

Police and Crime Committee – 29 June 2016**Transcript of Agenda Item 6 – Question and Answer Session with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime and the Metropolitan Police Service**

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Now we move to the main part of the meeting and I very much welcome our guests for this very first question-and-answer (Q&A) session of the Assembly Police and Crime Committee [in this Assembly year]. Again, welcome very much to this meeting.

Before we start, we have asked you to make short statements reflecting upon last Friday’s EU Referendum result and what implications that may have for London. Clearly, this is something that this Committee will be looking at and it is likely and possible that it will be an item in our next Q&A.

Sophie [Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime], perhaps, first, would you like to cast some comments on the implications of the result for, in your view, police and crime in the town?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, of course. I am sure that you have all seen the statement from the Mayor [Sadiq Khan] with also a short statement from the Commissioner [Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe QPM, Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis], which was put out on Monday [27 June 2016]. It was a statement about London and the importance of recognising the diversity and difference in London, which is what we all celebrate and love about London.

The importance of what happens after the referendum is to make sure that we protect and guard against anybody who seeks to use the referendum result as a way to divide us. In order to do that, we must make sure that we guard against hate crime. We are concerned at the moment that hate crime may increase and we are working with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on taking a zero-tolerance attitude to hate crime. We know that today there has been a report out from Tell MAMA, which looks at anti-Muslim hate crime. It is seeing a rise in the incidence of hate crime and has looked at mapping hate crime in London in particular. However, we have to be really sure that the referendum result does not undermine the great diversity and the way that we live in harmony with our neighbours in the capital. That is first and foremost the priority for me, the Mayor and the MPS.

In terms of the technicalities of the referendum and what that means and what an exit from the European Union means in terms of policing and security, we are going to be working very closely with the Government on this because London has a role to play and should be part of the negotiations around that, not just around the economy but also around policing and security because there are things with our relationship with the European Union which we guard and which are very important such as the European Arrest Warrant. We will be working very closely with the Government on that.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Thank you. I know - and we will be discussing this next week - that the Assembly wants to play a role in those negotiations and conversations.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I would echo fully everything that the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] has just said.

If I start with the issue around hate crime, our encouragement today is, please, report it. Use Crimestoppers; use third-party reporting facilities; use intermediaries. However you need to do it, please, tell us about it. It helps us to build that picture. As the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] said, we are now monitoring on a 24-hour basis hate crime across London so that we can get a feel straight away for any changes. We are absolutely clear: our first and foremost duty is to support and protect the people of this city. That is what our focus is on. However, I do urge people, while there is an awful lot of conversations and talk about what is going on, please, tell us. Do not assume we always know. I give real encouragement for people to report it.

On the wider issues, ahead of the referendum policing was fairly clear on what we need in terms of our relationships with partners in Europe and beyond. We need the ability to share in fast time intelligence, biometrics and data. After the referendum, whatever the negotiations, we will work with the Government to say, "This is what policing needs".

To reassure people today, nothing has changed from last Thursday. All of those systems and processes that were in place last Thursday are working exactly the same today in real time to protect the people of London. With the work we have done over the years around counterterrorism, we have built up a strong network throughout Europe and beyond and we can look at the real threats facing London and facing the United Kingdom (UK). That work goes on as we speak. We will very much be part, I hope, of the work on any negotiations, looking at what we need for policing. For us, it is quite straightforward. We need an ability to access - and to access at speed - and ability to share intelligence, biometrics and data.

I would just encourage people. It is in the DNA of police officers, whether they are in the UK, whether they are in Europe, whether they are in the Americas or anywhere else: we want to co-operate with people because we want to make sure that our communities are safe and we will continue doing that.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Thank you, Craig. That was most reassuring and later we will have some questions around the Mayor's review of preparedness, particularly around terrorism.

Len Duvall AM: I wondered if the Deputy Commissioner could clarify the issues in law about those individuals who post "trophy videos", if I can call them that, of their hate crimes when they go and abuse people and put them up on whatever social media. If that is brought to the attention of the police, is that investigable and can that be used in law?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes. Ultimately - and we would get into what is actually shown on the video - you could take the video down from some sites. That sort of evidence is the sort of thing and there are many examples pre this. You will remember some of the examples of hate crime committed on buses. We use the video and we put the video up to identify people and then we use it.

Anything like that, please, refer to us. Do not assume because it is in social media that we automatically know about it. Please, tell us. There are third-party reporting facilities. If you do not want to leave your name or if you are concerned, please, use Crimestoppers.

Peter Whittle AM: Deputy Mayor, obviously, all hate crime is appalling and it has been rising in London anyway for some time now. I just wanted a bit of clarification. You talked about Tell MAMA and what it had said, but two or three years ago it had its funding taken away because of serious concerns about its methodology. Is that where your information is coming from?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I would just like to reiterate the Deputy Commissioner's importance of reporting. Whether that is through Crimestoppers or direct to the police, the most important thing is reporting.

On Tell MAMA, I was just referring to a report that is out there today that could be in people's minds. No, it is not the only place we get information from. I am receiving daily reports of people reporting to the police and the incidence of hate crime. That is where a major part of the information is from.

Peter Whittle AM: It was just that you mentioned Tell MAMA quite specifically.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is in my mind at the moment because I have read about it today and I have spoken to them over the course of the last couple of days, as I have with the Muslim Council of Britain and the Community Security Trust, to try to reach out to all communities to make sure that they understand that we in the mayoralty and the police want people to report any incidence of hate crime and to feel that they are confident in doing so and to get that message out.

Peter Whittle AM: Deputy Commissioner, as well, to carry on from what Len [Duvall AM] said there about violence and threats being made on Twitter, if there are threats to assassinate people, for example, without getting too partisan here - but I could give you a list this long - are those the sort of things that should also be reported to you, too? Yes?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes. Unless the law has changed, threatening to kill someone is an offence and we absolutely will investigate those sorts of things.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): On whatever medium?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): You highlight a really interesting challenge. I think people assume that everybody sees all of social media all of the time. If only systems were that good. They do not do that. The reality is that sometimes people have to direct us to it or tell us about it or those people who have directly been threatened. You will be aware of the other tragic event with the death of the Member of Parliament (MP) [Jo Cox MP]. We have done a lot of work recently around the support and protection of public officials. If those sorts of things are happening, please, tell us.

Peter Whittle AM: They just have to be reported to you by anyone who sees them?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, by anyone who sees them or by individuals. Individuals do come forward and so a lot of stuff does get reported. I would just urge people. To build up a complete picture so that we are able to inform Londoners about what is going on and so that we are able to tackle things, please, tell us about it. Do not assume we know about it.

Peter Whittle AM: Sorry to labour this point, but what about also what you might call "ageist" threats based on a form of ageism, like to hurt older people, for example?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): At the end of the day, there are what they call Director of Public Prosecution guidelines around when, particularly in social media, things cross the crime threshold. If they fit that, clearly it is something that would be investigated.

Peter Whittle AM: I see.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): We will be exploring this subject in depth in later meetings and in later questions.

Sian Berry AM: I will try to stick to the main issue of the potential increase that we are seeing in racist and xenophobic crime. You have mentioned third-party reporting and you have mentioned Crimestoppers. I agree with you that it is really important that people report this and that it is clear that it can be detected.

You mentioned closed-circuit television (CCTV) on buses and things like that. Are you putting this information up somewhere? Can I clarify that CCTV on public transport does not last all that long and that people do need to be prompt?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I could not give you the exact retention period at the moment but I am more than happy to find that out for you in relation to public transport.

Let us take a real example. If there was an incident on the 21 bus route today and someone said, "You know what? I was verbally abused", one of the things we will do is recover the CCTV from the bus and one of the ways we do that then with our video team and our evidence teams is to put that out in the public space to identify the individual. Absolutely, the sooner things are reported, the easier it is. It is hard to recover if you say, "Four months ago, I was abused at Charing Cross Underground". The chances of recovering the video are pretty remote in that scenario. The sooner people tell us, we can take those steps to secure and preserve the evidence and do that.

A lot of that information is available on our website. A lot of third-party reporting is available through local authorities and our local authority colleagues across London will talk about a number of those. We have touched on in this a number of groups and support networks that exist for various diverse communities across London. In the nicest way, we do not really mind who it comes from. Tell us about it.

Sian Berry AM: The message is to report it to whomever you are comfortable reporting it to?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes. I absolutely understand that some people will not be comfortable reporting that to the police and there is a whole wider range of issues to unpick there but, however you get it to us, get it to us.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): There is a high-profile case in Manchester at the moment, yes.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: There have been issues with the Polish Centre in west London. What are you doing particularly around Polish and other Eastern European communities in terms of their safety and reassuring them?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): One of the things we do is that every 24 hours we have community tensions indicators that sit right across all of the London boroughs and we pick up trends that are going. If things are wider than one-off incidents or if there are particular incidents around centres and things, then it is about the reassurance patrols, it is about the visibility and it is about, ultimately, things like physical security and CCTV at those centres. Working with local Borough Commanders and local Neighbourhood Teams, we are doing a lot of work at the moment out with communities, talking about those things that are really affecting those particular communities. As we have

seen, sometimes this is very localised to particular areas and so it is quite a bespoke service in terms of what we are trying to offer to people.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Thank you for that. It was very helpful. We will now move on to the questions on items that were sent to you in advance.

We will start off with the subject of the potential merger of Borough Command Units. This is something that will probably involve talking about neighbourhood policing and the Local Policing Model (LPM) and those are things that we will also talk about in later meetings. Clearly, your work going forward will be the new Police and Crime Plan and this Committee will intend to have some influence on that.

To set the scene on it, the subject of the borough command mergers has been something that this Committee has looked at for some time and we had a previous Mayor who made a statement of "not under his watch". We had the Commissioner coming to this group in December 2015 and saying that he was looking at it and talking to boroughs. It is very timely now to really have an idea of where it is.

This is to the Deputy Commissioner. At what stage are you in discussions about merging borough commands and what proposals have been made?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Can I rewind and talk you back? You will remember probably that in the run-up to the last Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) we were talking about the challenge of finding £800 million to £1 billion of money. We talked an awful lot then about what that would mean to the overall officer numbers for London and how we would have to look at how we configure things differently.

As part of that work, we also looked at a piece of work that was very much around how we strengthen the offer we make around local policing. What are those areas of risk and challenge that we face at a local level that we need to do something differently about?

The borough structure has served us well since 1990. The borough structure was designed and put into place before we had internet crime, before we had the rise in vulnerabilities that we are seeing now and, to some extent, before the current international threat from terrorism. The borough structure has served us incredibly well.

What we have looked at, though, as part of this review is, if we are going to continue transforming the way we deliver service and trying to make service, whether there is a better way of doing it. What are some of the areas that we looked at and said, "Actually, we might just have to look and think a bit differently here"?

If you look, at the moment, we cross borough boundaries in only about 1% of our deployments. We have been running this system for 27 or 28 years and they have become a bit like impassable roads and we do not deploy across borough boundaries very much at all. We deploy about 1% of our time. We have talked about how we can group our services in a better way to deliver a service for London and we think that there is something we can do around the borough structure.

We are very aware and, as you said, we have spoken a number of times in here about just how sensitive and challenging this issue is. We talk a lot about, "What are those services?" At a neighbourhood level, we have talked and we have a very clear mandate from the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] and the new Mayor about what we do around neighbourhood policing and how we bake that offer in and lock it in.

