

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA080620-4026

30 June 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 7 June 2020. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

You asked for:

- 1) *Under what legitimate and legal authority did Assembly Member Unmesh Desai write to the Commissioner?*
- 2) *Emails, or other recordable communications, sent by Assembly Member Desai to other Assembly Members, and /or the London Mayor, and /or GLA Officers in connection with, and demonstrating discussion or prior consultation about, his formal communication with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner*

Our response to your request is as follows:

1. Assembly Member Desai wrote to the Commissioner as Chair of the Police and Crime Committee, with agreement from the Assembly Members who sit on this Committee.
2. Please find attached the information the GLA holds within scope of your request.

Please note that some names of junior members of staff are exempt from disclosure under s.40 (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act. This information could potentially identify specific employees and as such constitutes as personal data which is defined by Article 4(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual.

It is considered that disclosure of this information would contravene the first data protection principle under Article 5(1) of GDPR which states that Personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely



**Information Governance Officer**

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

## **Unmesh Desai AM**

**London Assembly Member for City and East  
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee**



**Cressida Dick DBE QPM**  
Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service  
(Via email)

**City Hall  
More London Estate  
London  
SE1 2AA**

4 June 2020

Dear Commissioner,

### **Fixed Penalty Notices and Covid-19 Enforcement Report**

Firstly, I would like to thank you on behalf of the Committee for taking the time to come and take questions from Members at our last meeting.

On the 3 June 2020, the Met Police published data on COVID-19 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued by the Met between 27 March 2020 and 15 May 2020. The data showed that the breakdown of FPNs for Black, Asian and minority ethnic Londoners was almost 50 per cent higher than white Londoners when compared to the share of London's population.

The Committee did not have the chance to review this data before the scheduled Police and Crime Committee meeting on 3 June 2020. We are therefore writing to you now to ask for some further information.

On the data for FPNs, the Met included a breakdown of the areas where FPNs were issued but did not publish the same breakdown for where arrests were made. Please can you send the Committee an update on arrests and where those took place?

In March 2019, it was confirmed that 17,000 Met police officers had received training in unconscious bias. Given the news that there are now 32,000 police officers in the Met, can you please send the Committee a breakdown of the percentage of the Met's workforce who are yet to receive this training, details of the plan in place to roll out unconscious bias training for all officers and Met employees on the frontline and how frequently officers are required to undertake refresher training on unconscious bias.

Finally, I would like to say that we are truly grateful for the job your officers have continued to do in protecting our City through what have been challenging times for all.

We would be very grateful to receive your response to this letter by 22 June 2020. Please copy your response to [REDACTED] [london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'U Desai', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Unmesh Desai AM**  
**Chair of the Police and Crime Committee**

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**From:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 15:06  
**To:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrets

Hi [REDACTED]

I've just spoken to Peter, who has no comment regarding the letter.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 14:23  
[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrets

Thank you.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 14:22  
**To:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrets

Please leave it with me and I'll get back asap.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 14:21  
**To:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrets

No problem. I am assuming that may mean Peter might be able to get back to us today?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 14:19  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrets

Hi [REDACTED] – please ignore, I sent to you by mistake!

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 14:18  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrets

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes, I had sent it to him. He's filming this afternoon but will deal with it later.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Janette Roker  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 12:27  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrets  
**Importance:** High

Hi [REDACTED]

Do you know if Peter is around today to take a look at this letter?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 12:22  
**To:** Unmesh Desai <Unmesh.Desai@london.gov.uk>; Caroline Pidgeon <Caroline.Pidgeon@london.gov.uk>; Sian Berry <Sian.Berry@london.gov.uk>; Peter Whittle <Peter.Whittle@london.gov.uk>; Steve O'Connell <Steve.O'Connell@london.gov.uk>

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrets  
**Importance:** High

Dear PCC Group Leads,

Following on from the PCC Q&A meeting yesterday, please find attached proposed letter from the Chair requesting further information on the breakdown of COVID-19 FPNs and arrests and unconscious bias training.

The Chair is keen to send the letter today if possible. If you could get back to me with any comments ASAP it would be much appreciated.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Senior Policy Adviser – Policing and Crime; Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning**

**LONDONASSEMBLY**

City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

[Redacted]

[london.gov.uk](https://www.london.gov.uk)

[Redacted]

[london.gov.uk](https://www.london.gov.uk)

[Redacted]

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**From:** Sian Berry <Sian.Berry@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 14:21  
**To:** Steve O'Connell <Steve.O'Connell@london.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrears

Good for me except could we also ask something like 'and how frequently this training is retaken or refreshed' to the part about unconscious bias training. My qu in Feb 19 is quite a while ago and I generally think training like this need to be taken on a regular basis and would like to know if it is only one-time training for each officer.

