

LONDON ASSEMBLY

Chair of the London Assembly



Jennette Arnold OBE AM
Member for North East London
Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA
Telephone: 020 7983 4000
Web: www.london.gov.uk

21 November 2012

Stephen Greenhalgh
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

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

Dear Stephen,

Motion agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting on 14 November

The following motion was agreed unanimously by the London Assembly at its Plenary meeting on 14 November 2012:

"This Assembly notes that the GLA group procures a variety of banking services, from card processing and foreign exchange to bonds and securities services. In the four years from 2008-12 the GLA group paid almost £35m in charges and other costs for these services, representing a significant combined procurement budget.

This Assembly calls on the Mayor of London, the GLA Head of Paid Service, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, the Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and the Board of Transport for London to explore opportunities to move taxpayers' money to banks with a better track record in lending to small businesses and with a track record that is a better fit with the group's Responsible Procurement policy."

Accordingly, I am writing to you to seek your response to the motion.

I have also written separately to the Mayor (both in his capacity as Mayor of London and as Chairman of Transport for London), the GLA's Head of Paid Service and the Chair of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority to seek their response to the motion.

For your information, the Assembly additionally agreed the following motion:

"This Assembly notes the recent announcement by the Metropolitan Police that, in an attempt to fill the budget gap resulting from reckless government cuts of 20%, 891 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are likely to be cut, up to 65 front counters or police stations closed, and borough commanders merged. Additionally, this Assembly acknowledges that London has already lost 1,956 police officers, 1,800 PCSOs, and over 1,339 civilian staff since May 2010.

This Assembly also notes that the Mayor's revised budget guidance letter dated 19th October 2012, stated that the Metropolitan Police would have to achieve cuts of £148million next year. Further, that this letter accepted for the first time that the Mayor may

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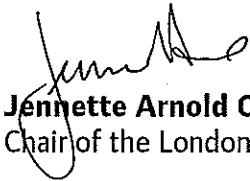
not be able to keep his election promise to have 1,000 more police officers in London than when he took office.

This Assembly is aware of the conclusion of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) that frontline policing services could only be preserved if budget cuts were limited to a maximum of 12%. This Assembly also notes that the Coalition Government has set targets to cut the police budget by 20%.

This Assembly therefore urges the Mayor to enter in to urgent negotiations with the Coalition Government to achieve a better settlement for Londoners that would prevent the loss of up to 50% of police station front counters and large numbers of police that the people of London truly value and rely on to keep them safe."

I have written to the Mayor to seek his formal response.

Yours sincerely



Jennette Arnold OBE AM
Chair of the London Assembly