We also know that one of the areas that London is not providing as good a service as it could do at the moment - and the MPS is a part of that - is around protecting vulnerable people (PVP). If we look at the whole work around safeguarding and the work we do at a local level with partners, at the moment, our service is quite disjointed. We have part of it located locally and we have part of it located centrally. We cannot break that down into 32 units but we can break it down into a smaller number and work out how we would do that.

We also know at the moment that the way we do investigation works for the organisation but does not necessarily always work for victims or the average person reporting crimes to us. They often put up with a considerable number of handovers. The person arriving at the scene of their burglary is almost certainly not the person who is going to carry out the investigation and, in some circumstances, they might find that it is handed over four or five times. We have looked and proposed how we could do that differently in terms of a different grouping. We are preparing - only at the moment - what we would call an "outline business case" looking at scoping.

If we have to continue to change and transform the organisation, how do we make this work for Londoners in terms of the service we are able to provide? We have had a number of conversations about the principles and the issues but predominantly at an officer level. For a variety of reasons that you will well understand, we have not stepped into - and it is not our place to step into - the political space and say, "This is what is happening. This is not what is happening". What we will do now as part of the work for the Police and Crime Plan is we will prepare a number of scenarios that will almost certainly be part of in some way what is considered by the Deputy Mayor and the Mayor before informing a Police and Crime Plan.

What do you do if you do not do it? The challenge of still finding at the moment £300 million to £400 million over the next four years has not gone away. The challenge of improving the service we give to Londoners around public protection has not gone away. The challenge of increasing demand, predominantly in areas of sex crime, online crime and other areas of crime, have not changed and so we are going to have to free up resources to deal with that. There are no easy options as we go forward along this budget process, but this is just part of a wider transformation of what we are doing across the MPS to meet the challenges not just for 2016 and 2017 but for 2020 and beyond.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Thank you very much. The challenge you will have is about framing the narrative that it is not just about the budget piece but is also about transforming services. You made that point.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): You said earlier that there was conversation at officer level or those conversations within that remit. At this stage, there have not been discussions with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) about the proposals?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): In fairness to the new Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime], no.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Maybe I can come in. Of course there have been discussions about the budget and about proposals and how we go forward. At the moment, as the Deputy Commissioner said, I have asked for options to be prepared to do exactly as he has set out. That is to, one, improve the service to meet the new challenges, not just around crime but around the way that London is

changing and the population is increasing and the changes in where the population is going to be in particular areas of the capital. Then there is the absolute challenge to ensure that, in the way that a lot of people like the borough command structure, there is good partnership working. What we are doing and what I have asked for is for those options to be prepared so that we can go through that and understand how it will transform the service and transform the service that the public gets.

Your press release for today's session just picks out and talks about borough mergers as the way to provide savings of £60 million a year. It is not. It is all part of the same piece: to look at how we get to a balanced budget. We have to find £300 million to £400 million in the next four years. There is not one thing that we are looking at. We have to look at everything.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Yes. It was ever thus and the previous administration had those same challenges. I understand completely that it is often the higher-level Borough Commander issue that is the issue around merging borough commands and so much of it is the work behind that.

Picking up on the senior leader point, what would see, Craig, as the risks of stretching senior management across a wider geographical base?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): There absolutely are challenges. None of these things come free. The reality is, first of all, having the right cadre of people to be able to do those new roles. Policing is no different to other walks of life that you are familiar with. Many people come into the organisation, work in it for a period of time and aspire to get to a position, only to get to it to find that that position has changed and is not what they thought they were going to. There is a real challenge around getting people who can operate at that strategic level.

I have to be absolutely clear. Fundamentally, I have come from a background where working in partnership is absolutely the way to do business. As a Chief [Constable] in another part of the country, I could not deliver everything myself. We had to work in partnership and so it is in my DNA from being what we called an area beat officers 30-plus years ago all the way through. We have to make sure that that is a real partnership and that there is real contact. What you cannot do - a personal view - is you cannot elevate this to a position where the senior leaders are completely remote from those they are forming partnerships with.

From some of the modelling - and it is only thinking and modelling at the moment - it also allows you to bring in a different tier of senior leadership around things like superintendents at a command unit level that would give you some specialisms around PVP and going back to having detective superintendents around crime and crime investigation. It gives you a different opportunity to do things. However, as I said, at the moment these are models of which there are 13 or 14. You can vary it any number of ways.

However, as the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] said, it is really important that we do not see this as just the segment that we are focusing on now. We have to look at the whole organisation when we are looking at the challenges going forward.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): We will have questions a bit later about working with partnerships and communities. We need to explore your thoughts around that. You talked about the risks of spreading senior management but, clearly, you also spoke about what the benefits would be, which is not just the cost saving.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Absolutely. One of the frustrations - and I know that borough leaders often talk about this - is the perception that at New Scotland

Yard we pull all of the strings and that boroughs actually have no freedom. This is an empowerment model. This is about giving people money and resources and saying - I will make it up - "In your part of London, if PVP and issues around your community and missing people are the most important things and you want to put more resource into those, get on and do it", and giving people some flexibility.

It also has to come alongside much more openness and transparency with data. We have to push out more of the basic information about what is available in London, what we have and how we are using it to tackle those priorities that matter to Londoners and are reflected in the Police and Crime Plan.

Keith Prince AM: I have a couple of questions, one to the Deputy Commissioner and the next one to the Deputy Mayor.

Firstly, Deputy Commissioner, the biggest worry for a borough leader is about having a go-to person who can actually make a decision. If one were a borough leader, one would think, "It is all very good brigading different specialities across a wider region or a sub-region, but I would like to go to my Borough Commander and discuss issues that are pertinent to my borough and to know that he or she has the ability to make something happen and not just be a smaller cog in a bigger wheel".

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I absolutely recognise that. I would say that that is a problem already. Some of the borough leaders at the moment will talk about how, "It is all well that I can talk to my Borough Commander, but they have to then be involved in a negotiation if they want a specialist asset and specialist assets are all held at the centre". We are trying to talk about a model that gives more of that specialist asset out from the centre to a local accountability and to a local tasking process that then offers an opportunity to do things differently.

However, it is getting that balance right because - implicit in your question - what we do not want to do is to end up with an individual - I will make it up - who effectively has a token role or is at such a level that all they really are is a communication conduit. That has to be meaningful with borough leaders.

Keith Prince AM: Yes, we do not just want a single point of contact.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Absolutely not.

Keith Prince AM: Deputy Mayor, congratulations on your appointment, by the way. My question is on the same theme. During your Confirmation Hearing, you said that you were disappointed that there had been no consultation around this issue with the boroughs. Being a cabinet member yourself and me being a council member, I had not been consulted on it and you, clearly, had not been consulted on it. I just wondered what your plans were around consultation on this issue.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, of course. Can I just pick up on what you were saying about borough leaders and what they were most concerned with? Absolutely, there is an important fact of having a single person who can make the decisions and is influential, but that is not the only thing that borough leaders are worried about. They are also worried about the safety of their residents. We need to have those conversations about how we transform the way that policing is delivered to improve the safety of their residents and to carry on reducing crime.

The other thing that certainly most borough leaders are worried about is ensuring that they have the appropriate number of officers in their boroughs and the appropriate number of officers on the streets, visible

and providing reassurance. This is part of the whole package of discussions that we are having on the budget and the whole package of options that has been put together. They cannot be singly picked out. That is a difficult discussion to have and it is a complicated discussed, but it is one that we have to have.

That does lead me on to consultation. We are in the process of drawing up how we will do that consultation. I have already met with the lead member for crime and community safety from London Councils and we will be taking forward a way of ensuring that we do consult with borough leaders informally before the Police and Crime Plan to make sure that we have had those discussions and then move on to the consultation within the Police and Crime Plan.

Keith Prince AM: Can I have your assurance, though, that it will be a true consultation and not just a *fait accompli* as often consultations are? I am not just blaming the police for that. Lots of organisations, lots of councils and the Government have these *faux* consultations where, actually, they are just telling you what they are going to do. Is it going to be one where there is true engagement with borough leaders, with the [London] Assembly and, indeed, with the Mayor to ensure that we get something that is right for London?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Absolutely. It will not be a *fait accompli*. It will be true consultation. If you are asking me to say now whether I will provide the answers that everybody is going to be happy with, I cannot. We have all had this when sometimes consultations do not come out with the answers everybody wants and can be seen as nobody listening. However, you can listen but take different decisions.

Keith Prince AM: Yes. We get thousands of people holding petitions to change the rules. That is true.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): We do have questions later for you, Deputy Mayor, on consultation.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Deputy Mayor, congratulations again. We have talked about consulting borough leaders, the Assembly and lead members on this point, but there are also communities. Have you given some thought as to how you could have genuine consultation with the communities that are affected by policing on the ground? Obviously, lead members, councillors and others are the elected representatives, but the consultation has to go much further.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): That is a very fair point in terms of the consultation. I am drawing up a plan to make sure that we can consult as widely as possible and that we talk to those people who are going to be the most effected. You are absolutely right that that is the communities and those who live within them. I do not have the answers yet but I am very keen that it is not just formal, set-piece public meetings but that we look at how we can use our own public surveys that we do within MOPAC to make sure that we have an understanding of how we can reach out as far as possible through groups that we work with as well and make sure that we are talking to the people who are most affected by the services that we are trying to transform.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Just very quickly, is this ultimately a political decision or an operational one?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): That is a good question to which there is not a straightforward answer.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It seems to me that you could easily say, "We have finite resources. This is how we are going to operate".

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It depends on how you come at it. This is ultimately about trying to improve the service we provide locally. That is what we have to do. We have to do it within a financial envelope that is increasingly shrinking. We had this conversation probably three or four months ago. I think you asked it of me in a slightly different way. It is quite hard in any relationship that works ongoing if people start drawing lines and start saying, "It is our decision, not yours", or, "It is your decision, not ours". Ultimately, with something as big as this, as the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] highlighted, there will be proper consultation. We will look at ways of people being involved and then we will have to make some decisions.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is a difficult line. Is this operational? Is it strategic? Is it strategically political? However, it is something that is going to go into the Police and Crime Plan, which is going to be consulted on. I totally agree with the Deputy Commissioner that we will be able to get to a point where we do not have to have that line and it is a joint decision.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Great, thank you.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): That leads quite nicely into the last question that I had for the Deputy Commissioner, which was around police numbers and police stations. Clearly, there can be a crossover with operations and the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] will be preoccupied with police numbers, no doubt, particularly around the promise around "real neighbourhood policing" and that sort of stuff.

In your modelling, are you considering reviewing and looking at police numbers? Are you looking at, potentially, police station closures, although of course there are only so many stations one has? Is that part of your thoughts and plans? You may like to comment on that.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The modelling around the budget is around a police officer number of about 32,000 and so that is there.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): In relation to that question, this goes back to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime's point about seeing this in its totality. A number of you who have sat on the Budget and Performance Committee and others who have gone into some of the detail behind this will know that one of the key planks of our financial strategy is to reduce our back-office costs - those bits we spend on that support us - to 15% of our gross revenue expenditure.

