

<b>Government Security Classification</b>	Official
<b>Suitable for publication</b>	Yes
<b>Title</b>	MPS reply to correspondence from the Chair of the London Assembly - Motions – 10th June Assembly Meeting
<b>Summary</b>	A document outlining the MPS's response to a series of specific questions and observations raised by the Chair of the London Assembly regarding hate crime/antisemitism
<b>Date</b>	24th June 2021

At its plenary meeting on 10 June 2021, the London Assembly agreed a motion on antisemitism. This motion contained five specific elements and called on the MPS to undertake the following activity:

Commission and publish a specific strategy for tackling antisemitism in London:

Tackling antisemitism is a crucial part of our hate crime strategy and tactical plans. Whilst we need to ensure that we have the ability to scale up our responses, reassurance and operational activity when particular communities are targeted or hate crime strands undergo an increase or change, delivering a consistent approach that engenders confidence in our communities is also key. Following the recent increases in anti-Semitic hate crime the MPS adopted bespoke plans and additional activity was undertaken with the affected communities. The response to hate crime in the MPS is a blend of local and corporate activity – with BCUs engaging their communities through existing relationships and corporately driven activity being used to improve outcomes, quality of service and ensure the correct focus. The overall hate crime strategy for the MPS, which has also been agreed by a broad range of strategic partners, has the following objectives:

- To improve training and awareness of Hate Crime issues;
- To improve justice outcomes across the MPS and CPS relating to hate crime;
- To address the issue of under reporting, identify and eliminate barriers for all communities who suffer as victims of hate crime;
- To ensure that appropriate pathways exist to support victims of hate crime and that the services offered are reflective of the victimology across London;
- To support activity to counter violent extremism linked to hate crime.

These objectives are underpinned by a number of key performance indicators, tactical plans and a newly created governance structure to deliver improvements across the MPS and with partners.

Conduct a review of the robustness of all MPS responses to all reported incidents of antisemitism in 2021;

Following the series of Israel/Gaza related protests in recent weeks, and the accompanying increase in anti-Semitic hate crimes and incidents we have reviewed our processes around the management of these crimes. The Lead Responsible Officer (LRO) for hate crime has asked BCUs and other owning OCU's to review their investigations and ensure that they are

being progressed appropriately and that victims are being suitably supported. Each of these OCUs have been tasked with updating the LRO with their progress on investigations to demonstrate that these offences have been investigated in a comprehensive and proportionate manner. The LRO has asked for additional focus on more complex and high profile examples and CPS and MPS Directorate of Legal Services advice has been sought in relation to some of these. Cases that relate to protests are often more complicated to investigate – in terms of the nuances of the application of the Human Rights Act 1998 where it relates to the right to protest and where matters go beyond freedom of speech and are likely to involve offences.

Ensure the strongest possible action is taken by the MPS against all examples of antisemitism displayed in London in recent weeks, and make clear that such behaviour will not be tolerated in the future

As mentioned there has been considerable additional scrutiny around these recent examples of offences/incidents and the investigating units will work with the CPS, and colleagues across the MPS, to bring offenders to justice where offences are found to have been committed.

Ensure all police officers remain impartial and do not make political gestures whilst on duty, committing to full and thorough investigations of incidents where reports of such behaviour emerge

There has been significant emphasis on this subject within the MPS following a recent high profile incident. We understand that this is a cause for concern for our communities and it is vital that the MPS continues to be seen as politically neutral, policing all our communities without fear or favour. There has been a campaign of internal communications cascaded down from the Commissioner through to frontline officers and staff. This has made very clear what the organisation's expectations are, particularly but not exclusively within the field of policing protests and other public order incidents and events. Command teams employed on such events have been, and will continue to, reinforcing these messages during operational briefings to supervisors and their teams.

Ensure that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, as adopted by the Mayor and Assembly, is strongly enforced across London.

UK Policing adopted the predecessor version of the definition (developed by the EU Monitoring Commission, which was effectively the forerunner to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency) in 2014 and used it as an annex to the antisemitism section for the College of Policing's Hate Crime Operational Guidance. Our stance has been that, whilst our operational definition is the 'Monitored Hate Crime' definition shared by all Criminal Justice Agencies and covering all hate crime, this specific definition was a useful guide to officers on how contemporary antisemitism may present itself. When Government adopted the IHRA version of the definition, the College of Policing undertook to change the annex to the IHRA version in the refreshed guidance manual. This is yet to be done but remains the intention for the next iteration of the guidance manual.

However, this specific definition cannot override the shared definition of hate crime, which is firmly established nationally with forces, and the threshold for whether a racially or religiously aggravated offence has been committed will continue to be based on the relevant primary legislation, CPS guidance for prosecutors and the results of relevant stated

cases. The overarching definition would encompass all of the behaviour described in the IRHA Definition.