Hope that is ok.  
Sian

On 4 Jun 2020, at 12:28, Steve O'Connell <Steve.O'Connell@london.gov.uk> wrote:

Fine.

Steve.

Cllr Steve O'Connell AM  
GLA Member Croydon Sutton  
0207 983 4353

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 12:22:03 PM  
**To:** Unmesh Desai <Unmesh.Desai@london.gov.uk>; Caroline Pidgeon <Caroline.Pidgeon@london.gov.uk>; Sian Berry <Sian.Berry@london.gov.uk>; Peter Whittle <Peter.Whittle@london.gov.uk>; Steve O'Connell <Steve.O'Connell@london.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

**Subject:** PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrests

Dear PCC Group Leads,

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Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Senior Policy Adviser – Policing and Crime; Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning**

**LONDONASSEMBLY**

City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

[REDACTED]

[london.gov.uk](https://www.london.gov.uk)

[REDACTED] [london.gov.uk](https://www.london.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 12:26  
**To:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrears

Hi [REDACTED]

Caroline is happy with the letter.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 12:22  
**To:** Unmesh Desai <[Unmesh.Desai@london.gov.uk](mailto:Unmesh.Desai@london.gov.uk)>; Caroline Pidgeon <[Caroline.Pidgeon@london.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.Pidgeon@london.gov.uk)>; Sian Berry <[Sian.Berry@london.gov.uk](mailto:Sian.Berry@london.gov.uk)>; Peter Whittle <[Peter.Whittle@london.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Whittle@london.gov.uk)>; Steve O'Connell <[Steve.O'Connell@london.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.O'Connell@london.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** PCC - letter to the Commissioner, COVID-19 FPNs and arrears  
**Importance:** High

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Kind regards,

[REDACTED]



## Unmesh Desai AM

London Assembly Member for City and East  
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee



**Cressida Dick** DBE QPM  
Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service  
(Via email)

**City Hall  
More London Estate  
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SE1 2AA**

4 June 2020

Dear Commissioner,

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Finally, I would like to say that we are truly grateful for the job your officers have continued to do in protecting our City through what have been challenging times for all.

We would be very grateful to receive your response to this letter by 22 June 2020. Please copy your response to [REDACTED] [london.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'U Desai'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Unmesh Desai AM**  
**Chair of the Police and Crime Committee**

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**From:** Anastassia Beliakova [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 09:50  
**To:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to the Met

Hi both,

Thanks for this, it reads well to me - attached are my comments

Thanks again

Anastassia  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 9:41:46 AM  
**To:** Anastassia Beliakova <[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Letter to the Met

Hi Anastassia,

I hope you're well. After a lot of back and forth with Unmesh yesterday on a Black Lives Matter statement, he eventually agreed to us not issuing a statement solely on this but writing to the Met instead to ask for more information on the COVID BAME arrests data.

I have drafted the attached and [REDACTED] reviewed it this morning. Would you mind reviewing it too before it goes to Unmesh? There's some comments on the side that we're keen to get your opinion on.

Unmesh has asked for this by 12 today, is that too quick of a turnaround time for you?

Thanks for your help,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] -

## Unmesh Desai AM

London Assembly Member for City and East  
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee



City Hall  
More London Estate  
London  
SE1 2AA

Cressida Dick DBE QPM  
Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service  
(Via email)

X June 2020

Dear Commissioner,

### Fixed Penalty Notices and Covid-19 Enforcement Report

On the 3rd June 2020, the Met Police published data on COVID-19 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued by the Met between 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The data showed that the breakdown of FPNs for Black, Asian and Minority ethnic Londoners was almost 50% higher than white Londoners when compared to the share of London's population.

The Committee did not have the chance to review this data before the scheduled Police and Crime Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020. We are therefore writing to you now to ask for some further information.

On the data for FPNs, the Met included a breakdown of the areas where FPNs were issued but did not publish the same breakdown for where arrests were made. Please can you send the Committee [an update on arrests and where those took place?](#)

In its FPN and Covid-19 Enforcement Report, the Met states that it has continued proactive policing throughout the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Please can you send the Committee a list of the areas in London where proactive policing is taking place and how many of the overall COVID-19 FPNs and arrests were issued in these areas? We would also appreciate a breakdown of age, gender and ethnicity on this data too.