The big areas of that that we have to continue to drive down the costs of are buildings and technology. Part of the work, I would suspect, of the Police and Crime Plan will be about the next phase of the estate strategy for London. We have buildings that are underutilised. We have buildings that are old and that are in the wrong place. We have done an awful lot over the last few years. I think that you would all support us continuing to do that to make sure that we are providing the right service for Londoners. If you say, "Actually, I do not want to do anything on estates. I want to freeze it as it is now and open it in ten years' time", then you cannot achieve your 15% of back-office savings and you will have to go into your police officer line and other choices around that.

As we have discussed before, we spend somewhere between 76% and 80% of our budget on people. We can squeeze the other bits and we are quite good at doing that and we have made some huge progress. However, if you are getting into big numbers and say, "I want you to squeeze that but that is off limits, that is off limits

and that is off limits”, by its very nature you will have to touch the other one, which is not easy for anyone, least of all us but most importantly Londoners.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): I agree. For the last four years, there was a lot of work done around the police estate. The police estate by definition is finite and so you would have to look at that but also to look at other opportunities.

Andrew Dismore AM: I would like to go back to your previous answer, Craig. You said that this was about improving the service. If there were not financial pressures, would you still be going ahead with the borough mergers?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I would on PVP, yes. With PVP and the issues collectively we face as 32 London authorities and the work we do and how we provide the service, I would want to get some of that service much closer to the point at which it is delivered.

It is very similar to colleagues in the health service and elsewhere and you are as politicians well versed in this debate. You cannot have 32 specialist hospitals right across London. You have to make some difficult choices about what you do have and where you have it. It is exactly the same with some of these specialist skills.

As we have discussed before, the area that is most squeezed in terms of resourcing is growing those detective numbers. We have more detectives than we have ever had as an organisation. I would say, when you look at it in the round, this potentially offers you a better model to deliver that because, if you do not, you have to do something quite different.

Andrew Dismore AM: It is not just PVP but across the piece of what we are talking about. You are saying that across the piece --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Across those services.

Andrew Dismore AM: Across those services, not the whole service?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Well, those services that are delivered. We are talking about neighbourhoods, PVP, emergency response and local investigation. Some of you will have been around this a number of times. There are a number of other services that appear locally but are not delivered locally.

Andrew Dismore AM: Those ones that you have listed, you are saying, you would merge those --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): If we can offer a better service --

Andrew Dismore AM: -- anyway, irrespective of the financial pressures.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: OK. The real concern people have about borough mergers is if the borough mergers are not planned properly. I know, for example, in the briefing it talks about Barnet, Harrow and Brent. The concern is that officers are pulled out of the areas that are perceived to be less crime-worthy or crime-ridden - or whatever the word would be - and put into areas where there is greater demand, leaving those areas under-

policed. I might want to come back to that later on with another issue, but how do you provide reassurance to that?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We can provide some reassurance, but that happens already if you look at the utilisation of things like that specialist resource. You would look at me and say, “Deputy Commissioner, you are crazy”, if I said to you that I was putting all of our specialist resource countering gang crime into borough X that does not have any gang crime because it has not had any for a while and so I am giving it that share of the resource. You would say that that is madness. Resource will always go to where need is. With response and with neighbourhoods, there is absolutely a base level that this model and the current model provide and you would not look to alter that.

Andrew Dismore AM: The base level of X number of officers in each borough --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Those in the services of neighbourhood and services of responses, we would look to keep.

Andrew Dismore AM: They would not change?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They are not changed. In PVP it would potentially grow.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is an interesting theoretical question, isn't it? What would you do if it were not for the money that you had to get out? We do have to get that money out. Of course, anyone who has come into the public sector around services always wants to drive up improvement and drive up service improvement, but we have not taken the decisions around the best way to do this. You have touched on a really important point that has to be part of this whole package - and the Deputy Commissioner has also touched on it - which is about the transparency and accountability and, also, a universal offer for everybody in London wherever they are. We have that balance between making sure we can prioritise the resources for those areas that need it the most and everybody having a universal service so that they know what they should be getting and can hold the police service accountable for that service.

Andrew Dismore AM: This is why I asked Craig whether this was service-driven or finance-driven and I think you gave us the answer.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is both because we have to improve services. If you can do that and release money, which we have to do, we can do both.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Craig, can I be a bit more specific? I have a number of questions to ask you. If I heard you correctly, you said that you have more detectives now.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): In February 2016 it was reported that there were up to 800 detectives who had been moved from boroughs into central operations and that response officers were now doing the bulk of the investigating work. Is that still the case? I am trying to square the two up.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I had not picked up the 800 figure and so shall I deal with detectives and then I will talk about investigative work?

One of the things that has happened with detectives is that we have grown considerably over the last 15 years in the MPS the number of detectives that we have in the organisation. If you look at the uplifts we have had over the last few years around counterterrorism and the uplifts that came last year in what they called the strategic review of counterterrorism, more and more detectives have been drawn into those areas.

We also came and reported here on the back of the work we did with Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC [author, *Report of the Independent Review into the Investigation and Prosecution of Rape in London, 2015*] around increases in reported rape. We moved 300 extra detectives into our Specialist Crime Command, which is around rape and serious sexual assault because, quite frankly, the level of workloads and volumes they were carrying was extraordinary and so we absolutely prioritised that.

On what is happening with boroughs - and I do not recognise that figure but I will get you the exact figure - we did move some. The only way up to about six or eight months ago that we could grow detectives was by training people, predominantly in borough units, and getting them accredited because they do national accreditation and, as borough numbers came up, we could then take one off the top and put one back in at the bottom. That is what has happened and that has been the model certainly ever since I have been in policing.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): If you could get back to us? You said you would check on the 800 figure.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Absolutely. I just did not recognise the 800 figure. I think it is smaller than that but I am not going to quote one because I might be wrong.

Then you asked about owning investigation. This is interesting. In the work we have been doing and the modelling we have been doing, one of the parts of this is moving to a model where people do investigate what they go to. Looking at the volume of work that sits particularly in emergency response and reactive policing, how do we get people skilled and accredited so that they own a caseload and manage it? It is something called the Professionalising Investigation Programme level 1 so that, for that volume of crime that comes in, they own it, they can investigate it and they have the skills to do it.

Some of you will remember last year when I reported. Since the middle of last year, we have been training all of our new recruits in that basic level of investigation so that they grow the skills because we have seen some deskilling. The reality is that on some of our models - and we are getting better at it - officers go, they record the crime - ie they write it down or they record it on a piece of paper - and they pass it on. We want to get them into a position where they are much more capable of being able to do those investigations. If I am a member of the public and I report my house being broken into in my borough tonight, I really want the person who comes to be a person who is going to have a fighting chance of solving that for me, not to have to ring the police station and chase it up down the line. We have started this piece work at part of this to look at investigation.

What we are not going to do and the proposal in the new model is that neighbourhood officers would move away from having a crime load. At the moment, they have a crime load and we know that that is one of the calls on neighbourhood officers' commitment and time. We would try to take them out of that crime load.

On detectives, how are we solving that problem? We have had a team sitting for a period of time. We are looking and we are trying to finalise it at the moment. It is even things like whether we do direct-entry detectives and whether they can be streamed at the point of joining the police service? We are looking at all sorts of ways of doing this. This is not just a MPS problem, if you talk to any others. I met my colleagues from the chiefs of the large metropolitan forces on Monday. We all know that what we need increasingly are detective skills and detective officers. We are all looking at how we grow them, how we get that training and how we keep growing the numbers. As I said, we have more than we have ever had, but we still have an aspiration to grow further.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Just to carry on with the numbers, we talked of 32,000 police officers being budgeted for through to 2017. Will it, in your view, be possible to maintain these numbers beyond 2017?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): If you can tell me what the CSR is and what the budget settlement is going to be, I could probably do that. No, as the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] touched on, we do modelling and we look at all of those options. Candidly, if we slip and fail to deliver savings, they will have to come from somewhere else.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): The Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] spoke at the last meeting [9 June 2016] about looking to see how we could put more officers and more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) into neighbourhoods. Is there something that you would like to say? I think I know the answer to that, but what are the challenges around this?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am listening.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Of course. As I have said, I started as a neighbourhood officer - not in London, I hasten to add - for many years and so it is something that is pretty dear to me in terms of what we do.

However, we are also clear that we have to do it in a way that is realistic and that works. The Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] has touched on it. This budget is complicated and there are a lot of interconnections. What I am not going to do is to say to you, "Here is a promise", on one part and then say, "By the way, when you made that decision, I did not tell you that we have already committed to this, this and this".

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): I have one more question, on dedicated officers in wards. What is the current position? Are they all there?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They should be. There should be one officer and one PCSO per ward, as per the --

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): They should be or will you come back and tell us.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I can get you a day-by-day breakdown. I do not know today's breakdown off the top of my head.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): That is a fair point because the previous model, which has been a qualified success, was predicated on one and one, with the understanding that there was a team behind to be deployed. Some of the issues that we need to be looking at are around that deployment. Often there is a case

in communities and wards where they did not quite sense that those numbers were there. There is a piece of work in the review to be done on that. That was just a statement.

Keith Prince AM: The question is to the Deputy Commissioner. The MPS has been looking at co-operation across boroughs, but have you had any discussions with other forces that have had a record of merging and working together? Have you gone outside the MPS?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, quite a number. I mentioned that on Monday I was with colleagues from the larger metropolitan [police] forces. I am talking about West Midlands, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Merseyside. We all work slightly differently. That will not surprise you. We have some forces now in the country that run their response activities at a force level and so they do not break it down below that at all; not many of the very big forces. The challenge to London is that the next biggest force to us is about 8,000 officers and so we are four times the size of our nearest net comparator.

Absolutely, one of the things that we are quite good at in policing is looking at and learning lessons from elsewhere. If you look at some of the challenges that colleagues in other large metropolitan areas have faced, particularly those areas where they have had a history of uncovering some quite frightening issues around child sexual abuse, they say that that completely changes the way the demand works and completely changes the way they have to operate. I sat there as a professional thinking, "We have not uncovered that at that sort of level yet in London", but I used the word "yet". We all know that we could get better collectively at doing some of those things. Those are the lessons that we take from working with others.

It is then very different when you go to what I would call the smaller forces not necessarily in geography but in terms of size and number of officers. They tend to run with an omni-competent model of an officer but increasingly are doing their response policing over much larger areas and, in a number of cases, even some of near neighbours, at an entire-force level.

Len Duvall AM: I have so many questions. We are driving the strategy. What is driving change at the moment? Do we have a problem? You are dealing with a budget, which, rightly, you have to deal with. With that, I accept that you are going to have to have service improvements within budget-making, yet we somehow have a MOPAC strategy to develop at the same time. Which comes first? Actually, I can work that one out myself: the budget. Which is driving change? The budget.

Actually, the policing strategy needs to be accelerated and brought forward, does it not? The timescales that you are operating in in terms of a new MOPAC strategy cannot be good for the service at the moment. It would be quite interesting to see when MOPAC thinks we will have a new mayoral policing strategy. At that stage, you will be halfway through your budget, almost directing and shaping the service. How do we reconcile the two and are we going to have an interim statement on the strategy before we have the final strategy that can help us reconcile some of these issues within budget-making?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): In terms of what is driving change, there are strategic priorities from the Mayor, as set down in his mayoral manifesto. They have been out there for quite a while and they are very clear in terms of what we - Sadiq Khan [Mayor of London] and I - want the police service to deliver: real neighbourhood policing.

I am afraid, Steve [O'Connell AM], I do not agree with you that the previous model did work. It had significant problems within it and it really undermined trust and confidence in the police. That will be one of the driving priorities, which is to improve trust and confidence. You do that --

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): I said say "a qualified success".

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): -- through real neighbourhood policing. Also, there are strategic priorities around reducing violence, domestic violence and abuse as well as youth violence, knife crime, gun crime - and I know we are going to come on to gun crime - hate crime and all the very difficult work that has to happen in terms of counterterrorism and tackling extremism. There are those priorities. Yes, it is very difficult. It is going hand-in-hand because of the time that we have, but we do not need to stop. We know what the priorities are and we will have a strategic plan by autumn 2016.

Len Duvall AM: No, sorry, let me interrupt you. I am not asking you to stop. I am asking you to accelerate and bring them both into line together because they are not in line together at the moment. I do welcome your statement alongside of most of what you have said in that sense. The issue is giving direction to the police service to start to direct the change that you desire from your manifesto so that we get a clear momentum of action. The budget is the one that is driving it at the moment and not the mayoral strategy because of the circumstances we find ourselves in. I accept that what you have just told me is that the manifesto is the interim statement. At some stage, you need to tell the person sitting next to you, "That is it" --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I have been told.

Len Duvall AM: You have been told that? I suppose, for us as scrutineers, when you come back to the budget, which we usually leave to the Budget and Performance Committee, Chairman, we should be taking a closer interest in the service changes that you are desiring to happen. It is just a bit of clarity into it. For the sake of people understanding what the future of policing looks like within the resources we have and the Mayor's desires around what he wants to see changed and improved, we need a bit more clarity on that. I welcome that. I do not mind which, but there is a problem in terms of timelines. Unless you are going to tell me that they are running concurrently, which I do not think they are, the MOPAC/mayoral strategy is going to be here and the budget is going to be there. I do not really want any mixed messages.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): They are running concurrently and from day one we have been having those discussions, as has the Mayor, about what the priorities are and how we will deliver it. I see the budget as part of how we deliver those priorities. It is not that we do the budget and then the priorities or we do the priorities and then the budget. They are running together and those form the bulk of the conversations and discussions that I am having.

Len Duvall AM: When will we expect the MOPAC strategy, then?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I hope to be able to have a strategy out for consultation by autumn 2016.

Len Duvall AM: Excellent. Thank you.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Chairman, yes, just one more question, please, about the role of PCSOs. Sophie, you have spoken in the past about the diversity that they bring to the MPS, their usefulness in building

local knowledge and their involvement with local communities. What are your thoughts on planning to rebuild their numbers?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I would like to increase their numbers because, just as you have said and I have said previously at the previous meeting, I think PCSOs have a very strong role to play in community confidence and community reassurance, as well as a role in possible recruitment into the MPS. I would like to do that. What I have to do is to properly look at whether that is affordable and how we do that.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): That has been a very good debate. We are going to move on to the next question but, just to summarise what has come out of this, it is the need for some clarity and some certainty, not least out in the boroughs and elsewhere, and aligning particularly the policy work with the budget work. That is not least a concern in this building with the two separate committees that need to do some work around that. On my comments around the previous LPM, in my view, it was a qualified success but there are some issues to be faced. We talked about more PCSOs. Again, that is fine in itself and, if that is your policy decision, the money has to be found and that is an issue there.

If we can move on, thank you for that debate and now the next set of questions is around Operation Viper, which is the Commissioner's response to the increase in gun crime to put an initiative out in certain boroughs. Some of those are represented in this group.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: We have seen a rise over the last couple of years in gun discharges. I will maybe start with the Deputy Commissioner. What is the MPS's analysis of what really is behind this increase in gun crime?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Thank you. I think you said "the last couple of years". I would say that we have seen a trend over the last 18 months. That one that caused us really to look was up to about the point of May 2016 when we had seen an increase in gun discharges up to 122 gun discharges. Also, we take, as you would expect, feeds, intelligence and information from a number of sources. You will be aware that from 2011 to 2013 gun discharges in London were cut by half and we just do not ever want to go back to a situation where they are going up. We were also conscious - and, again, it fits with the work we do with the other large metropolitan forces and colleagues from the National Crime Agency (NCA) - that what we were seeing in London was mirrored around the country, with some increases larger.

There were two facts that worried us most of all. In 2015 we seized more firearms than ever and yet shootings still rose overall in that year. That says something about either availability or circulation. Also, we do a lot of detail on what sort of weapons are available and what is being used and we were seeing the appearance of automatic weapons that probably - we cannot confirm it - came from outside the UK. We have talked in some of the briefings we have done about things like Scorpion submachine gun and some of those types of weapons. Absolutely, that is a crucial part of the work we do to try to get it.

There are a number of hypotheses that we are testing at the moment. Are there more firearms out there? Are there more firearms in circulation? Sadly, there is no national register that we can helpfully go to. We have to use a lot of proxy indicators to work it out. Is there more prevalence of people exchanging firearms with each other? Have those firearms always been there, are they the sort of thing that people have hidden or stashed

away and for some reason a tension has arisen and there is a greater opportunity to do it? Are we getting more multiple discharges when weapons are fired more than once? There is a prevalence of those. There are a number of potential scenarios around it.

What Viper is doing is talking about the response to firearms crime. Together with colleagues from the NCA and a number of other forces, we are looking in detail at what we know about the prevalence and availability of firearms in the UK. One of the reasons that we do this and are concerned about firearms is the availability of firearms for terrorist activity. In the UK, we are in a fortunate position where there are not large numbers of firearms in circulation but, with anything that even suggests an increase, that is why we are straight onto it in terms of the work we are doing.

We cannot answer your question with empirical evidence at the moment, but we can say that there are a number of things to point to. As I said, more firearms were seized in 2015 than ever before, yet there were more gun discharges, which would indicate that there is some new availability of weapons.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Are you working with other agencies to look at where the supply might be coming from and working out what organised crime is going on to supply these weapons?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes. Sorry, I did not mean to cut across you. You will be aware of colleagues from the NCA and we met as two management boards last week as part of our regular work that we do together. There was an item on the agenda about the work we can do upstream in the countries where the supply is and in countries where there are different rules about the availability of firearms.

One of our great strengths as a country is that we have some very strict rules around the availability of firearms, sadly learned from some tragic cases. We absolutely are live to making sure we manage that. Yes, we work with all of those agencies. You will be aware of some of the stuff you have seen publicly about people in the NCA who do a fantastic job both overseas and the UK in terms of interdicting on those people who are supplying and bringing weapons into the UK. It is absolutely a live issue.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Do you think that there is a link --

We have talked about supply and those you are working with. Do you think there is any link to the increase we have seen in knife crime and other violence?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not know. That is the honest answer. If you look at some of the more anecdotal evidence, it is quite a different profile of people who would commit knife crime and stab people. One of the things that we have always had that works well is an understanding about the power of deterrence. People know that with possession of a firearm it is not a debate and they are going to prison and they are going to prison for a considerable period of time. It tends to bring different people into that space.

What we are trying to work out at the moment is why there is more of it at this particular time. Is it linked to gangs? Is it linked to something else? Is it linked to people saying, "There is more availability of weapons and, therefore, we want to use them more prevalently"? I am not sure that, except at the very high end, there is a crossover between the two. Colleagues who have been around the gangs piece of work for a long period of time will remember when it was quite common to see feeds on social media where people were boasting or parading with weapons. That is not so prevalent at all anymore.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Although it is gangs, it is almost a different level of serious and organised crime. Our briefing talks about it potentially being linked to the serious drugs trade.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It will be something to do with the high end. If people are going to get supply of weapons, it will be at the high end around serious and organised crime.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you for that. If I can come to the Deputy Mayor, this is a huge issue and one of many in your inbox, as it were. Are you worried that this might reflect a new trend and what are your initial thoughts on tackling this area?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Of course it is concerning. As we have seen and have had laid out, the number of gun discharges and also the number of homicides is worrying. We have to look to see whether it is a long-term trend and make sure we keep on top of it. The Mayor and I completely support Operation Viper in terms of trying to get on top of this problem, spotting it early and trying to deal with it early and the prioritisation in terms of the five boroughs in London. We totally support that. It is an important message and it is important that all intelligence is followed up in relation to anybody who mentions guns or anything like that. We are very supportive of this.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you.

Peter Whittle AM: You might have slightly answered the question anyway. Do I take it that basically you are saying that one of the hypotheses you are working with is that it is the pure increased availability that might actually be behind the growth in firearms?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Absolutely, it could be. As I said, with illegal activity, it is awfully hard to get hard evidence and there is a real danger that people hypothesise on the basis of one single piece of information. That is why we look at a range of potential hypotheses, but one of them is that there is more availability of firearms. That is why it is not just the MPS doing this but there are many colleagues across the country doing this work and the NCA so that we can work out whether this is a problem that is beyond our borders and to try to get to understand it.

Is this [issue] one or two people, armorers, who have worked out a way to deal with deactivated firearms? There is a whole area around what we call "deactivated firearms" and whether there are common standards across the world - let alone across Europe - around how to deactivate a firearm. If it is done quite simply, an armorer - and by that I do not mean someone who advertises as an armorer, but I mean an illegal trade - can very quickly reconvert something that was deactivated into an active weapon.

Peter Whittle AM: When you originally were answering Assembly Member Pidgeon, you said - unless I misheard - that there is a rise in tension. Did you mean intergang tension or what did you mean?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Sorry, I meant that it could be linked to a rise in tension. It could be linked particularly to the high-end drugs trade. The availability of these sorts of firearms is going to be something to do with the high end of serious and organised crime. You do get examples - and we have seen examples in London in our history - of individuals who get involved with a firearm as almost a one-off and do something really dangerous and irrational with it and who are not linked to serious and organised crime. However, at this end, it is predominantly around our work on serious and

organised crime. As you would expect, the work that the teams are doing is very closely linked with the work we are doing with Trident and other specialist assets that we have and it is using the full range of police tactics.

Peter Whittle AM: Thank you.

Andrew Dismore AM: You talked about the availability of firearms. I just wanted to ask you about the availability of ammunition because a firearm is no good if it does not have any bullets in it. Has that changed?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I wish I could be that precise. Let us talk about some of the ones that have been in the public domain. Colleagues saw the footage in the last couple of months of the interdiction by colleagues from the NCA on the boat coming up into Kent. That was both guns and ammunition. They are both equally things that people will look for and go for.

I know that people at times get frustrated when there is a shot discharge and we cordon everything off for a long period of time. It is the one chance we have to gather that intelligence on where the bullet came from and what type of weapon it was fired from. We can do all sorts of things that link it back even beyond our shores.

Andrew Dismore AM: The point that I just wanted to make - and you may not be able to comment - is that if there are more firearms discharges it might be because ammunition is more available rather than there being more firearms.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, both are equally possible.

