

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Lord Duvall of Woolwich OBE AM**  
Chair of the London Assembly  
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**Our ref:** MGLA261125-9237

**Date:** 20 April 2026

Dear Len,

## **London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 13 November 2025 – Motions**

Thank you for your letter regarding the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 13 November 2025. My reply to motions 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 is set out below. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

### **Motion 3.1 – Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders and Stray Dogs**

The Assembly will be aware that local authorities are the primary enforcers of legislation relating to the microchipping of dogs. Whilst the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) can enforce against the conditions laid out in the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015, this would only be at the request of a local authority.

The responsibility for raising awareness of the requirement to microchip dogs also sits with local authorities or the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I welcome the Assembly raising the matter with local authority leaders.

### **Motion 3.2 – Justice for Grooming Gang Victims**

I welcome the December 2025 appointment of Baroness Anne Longfield CBE as Chair of the National Inquiry into group-based child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSE/A). Focusing on grooming gangs, the inquiry will examine factors driving offending and institutional responses, aiming to secure long-awaited answers and accountability for victims. The final terms of reference were published on 31 March 2026, and I am committed to ensuring that London contributes, learns lessons, and delivers improvements from the National Inquiry.

I welcome the Government's action to address delays by previous administrations and am committed to supporting the MPS's review of historic CSE/A cases within the national operation led by the National Crime Agency and National Police Chiefs' Council.

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Since taking office, I have strengthened child protection in London, driven reforms in the MPS and funded specialist victim support, including a new £2.4m package for those identified by the review. I will continue working with the MPS to ensure timely progress and that any capacity risks are effectively managed.

In November 2025, the MPS announced that 9,000 historic cases were under review. This was made public at my request for full transparency and a thorough pursuit of offenders.

The MPS Commissioner has noted significant overlap between child sexual exploitation and the criminal exploitation of young people, with suspects broadly reflecting London's population. However, the MPS recognises the crime is under-reported and is working to improve reporting and data quality for a clearer picture. The MPS must follow the evidence wherever it leads, and I will ensure the force does all it can to tackle all forms of CSE/A, including grooming gangs, to keep London safe.

## **Motion 3.4 – Save Our Police Counters**

Nothing is more important to me than keeping Londoners safe. After over a decade of cuts worth over £1bn under the previous Government, the MPS is facing an extremely difficult financial situation. The change to front-counter provision is one of the MPS's 15 tough choices required to close its £260m funding gap this financial year (2025/26).

Any change to the number of police front counters or their opening times is an operational decision for the MPS to take – based on resources, funding and public demand for services. Against this challenging financial backdrop, it is right in these circumstances that the MPS listens to what Londoners are telling us about what is important. The feedback we consistently get, as evidenced by our Police and Crime Plan consultation last year, is that Londoners want to see more visible, neighbourhood policing on their streets.

Following the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime's (MOPAC) feedback on the MPS's Equality Impact Assessment on the Front Counter decision, and that of other community groups, the MPS came back with a revised Front Counter proposal that means fewer front counters closing.

Specifically, it retains 27 front counters, with two front counters (Charing Cross and Lewisham) remaining open 24/7 and 25 remaining open on reduced hours. This sits alongside the additional mitigation options of introducing digital touchscreens outside of front counters identified for closure.

As the Assembly will be aware, the MPS's Estate Strategy itself was published in December 2025. The strategy commits to ensuring the MPS's neighbourhood officers are within a 20-minute walk of the communities they serve through the creation of 40 neighbourhood policing hubs across London.

The Commissioner and I are committed to co-location to ensure officers remain embedded in their communities – often closer than before. In terms of disposals, the document includes the proposed disposals of several currently decommissioned buildings that are not used for frontline services. These include the former Notting Hill Police Station, the former Enfield Police Station, the former Teddington Police Station and the former Kings Cross Road Police Station. The MPS is also currently investing in redevelopment work at Forest Gate and Kentish Town Police Stations. Once these have been completed, they propose to vacate and dispose of surplus and temporary locations, including Holloway Police Station and Stratford Police Station.

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Any future disposals will be identified on an annual basis. These will be assessed for operational demand, community impact and financial implications via the Disposal Impact Assessment and formalised through the strategic planning process. Once approved, they will be integrated into the annual Estates Delivery Plan and shared with Londoners.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Sir Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London