



Leonie Cooper

London Assembly Member for Merton & Wandsworth
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Commander Bas Javid

Frontline Policing - Crime
3rd Floor, New Scotland Yard
London
SW1A 2JL

Telephone: 02072301519

Email: Basit.Javid@met.police.uk
www.met.police.uk

Your ref:

Our ref:

7th August 2019

Dear Leonie Cooper,

Re: Catalytic Converter Theft

I write with reference to your letter dated 25th July 2019 with regard to the increase in catalytic converter theft in London.

I share your concern for the victims of this type of offence, recognising the cost of replacement and worry they may feel about the security of their vehicle following this type of crime.

On reviewing the trend for this type of offence, the increase in offences since July 2018 has continued into 2019 at that level. Between January and June 2019, the MPS recorded an average of 482 offences per month which appears, in part, to be driven by the price of precious metals contained within catalytic converters.

The MPS remain unaware of any Secured By Design approved products to assist with preventing this crime type, however as you are aware, there are some after-market products available. Due to the varied production of vehicles based on make and model, it would be difficult for the MPS to work with all manufacturers to develop a single Secured By Design solution for this type of crime. However, as part of the review into this matter, the MPS have identified that over two thirds of the vehicles involved in this type of theft since January 2019 are linked to one manufacturer. The MPS have contacted them to inform them of the apparent issue in relation to the design of their catalytic converters or the ease of access to them.

As you have highlighted, with the reductions in MPS budget comes the necessity to prioritise our response to certain offences, particularly those involving violence. However, our officers will continue to respond to and investigate these offences in line with our investigation policy and where identified will work hard to bring offenders to justice.

Yours sincerely,

Bas Javid

Commander, Frontline Policing