

Sian Berry
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

9 November 2017

MOPAC07112017- D1391

Dear Sian,

MOPAC Public Access Strategy

Thank-you for your response to the joint MOPAC/MPS consultation on public access and engagement.

As you will be aware, we have now announced the outcome of the consultation and set out our plans for public access to the police in London. As with the draft strategy, this includes the closure of police station front counters and the disposal of buildings in order to deliver the significant savings the Met are required to make.

The public value visible policing, which is why we are prioritising protecting the front line over underused police buildings. In delivering the £400m of savings imposed on the Met by central government officer numbers will undoubtedly continue to fall, but every pound we save by closing a front counter or disposing of a building is a pound we do not have to find by cutting into the front line yet further.

Your response to the consultation raised a number of issues which have been considered as part of the consultation process. I wanted to respond to the three main suggestions you make in your submission.

Regarding the views of front line officers, it is important to be clear that this was a joint MOPAC and Met consultation. The Met have engaged with all of their local policing teams to explore and discuss proposals and local Borough Commanders have been supportive of these plans.

With regards to Lost Property, this was raised by some respondents as a concern. We have taken this on board and made it clear in the final strategy that as the MPS do not currently take lost property, except for in a few special circumstances, it would be disproportionate to keep front counters open, as I think you appreciate. In future, the small range of items which officers do accept can continue to be handed in at the 24/7 front counters which will be retained in each borough.

Finally, during the consultation a number of respondents gave similar views to yours about alternatives for police buildings, particularly delivering affordable housing. We've been clear in the strategy that we will advise all developers to have regard to local authority requirements for affordable housing and encourage them to make use of opportunities to access funding to maximise affordable housing opportunities.

The consultation process, we have just completed saw us receive comments from over 4,000 people across the online survey, emails and letters and public meetings. These local comments have informed the decisions we made and will continue to inform the way they are implemented and communicated. I hope this provides some assurance that this consultation was publicised across London.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime