



Our ref: Operation Lynemouth

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Re: MPS investigations into allegations of electoral fraud and other criminal offences linked to Tower Hamlets.

Dear Mr O'Connell

You will be aware that the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime recently wrote to Matt Parr of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) under section 54 of the Police Act 1996. The Deputy Mayor has invited HMIC to carry out an inspection into the Metropolitan Police Service's handling of the allegations of electoral fraud and connected matters in Tower Hamlets.

At the Police and Crime Committee on 9 February 2017, I acknowledged that the MPS could have better communicated and engaged with the Election Petitioners and other interested parties connected to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. In light of the Deputy Mayor's decision, I would like to take this opportunity to explain the current position in relation to our investigations and how the MPS will be progressing our enquiries.

Following an internal analysis of the previous MPS investigations a new investigation strategy has been developed. This new MPS operation will look at the totality of the alleged offending and bring the various investigative strands together. There are four main strands:

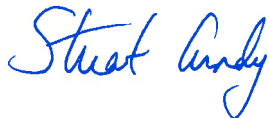
- A review of 27 files arising from the Election Court that were provided to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The files will be examined in conjunction with the Crown Prosecution Service. This will enable both the MPS and CPS to ascertain whether the files contain anything that changes the advice previously provided by the CPS, changes the decisions previously made by the MPS, or requires further investigation by the MPS.
- An assessment of all available evidence in relation to electoral fraud and malpractice. This will be conducted by a new team of specialist investigators and will focus on whether there are other criminal offences that can be further investigated, where any subsequent prosecutions are not limited by the passage of time.
- An assessment and investigations of other criminal allegations relating to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. This includes previous allegations of criminal offences, plus new allegations that have been made to the MPS.
- The City of London Police are conducting an independent review of the MPS investigation into criminal allegations surrounding the obtaining of grant funding in relation to the Communities, Localities and Culture Youth Project. The MPS criminal investigation concluded in 2016, with no persons(s) being charged.

The Deputy Commissioner has appointed Assistant Commissioner Patricia Gallan to provide senior officer oversight of the new operation. This will bring together all the investigation strands under the leadership of myself and an experienced Senior Investigating Officer, with the appropriate resources to support the investigation. Senior oversight will include external membership to provide independent perspective and challenge to the new MPS operation.

This new MPS operation is still in its early phase and I am keen that the MPS clearly communicates and engages with all those who have a close interest in Tower Hamlets. I know you will understand that it is important that any updates comply with our legal obligations and do nothing that might jeopardise any subsequent criminal proceedings.

I hope I have explained the complexity of current police investigations and reviews and how we intend to secure independent assurance of our investigations. We will work closely with the HMIC and their inspection alongside our current investigations and reviews. We will also continue to work with the Electoral Commission and local authorities to ensure the integrity of the electoral process in London.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Cundy
Commander - Specialist Crime Investigations