

REQUEST

How many people are currently employed to work in the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)? What are their current pay bands?

What was the annual budget of the VRU in 2019?

How many reports has the VRU published since September 2018? I would like the date and title of the reports.

How many meetings of the VRU have been held since September 2018?

How many VRU meetings has the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, attended since September 2018?

RESPONSE

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 26 February to the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC). I confirm that your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and that MOPAC does hold information relating to your request as set out below.

1. How many people are currently employed to work in the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)?

As of 27 February 2020, there are nine members of staff directly employed by the Violence Reduction Unit. In addition, there are a number of people working for the VRU who have been seconded from a range of partner organisations, as well as a number of interim positions delivering specific projects for the unit. Please see the accompanying organisational chart.

2. What are their current pay bands?

Please see the accompanying organisational chart.

3. What was the annual budget of the VRU in 2019?

The financial year spans 2019/20. For that financial year, the London Violence Reduction Unit had an original budget of £6.8m, to which the Mayor added a further £1m. The Home Office awarded a further £7m to the VRU. Therefore its budget for 2019/20 was £14.8m.

4. How many reports has the VRU published since September 2018? I would like the date and title of the reports?

Reports commissioned or published by the VRU can be found here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/violence-reduction-unit-vru>

There have been several documents produced for Partnership Reference Group meetings (more on this group below). These documents can be found in the minutes of specific meetings here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/violence-reduction-unit-vru>

5. How many meetings of the VRU have been held since September 2018?

The VRU is a small team of specialists based in City Hall that is working with partner organisations and communities across London to reduce violent crime using a public health approach. Each member of the team has met regularly with a plethora of internal and external stakeholders since September 2018. As an example of the level of engagement, the VRU's Director has met with over 150 different organisations and groups since her appointment in 2019.

However, we believe you may be referring to the activities of the Partnership Reference Group (PRG), and we shall answer your question on that assumption.

The VRU's Partnership Reference Group was set up to provide strategic direction, support, and challenge the work of the VRU. The Group is chaired by the Mayor, and is made up of the most senior representatives of public sector organisations.

Since September 2018, the PRG has met eight times. The next meeting will take place on 10 March 2020. You can find the agendas for and minutes of these meetings here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngovmb/ieListMeetings.aspx?XXR=0&Year=0&CId=443&MD=ielistmeetings>

6. How many VRU meetings has the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, attended since September 2018?

Again, we will assume that you are referring to VRU PRG meetings. The Mayor has attended all eight PRG meetings since September 2018.

If you are unhappy with the response to your Freedom of Information requests, please see the MOPAC website on what the next steps are at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/governance-and-decision-making/freedom-information>