

London Assembly (Plenary) Wednesday 5 March 2014

PRIORITY ORDER PAPER

Report No: 4

Subject: Questions and Answer Session – Policing in London

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Questions not answered during the meeting are to be given a written response by
Monday 10 March 2014

Questions will be put to: Boris Johnson, Mayor of London and Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Question No: 2014/1255

[Caroline Pidgeon](#)

Are you satisfied that Safer Neighbourhood Teams are visible, contactable and effective under your new Local Policing Model?

Culture of MPS

Question No: 2014/1256

[Joanne McCartney](#)

Are you satisfied with the culture in the Metropolitan Police Service today?

Convicting criminals

Question No: 2014/1257

[Roger Evans](#)

How do you intend to catch and convict more criminals?

Definition of domestic extremists

Question No: 2014/1258

[Jenny Jones](#)

Will the Metropolitan Police update its definition of a domestic extremist to take account of the recommendations made by HMIC in the report “A review of national police units which provide intelligence on criminality associated with protest”, published in January 2012?

Questions for Written Answer

Race claims against the police

Question No: 2014/1261

[Andrew Dismore](#)

Further to your answer to Question 2014/0280 and to Question 532 / 2013 on race claims against the police, "how many i) of the 34 internal cases and ii) how many of 33 cases brought by members of the public referred to in the answer resulted in disciplinary action; iii) of those that resulted in disciplinary action, how many led to the dismissal of the officer or staff member concerned in each of the two types of case ; and iv) how many out of court settlements contained "no publicity" clauses in each of the two types of case?" your written response being "Please refer to the letter sent to you on 22 January 2014". The text of the letter being "Dear Andrew Thank you for your letter dated November 28th 2013 with regard to the settling of complaints of racism made by the public against police officers and members of staff. I cannot comment on individual cases but can assure you that all cases of racism are investigated and disciplinary action taken where appropriate. MOPAC/MPS do regularly defend cases to trial, however as your letter acknowledges there are occasions where the cost of defending a claim would be disproportionate to the cost of offering an out of court settlement and in these circumstances we do look to settle out of court. However I can assure you this is to minimise the impact on the public purse. The MPS have confirmed that no non-disclosure agreements have been signed with regard the settlement of complaints of racism made by the public. Yours sincerely Stephen Greenhalgh Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime" As this letter does not provide any statistical information whatsoever, will you now finally state how many i) of the 34 internal cases and ii) how many of 33 cases brought by members of the public referred to in your previous answer on this subject resulted in disciplinary action; iii) of those that resulted in disciplinary action, how many led to the dismissal of the officer or staff member concerned in each of the two types of case? or bearing in mind your answer to Question 2014/0278 "Further to your answer to Question 532 / 2013 on race claims against the police, on what date did MOPAC receive my original question in February 2013; on what date did they pass the request for the information requested to the Metropolitan Police; and on what date did the Met give MOPAC the data provided in the response?" Your written response being "The question was received by MOPAC on 12 February 2013 and the data was requested from the MPS on the same day. An initial response from the MPS was received on 20 February 2013. There was then an ongoing dialogue between MOPAC and the MPS in order to ensure a full and comprehensive response was provided. A final response was submitted by MOPAC on 9 October 2013. MOPAC has new procedures and new arrangements with colleagues which are designed to ensure that a delay of this kind should not occur in future. Will I have to wait nearly another year to get closer to the bottom of the story?

Met Police BOGOF offer

Question No: 2014/1262

[Andrew Dismore](#)

Deputy Mayor Greenhalgh has recently written to borough leaders about the two for one PCs special offer and about extending it to other ranks. Is this an attempt to shunt front line policing costs to boroughs that face massive cuts themselves?

Met Police contact point system

Question No: 2014/1263

[Andrew Dismore](#)

Are you satisfied with the performance of the contact points in Barnet and in Camden?

Officers in uniform smoking

Question No: 2014/1264

[Andrew Dismore](#)

Further to Question 2014/0289, which was itself further to question 2013/5231 "What is your policy towards police officers in uniform smoking on duty in public in the street?" And your response to that question being "The MPS should always uphold the law in relation to smoking in buildings." Question 2014/0289 being, "Will you now answer the question as asked? Do you approve of police officers in uniform smoking on duty in public in the street? Does this project the image of the Met that you wish to see?" and your written response being "The Metropolitan Police Service should always uphold the law in relation to smoking in buildings." This is not an answer to the question that was asked, why are you shy of answering the simple question that was asked? Do you or do you not approve of police officers in uniform smoking on duty in public in the street? Does this or does this not project the image of the Met that you wish to see?

Camden Police Numbers 1

Question No: 2014/1265

[Andrew Dismore](#)

As of 31st January 2014, how many full time sworn police officers were there in Camden; how many special constables; how many PCSOs; how many sergeants; how many non-PCSO civilian staff were there; what were the comparable figures for 1st May 2010, and 31st January 2013; and what do you expect the figures to be on 1st May 2015?

Camden Police Numbers 2

Question No: 2014/1266

[Andrew Dismore](#)

As of 31st January 2014, how many police officers and PCSOs in total were there in Barnet's safer neighbourhood clusters, what were the comparable figures for the borough's safer neighbourhood teams in total as at 1st May 2010, and 31st January 2013; and what do you expect the figures to be on 1st May 2015?

Barnet Police Numbers 1

Question No: 2014/1267

[Andrew Dismore](#)

As of 31st January 2014, how many full time sworn police officers were there in Barnet; how many special constables; how many PCSOs; how many sergeants; how many non PCSO civilian staff were there; what were the comparable figures for 1st May 2010, and 31st January 2013; and what do you expect the figures to be on 1st May 2015?

Barnet Police Numbers 2

Question No: 2014/1268

[Andrew Dismore](#)

As of 31st January 2014, how many police officers and PCSOs in total were there in Barnet's safer neighbourhood clusters, what were the comparable figures for the borough's safer neighbourhood teams in total as at 1st May 2010, and 31st January 2013; and what do you expect the figures to be on 1st May 2015?

Traffic Police

Question No: 2014/1269

[Andrew Dismore](#)

As of 31st January 2014, how many police officers were there deployed on traffic duties, what were the comparable figures as at 1st May 2010, and 31st January 2013; and what do you expect the figures to be on 1st May 2015?

Tasers

Question No: 2014/1270

[Andrew Dismore](#)

Were any ill effects such as burns or other symptoms or damage to clothing suffered by those against whom tasers have been deployed by officers in Barnet and in Camden?

Custody suite availability

Question No: 2014/1271

[Andrew Dismore](#)

On how many occasions in the last 6 months has the custody suite in Kentish Town been unable to accommodate due to capacity issues prisoners who would otherwise have been taken to Kentish Town; and where were those additional prisoners taken to be held in lieu of Kentish Town; how many prisoners were involved in total; and how much extra officer time was devoted to taking prisoners to the alternative location?

Rowan Drive, Colindale

Question No: 2014/1272

[Andrew Dismore](#)

There are over 40 habitable houses in Rowan Drive, Colindale that have been left empty for months. I understand MOPAC plans to dispose of this area to Middlesex University. Why have not these houses been used as temporary accommodation for those in housing need in the meantime?

Camden SNB

Question No: 2014/1273

[Andrew Dismore](#)

Has the contract to administer Camden SNB been given to Camden Community Police and Police Consultative Group and, if so, was there a tendering process; and if not, why not?

Twitter presence

Question No: 2014/1274

[Andrew Dismore](#)

With SNT numbers reduced and many sergeants now covering two wards, is a Twitter presence a good use of sergeants' time? Can the Met justify the withdrawal from the front line of these officers to attend 'new media' training? Isn't new technology supposed to free officers from paperwork so that they can spend more time on front-line policing, not give them an additional PR task to undertake?

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (1)

Question No: 2014/1275

[Jennette Arnold](#)

Please can you update me on the performance of the Metropolitan Police Service's Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) team against its targets and key performance indicators?

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (2)

Question No: 2014/1276

[Jennette Arnold](#)

Given the Government's recent announcement that in April 2014 it will become common practice for NHS Hospitals to record data on FGM, what plans does the Metropolitan Police Service have to ensure this data is used to inform policy and practice when trying to catch and prosecute the perpetrators of FGM?

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (3)

Question No: 2014/1277

[Jennette Arnold](#)

Please can I have details on the specific work that the Metropolitan Police Service has done working in collaboration with organisations and individuals who campaign against FGM, such as FORWARD, Daughters of Even, the Victoria Climbié Foundation and Leyla Hussein, as well as any others?

Water Cannon (1)

Question No: 2014/1278

[Jennette Arnold](#)

Giving the Metropolitan Police Service the powers to use water cannon will lead us further towards a state where policing is carried out by fear, not by co-operation. The more fear there is amongst citizens, the more likely we'll see further riots in the future. Will you, before it is too late, review the plans to put water cannons on the streets of London and stop the unnecessary purchase of these cannons?

Water Cannon (2)

Question No: 2014/1279

[Jennette Arnold](#)

Please can I have a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment that has been done to supplement your policy to roll out water cannon on the streets of London?

Police Roadshows (1)

Question No: 2014/1280

[Jennette Arnold](#)

I welcome the roadshows that members of the Metropolitan Police Service are currently carrying out across London. They provide an opportunity for local residents to meet directly with policy makers, which can serve to increase democratic accountability. My one concern is that these roadshows are a token gesture and a simple public relations exercise. What are you doing to ensure that these engagements are meaningful and their outcomes will help shape policy and decision making in the future?

Police Roadshows (2)

Question No: 2014/1281

[Jennette Arnold](#)

What were the key outcomes of the Roadshow that recently took place in the London Borough of Hackney?

"Plying for Hire"

Question No: 2014/1282

[Len Duvall](#)

Please confirm the number of arrests Cab Enforcement Section of the Met Police has made for the offence of "Plying for Hire" since the offence became law. Can you also confirm how many cautions this section has given for the offence of "Plying for Hire" since the offence became law and provide dates from and to.

Wounding/GBH in Tower Hamlets

Question No: 2014/1283

[John Biggs](#)

Recorded incidents of Wounding/GBH have increased in Tower Hamlets by 47% in the period 2012/2013 compared with the previous twelve months. Do you believe these increases are related to the fact that Tower Hamlets has seen a significant decline in police officers (21%) and PCOS (67%) since May 2010?

Neighbourhood Policing in Tower Hamlets

Question No: 2014/1284

[John Biggs](#)

What contribution can Neighbourhood Policing make to reducing the incidence of wounding and GBH?

Motor Vehicle Crime in Tower Hamlets

Question No: 2014/1285

[John Biggs](#)

Recorded incidents of Theft from Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Interference & Tampering have increased in Tower Hamlets over the last twelve months by 9% and 14% respectively. Do you share my concern that this relates to the reduction in the number of police and police officers patrolling the streets?

Police Numbers in Tower Hamlets (1)

Question No: 2014/1286

[John Biggs](#)

When do you intend to fulfil your promise in your Policing Plan that Tower Hamlets will have 717 officers by 2015?

Police Numbers in Tower Hamlets (2)

Question No: 2014/1287

[John Biggs](#)

In May 2010 there were 818 Police Officers in Tower Hamlets and now there are 646. In your Policing Plan you promise a total of 717 Officers. Are you satisfied that this number is sufficient to meet the policing needs, considering the number of PCSOs has been significantly cut?

Unsolved Crime in Newham

Question No: 2014/1288

[John Biggs](#)

Statistics released towards the end of 2013 by the London Datastore showed that 81% of crimes in Newham remained unsolved in 2012/13. How then do you justify the cut of 50 police officer posts in the period May 2010 to December 2013?

Violence against the person statistics in Newham

Question No: 2014/1289

[John Biggs](#)

Figures recorded for wounding/GBH in 2013 demonstrate a shocking increase of 46% during a period in which police and PCSO numbers have been cut. When do you plan to provide sufficient resources to reverse this worrying trend?

Motor Vehicle Crime in Barking & Dagenham

Question No: 2014/1290

[John Biggs](#)

In 2013 thefts from motor vehicles rose by 12% and recorded crimes for motor vehicle interference and tampering rose by 15%. Is it coincidence that these increases have taken place as the number of PCSOs has been reduced by half?

Number of Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Brent

Question No: 2014/1291

[Navin Shah](#)

Can you please provide a list of PC, Sergeant, Inspector and PCSO target strength, actual strength and vacancy levels per Borough and per Ward from 1 December 2013 for London's Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Brent? What were the comparable figures for 1 May 2010; 1 May 2011; 1 May 2012; 1 May 2013 and 30 November 2013; in ward by ward and what do you expect the figures to be in 2015?

Number of Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Harrow

Question No: 2014/1292

[Navin Shah](#)

Can you please provide a list of PC, Sergeant, Inspector and PCSO target strength, actual strength and vacancy levels per Borough and per Ward from 1 December 2013 for London's Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Harrow? What were the comparable figures for 1 May 2010; 1 May 2011; 1 May 2012; 1 May 2013 and 30 November 2013; in ward by ward and what do you expect the figures to be in 2015?

Safer Neighbourhood Board in Harrow

Question No: 2014/1293

[Navin Shah](#)

Now that the Harrow Police Community Consultative Group has been disbanded due to lack of MOPAC funding and support, when will the Safer Neighbourhood Board be up and running in Harrow?

Front Counters in Brent and Harrow

Question No: 2014/1294

[Navin Shah](#)

The Mayor gave a commitment that new front counters of a better quality and in a nearby location will be provided where the existing front counters / police stations are being closed down. Can you please demonstrate this has actually happened in Brent and Harrow?

101 Number

Question No: 2014/1295

[Joanne McCartney](#)

What are the target and actual waiting times for calls to 101?

101 Number (2)

Question No: 2014/1296

[Joanne McCartney](#)

Following a 101 call what are the categories of crime or ASB and how are they graded in terms of severity?

101 Number (3)

Question No: 2014/1297

[Joanne McCartney](#)

Following a call to the 101 number what are the target times for dealing with issues?

101 Number (4)

Question No: 2014/1298

[Joanne McCartney](#)

Following a call to the 101 number how are attendances measured and monitored? - I.e. what percentage of call outs are completed?

101 Number (5)

Question No: 2014/1299

[Joanne McCartney](#)

What are the satisfaction measures for those who call 101? And where are they reported?

Water Cannon

Question No: 2014/1300

[Victoria Borwick](#)

How can water cannon increase public confidence in policing?