Florence Eshalomi AM: Just following on from your comment before Andrew [Dismore AM] came in in terms of some of the different units that are working on Operation Viper. We have highlighted the big financial pressures that you are facing in the MPS. Can you just update us on where the resources from Operation Viper are coming from?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): They have come from both our Specialist Crime Command and Territorial Policing and so it is a mixture of both. It is specialist detectives who would have worked in both Trident and other parts of our Specialist Crime Command - there are about 6,000 people in that entire command and so it is a big command in terms of resources - and local borough officers as well. There are some borough resources in there as well to make up the teams that do that in the five priority boroughs because, often, officers who work on a daily basis in a local borough know people far better.

Florence Eshalomi AM: Just as a rough estimate, what kind of figures are we talking about?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not have them here exactly. I will give them to you, if that would help, by breakdown.

Florence Eshalomi AM: Yes, that would be helpful. When you look at the five "priority boroughs", as you call them - two of them being two of the constituencies that I represent - historically you will see in those boroughs high levels of deprivation and they are boroughs that have not always had a good relationship between the police and the community. Again, my concerns - and some of the concerns when Operation Viper

was initially launched - are around whether this is now just going to be a justification for armed officers on our streets. I would like some reassurance in terms of what impact you have seen of Operation Viper to date.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): In terms of pure impact, I have some numbers that may assist you. There have been about 29 arrests since it has gone live. We have recovered during this period about 34 firearms, knives and stun guns. It has very much been around those proactive operations in terms of the way we are doing it and, absolutely, working with borough officers. One of the criticisms that has been made of us in the past, with some justification, is when we have central resources being parachuted into a local working environment. When they have no idea of the sensitivities or the particular issues in that area, it is going to be quite a challenge. We have become far better at making sure that there is a join-up there to make sure that some of those things do not happen.

When you look at it, the presence of firearms officers on the streets of London has to be seen against the fact that we have done an uplift as well. It is still overall, out of the 32,000 officers we have, a very small percentage of the people who can carry firearms and do carry firearms.

Florence Eshalomi AM: On that, when Operation Viper was launched, there were discussions around additional work with some of the communities affected, especially with some of the young people. Do you think that the inclusion of a reward would be a financial incentive for people to come forward? You will often find that the people who are going to come forward are probably active gang members themselves who have been involved in crime and have a history of carrying guns. Again, how are you going to resolve some of that, which could then escalate in terms of additional community tensions?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): That is a challenge with all we do around serious and organised crime. The reality is that a lot of the drugs information that comes in is from people who are also dealing drugs as well. This ethical challenge about both rewards and tipoffs is something that, sadly, we have worked through over the years and, clearly, have to manage incredibly carefully.

To reassure people, this is not about just ringing up and saying, "Len's got a gun. Go around and get him". There has to be far more to it in terms of the work and where it goes. It is about building a proper picture around the information and intelligence we get.

The reality is that, certainly when we are dealing with serious and organised crime, an awful lot of the intelligence and information we get comes from people who operate in that world.

Florence Eshalomi AM: I hope that officers are using that intelligence because, again, my understanding is that there will be more section 60 stops. If you look at the statistics in Lambeth and Southwark, although stop-and-searches are going down in some boroughs, they are actually on the increase. Again, it is just about reassurance that officers are going to be quite sensitive to some of that.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I would be more than happy to share the figures with you around section 60 and the stop-and-search data.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Some of your questions, Florence, get to the heart of the issue around neighbourhood policing and community policing. We do have to have that confidence in the police that what they are doing is in the best interests of the community and is not going to disproportionately affect certain members of the community or the most deprived and that we can have

operations like Operation Viper and continue that confidence. In order to be able to do that, we have to have really good communication, as well as good community policing.

Florence Eshalomi AM: Just lastly in terms of Operation Viper, it was just in May 2016 that it was announced. How long do you envisage that to continue and are we going to see an expansion into other neighbouring boroughs or other boroughs across London?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We do review what is happening in the individual boroughs. The reality is that as we start to have an impact, we will look at where the next challenge is and where we need to move in terms of the flexibility around it. One of the great opportunities that tactics like this offer is that we can move them and they are resourced to be quite flexible and to have an ability to move. In an ideal world, we would get back to a scenario where we would get shootings and firearms discharges back down, we would get firearms out of circulation, we would get ammunition out of circulation and we could go on to doing some of the other things we do. The reality is that we had been doing firearms work before we did Viper. This was about a particular focus and a particular emphasis when we saw that uptick in crime. If communities have concerns, then, absolutely, talk to us and share it with us.

Florence Eshalomi AM: Thank you.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Do gun amnesties have a place in any of this? What sort of success rate have they proven to have over the years?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not have the latest figure. The most recent things we have done are predominantly knife amnesties. Gun amnesties are far more difficult for a whole variety of reasons. They are usually gun surrenders and what they tend to produce are what are sometimes referred to as “trophy” weapons - their grandfather brought a revolver back from somewhere or something like that - rather than the sorts of things we are talking about. This is high-end organised crime. These things have a commercial value. I would be surprised if people said, “I am going to surrender this and drop it in a bin or present it at a police station”. They have a commercial value, sadly, in the underworld.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): I get that, unlike knife amnesties, which have been successful.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, knife amnesties have been very successful. There are all sorts of things that we can do and that we are looking at around technology can help and how we can map how firearms move around the world. There are a whole range of things that we are doing with colleagues internally within British policing and also with colleagues from the NCA and wider afield.

Keith Prince AM: That brings me nicely on to my question, actually. Clearly, you are doing a great job at a local level trying to take firearms out of circulation that are already here in the capital. I was wanting to learn more about what you are doing to cut off the supply through borders, other countries and so on.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): There is a whole range of work. That is why we work with colleagues from our own borders agencies and border control and it is also why we work with the NCA. With the NCA, we can look at some of the trends and information we get, everything from people doing ammunition as part of a registered delivery from another country, what happens

with fast parcel delivery and what searches and procedures there are around that. We look at and track all of these potential ways of working and interdicting and offering us opportunities to tackle it.

It also goes to a point in an answer I gave earlier about working with things like the deactivated firearms market. You will know that certainly in Europe and other parts you can go and see weapons on sale that are “deactivated”, as they are called. Deactivation can take a variety of forms. In the UK it is quite a prescriptive form with a proof house and all sorts of things, but it can be far different in other parts of the world. You can bring that weapon back and claim it as a deactivated weapon and it can be altered.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): OK, just to sum up, thank you very much for that. It is pleasing to hear that you have come down quite quickly. You identified a trend and you have taken action in our boroughs, but the message clearly was that we need to engage and make sure communities understand those actions.

Moving on to the next item, which is the issue of Westminster [City Council’s] CCTV. It appears to have taken the decision to decommission its CCTV camera system as of September 2016. It is expected to affect around 75 cameras and it appears to be driven by financial considerations. To me, it appears rather odd, but we shall explore that around the Committee.

Andrew Dismore AM: The starting point is: what are your thoughts about this and what discussions have you had with Westminster [City Council]?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): In terms of CCTV, we have had a number of discussions with Westminster [City Council]. CCTV has a role to play both in crime investigation, which we have discussed many times here, and also in prevention. It prevents crimes taking place. It offers some real opportunities when crimes do take place to interject and to investigate them. We recognise the challenges Westminster [City Council] has with its budget but, to be really clear, CCTV is an important part of the landscape in this city and it does work. We find it strange that at a time when we talk to colleagues in Paris and elsewhere who are talking about what they are going to invest in it, we seem to be having a disinvestment in CCTV.

There are some challenges. Any of us who have been around policing for any length of time and community safety will know that the way CCTV grew in this country was quite *ad hoc*. There is some work with colleagues in MOPAC that we are doing around how we develop a long-term strategy for London. There are some short-term challenges around the situation Westminster [City Council] finds itself in but then there is also some potential for the long-term solution for CCTV in London and what that could look like. None of that is easy because you have disparate systems, you have disparate technology and you have an emergence of quite bespoke local arrangements. It is beholden on all of us, and certainly in policing, to look at how we go five to ten years out around what the CCTV strategy is for London.

We have worked quite closely with colleagues from Westminster [City Council]. There has been a lot of consultation both at the borough level and at force level trying to look at options and trying to work with them to see if there are ways of collectively resolving this challenge. That work and those discussions are still ongoing.

Andrew Dismore AM: Thanks. I have looked at the justifications that Westminster [City Council] has offered and the one I find most peculiar is that it says the CCTV system may attract terrorist threats and using the publicity terrorists would get by having their terror broadcasted on TV. What do you think about that?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It is not for me to answer what another agency puts out. I have been fairly clear on the benefits it attracts in terms of both wider security and the fabric of this city.

Andrew Dismore AM: Do you think CCTV is important in the fight against terrorism?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I went to the command centre on Saturday afternoon to watch the policing of the Pride Parade. It certainly would not have been as effective or as good as it was if it was without CCTV. I saw the coverage in Westminster. I saw the quality of the cameras and the ability of the police to task and their tactics around the images coming through. Certainly, from my point of view, CCTV is an incredibly useful tool, not just in relation to counterterrorism, but in terms of public order and all the many events and - quite rightly - the events of people who are voicing their opinions in London, to keep those people safe.

It also has an incredibly important value in terms of evidence and in terms of providing the evidence to take it to prosecution. I know from my own borough that the CCTV coverage there has provided really good evidence that has seen sex offenders put behind bars because of the CCTV footage. For me, as Keith [Prince AM] will know, this is a complicated area. It is about setting standards across London.

We are certainly not letting this slip. We will be convening the working group that Keith [Prince AM] used to chair, I believe, to make sure that co-operation and partnership work continues and to ensure London has proper CCTV coverage.

Andrew Dismore AM: Yes. Westminster [City Council] also says that the City is well covered by an extensive CCTV system including Transport for London (TfL), government public bodies, housing, private systems and so forth. Have you identified areas that are going to be CCTV-blank or CCTV-light as a result of the decision they have taken? It is one for Craig, really; it is an operational matter.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Also, just to pick up on the Westminster [City Council] decision, its decision was to stop the contract it had to actively monitor the CCTV cameras rather than to turn them off. It has kept within its budget the capital spend that is needed to ensure it is modernised. The question around that CCTV coverage and the negotiations that there have been with the MPS in Westminster is around where the feed goes and how it can be monitored. At this stage, it is not about absolutely turning them off.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): It is about a significant revenue saving.

Andrew Dismore AM: The briefing we have had suggests the decision is expected to save £1.7 million in upgrade costs. Is that right or wrong?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): My understanding is that the capital costs were kept in the budget of Westminster City Council and the cabinet decision was to stop the contract of the active monitoring.

Andrew Dismore AM: The cameras are there but nobody is watching them, possibly.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Not yet; from September 2016.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): That is the point. The funding was in the upgrade capital cost but it is discontinuing the revenue cost and so your point is a well-made one that they may not be watching. I know it is tricky.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): They are watching at the moment. It was to give notice for the termination of the contract. That was the decision that was taken on 6 June 2016.

Andrew Dismore AM: As of September 2016, the cameras will be on but nobody will be sitting in front of the TV.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): That depends on the negotiations that are happening between the MPS and Westminster City [Council].

Andrew Dismore AM: All right, because Westminster [City Council] says the CCTV does not act as an effective deterrent and is primarily reactive, supporting police prosecutions, and so it is nothing to do with them and you should pick up the tab.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No. Unless Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act has changed, everyone has a responsibility around crime and disorder and those sorts of things. Absolutely, this is part of the fabric of community safety of that part of London. We work with and we will work with all, but you cannot say every time something happens, "I will tell you what. We will just shift it to another agency". That would be quite a nice way to balance your budget.

