



Shaun Bailey AM
Chairman of the Economy Committee
Chairman of the Police and Crime Committee

Dame Cressida Dick
Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service
(Sent by email)

CC: Cllr Jas Athwal, Exec Member for Crime & Public Protection, London Councils

5 October 2021

Dear Commissioner,

I write to you in my capacity as Chairman of both the London Assembly Economy Committee and the Police and Crime Committee. On 6 September 2021, the Economy Committee held a meeting with invited guests¹ to assess the impact of COVID-19 on London's night-time economy, and understand what will be required to rebuild it.

Guests raised concerns over some particular issues that are currently being experienced by businesses in the night-time economy following the Government's recent lifting of restrictions and the issuance of temporary licenses as they try to remain COVID-secure and encourage people back into their businesses. The Committee heard that this has resulted in strained relationships between night-time businesses and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in some instances. Rowena Howie (Federation of Small Businesses) told us that many businesses "feel that the blame is being put on them...[and] fear that there is no conversation, no two-way conversation" with the police that could "help them to alleviate the situation, to fulfil the requirements that have to be done to keep within the law and, meanwhile, keep jobs going". The particular issues being experienced include:

¹ Amy Lamé (Night Czar), Councillor Matthew Green (Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning, Westminster City Council), Michael Kill (CEO, Night Time Industries Association), Rowena Howie (London Policy Representative, Federation of Small Businesses)

- increased COVID-19 safety responsibilities (such as checking lateral flow results and taking customers' temperatures) at the doors of clubs, leading to longer queues;
- an influx of new and inexperienced night-time customers who turned 18 during the lockdown; and
- understaffed or inexperienced door supervisors and security following many experienced staff leaving the profession.

In light of this, how are you currently working, and how will you continue to work, with licensees, local authorities and communities across London to build relationships and have these two-way conversations that small businesses are asking for given the critical economic juncture at which London's night-time businesses currently find themselves?

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter. We would be grateful to receive your response to this letter by 14 October 2021. Please send your response by email to the Economy Committee and Police and Crime Committee's Clerk, Lauren Harvey (lauren.harvey@london.gov.uk).

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bailey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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