

REQUEST

- When was Uxbridge police station first mentioned/earmarked for possible closure?
- How much money and how many officers have been cut from Hillingdon Police since 2010?
- What is the current situation regarding Hillingdon Council's proposal to buy Uxbridge Police station for £5m?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 23 September to the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC). I can confirm that your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and that MOPAC does hold some information relating to your request.

You asked for the following information:

- When was Uxbridge police station first mentioned/earmarked for possible closure?
- How much money and how many officers have been cut from Hillingdon Police since 2010?
- What is the current situation regarding Hillingdon Council's proposal to buy Uxbridge Police station for £5m?

Our response to your request is as follows:

1. When was Uxbridge police station first mentioned/earmarked for possible closure?

The Public Access consultation exercise carried out between 14 July and 6 October 2017 identified Uxbridge Police Station as a site for disposal. You can read the resulting Public Access Strategy, here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/mopac-publications/public-access-strategy>

2. How much money and how many officers have been cut from Hillingdon Police since 2010?

The number of officers allocated to the London Borough of Hillingdon for the years 2010/11 – 2016/17 is set out below. These are the full time equivalent (FTE) numbers as at the 31 March for each year. The information for the period after 2016/17 is not held by Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) because this type of information is not recorded by MOPAC following the creation of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Basic Command Unit (BCU) structure.

Borough Name	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Hillingdon	536.4	525.9	474.7	491.5	521.1	507.7	482.5

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) may be able to assist you with information relating to the period after 2016/17 and you can send your request to them, here:

<https://www.met.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/rip/request-information-police/>

Keeping Londoners safe is the Mayor's number-one priority and he is determined to do everything in his power to support the Met Police and tackle the complex causes of crime. In setting his 2019/20 budget the Mayor has invested an additional £95m in the Met Police, specifically

- £84.8m for the Met raised almost entirely from an 11 per cent increase to the Mayor's council tax policing precept. This is the equivalent of 46p a week and will be split between a number of crime fighting measures, including new officers, specialist investigators to disrupt gang violence and new state-of-the-art equipment.
- £6.8m from council tax and business rates to fund the Mayor's new Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) as part of his public health approach to tackling all forms of violence in the capital.
- £3.5m to be spent on other anti-violence initiatives, for example making permanent the successful 'Information Sharing to Tackle Violence' pilot that develops more effective data sharing between Community Safety Partnerships, health services and other violence reduction partners.

The Mayor has also invested an additional £119 million from London's business rates to support policing numbers in future years. This will help to protect existing officer numbers from proposed technical future Government changes to the business rates system. The Mayor's Budget also proposes to commit £20.4 million to take further measures to tackle violence. This will support additional moves against serious violence, including tackling gangs and enhanced provision youth workers at hospital Accident and Emergency units.

3. What is the current situation regarding Hillingdon Council's proposal to buy Uxbridge Police station for £5m?

In respect of Hillingdon Council's offer in 2018 to buy the building and effectively cover most of the excess annual running costs for five years we were grateful to the Council for its ongoing commitment to support the MPS. However, the proposition was significantly cost prohibitive due to the substantially higher revenue and capital costs required after five years; this higher cost was also set against minimal operational benefits.

The council has recently re-iterated this offer.

MOPAC and the MPS are undertaking a review of the MPS estate, excluding the front counter provision of the estate as set out in the Public Access Strategy, to look at the long-term plans for police stations and the potential impact from the Government's pledge to fund 20,000 additional officers.

However, we are yet to fully learn how many officers London will get as part of the Government's pledge to fund 20,000 additional officers. The exact impact will depend upon the allocation of the additional officers that the MPS receives and the subsequent operational allocation of that uplift to different types of police services in different locations within the service; both these aspects could impact the exact requirements for the size of the estate.

MOPAC has responded to London Borough of Hillingdon's second proposal with the above, and stating that we would keep their offer under consideration.

If you are unhappy with the response to your Freedom of Information request, please see the MOPAC website on what the next steps are at:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-crime/how-we-work/freedom-of-information>