Andrew Dismore AM: This is a fundamental part of the partnership working.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Absolutely, yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: As things stand, potentially, a large chunk of the West End and millions of people over the years, I suppose, is going to be potentially CCTV-blank or CCTV-light.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): That is why we are doing so much work with colleagues at Westminster [City Council] to see if there are alternative solutions.

Andrew Dismore AM: Are there alternative solutions identified so far?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not know. As the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] covered, we have to be really clear that this is about the revenue cost at the moment and the decision. The capital, as I understand it from the brief of the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime], is still there.

Andrew Dismore AM: Yes. The revenue cost they are talking about is £1 million a year.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It is £700,000 to £1 million, yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: Yes. That is the right figure, is it?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): That is certainly what they have told us.

Andrew Dismore AM: Yes, OK. Where are the negotiations going? Is it that we are going to cough up a bit from MOPAC or are you just trying to persuade them to see the error of their ways?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): As with all of these things, no doubt there will be a whole range of negotiations, but it would not be advisable to do the negotiations in public.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The negotiations are not about who is going to pay that amount of money. The negotiations are about how we can ensure that these cameras are monitored and how that happens. Those are the negotiations, as I understand it, that are happening between the MPS and Westminster City Council.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): OK. I am conscious that Westminster [City Council] is not here anyway. Before this turns into a complete Westminster [City Council]-bashing session, we need to be --

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am not bashing them. I am just stating the facts.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Absolutely. I was not putting any words in your mouth and I would not prejudge that, but it was just a comment.

Keith Prince AM: Just on the point around Westminster [City Council's] claim that the CCTV system may attract terrorist threats and so on, I just wondered, Deputy Mayor, whether you were now going to issue a guidance to councils to switch off their CCTVs across the whole of London in order to prevent that possibility.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The Deputy Commissioner has answered this question. That is a Westminster City Council cabinet report. In terms of what I as the Deputy Mayor of Policing and Crime believe, it is that CCTV is an effective deterrent and a useful tool.

Keith Prince AM: I agree.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): For counterterrorism, public disorder, evidence gathering and pursuit of active investigations, it is incredibly useful.

Keith Prince AM: I agree. The argument is not about who is going to pay £1 million. It is about how it is effectively monitored or not, maybe.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): You all know from the work that you have done that for even simple things like finding missing children, those sorts of things we sometimes take for granted. When a three-year old person goes missing in the West End of London, it is quite useful to be able to have that situational awareness that the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] described.

Sian Berry AM: I wanted to get clarity on what is going on between the MPS and Westminster [City Council]. Some of the things we have just discussed are not quite right.

I have the cabinet papers here from Westminster [City Council], which is not here but at least its cabinet report is. Section 2 of that has the recommendations it made. Here it says that it is not going to re-procure the staffing contract that ends on 1 September 2016 and that it will decommission the hardware itself from September 2016 unless it can find somebody who agrees by 1 August 2016 to accept the assets and take responsibility for their future viability. That seems to be the thing. If somebody does not come forward by 1 August 2016, then, on 1 September 2016, you have something that is being wasted. If you want to recommission that, you have to go ahead and reinstall scrapped assets, which seems to me like a waste of money.

I was hoping to check that the MPS was looking at the potential costs and benefits of not allowing those to be decommissioned in September 2016. I realise that it is a kind of ultimatum that Westminster [City Council] has said here but, in terms of losing the physical assets, which seems to be the decision in what the cabinet papers say, I hoped we could get some clarity on whether you are going to attempt to come to a decision by 1 August 2016.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I have a slightly different brief to you, which is interesting. I have a brief that says the potential investment to upgrade the system and put the stake on the revenue costs is still there. I do not know if that has changed. It may have changed in the time since my brief was written. The £1.7 million that Westminster [City Council] had is still there if it can find someone to take on the revenue around it. What we are trying to achieve collectively - and I absolutely think colleagues in Westminster are there - is that we do not want to lose CCTV coverage for all the reasons that we have discussed. What we have to find is a way of doing that that does not just shunt money and cost around the public sector.

Sian Berry AM: I agree. Can I just check? Again, this is the report from Westminster [City Council] from 6 June 2016; it is the cabinet report. Later on in that same section, it does say that it would be prepared to transfer the cameras and feeds over and share the costs of maintaining them. However, then it goes on to say - this is all in section 3.7 of that paper - that the partner that it was in partnership with, which it suggests in the paper is either the Business Improvement District (BID) or the MPS, would have to provide a control room because its control room goes next year from the Trocadero. It is quite complicated and it seems like the assets are going to be lost in September 2016 if we are not careful.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): You are absolutely right. That is a very real risk. At the moment, we are focusing on the MPS and Westminster [City] Council. We have a BID partnership; we have businesses across London. This is one of the engines of the city in terms of where it goes and they all have views around it. We are all trying to work out a solution.

Is there a simple solution? No, of course there is not. We are trying to see if there is a solution, I would emphasise, because, quite frankly, the easy option would be to say to the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime], "By the way, we are just going to put another un-costed pressure in the budget", and then, when we get to that debate earlier on, you will say, "Why do you want to look at why I have fewer officers in X, Y or Z?" They only come from one place. This principle of shunting costs around the public sector I do not support.

Sian Berry AM: OK. My final question then is that there seems to be a deadline of 1 August 2016. Is this being treated with urgency?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, absolutely. My colleague Martin Hewitt, the Assistant Commissioner [MPS], is working on this in amongst many other priorities, but it is a deadline that Westminster has put on it, not us.

Sian Berry AM: OK, thank you. I am an evidence-based person and I am not sure that I agree with Westminster [City Council's] conclusions in the paper it gives. With the comments about the terrorism incidents, its evidence seems to be a paper from 2008 called *The Effects of Closed-Circuit Television on Crime* and it makes some quite bold statements about it not being useful in prevention.

I wanted to ask you whether there is evidence from elsewhere within the MPS that prevention is a consequence of this because then it would justify Westminster [City Council] continuing to spend money on it. One example might be TfL with many CCTV cameras on its estate. I am assuming it pays for those because it has a value.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Sian Berry AM: Can you go [into details]?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I am more than happy. TfL is a really good example. I would also go back to that international comparator. It seems strange that colleagues in Paris and elsewhere are looking now at the availability of CCTV and looking at what investments they are making to keep their cities safe and secure, yet we are having a debate about disinvesting. That is the bit that I find hardest to explain.

Sian Berry AM: The value comes from prevention as well as detection.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It comes from both. You are right with your analogy of TfL. Many of you who have been in and around London for many years will remember the scenario before TfL took some very brave decisions about investing in CCTV on buses and across the Tube network. We touched on it earlier on and some of the huge benefits there have been. We have seen assaults and crime on buses in particular - the one I am most familiar with around the data - fall dramatically. Some of that is the fear of getting caught. It has a deterrent effect.

Sian Berry AM: Thank you very much. In my own borough, just an incident - it is an anecdote, obviously, not evidence - is that we were not aware that there was CCTV still operational in a part of the borough where I am a local councillor. We knew it had been put in. We thought it had gone away again. We thought it was a trial and we discovered this week that it was still operational. One value in terms of prevention is awareness that it is there because potentially, if people are more aware of it being there, we would have less crime in our ward. It is that sort of question.

In TfL, there is very high awareness of CCTV. Again, it is not here to answer for itself, but I do not know if you have looked at how much Westminster has made people aware that there is CCTV covering quite so much of the borough.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): There are signs up in terms of signing but it is a real issue that you highlight with the awareness of just how much CCTV and recording there is. If I take a scenario of a major crime when someone gets stabbed or murdered, the reality is that for the senior investigator, the first part of what they do is to talk about a CCTV strategy. They will do every shop,

every hole in the wall card machine, council CCTV, local authority housing, garages and shops, and can build up quite a picture of people's movements. It is an invaluable tool in terms of those sorts of things. No, I am with you. The awareness of CCTV is absolutely vital as part of the work around crime prevention.

Sian Berry AM: OK, thank you very much. Just to add, it is not that I do not have concerns about the surveillance possibilities there but in terms of the awareness that, if you do a crime, you can be detected by going back and looking.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Sian Berry AM: That is the sort of CCTV we have in our borough. I wanted to ask, finally, whether you have heard of any other councils considering this. Have any more been in touch with you about similar issues?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The last London Councils survey of London councils found that two councils were considering it and Westminster [City Council] was one of them.

Sian Berry AM: And the other one?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I do not know the name off the top of my head, sorry.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No, that is all I know, too.

Sian Berry AM: Thank you.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): There you are; Keith [Prince AM] does.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Are you going to share that with us?

Sian Berry AM: Are you concerned that this might start more of a precedent for other boroughs?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): There is always the worry that it could set a precedent for other boroughs but, having spoken to other borough leaders and lead members, many of them really believe in the value of CCTV and many of their residents also will be lobbying for extra CCTV rather than CCTV to be turned off or pulled out. Certainly in the case of my own borough, my own experience at most residents' meetings I have been to is that when we are talking about crime and anti-social behaviour, the first thing they ask for is CCTV.

Sian Berry AM: OK, thank you. Are you putting together a pan-London CCTV review or a strategy about CCTV provision?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): There has been work for a couple of years now from MOPAC led by Keith [Prince AM] on CCTV London-wide guidelines for London-wide good practice and standards. We are going to continue that and will be looking at that very seriously and reconvening a group like that very soon.

Sian Berry AM: Very finally, do you have an idea of the likely impact on crime detection and prosecution in the West End if Westminster goes ahead with the decommissioning in September 2016?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not have hard figures I could give you.

Sian Berry AM: Is that something we could maybe ask for?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): By all means ask. I will see what I can do.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Could you write to us with any figures you may have around that, Deputy Commissioner?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Given that there are clearly huge concerns about what Westminster [City Council] is planning, I wonder, Chairman, whether you might write on behalf of us as a Committee expressing our concern.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Yes. I was thinking that in the sum-up; it was a good suggestion.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you.

Florence Eshalomi AM: You touched on it already but Caroline and some other Members and I were with a few Westminster councillors this afternoon doing a walkabout around the possible pedestrianisation of Oxford Street.

What strikes me is that if they are looking at 1 September 2016, we will have the introduction of the Night Tube; two key lines that run through Westminster areas, the Central and Victoria Line will start on 19 August 2016, just a few weeks before the potential closure and additional lines, the Piccadilly, Jubilee and Northern Line, again which all run through main Westminster areas. We could see a massive increase in terms of footfall in the night-time across Westminster, in the number of venues and in the night-time economy, which would be welcome but, equally, there will be so many more people within Central London and not having any CCTV covering it. It almost sounds like madness.

Again, from a policing angle - and maybe this is more a question towards TfL - can we have just some reassurance that you are having those conversations with TfL to be able to deal with this?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes. There is a good working relationship with colleagues in TfL. The work we have done over the years with the Transport Command has really looked at those sorts of things and looked at how we deal with both the Night Tube implications into the centre and also the Night Tube implications into a part of London that would have usually been relatively quiet, shall we say --

Florence Eshalomi AM: Quiet, yes.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): -- at 3.00am in the morning but suddenly a lot of people pour out of a night-time. A lot of that work has gone on. Your analysis that, yes, it will bring more people into Westminster and into the centre of London I would think is absolutely right.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Just to be clear, the cameras that are being talked about are the Westminster [City Council] cameras. They are not the TfL cameras or the other. It is concerning but it is not every camera in there.

