

MAYOR OF LONDON

Jennette Arnold OBE AM

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
More London
London SE1 2AA

Our ref: MGLA160915-4697

Date:

23 OCT 2015

Dear Jennette

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 8 September 2015 - Petition

Thank you for your letter of 11 September about the petition to tackle issues relating to prostitution in Lordship Park N16.

Let me reassure you that I take seriously anything that blights local communities, and the prostitution and kerb crawling issues raised here are clearly doing just that. Addressing prostitution is a priority in my Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy and I remain committed to ensuring that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and partners are working to tackle this in an appropriate way.

The MPS also recognises how damaging these issues can be to the quality of residents' lives in Hackney and are taking a proactive approach to address and reduce this. I am assured that they are working to balance enforcement and support. First and foremost, local police are targeting kerb crawlers using a range of tactics from plain clothed operations to using CCTV to identify vehicles and subsequently send warning letters to the owners' homes. In addition, Hackney police have made use of new anti-social behaviour dispersal zones in an effort to take back areas for the residents and divert prostitution activity away. In partnership with Hackney Council, the MPS have also worked to develop a diversion course for those found kerb crawling. To date, none of the individuals that have attended this course have reoffended.

I acknowledge that this is a sensitive and challenging issue for those in your community and thank you for bringing it to my attention.

I would suggest that, if you have not done so already, you raise this petition at the Hackney Safer Neighbourhood Board who I am sure will want to keep abreast of the issue and ensure there is a continued focus on this at a local level.

Yours ever,



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London

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