

MAYOR OF LONDON

Susan Hall AM

Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee
C/o Ebyan.Abdirahman@london.gov.uk

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Date: 29 September 2026

Dear Susan,

Thank you to the London Assembly's Police and Crime Committee for sharing with me its report into Hate Crime and Violence Against Women and Girls on Public Transport. I welcome the Committee's investigation into this important issue and the recommendations set out in its findings. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

Tackling hate crime and violence against women and girls (VAWG) remains a clear priority for me. My Taskforce on Hate Crime and VAWG, which I launched in October 2025, brings together transport operators, policing partners and expert stakeholders, including those with lived experience, to address hate crime, sexual offences and harassment on public transport; reduce fear of crime; and improve confidence to travel across London.

The Taskforce is examining a range of issues, including reporting and policing arrangements, staff training, communications, and behaviour-change activity, with the aim of delivering tangible improvements to safety across the network. This work is intended to complement and strengthen existing partnership activity and ensure a coordinated, system-wide response.

I understand Transport for London, the British Transport Police and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) are separately responding to the majority of issues raised in your report. They continue to work closely together as part of the Taskforce to shape and deliver our ongoing work to tackle VAWG and hate crime.

I am grateful to the Committee for its focus on this critical area and look forward to continued engagement as this work progresses.

My response to recommendation 4 is provided in the Annex below.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Lord Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

MAYOR OF LONDON

Annex

Mayor of London's response to the recommendations of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee's report into Hate Crime and Violence Against Women and Girls on Public Transport

Recommendation 4

With non-crime hate incidents no longer being investigated, the Met should set out how behaviours falling short of criminal thresholds will be consistently recognised, recorded and monitored, including any impact on reporting and victim confidence.

The MPS confirmed that it would no longer investigate non-crime hate incidents at the end of 2025, although it will still record them. Any reported crime is clearly subject to some investigation to establish whether a crime has actually taken place.

The Mayor agreed with the Commissioner that further clarity on the law is required. This is why the Mayor and MPS have welcomed the updated national position towards non-crime hate incidents to provide clarity and consistency in handling these reports. The Commissioner had been vocal that the previous position relied on outdated legislation, which is why the MPS had already changed its approach to stop investigating non-crime hate incidents in 2025. The MPS believes the new national position will provide clearer direction for officers, reduce ambiguity, and enable them to focus on matters that meet the threshold for criminal investigations. These incidents will still be recorded and used as valuable pieces of intelligence to establish potential patterns of behaviour or criminality. The MPS will continue to investigate and arrest those who commit hate crimes, allowing the police to comply with statutory guidance while focusing its resources on criminality and public protection. The MPS is now awaiting guidance from the College of Policing to inform its approach and update training for officers and staff. As the Commissioner and the Mayor have said, police attention will be directed where it belongs, towards preventing and solving crime, protecting vulnerable people, and responding to real risks of harm. Frontline MPS officers will continue to patrol hotspots on the public transport network and in London's communities.

The Mayor understands that some communities targeted by hate crime have expressed concern about what the situation means for those reporting hate crime. We must be clear that where it is established that a crime – a hate crime – has taken place, the Commissioner has given the public assurance that it *will* be investigated. The Mayor does not want to see this development having a negative impact on the willingness of victims of hate crime to come forward. The Mayor continues to encourage anyone who is a victim or witness of a hate crime to come forward and report it.