that details are not available at this stage, MOPAC and MPS officials should commit to participating in further necessary and proportionate scrutiny once numbers are clearer in early 2026.

The updated budget proposals for MOPAC were published in the Mayor's Consolidated Draft Budget for 2026-27 ("Draft Budget") on 15 January 2026. This presents a balanced budget position with no change to overall officer or staff headcounts, based on assumed precept and Home Office grant income, some of which is still to be confirmed.

Any subsequent updates will be provided in the Mayor's Final Consolidated Draft Budget for 2026-27 ("Final Draft Budget") in February and in MOPAC's final budget publication in March. The Mayor is content for the Committee to engage with officers as appropriate following any changes set out in these publications.

Recommendation 2

The MOPAC budget document should include a statement of the current level of the resource need for police officers and support staff. If the previous assessment of 38,000 officers and 19,000 staff is no longer considered appropriate, then an alternative position should be developed and included in support of the published budgets.

The [MOPAC budget submission 2026-27](#) sets out the workforce numbers for 2026-27 that are affordable within existing resources.

The Mayor's ambition remains to have 38,000 officers, and representations continue to be made to the Government about the importance of this. Given the outcome of the Spending Review, it will not be possible to achieve this by 2028-29 unless the Government makes a significant reallocation of resources towards policing in London.

Recommendation 3

MOPAC should provide the Committee with an update by the end of 2025-26 on discussions about recovering the costs of policing major events, including Premier League football matches. Where possible, updated budget figures based on any new agreement should be provided in the final MOPAC 2026-27 budget in March 2026.

The rules on cost recovery for this type of policing are outside of City Hall's gift to change. MOPAC is engaged with the MPS around the issue of the cost of policing football and the opportunities for City Hall to assist, whether this is around finding ways to increase how policing is compensated for this additional demand or opportunities for partnership and crime prevention work.

MAYOR OF LONDON

Previously, MOPAC has written to the Premier League urging football clubs to contribute to the high costs of policing football matches across London. The Mayor has stressed the need for football clubs in London to do more to cover the costs of policing these matches, because the MPS estimate they recoup less than five per cent of the costs of policing these matches back from the clubs.

Discussions with the Home Office continue, but it is unlikely that agreement will be reached in time for the final MOPAC 2026-27 budget in March.

Recommendation 4

The Mayor should include in his First Draft Consolidated Budget a clear explanation of how his 2026-27 budget aligns with the manifesto commitment to put an extra 1,300 neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs on the streets, and how this will be delivered.

The Mayor's manifesto pledge was to "work with a Labour government to put an extra 1,300 neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs on the streets".

This year alone, with the decisions the Commissioner has made to prioritise neighbourhood policing, the MPS expects to see an increase of 420 officers and 50 PCSOs in neighbourhood policing. Details of any further increase in 2026-27 will be set out in the final MOPAC budget once the terms of the proposed additional neighbourhood policing grant are confirmed.

Recommendation 5

MOPAC should clarify its decision on pausing the civilianisation of existing roles and confirm if this includes the potential support of its recruitment programme in 2026-27 in order minimise costs. We ask that MOPAC write to the Committee before finalising its budget in March 2026 setting this out.

The budget assumes staff numbers will be held at 11,719 FTE, which incorporates the civilianisation of several roles previously undertaken by officers that are better suited to delivery by police staff.

The MPS maintains an ambition to further civilianise roles where appropriate, but as they have made clear in the past, to do so would either require additional funding or a commensurate reduction in officer numbers. They are therefore not assuming any further civilianisation in 2026-27. Any change to this position will be set out in the final MOPAC budget.