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Thank you for your letter of 9 September to the Home Secretary about Motion 2 - Police Pay and Motion 4 - Brexit agreed by the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 2 September. I am replying as the Minister of State for Crime and Policing.

Regarding Motion 2 – Police Pay, I absolutely agree that our police officers have made an exceptional contribution to support the response to COVID-19, protecting the public and keeping us safe. The Government is extremely proud of how officers in the Metropolitan Police Service and across the country have played and continue to play a crucial role in helping stop the spread of the virus. Officers have worked to enforce the COVID-19 regulations to protect the public while continuing with investigations and keeping our streets safe.

Turning to remuneration, the Chancellor set out at the last Spending Review that COVID-19 is significantly impacting the economy, labour market and the fiscal position. None of us would have chosen to be in this position, but a pause on public sector pay increases this year will help to protect jobs and ensure fairness. I recognise that this is difficult and that it is not what our police workforce and those in the wider public sector would have wanted. However, it is important to give the full context. Officers who have not reached the top of their pay band will continue to receive incremental progression pay worth at least 2% of salary, and often 4-6%, subject to satisfactory performance. The Government is protecting those who most need it, and we have accepted the recommendations of the Police Remuneration Review Body (PRRB), ensuring those earning less than £24,000 will receive a consolidated pay award of £250.

The PRRB will continue to have a key role to play in advising the Government on pay and conditions, and we value their independent and expert advice. The PRRB gathers and takes evidence to inform its decisions including from police employers and police staff associations to understand their concerns. It balances these with the Government's policy aims, economic backdrop and affordability concerns, making recommendations underpinned by robust evidence.

In relation to Motion 4 – Brexit, on seeking assurances that those EU Londoners that have applied for EU Settled Status, will not be deported. Those who have made an application under the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS) and who have been issued with a Certificate of Application, are afforded temporary protection against administrative removal action pending consideration of their application and any appeal. Investigation of fraud and other criminality should however continue for consideration by the caseworker.

On the matter of HGV drivers, the Government recently announced a package of measures to help tackle the HGV driver shortage, including plans to streamline the process for new drivers to gain their HGV licence and to increase the number of tests able to be conducted. We have also temporarily relaxed drivers' hours rules to allow HGV drivers to make slightly longer journeys, but these must only be used where necessary and must not compromise driver safety.

More information about the measures we are taking to tackle the haulier shortage is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-package-of-measures-to-support-road-haulage-industry>.

I am grateful to you for taking the time to write about this matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kit Malthouse', with a large loop at the start of the first name.

Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP