

MAYOR OF LONDON

Alex Wilson AM

C/o AssemblyChair@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA040725-9342

Date: 5 March 2026

Dear Alex,

Thank you for submitting your petition. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

As you know, I have long advocated for intelligence-led and professionally conducted stop and search as an important tool for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) – one key element of the all-encompassing work we are leading at City Hall to tackle violence and its complex causes.

Stop and search is a valuable tool to be used in the detection and investigation of weapon-enabled crime. However, it is not the only tool, and an increase in stop and search does not automatically cause a reduction in weapons seizures or reductions in violent crime.

I am determined to tackle crime and its complex causes to build a safer London for everyone.

The MPS's strategy – backed by record funding from City Hall – has been uncompromising: a mix of relentless policing and innovation with the use of technology, such as Live Facial Recognition. Officers are arresting an extra 1,000 criminals every month and have made over 21,231 disruptions against serious and organised crime groups and individuals, while also taking thousands of guns and knives from London's streets.

London's approach has also been bolstered by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), which is tackling the causes of crime through prevention and early intervention. Last year, London recorded the fewest number of homicides of victims aged under-25 this century.

A key part of this progress has been the VRU, which has delivered more than 550,000 targeted interventions to prevent young people from being drawn into gangs and violence.

The VRU works in schools to tackle exclusions and absenteeism, funds after-school diversionary activities, and places youth workers in police custody and A&E departments – preventing 80% of under-18s from reoffending within 12 months and helping more than three-quarters of young people reduce their risk of harm.

Together with the MPS's policing activity, this twin enforcement-and-prevention approach is delivering real results.

MAYOR OF LONDON

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