In March 2019, it was confirmed that 17,000 Met police officers had received training in unconscious bias. Given the news that there are now 32,000 police officers in the Met, can you please send the Committee a breakdown of the percentage of the Met's workforce who are yet to receive this training and details of the plan in place to roll out unconscious bias training for all officers and Met employees on the frontline?

We would be very grateful to receive your response to this letter by 22 June 2020. Please copy your response to XXXXXXXXXXXX.

**Commented [AN1]:** Is this info secret? Can we still ask for it?

Basically, I think it would be good to get an idea of where proactive policing is taking place to see if they are highly populated BAME communities in London. That could be a reason why the BAME figures for FPNs and arrests are higher than for white Londoners.

Data from 2011 census - <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/regional-ethnic-diversity/latest>

**Commented [REDACTED]:** I don't think so - it has spoken about high crime areas before. However, it does depend if it doing undercover work and part of a larger operation. I imagine it would say it is doing proactive policing across London so perhaps better to stick to just asking for where arrests have been made and the breakdown?

**Commented [REDACTED]:** I will follow [REDACTED]'s view on this. On the one hand, no harm in asking; on the other, we do want to get something tangible back

**Commented [AN4]:** <https://www.london.gov.uk/questions/2019/4137>

**Commented [REDACTED]:** Ok

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Unmesh Desai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Unmesh Desai AM**  
**Chair of the Police and Crime Committee**

DRAFT



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**From:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 12:01  
**To:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; Unmesh Desai <Unmesh.Desai@london.gov.uk>; Unmesh Desai [REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to the Met

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks very much for your letter.

Unmesh has some slight amends to the letter itself, to add lines of courtesy at the start and finish but the substantive text is fine thank you.

There are some amends to the wording of the suggested press release below too.

[REDACTED] – Unmesh has asked if we can aim to get sign off from other groups on this ASAP, ideally by the end of today if possible?

Happy to help if other groups have comments.

[REDACTED]  
**Research and Support Officer (Policing & Crime), Labour Group**  
**LONDONASSEMBLY**  
City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA  
[REDACTED]

**london.gov.uk**  
[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk

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**From:** [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 June 2020 09:58

To: Unmesh Desai <[Unmesh.Desai@london.gov.uk](mailto:Unmesh.Desai@london.gov.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED] >

Subject: Letter to the Met

Hi Unmesh,

As promised, attached is a draft letter to the Met requesting more information on FPNs data published yesterday.

Please also find a draft statement below. Let me know if you'd like me to make any changes.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

## LONDON ASSEMBLY

Holding the Mayor to account and investigating issues that matter to Londoners

Media Office: [REDACTED]

[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

### NEWS RELEASE

2020/XXX

XXXX, XX June 2020

# Assembly asks Met **for more answers on disproportionate BAME COVID-19 enforcement figures**

The **London Assembly** has **today** written to the Met Commissioner, Cressida Dick DBE QPM, following the recent data on Black, Asian, ethnic minority fines and arrests during COVID-19 lockdown.

Chair of the **London Assembly Police & Crime Committee, Unmesh Desai AM**, said:

*"Following the shocking news coming from the US over the last few days, the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee wants to ensure that it continues to hold the Met to account on all issues, now more than ever.*

*"It's important that Black, Asian and ethnic minority (BAME) Londoners feel supported and we need to ensure that we are asking the questions that they deserve the answers to.*

*"When we see data **such as that which has been provided regarding COVID-19 Fixed Penalty Notices and arrests**, where BAME Londoners were 50% more likely to get a fine for breaking COVID-19 lockdown measures, we need to be asking the questions as to why this is the case.*

*"The Assembly will continue to always represent all Londoners as the diversity in our city is **our greatest asset**."*

### Notes for Editors:

1. The letter is attached.
2. [Unmesh Desai AM](#), Chair of the Police & Crime Committee is available for interview.

3. Find out more about the work of the [Police & Crime Committee](#).
4. As well as investigating issues that matter to Londoners, the London Assembly acts as a check and a balance on the Mayor.

**For media enquiries, please contact [REDACTED]. For out of hours media enquiries, call 020 7983 4000 and ask for the London Assembly duty press officer. Non-media enquiries should be directed to the Public Liaison Unit on 020 7983 4100.**



**External Communications Officer  
London Assembly Communications  
LONDONASSEMBLY**

City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA



[london.gov.uk/assembly](https://london.gov.uk/assembly)  
[REDACTED]@london.gov.uk

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## Unmesh Desai AM

London Assembly Member for City and East  
Chair of the Police and Crime Committee



**Cressida Dick** DBE QPM  
Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service  
(Via email)

**City Hall  
More London Estate  
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**X** June 2020

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**Chair of the Police and Crime Committee**