

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

██████████  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA090620-4166

25 June 2020

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 2 June 2020. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

*I am writing to you today to ask what you are doing, as the Mayor of London, to ensure that your officers are not abusing their power and are held accountable for their actions.*

*After witnessing the death of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department, I am left feeling outraged, frustrated, and hurt. The system has failed yet another black man and we are anxiously waiting to see if the officers responsible for his death will face consequences.*

*As a resident of your city, I want to make sure that my local police department is taking the necessary preventative measures to ensure incidents like this will not occur in the future. So I ask:*

- *Are the police officers in the London Police Department being trained to de-escalate altercations by using peaceful conflict resolution strategies?*
- *Are the police officers in the London Police Department forbidden from using carotid restraints (chokeholds, strangleholds, etc.) and hog tying methods? Furthermore, are they forbidden from transporting civilians in uncomfortable positions, such as face down in a vehicle?*
- *Are the police officers in the London Police Department required to intervene if they witness another officer using excessive force? Will officers be reprimanded if they fail to intervene?*
- *Are the police officers in the London Police Department forbidden from shooting at moving vehicles?*
- *Is there a clear and enforced use-of-force continuum that details what weapons and force are acceptable in a wide variety of civilian-police interactions?*
- *Are the officers in the London Police Department required to exhaust every other possible option before using excessive force?*
- *Are the officers in the London Police Department required to give a verbal warning to civilians before drawing their weapon or using excessive force?*
- *Are the officers in the London Police Department required to report each time they threaten to or use force on civilians?*

- *Are the officers in the London Police Department thoroughly vetted to ensure that they do not have a history with abuse, racism, xenophobia, homophobia/transphobia, or discrimination?*
- *Are the officers in the London Police Department trained to perform and seek necessary medical action after using excessive force?*
- *Is there an early intervention system enforced to correct officers who use excessive force? Additionally, how many complaints does an officer have to receive before they are reprimanded? Before they are terminated? More than three complaints are unacceptable.*

*Statistics have indicated that by enforcing these policies, there is a significant decrease in civilian complaints and injury due to excessive force. If any of the policies are not currently in place, then what is being done to ensure that they are going to be enforced in the near future? What can I do, as a concerned citizen, to set these policies in motion?*

*I also want to increase the level of trust between the police department and the community. To establish trust, there has to be transparency. I would like to see the London Police Department collect and report data on civilian deaths that occurred in custody and as a result of an officer's use of excessive force. The data should be broken down by demographics and should showcase the race, gender, sexuality, and religion of the civilians. Allowing the public access to this information will show us where we, as a community, fall short.*

The Greater London Authority does not hold the information you have requested.

London's two Police Forces, The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the City of London Police may hold relevant information so you may wish to send your request to them using the addresses below. Although the GLA and MPS are closely linked, they are separate Public Authorities for the purposes of The Freedom of Information Act 2000, as per schedule 1 of the Act.

Metropolitan Police Service [foi@met.police.uk](mailto:foi@met.police.uk)

City of London Police [FOI@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FOI@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk)

On this issue, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has said:

*"It is crucial that we root out systemic racism, discrimination and inequality from society. There must be a clear commitment to change. We've come a long way in London, but I am not complacent, and we cannot afford to lose a moment as we press forward.*

*"We must capitalise on this moment of change and that's why I have now tasked City Hall officials to work on an urgent new action plan to be developed with community groups and the police, but all public bodies need to change. The plan will look to improve trust and confidence as well as transparency, and is intended to cover how our communities can better scrutinise policy and tactics that are still a source of concern in 2020."*

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA090620-4166.

Yours sincerely

**[REDACTED]**

**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>