Florence Eshalomi AM: It is almost like a backup because TfL cameras can only cover so much.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, absolutely.

Florence Eshalomi AM: We need that additional ...

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): All right. Clearly, you can sense the feeling of the Committee is that it is somewhat critical of the decision of Westminster [City Council] and with the suggestion of Caroline [Pidgeon MBE AM], if the Committee is happy, I will draft a letter. I will circulate it to party Group Lead Members and to Caroline because it does, picking up on your point, Craig, appear somewhat perverse that when other international cities are investing in CCTV, the centre of London is becoming - one part of it - a CCTV desert. On precedent, it would be absurd if other boroughs considered it. I just could not see it happening and I would hope that would not be the case. I would be very happy to write on behalf of the Committee with the thoughts and opinions. I will draft that and we will go from there if colleagues are happy to do that. I thank you on that.

Moving on to the next item, which is around the [Mayor's terror preparedness] review, the Mayor announced a full independent review just after he was elected into London's capabilities about responding to a major terrorist incident. It was a manifesto commitment. He has appointed Lord Toby Harris, whom I had the pleasure of working with at the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), as many other colleagues did. I know that it is relatively early in the process and only the Deputy Chair and I are being interviewed by Toby Harris sometime in July 2016. It will take place over the summer period but it is right and proper that we have some questions around this at this early stage.

Peter Whittle AM: Obviously, it is early stages but the review was set up in the wake of the Paris and Brussel attacks. Could you tell us a little bit about the progress it has made so far and also more specifically what effect and what input there would be so far as, say, what happened in Orlando is concerned and indeed, of course, yesterday in Turkey? These are obviously ongoing things but could you just tell us where you are at the moment?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): As you said, it is early days and I am afraid I cannot give a running commentary of the review that Lord Harris is undertaking. I know he has written to you all and he has offered to meet many of you and has set up some meetings with you. In terms of early findings, it is not appropriate to give that as a running commentary. He has set on his task. He is going to report in late summer 2016. As is necessarily the case because it is a review of preparedness, he will be publishing some of what can be put into the public domain but I cannot give you a running commentary on his review. I have spoken to him and he is making progress in the meetings he is having. He has had many meetings across all of the services, the MPS, the emergency services and local authorities to name a view, but I am afraid it is not something I can give a running commentary on.

Peter Whittle AM: I see. You cannot talk in the broadest terms about different emphases maybe? No?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The important thing to say about the review is that it is a not critique of what happened in the past or the services and their preparedness in the past, as I am sure you would agree is right. Given that we have had new types of threat and new attacks, it is right for every service to be led by Lord Harris to say, "Are we prepared?" It is a difficult question. "Are we prepared for the unexpected and the most terrible and traumatic of events?" That is what he is doing to make sure that that happens. In terms of emphasis and focus, it is for Lord Harris and it is for him to balance in his own way in his own review and his own report. As I said, it is not something that it is appropriate to give a running commentary on.

Peter Whittle AM: With the way things are going at the moment, do you think the review is going to be on time?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I hope so; late summer 2016.

Peter Whittle AM: Yes, we all hope so. What is your gut instinct?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I spoke to Lord Harris yesterday and he said he is intending to report by late summer 2016.

Peter Whittle AM: I see. Thank you very much.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Thank you.

Keith Prince AM: I suppose it sounds a bit churlish. I do not think anyone questions the ability of Lord Harris; he is a very widely respected man. It is just that some people are questioning its possible impartiality because he is a fully paid-up or has been a fully paid-up member of the Labour Party. Was that given consideration when he was chosen?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): No.

Keith Prince AM: Can I ask you because the announcement was made --

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): He is an expert. He has a very long, distinguished record, as I believe the Mayor was questioned on last week in Mayor's Question Time. There is no questioning his impartiality and his expertise to do this job. He has worked across parties and across services and there is absolutely no question that he is not the right person to do this job. It has nothing to do with party political affiliations or membership.

Keith Prince AM: The announcement of his appointment was before your appointment. I just wondered whether the Mayor had discussed it with you prior to him making that announcement.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It was a manifesto commitment. I would not have expected to have it discussed with me and nor was it discussed with me.

Keith Prince AM: Thank you.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Can I just make the point? The important thing is that the Mayor has stressed this review is going to be a thorough review. It is important as far as possible and as far as the talk of

timescales if it is going to be finished by the end of summer 2016. The important thing for me and for this Committee is that we have absolute confidence in Lord Harris, given his title and so on. The Mayor has already answered the question at Mayor's Question Time last week from Assembly Member Kemi [Badenoch AM] that what is important is that no stone is left untouched and that it is a thorough review.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Yes. The Lord Harris thing is ridiculous. He was appointed also under the last Mayor of a different party. What I want to know is whether he is going to be looking at Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the number of officers in them as part of this review. Certainly, I have spoken to Assistant Commissioner Rowley [Specialist Operations Command, MPS] looking at counterterrorism, the importance of Safer Neighbourhood Teams and particularly PCSOs and gathering intelligence is key to the operation.

Do you think he will be looking at that area and making recommendations that may feed into your plans going forward?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): This review is about the preparedness of the emergency services if there were to be an attack. It is not about counterterrorism or counter-radicalisation. That is a separate issue. Lord Harris may have views on that and I will discuss that with him, but this review is not about that.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK. It is slightly outside that, OK.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes. It is a very clearly contained and defined review about whether the appropriate services are ready for the new types of risk and threats London may face.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK, thank you.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): If it helps, Chairman, we welcome the review. It is an ideal opportunity to do it. We have all been tested in terms of some of the exercises we have run and some of those sorts of things, but I welcome anyone to come and say, "Well, let's have a look", because the threat picture has changed an awful lot. You commented on the attack in Orlando and others. The only thing you can say with certainty is that the threat picture continues to change. Therefore, the ability to look at our overall preparedness and our ability to respond to it we welcome. I would far rather do this ahead of something than have to learn lessons afterwards.

Andrew Boff AM: Will the review use as one of the bases the 7/7 review of the London Assembly conducted by Richard Barnes [former Assembly Member] at the time of the attack, then? There were a number of recommendations from that report. That report has been used throughout the world as a basis for preparedness for terror attacks and I want to know whether or not that will also feed into this review.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): In terms of what Lord Harris looks at, it is obviously for him. If he is meeting Assembly Members, I am sure he will take into account all evidence that is relevant.

Andrew Boff AM: Yes. That is not quite the reply. "Yes" was what I was looking for.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Lord Harris is conducting this review and he has written to all Assembly Members offering to meet them. I am sure if you wanted to meet him to discuss what evidence he should be taking into consideration, he would be very happy to meet you.

Andrew Boff AM: OK, thank you.

Peter Whittle AM: This is purely a factual and structural question: how many people are working on the review with him?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): He is being supported by an officer from MOPAC and then he is meeting various emergency services.

Peter Whittle AM: I see. Basically, he has a staff as well or is it just him?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): He is conducting the review. I would have to write to you about the exact support arrangements he has.

Peter Whittle AM: OK, thank you.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): To sum up, again Andrew, I would commend Richard Barnes's work, although - the point that Craig has made - times have moved on and the picture is changing all the time. One point and you will not be able to answer this as it may well have financial implications. You do not know that yet because you do not know the findings and we talked about budget and budgetary pressures. That is something that we would need to consider --

Andrew Boff AM: May I just say, Chairman? I get the point that time has moved on, but there were certain fundamentals --

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): No, I take the point.

Andrew Boff AM: -- within that report about things like radio communications at the time of simultaneous attack. We must make sure that we have learned from those as well.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): The point is absolutely well made. One of the things that I am sure we will feed in is on radios; we will move to a new national police radio system at some point in the coming years. Absolutely, I am fully supportive of the view. The lessons we learnt during 7/7 and other incidents we want to make sure are hard-baked into whatever evidence we submit.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Work has been done since then to adopt the very good recommendations of Richard Barnes but, as a health check, that is absolutely correct. To confirm that, Caroline [Pidgeon MBE AM] and I spent some time with Lord Toby Harris and I found him to be a man of the highest integrity. That is the point that I would make. This Committee will interest itself in that. It is pleasing that the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] said that this was not going to be politicised, this is something that is expected and it is a Mayor manifesto pledge, and you, Craig, have welcomed the review.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I absolutely welcome it.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): We can leave it there. Moving on now to moped and motorbike-enabled crime, it seems to have shot up enormously.

Andrew Dismore AM: The figures suggest that it went up four-fold over the period of a year. You now have this operation going on, Operation Attrition, in Camden and Islington. I wondered if you could give us a report of how it is going.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, by all means. We have spoken a number of times about two-wheeled-enabled crime, mopeds and cycles --

Andrew Dismore AM: Tricycles.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Or unicycles.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We have spoken about that particular challenge in the Camden and Islington arc across London. Members will have seen some reporting around that. We are working across those boroughs with colleagues from the City of London Police and colleagues from the special constabulary and we have seen a reduction in Camden and Islington - from a high - so it has gone up, hence why we have put the work in there. We have seen 525 offences - about 13% up to the end of May 2016 - come down over the previous 12 months.

One of the questions I have asked this morning and we have just been looking at in terms of the data because Wednesday mornings is our weekly look at performance and data. This is still an area that is high in terms of our overall crime. If you look at some of the things that is driving what I would call "volume crime" at the moment, there is this area around motorcycle and bicycle-enabled crime, two-wheeled crime. Both the theft of two-wheeled vehicles and then the theft-from-the-person that occurs on the back of it. We have done a lot of work with those boroughs and those parts of London that have been affected by it to look at the tactics we can put in place because there are some challenges. It is not easy to say to an officer when one of these sorts of crimes occurs, "This is exactly how you've got to respond". You will have seen yesterday that there was the outcome of an inquest in terms of the death of a young person. We are absolutely looking at the tactical options we have and we can do that are within policy, that are ethical and that are real to tackle this problem. It is not straightforward. With four-wheeled vehicles, there are far more tactics available. With two-wheeled vehicles, the risk is considerably more.

Andrew Dismore AM: I was at a meeting with the police in Hampstead Garden Suburb with residents about this last week and the security inspector came along and said that it is policy not to pursue in motor vehicles people who are escaping on mopeds. Is that right?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No, it is not as blanket --

Andrew Dismore AM: He made it absolutely clear that was a black-and-white policy.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No. We have been around this a number of times. It is not as simple as, "No, you can never do it", but the circumstances in which you can do it, the risk assessments and the people you need around it make it incredibly complex. For example, is someone fleeing without any protective equipment at all? That is a different risk assessment. Is the driver who is first on the scene pursuit trained? Is there a pursuit tactical adviser available? We are looking again at

all of the policy around this to see what the options are. The best ways of tackling it are some of the things that we have seen in Islington and Camden where they try to intervene and make arrests earlier either when people are stealing the bikes or at the point they are involved in criminality or just simple high-profile policing in those areas and hotspots where it is taking place. Pursuit is not a straightforward tactical option.

Andrew Dismore AM: It is not outlawed either?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): The rules are quite clear that it is not outlawed completely, but it is quite a hard thing to actually do and do in an effective way with a two-wheeled vehicle.

Andrew Dismore AM: OK. I have your press release from 6 June 2016 here, which says that in 2016 the teams made over 180 arrests in Camden and Islington for moped-enabled offences and recovered countless stolen mopeds. I do not suppose it is countless, is it?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not have the exact figure on stolen mopeds, but I will get it for you.

Andrew Dismore AM: Yes, it will not be countless.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No, it is not countless.

Andrew Dismore AM: You have achieved numerous successful convictions in court.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not have the press release you are referring to, but I am more than happy to give you those figures. If you look at some of the tactics we now use, simple things like the use of traceable liquids on mopeds and bikes so that we can trace them if we need, all the way through to how we use air support, even to thinking about something you could use in the future when you could use things like drones and other tactics. What are the ways of trying to prevent this sort of crime in the design of streets and street furniture? One of the challenges with mopeds and working with the industry is that the lock is about 26 pence of the value of the bike. What would it take to get the industry to do something a bit more substantial that could actually design this crime out and de-risk it right from the start?

Andrew Dismore AM: The other thing I was going to ask you about when you do these operations was about the issue of displacement of crime. The day after that one I just read out, 6 June, on 7 June 2016, there was a report in the *Evening Standard*, "Part of Hampstead Heath declared no-go area after dark following a string of knife-point robberies". That was an article from the *Standard*. Also, as I mentioned, I was in Hampstead Garden Suburb last week and they seem to have had a significant displacement of crime into Hampstead Garden Suburb that seems to have coincided in time with this operation in Camden. Certainly the police there seem to think it was displacement.

The question is, if you are going to have these big operations - and certainly it looks like a very good idea to do it - what extra resources are you putting into the neighbouring areas to deal with the risk of displacement?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): We do try to look at displacement. It is not as exact as saying that if we push on Camden and Islington, it will all end up in Hampstead. Sadly, it will go a number of ways. This is why we tackle it in a number of ways. The organised

crime that sits behind it and drives some of the activity, be it the theft of mobile phones or be it the robberies, you tackle by going into the networks of those organised crimes. What I would call the “volume crime offenders” are much less likely to be displaced a great distance. If we press in Camden and Islington, they are not going to be popping up in Bromley; it is just not going to go that far.

Andrew Dismore AM: No, but they do seem to be cropping up in Hampstead Garden Suburb and the Heath.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I know that the borough is alive to that displacement issue. When you get the tactics that work and when you know the interventions that work, if the crime moves, you can move the tactics and move the intervention.

Andrew Dismore AM: What reassurance can you give to those people in those areas that have been affected by this displacement?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Absolutely. The Borough Commanders for that area are alive to that and are working with the good practice that we have developed through that through the lead commander, who is working on that from the work around both Operation Attrition and Operation Venice - the two operations that have been working in that area - to transfer those tactics. Some of the things we have learned there we can use in other parts of London.

Sian Berry AM: Like Andrew [Dismore AM], I represent part of Camden as a councillor and so this is something that is of interest to me. I wanted to check a couple of things you said in your previous comments. You said you have checked the weekly data and it is still an area of high crime and, as I understand it, this is only a four-week trial.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Sian Berry AM: Is there any sense of whether it is working or not, other than the number of arrests you have made?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): No, sorry, my apologies. What we do every Wednesday morning - we can do it every day, but on Wednesday mornings we do it collectively as a Board and as a Management Team - is we look at performance and we look at rolling year trends and we watch a whole range of crime areas. Be it the work around firearms discharges, be it the work around the performance of the Disclosure and Barring Service, a whole range of indicators come up to a board level.

This morning one of the ones that is still going the wrong way is the theft of motor vehicles and that is predominantly two-wheeled motor vehicles. We are doing some work around simple things. Where do they go? Is it different for different types of vehicle? If I pinch a moped, am I predominantly going to use it for crime? If I pinch a 750cc motorbike, is it going to go abroad? What are the scenarios? I was talking about that wider crime figure rather than just Camden and Islington; apologies.

Sian Berry AM: As a council we have noticed in the north of the borough an increase in these kinds of crime. We had an emergency meeting this week about it. It seems to me that there is displacement going on. My question really is whether it is working in the south of the borough. Are you seeking to expand the activity to the north or how do you see that panning out?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): As the earlier question, we can move the response to wherever the problem is. If the problem stopped in one part, then it has worked in that part. Does it solve all of the problem? No, you get some displacement. If we do high-visibility patrols, how much of it stops offences happening? How much of it delays offences happening? How much of it moves offences to other parts of London? That is more of an art than a science in terms of the data that supports that. Absolutely, we can move it within the borough with no problem at all and move it to neighbouring boroughs when we see the problem emerging and when the data is there. Was anyone there from the MPS at the residents' meeting?

Sian Berry AM: Just the local ward officer.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Sian Berry AM: Just to clarify then, as far as I can tell, you are prioritising the area because of the high number of snatches that take place using two-wheeled vehicles?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes.

Sian Berry AM: I cannot see my ward ever getting to a level where it exceeds the Euston area on that because of the number of people. Nevertheless, in my area there is a strong amount of worry that there has been an increase. I am using my area only as an example, by the way - I am not supposed to advocate as a councillor in this Chamber - of how the --

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): We try to avoid special pleading.

Sian Berry AM: I am asking about the tactic as a whole.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): To reassure you, Chairman, I did not take it as special pleading at all. It is quite a good way of illustrating it. That is the wider work around prevention and I talked about some of the things. As with so many of the responses we do around policing, the enforcement part is but one part of it. There is wider work that we are doing around prevention and availability of these because we can make it far more difficult for two-wheeled vehicles to be stolen. One of the things that goes on at the moment is a high-capacity two-wheeled vehicle will be stolen and the engine will be transferred to a smaller one that they can legally ride with a 125cc restriction on the face of it. There is a whole range of things we can do to start to design that crime out. The prevention things will work around that.

To give some reassurance to different parts of the borough, the other piece of work we do is that we target whatever is going. In this case it is mobile phones, wallets and those sorts of things. Targeting that work leads us back to the offenders. Then it is really agnostic around where the offenders are. If they are operating in the north part of Camden or right over in Hounslow, we will get them.

Sian Berry AM: OK, thank you very much. My final question is about the joint initiative and being cross-borough. As I understand it, the prevalence of this kind of crime is on the borders and that relates to what Peter [Whittle AM] was taking about earlier on. Could you go more into the cross-borough aspect of this?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It is one of those issues that emerges by having fixed lines. Nobody has told the people who commit crime that there are fixed lines. There

is another fixed line here that we have not talked about that goes across the top end of the City of London, which we do not police: it is the City of London Police. The reality is that we will go where the crime is and follow it. It is a good example of the fact that crime does not respect geography sometimes.

Sian Berry AM: That is not quite my question. If I can just clarify a little bit?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Sorry.

Sian Berry AM: My question was - if I can get this right - that the criminals themselves seek to cross the border if they are professionally targeting people for things like snatches. Is that correct and is that a good reason to have a cross-borough initiative?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Absolutely. A particular road does not come to mind across the Camden and Islington boroughs, but the reality is that the borough boundary sometimes is literally halfway through a shop. It does not mean anything to the people we are targeting. They will work in those sorts of things. They predominantly work around transport routes and they will predominantly work around nodes of population. They would not describe it like that; they would just describe it as where things are busy. That is pretty consistent across London if you look at and you map those sorts of crimes.

With large groupings in the night-time economy, you will see those sorts of crimes. We have spoken here before about the challenge of people -- I do not like the phrase because it diminishes the crime - doing what they call "bag-surfing" or "table-surfing". It is a crime. That happens predominately around the night-time economy. You have seen the advice that we give to people sometimes coming out of Tube stations. There is the immediate reaction to power up your phone and get a signal and - boom - again that then becomes a hotspot. It does not rely so much on borough boundaries.

Sian Berry AM: OK, thank you.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Borough boundaries can be overlaid. Just to lighten to mood somewhat, in Crystal Palace you can walk in the front door of The Grape & Grain pub and be in Croydon and then you can go downstairs to the loo and be in Bromley!

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): -- that is local knowledge!

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): I thought I would lighten the mood somewhat!

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Yes, that is local knowledge, Chairman.

Florence Eshalomi AM: Following on from that, again, we have highlighted the initiatives being launched in Camden and Islington, but it is also a concern for the north of the borough, my part in Southwark, around the area of London Bridge and going into the SE1 area, where we have seen an increase in moped crimes.

You mentioned some of the work you were doing in terms of deterring young people. Has there been any work in terms of working with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in terms of people who register for moped licences in terms of then tracking the offenders?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I do not know. That is the honest answer. I will find out for you. We have done quite a lot of work with industry. Whether we have done it with the DVLA I do not know. That is a good idea. I will find out.

Florence Eshalomi AM: Thank you.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Any more question on that subject? It is a really important subject, particularly for those directly affected as councillors and Assembly Members, but also it is clearly a London-wide issue.

We have a couple of other points before we move on to business. Today there was announced a piece of work on undercover policing for consultation¹. It was only announced today. There are some guidelines around that going into consultation. It is very fresh. Craig, do you want to comment at all around this and your expectations or how you see this playing out?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): By all means, Chairman, thank you. Like you, we have seen the publication today of those guidelines. We have done work, as you will know, both preparing for and in light of the work around the public inquiry on undercover policing to look at how those guidelines were framed in those areas they need to cover. Like everyone, we will now be involved in the consultation and when we do I would be happy to share those thoughts and feedback with you.

Andrew Boff AM: Is it your view that guidelines such as this should generally be observed where possible?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): Absolutely. Otherwise, there is no point in having guidelines. I absolutely agree with you around guidelines and an ability to work. I have to check - because I am only relying on an email at the moment - what the statutory basis is of the guidelines because there are some guidelines issued by the College [of Policing] that are statutory. I do not know the answer to that sitting here now, but I will find out for you. In that case, almost the "guideline" phrase is a misnomer because they then become statutory under a code.

Andrew Boff AM: That is extremely useful. I wonder if you might, either now if it is brief or by writing to me, explain the process by which guidelines become activated at the sharp end of policing?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): By all means. It is quite a long process. It would be better if I write to you.

Andrew Boff AM: If you could let me know how police constables will know the guidelines have come out and how that is informed to them?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): To give you some reassurance, this is probably slightly easier because it is a much narrower group of people. With undercover deployments, you are talking about a relatively small number and it goes then into base training for those undercover units.

Andrew Boff AM: That is very helpful. Thank you.

¹ <https://www.app.college.police.uk/consultation/undercover-policing-consultation/>

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I will write to you in more detail.

Andrew Boff AM: Thank you very much indeed.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Much earlier in the proceedings I mentioned a figure of 800 detectives who had been moved from boroughs and I said it was reported in February. I should have said that it was reported in the *Evening Standard* on 16 February 2016. Presumably the source of the *Evening Standard's* information --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): It was probably us.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): -- was one of you.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service): I will find out what was in that 800 figure.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): If I am wrong, you know who to blame.

Steve O'Connell AM (Chairman): Unless we have any other questions, I would like to thank you both for your answers. We have had a good debate.

This page is intentionally left blank