

Jennette Arnold OBE AM
Chair of the London Assembly
City Hall
The Queens Walk
London, SE1 2AA

10 February 2013

Dear Jennette,


Thank you for your letter dated 23 January 2013 requesting that the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) lend their support to India in the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence.

Should we receive requests for assistance, either to MOPAC for strategy and policy development expertise, or to the MPS for policing matters, we would of course consider and assist wherever possible. Such requests are channeled through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and indeed, recently MPS Sapphire officers have been requested to provide training to police colleagues in Thailand.

I wholeheartedly agree with the statement you make about improving the response to those affected by rape and sexual violence. The inclusion of violence against women and girls as a key priority in the Mayor's draft Police and Crime Plan, and the publication of *The Way Forward*, the Mayors Violence against Women and Girls Strategy highlight the importance of this issue to the Mayor, and to MOPAC. I am proud that since 2008, the Mayor has quadrupled rape crisis provision, alongside a number of initiatives intended to keep women and girls safe in London. This strategy will be refreshed in the coming months and I look forward to receiving your views when this process commences.

I trust that this answers your query and assures you that this issue is a priority.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Greenhalgh
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime