Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Moving to the substantive item of business, which is the question and answer session, I again welcome our guests this morning. We have some questions for you and look forward to hearing your responses.

Before we start the questioning, we have been asked particularly on behalf of Assembly Member Sian Berry, Commissioner, if you could give us just a brief statement on the status of the Grenfell investigation, please.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Thank you. Good morning, everyone and Chairman. Obviously, on 14 June [2018], the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), together with the whole country, paid its respects and remembered all those people who died and indeed everybody affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy. We continue to work very closely with the public Inquiry in terms of liaison with them, support to the Inquiry and of course monitoring what is appearing in the evidence at the Inquiry. All evidence heard at the public Inquiry will be considered part of our ongoing police investigation.

The investigation remains very active. We have made significant progress, I would say, over the last year. We still have a considerable number of officers. It obviously fluctuates a little bit but at the moment it is at least 190 officers and staff working on the investigation, and we are working very closely with the Health and Safety Executive as well as other relevant bodies.

Our investigation is focused, as I think you are aware, on four themes: construction, refurbishment, management of the tower, and the emergency response on the night. We have completed collectively the forensic examination of the tower, as much as we think we need to, and we are now in a phase where we are doing a whole series of very significant off-site tests. I say “we”; of course, this is the building’s experts and a number of other experts together with police officers. A significant test took place recently as an example in relation to flat 16, which we believe to be the seat of the fire, and we recreated the flat and its surroundings and a very significant test took place. We are working very closely with all parties to work out when and indeed to whom and how the tower will be returned to responsible bodies, and we anticipate that will be - we certainly hope - in August [2018].

We are working very closely with the bereaved families and people in the local community, as you know, and we have also had a significant number of associated investigations in relation to fraud, housing and support claims by people who claimed to be victims of the fire when they were not. These range from £25,000 to £100,000 in total value. We have investigated so far 26 of those. Five people have been convicted, four people have been charged, and we have a number of other ongoing investigations.

Sian Berry AM: Do you anticipate when you might bring any charges in relation to any of those four themes that you outlined?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): No. I have no timescale for that, I am afraid, Sian. I have always said it will be a long investigation, and it most certainly will. It is complex. It is an enormous amount of material to work through and to consider. We are making good progress. We are
moving as fast as we possibly, reasonably can. It is obviously not going to be quick, and I do not think anybody thought it would be.

Sian Berry AM: Is it dependent on the public inquiry? Are you waiting for that to finish?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): We are not waiting for the public inquiry. The public inquiry is taking place in parallel. As that goes forward, we take all the material into our investigation, but it would be wrong to say we are waiting.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Thank you very much for that. Moving to the questions, the first one I will introduce. It is a year on, Commissioner, from your first appearance in front of the Committee. At that time, you made some ambitious aims and projections of what you wanted to achieve within that year about transformation, including public confidence, and getting the best out of everyone in your service. It has been a difficult year and we know that. How do you feel, progress-wise, you have proceeded through that year on those stated aims that you made a year ago?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Thank you, Chairman. It has been a fantastic privilege to be the Commissioner for the last year and a bit, and I hope this does not sound wrong but I have loved every moment of it and I am very proud to do it.

In terms of transformation, I believe we have made some huge steps here. You will have seen some of the things that have been happening during the year in terms of, for example, technology - the roll-out of the laptops, the tablets and the body-worn video - but there is so much more to it than that. What I believe we have done in the last year is really bring together under the leadership not least of the Deputy Commissioner, [Sir] Craig [Mackey QPM], a fantastic portfolio of change, which is ambitious. It is probably the most far-reaching set of changes the MPS has ever gone through, and well-supported by the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Deputy Mayor [for Policing and Crime] indeed. We have made some very large decisions, as you know, about, for example, on the estates front, a huge series of decisions including the purchase of the Empress State Building (ESB). On the technology front, we have both rolled out changes and made big investments for the future. I am really very proud of what the people have done. I think we are in good shape.

It goes alongside a sense that I have that we are becoming ever more financially mature, not to say that we were immature when I started. I would appreciate that the public might not be that interested in this, but I think the Committee is. The scale of the change and the initial financial uncertainties that we were working with does mean that my people have to have a very high level of strategic financial ability and to be able to run a very tight ship. What I observe - I will not bore you with the detail - is that they are running a very tight ship, and our audits show that our HMICFRS [Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue] reports are improving. There are all sorts of ways I would say we can be more assured about how we are managing the money that the public gives us for the future. I am very content with where we are on transformation. I appreciate some of the changes we have made will probably be asked about later on in the meeting.

Secondly, on public confidence, it has been a challenging year, as you know, as you have acknowledged. We have had some extraordinary, major incidents: counter-terrorism, of course, and indeed Grenfell. The response and the investigations and the work with the public in relation to those was first-rate, despite all the horror and awfulness. Confidence levels seem to be, by the surveys, holding up. I would say our reputation is high. When I talk internationally, our reputation is high. I think our reputation is good. I am not complacent about this with Government. It is certainly good with national policing colleagues and largely good with our partners in general.
With the public confidence, you know I have a particular interest in the confidence gap - and we may come back to this - where some parts of our communities are not as confident in their police as others, and that is a big focus for me. We have done all sorts of things during this quite challenging year, with violent crime going up and increased, for example, enforcement operations going on, to try to reach out, to engage, to explain, and to help people have more confidence in us.

We have had these big operational challenges together with changing demand in a variety of different ways. We have responded well. For example, the recruitment programmes are going very well in the main. We are now recruiting well into our Command and Control Centre, as you will have seen at Lambeth, which was a huge challenge just 18 months ago. The changing nature of crime, as we have discussed before, the changing expectations from the public and increased levels of demand are putting a lot of strain on my people. My penultimate point is the people. I think they are brilliant. Of course, there is the odd one who does something stupid or something goes wrong, but they are fantastic. I think their ethics are great. Their skills are good. We need to help them become even more skilled in the digital age. They are good people working very hard, sometimes under quite challenging circumstances. We are putting a lot of effort into their wellbeing and support to them and their sense that they are properly led, properly equipped and properly supported. They are in good heart and they are doing a very good job.

I know you know a lot about us, but just as an example, what other police service in the world would be sitting in such a fantastic city - none, of course - but looking at the next ten days where, as well as everything else that we are dealing with, violent crime and goodness knows what else, we have Wimbledon, we have Pride, we have the Balkan Summit, which has a huge number of protected principals, we have the Royal Air Force (RAF) 100 year celebrations, and we have a foreign dignitary visiting, a head of state coming at the end of next week, and some fairly considerable protests anticipated throughout that period? There is no other police service in the world that does that, and I am very proud of them.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Thank you very much, Commissioner. Your last point is a good point because the exception for London is the norm for London.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): It is London.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Those events that you talked about over summer are London, and you anticipate or try to anticipate, although one has been sprung on you, which is another thing altogether. Over that year, you mentioned about changing and increasing demand, which you could not have anticipated potentially a year ago. I am thinking particularly around serious violence and moped crime, which particularly over that year has created a huge demand on your officers. Again, I would thank and commend the Lambeth Command Centre there for the work that they are doing led by Commander [Dave] Musker.

The fact of the matter is that you had aspirations. We have touched upon the public confidence, which is flatlining around 69%, and that was an aspiration a year ago. We are going to have questions later about diversity and inclusion and the Borough Commands later. People may wish to come in on that. My comment to you is: the aspirations that you had a year ago, do they still hold?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Absolutely. They were long-term aspirations.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Bearing in mind the changes and the things that we have seen happening in the last year, do those aspirations still hold for you, Commissioner?
Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): They absolutely do. I laid out what my commissionership was likely to be about on day one and again when I came to this Committee. Operationally, I said violence was too high. I said that a year ago. It had started to shoot up in about 2014 and particularly go up at the back end of 2016 into 2017. Violence was broadly, of course, defined to include terrorism and to include domestic and sexual violence. That was my priority. It will remain my priority. I doubt whether it will go away during my commissionership. It is what I think concerns Londoners most. The twin of that, the other side of the coin, is public confidence for me, absolutely.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): The thread that follows through all of this is the financial situation for yourself. When I hear presentations from boroughs, from senior leaders of the MPS, they will position that around their presentation to say, for example, “For reasons, finance, we are changing our services” and to include the services. Again, savings have to been made. It is well documented that on behalf of this Committee I have written to the Home Office seeking a fair settlement for the MPS, but do you want to give us your thoughts on how that budgetary issue is being addressed for the year going forward? [Sir] Craig [Mackey QPM] will probably come in on this as well.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): As you said, demands and expectations went up and changed a bit during last year. I think the themes are consistent. We made our case to the Home Office and Home Secretary and of course to the Mayor about the position we were in, and, as you know, as a result of that we received both counter-terrorism money and non-counter-terrorism money last year, and from the Mayor’s auspices over £110 million. That is very welcome. We feel that we have more certainty or more confidence in our financial position for at least the next two years. That is a more comfortable position than we were in. I do not want to make it sound comfortable in terms of fat. It is not. It just allows us to plan better, it allows us to make big, strategic decisions much better, and it allows us to focus on violence, street violence in particular.

However, I imagine we will be coming into a spending round at some point and I absolutely expect, given the nature of the increases in online crime, changed capabilities required for the future to keep up with technology and so on and so forth, that we will be saying that we have made huge savings. We feel we are getting more and more efficient. We are very efficient. We will be expecting to put in bids for further monies in the future, absolutely. The staff, as you said, are working very hard against some difficult demands.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): I am going to bring Len [Duvall AM] in in a minute. You are saying that the financial situation over that year has been a challenge because that has permeated many of the decisions you have had to make, but you sense you are in a more confident place than you have been through the work that you have done, but you are getting to a position that is predicated on a need for more funding to continue to deliver services? Is that a fair reflection, Craig?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): That is absolutely where we are likely be, yes.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)): Yes. The important point in what Cressida said: Members who were on the Budget and Performance Committee will know, probably two years ago, one of its recommendations was to give some certainty to policing. The great advantage that allows you to plan - and the work done both in City Hall, here, with colleagues in the Home Office - is to try to give us a bit of a two-year certainty because you can then start to plan out. As Cressida touched on, the work now has to focus on, strategically, how do we position London and the MPS for the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) that we know will come? That demand that you have seen out there is
not going away, and we do not know yet what other partners in the public sector will do as part of their settlements. You will have seen when you were at Lambeth that there is very clear evidence now of what I would call ‘demand shunt’, where an organisation just says, “We are not doing that service anymore, and we will pull out of it”, and it ends up either with us or one of the other sectors. Some colleagues at the National Health Service (NHS) would say they are getting it as well. We need that wider, joined-up debate.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Thank you.

Len Duvall AM: Thank you for that. Thank you for reminding us that against the difficult and challenging background of the policing environment there is still a lot for us to be optimistic about as you are coming to terms with the new financial settlements and the settlement for policing on the whole, which is not going to change, is it?

In terms of developing new ways of working, I was quite interested - I have two questions - and I completely concur with you, about the maturity of the MPS facing up to financial responsibilities. Understanding gives us that certainty over the coming years to plan. The cuts that you have made have been considerable for an organisation, and the fact that you are still on your feet, still trying to protect our communities from those who wish to cause them harm, is quite amazing. I do not think other organisations have faced that level of change, considering that you are personnel-rich rather than in terms of where that is. By my reckoning, you have done £720 million in recent years. You have a further £140 million of unidentified savings.

Last week there were a few people in this Committee who thought that you are prevalent with waste. I am not one of those, but I was interested to hear about where you had that independent assessment of people coming in. How would you counter and rebut those who believe that you are still a wasteful organisation in using resources? Like I say, I am not one of those. I think you have made some great strides around efficiencies and value for money. Can you just tell us a little bit more about that independent valuation that gave the Commissioner confidence to say what she said and rebut some of the challenges that I think are wrong in terms of some of the issues that we should be challenging you on? You need to be challenged but not in the area of waste. I do not think that is one.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): A principal point to start with: can organisations always be more efficient? I have to believe they can. We all work for that. There are a number of areas I would look at for that. Each year you get something called the value for money profiles, which are done by HMICFRS, that cover a whole range of services. They are 40 or 50 pages if you print it off, and you can look at individual service lines, you can look where people are spending more than others, and you can do direct comparators. In the nicest way, you do not have to take our word for it. You can look at that. That is available on HMICFRS’s website to look at.

Some of the issues are around procurement savings. You look at where we have driven some of the cost out. It is around some of those big contracts to drive how we do things in a more efficient way. Like everyone, I have seen some of the stories about saving £30 on a police hat here, there and everywhere. Yes, of course you can, but if you look, the MPS led the national outsourcing contract for uniform and kit. We led that. Other forces have joined it. Lynda McMullan, our Chief Financial Officer, is doing a lot of the work on that wider procurement piece, where there are real savings. It is not just us saying it. The Home Office is talking about the level of savings that are coming out of that procurement piece, often led on the back of national contracts we have negotiated.

Len Duvall AM: OK. I have a secondary question which goes to a much wider one about the future of policing and some of the issues. On some of the organisational change, I just want you to be very clear that
when criticism arises around that organisational change it is usually around the implementation of it or the engagement with others who we think should be engaged when you are doing some of this change, but realising that with what is being forced upon you there is an understanding of why things need to change.

In June, Commissioner, you told the Home Affairs Committee:

“*What we see is a huge rise in expectation and demand is putting a massive strain on our people. It cannot go on without hard choices. Either, as I say, more money, smaller mission, greater appetite.*”

I think you have said in other forums – and I have continually questioned and said that – because of the resources that we have available, it seems that you have to do the best with the resources you have. What do you mean by that? When do we think we are going to be seeing some of those hard choices and some of those issues? You and I have had debates about policing by consent. When is that debate going to be in the open in a much more concrete way so that people can get to what the practical choice is that we face if we maintain the level of policing that we have here in London or in the rest of the country? That goes to the heart of the matter about further reforms and further changes that the police may need to undertake.

**Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis):** Honestly, Len, I am not trying to be difficult. I wish I could say, “June 2019, this will happen, and we will have to debate that”, but it is not how the world works, I am afraid. It is really not. Look at last year: events, and secondly money. A Minister acknowledged that in their view – and this is in no way a political comment – the settlement was fair, but things had changed. Therefore, they were going to find a way to give policing more money, which obviously politicians will debate whether that was the right way to do it, but that is the nature of it.

We have made a lot of change which I believe in the long run is the best use of public money, but in that we have taken out a huge amount of money, and some people do not like some of those changes, and some of it will have inevitably, perhaps because of the implementation bumps, caused some reductions in satisfaction, performance or whatever. That is in the nature of things.

We have started to make changes to our service levels that some people do not like, and we will have to continue to do that in the future, I suspect, because the mission for the police, as I have said before, is enormous. I could put half the MPS into dealing with indecent images probably, and we would still be quite busy. We are constantly making daily, weekly and fortnightly large strategic decisions about the level to which we do what, and what level of service we provide. What I am looking for is, if you like, the powers that be, as much as it is possible, the political consensus, the Home Office, HMICFRS, the Independent Office for Police Conduct and others, to come to a general view about what is a reasonable expectation for the level of service in a variety of different areas as a whole, rather than constantly saying, “You need to be platinum standard in this little thing”, because we cannot be platinum standard in all the little things, I am afraid.

**Len Duvall AM:** What would you see as the catalyst for that debate, then? I think we are, in terms of funding, being driven down a certain road. For me, it works at two bases. Where is the next way of reforms and way of working beyond what you are doing now and changes to policing practice, and what does that mean for the community that we serve? Some of those are choices. Which are you not going to do and which are you going to do? In terms of the politicians, I realise that is a political debate and you are trying to engender a political debate, but I just do not see that quite happening. I think we are political cowards. We may cause problems for the public services in terms of decisions we take, but we are not prepared to start to do some of the difficult issues of answering the questions that you need to go forward on. Therefore, you still need to reform because the nature of the resources that you receive still does not allow you to do – albeit we all say – the complete mission. Where do you think it is going to come from, or do you think we are just going
to chug along? Have you seen some signs that I have not seen that you can point me towards and say, “There is a debate going on there and you need to join in it”? Challenge us to join in it.

**Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis):** Tactically, we are doing it all the time. I do think that. Online-enabled fraud is an example. There will be another debate about that, I am sure, coming up soon. We have probably the best-invested, proportionately, unit in the country. The National Crime Agency (NCA) would say that. I am very pleased with what FALCON (Fraud and Linked Crime Online) does. Action Fraud meets FALCON meets what many people would like. It is not sufficient, and many people will say, I am sure, “You need to be doing more”, and I will probably be resisting that. That is an example.

Strategically, you will have seen the Home Affairs Select Committee. A very strong pitch by my colleague, Lynne Owens [Director-General, NCA], that Sara [Thornton CBE QPM, Chair, National Police Chiefs’ Council] and I understand fully and support, which says that - probably not for today’s very busy political landscape - long-term, the structures of policing do not work very well to meet serious and organised crime, for example, and other national and regional threats. That is not a London debate particularly at all, but if we could build capabilities that could really work for that, they probably would not be force-by-force-by-force. Everyone could see that. Those are two different extremes.

**Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime):** Can I just make a comment about some of those questions and some of the issues around budget and value for money, just really briefly? It is just in terms of your question, Len, about strategically looking at that discussion around resources and service. We are having that discussion, and there have been really significant decisions in the MPS and from City Hall that are part of those discussions: the closure of police stations, Basic Command Unit (BCU) restructuring. Really clearly, yes, about service improvement, but also about saving money and making sure that you are putting your resources into the front line. I do not think we have shied away from that. I do not think the MPS has shied away from that. There are really difficult decisions to be taken, and some of those tough choices are being taken and have been taken through those discussions, engagements and consultations. We have been really clear with the public about what is driving it, the two things that are driving it.

Just on value for money, [Sir] Craig [Mackey QPM] talked about HMICFRS. We have problems with the HMICFRS calculations of value for money and those accusations of the MPS being inefficient compared to other forces because they are not comparing like with like. London is more expensive. It has capital city responsibilities. When you get, “London is better-resourced per head of population” thrown at you, it is just unfair. Anyway, those figures are coming down from about four to three officers per head of population. We have said that to HMICFRS and we say that to the Home Office and the Minister of State for Policing all the time. You have to be really careful about those value for money calculations because they are not comparing like for like or really taking into consideration what is happening in London.

Just on the budget, yes, the Home Secretary has a lot of really good, warm words, but he has to deliver that, and I am really concerned that he is only talking about the CSR, which will land in about two years’ time, where we know numbers are falling and demand is rising. We need some extra resource to the MPS and to all police forces in the run-up to the police funding settlement, otherwise we have two years of incredible stretch, really difficult decisions and demand rising, and that is violence and volume crime as well, across the country.

**Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS):** Chairman, if I may, just quickly, the Deputy Mayor made a really important point where this Committee and the Budget and Performance Committee have had influence. HMICFRS has moved on this area of area cost-adjustment. You will remember we are often quoted as, “The MPS gets three times as much money per”. It is actually not the right figure. HMICFRS and others have moved on that, and that is as a result of both the Assembly Budget and Performance Committee and
others saying, “Look, you are not using the figures in the right way”. We are making progress collectively and I think that is something to behold.

Andrew Dismore AM: Sophie, your figures of four, going down to three, are based on residential population.

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

Andrew Dismore AM: We have to bear in mind that upwards of 100 million people commute into London. Factoring in those at home, we do not get much money for them because they will be paying their taxes in Kent or Hertfordshire or Oxfordshire or Essex or wherever. We are effectively having to police them for free, unlike other cities and places where it is the same area. For example, in Hull, it is part of Humberside, so they have people commuting into Hull from all parts of Humberside but they are still having to pay their taxes towards the police of Humberside.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Yes. We are stating the obvious, but also there is the tourism aspect. The numbers coming into London are clearly not like Hull or other towns. It is right and fair that when a body like the HMICFRS makes a critique, we do take heed and take notice and challenge it on it, and your response is a fair one, too. Thank you for that.

We will move on to the next set of questions, which are around the MPS’s use of technology, particularly around automatic facial recognition. Sian.

Sian Berry AM: Thank you very much. In response to various questions that have been submitted by Members of Parliament (MPs) in Parliament, who are also concerned about automated facial recognition, the Government answers a lot of those questions by saying that the deployment is an operational decision for the police, which is a shame because they are asking factual questions, the kinds that we put in as mayoral questions. We do get answers to those factual questions here, which is good. I wanted to ask you about the wider issues around it as well. You have said that the ethical and legal thinking behind facial recognition and other types of technology needs to develop. Are you comfortable continuing to trial facial recognition without the ethical, legal and procedural dimensions being better defined?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I am very comfortable.

Sian Berry AM: You are very comfortable doing it. Will you be following the recommendations that come out of the Biometrics Commissioner and the London Policing Ethics Panel, which are both looking at this?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes. We welcome the fact that the Ethics Panel, which is obviously a joint panel between the MPS and the Deputy Mayor, I think – or me and the Deputy Mayor – is looking at this area. We anticipate their report will be published shortly. We have been working alongside them as they have been doing their work, obviously. As they have been coming up with their thinking, and sometimes us ahead of them or them ahead of us, we have been implementing recommendations as we go. I am very comfortable that we will be implementing their recommendations. I would be very surprised if we were going to fall out about those. It is a really useful piece of work.

Having given a rather short answer just to start with, I hope the Committee would agree. The world is changing very fast. Facial recognition is a fantastic example. I remember being told 12 years ago, “Facial recognition is just around the corner. It is only a year or 18 months away. It is going to mean you will not be able to use undercover officers, etc, and, and, and”. Here we are and it is being used in certain circumstances in certain parts of the world in very static ways, and three or four years ago. It is now beginning to move really
fast, like all of the rest of technology, and it is getting better and better and better by the minute, and can be potentially combined with other technologies as well. The private sector, good actors, bad actors and police services will want to use this technology, potentially. My comment is that a really useful function for the Home Office, for example, is to make sure that the Government is engaging in thorough debates with the public about the balance between privacy and security in the light of changing technologies. That needs to be done dynamically and quite quickly.

We believe that the public would expect that if there is a technology that we can use lawfully, which we can - this is one - and is available, which we are trialling with massive safeguards, which we are, and all sorts of governance and checks, the notion that that technology might be used in limited circumstances to find, as recently done in the Stratford trial that you know about, to identify against a small list of wanted offenders for serious violence -- I think the public would expect us to be thinking about how we can use that technology and seeing whether it is effective and efficient for us. That is exactly what we are doing.

Sian Berry AM: One thing that is not moving fast is the legal basis for this. The Government’s Biometric Strategy was much delayed and has come out without much forward thinking. The Biometrics Commissioner has said that it does not set out a definitive picture of the future landscape, and described this as short-sighted. The legal basis for it is not particularly clear. You are clear that you ARE comfortable deploying it on Londoners while that is still in flux?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes. I am very comfortable that we are doing the trials. We will get to the end of the trials, and they are genuinely trials, and we are doing the full evaluation after that with independent people, academics, to see how they have worked and whether it is a useful way of doing things, whether it is operationally effective and efficient, “and, and, and”, but there is a considerable amount of legislation around its use. A variety of different parts of the law are relevant. I have a Commander who authorises - which is not necessary, but he does - every deployment, and he runs through a set of questions very like any intrusive activity under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. It is very carefully monitored. The lawyers are, in MPS parlance, all over it and have been from the beginning. Our lawyers, who are very capable, are looking at this all the time, and I am completely comfortable that the activity we are undertaking in the trials is lawful and appropriate.

I am delighted that the Home Office has recently announced that it is going to have an advisory and oversight board, because it is not just the MPS. It is other police services in the country. I am delighted that possibly in the future there will be greater clarity about the roles of the various commissioners, all of whom we have been speaking to and all of whom have an interest in this. I am delighted that people are debating the subject, and it is very important in a liberal democracy that people are debating the subject. I am completely comfortable with what we are doing, and we are going to carry on with the trials.

Sian Berry AM: That is partly what this Committee is for: to debate it.

I just have a couple of factual questions about what happened in Stratford. You mentioned that you trialled it last week. I think the date was 28 June. I have seen the brief report back from Liberty, which was there observing. They say that no correct identifications were made. They report that one person was misidentified, and despite the police quickly realising that he was not the person on the watchlist when he produced his identification, he was still subjected to a search. It is unclear from their report whether or not a human checked the image before action was taken against this person. Can you outline the legal basis for doing this to this person? Why was he searched?
Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I do not know. I cannot tell you the exact detail of that. What I can tell you is that the Superintendent, who has reviewed it, was completely comfortable with what went on. In essence, what we do is we have officers who will be monitoring as soon as there is a suggested identification. They may be back behind or they may be on the scene, if you like. They will then have a quick look at the picture to see whether it looks like it really is, because there is no expectation that this technology will have a 100% correct rate.

Sian Berry AM: We have been promised by the Government as well that that will always happen.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes. They have a quick check and then say whether they think it is appropriate or not to speak to the person. What then follows, follows. It is also perfectly plausible that there is a situation in which somebody will be spoken to for a variety of other circumstances as well during the deployment of this technology. Of course, there is. It is very heavily supervised. It is very carefully done. The Superintendent is completely comfortable with the activity, and I have no reason to doubt what the officers have done at all. I am not expecting and you should not expect - I know you do not, Sian, but for the rest of the Committee - this machine to only pick out people who are definitely wanted. That is not how they work. They work to suggest and then there is a degree of judgment by an officer.

Sian Berry AM: To pick out any people who are wanted in Stratford?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I would have to double-check this, but I believe that in the trials that we have done to date we have had one person detained as a result of this camera. To bring some extra realism into it, these are in controlled circumstances with other operations going on around. For example, the knife arches. You will be familiar, Sian, with the fact that at Stratford we did arrest two people with very large knives during that operation, not as a result of the technology but as one of the tactics and suite of things we were doing. It is a tool. It is a bit like having what we call a ‘super-recogniser’, an officer who is incredibly good at recognising people. Cressida Dick. [Sir] Craig [Mackey QPM]. “I know he is wanted. I saw him on the briefing list this morning.” We have officers who can do that brilliantly well and others who just do not recognise people. It is a tool. It is a tactic. I am not expecting it to result in lots of arrests.

Sian Berry AM: In terms of the cameras used at Stratford, there was a newspaper video in which some of the officers were interviewed on the scene. That seems to suggest that Transport for London’s (TfL) station cameras were being used for this. That is not the case? These were special cameras on a van, as usual, or were you using TfL technology?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I will write back on that, if you do not mind. I have it nearly to hand but not quite.

Sian Berry AM: They may have made a mistake, but it was certainly concerning to see that. I have one more question about working with other police forces. South Wales Police is also doing trials of automated facial recognition. They did this most recently at an event in Swansea called the Biggest Weekend Fringe, and in their press release they said they had three watchlists, one being intelligence-led around organised crime groups linked to music festivals. Did the MPS share any intelligence with the South Wales Police to fulfil that watchlist?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I have no idea at all.
**Sian Berry AM:** That is OK. Can we get the answer to that question in writing, please?

Finally, where else are you going to use it? I believe you are going to use it six more times this year.

**Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis):** My note tells me we have five more trials to follow. Another point for the wider Committee is we deploy very overtly, so there is a great deal of awareness that we are there with the technology, and we will be doing an overt deployment in Stratford towards the end of this month, which, as you know, has been one of our highest hotspots for violent crime, sadly, not so much the Westfield side but the other side of the road in the shopping centre there and immediately around there. As a transport hub it is, I am afraid, a real hotspot.

**Sian Berry AM:** Thank you, Chairman. We will continue to scrutinise this.

**Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman):** Thank you for that. It is right that the questions are asked. Of course, London’s public will expect you to properly use any technology that is evolving legally and correctly, and we need to look at that.

The next set of questions are around counter-terrorism. The threat remains at “severe”. Caroline, do you want to lead them?

**Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM:** Yes. Thank you very much. As the Chairman said, it is at “severe” rating at the moment and it is likely to continue. I think, Commissioner, you recently said that counter-terrorism is one of the areas of policing that you have most confidence in, so I am just wondering what you think are the current and future challenges in this particular area.

**Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis):** I was answering a question about the capabilities of the police in terms of my confidence in those, and I said it might be counterintuitive, given that it is such a dreadful crime and we do face a severe threat. I do think the capability is in very, very good shape. You are right to say we are at “severe” and we anticipate that we will continue to be so. We are as busy as we have been. We have a large amount of threat and risk in London, as you know, and the tempo of our investigations continues to be very high indeed.

The last financial year resulted in arrests at a record level in terms of terrorist arrests: 441. That is nationally. A very high proportion of those were London ones. You will have seen some of the trials that have either recently come to a conclusion or indeed are currently going on. I will not comment on those. Suffice it to say the ones that are concluded do give you a feel for the very diverse nature of the lethal plots that we have faced and disrupted, together with some of the background issues.

In terms of disruptions since the Westminster attack in March last year, overall 13 Islamist-related attacks have been foiled. That is one up from the last time we put figures out publicly, which is why I mention it. Thirteen lethal attacks disrupted, as well as the five ghastly attacks we suffered nationally.

The biggest challenge, given that level of activity and demand - and as ever the terrorist threat continues to morph and change, both in terms of the practical tactics people will use and the way in which they communicate and so forth - is we do recognise that we will need continued, sustained investment. That does need to be across the system. People think about the counter-terrorist funding and the counter-terrorist police, but we depend entirely on the wider MPS for our counter-terrorist effort, and indeed we depend very frequently on the efforts of the police services around the country that have their own funding challenges. We are doing that, as we say, against the background challenges.
In terms of the changing threat, you will be aware that we are seeing more right wing, extremist-inspired plots being disrupted - four recently - and we have a number of trials in relation to that. You will know that we have had the proscription of initially the group National Action and then some spin-off groups with different names. We continue to be thinking about overseas, online and at home, and, as ever, Prevent has since 2005 - I have said it before - been in many respects the most important and in many respects the most difficult of the four pillars of the CONTEST Strategy. Government has just reissued a revitalised Prevent and indeed whole CONTEST Strategy and we fully support what is in there.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK. Given the increased threat that you have described and people coming from overseas, and seeing some of the recent court cases, and the fact that the Government has put out this revised CONTEST Strategy, do you think that is going to put further pressure on the resources, and what conversations are you having with Government and also, I guess, security services about how you manage this?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): You will remember that the three main areas of focus in the reviews that were done after the attacks last year, assured by David Anderson [QC former Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation] and which came out in his report, were about better use of technology and in particular data and analytics across the system, led of course by the agencies in that instance. Secondly, the domestic extremism, the extreme right wing and how we better understood the threat from that, and thirdly, the local work that would be required to improve our understanding of the risk posed by individuals and be able to manage risk posed by individuals in a truly multi-agency way. That last one, which is currently being trialled, does inevitably require along the way further investment. It is complex and it is demanding, not just on us but on other local bodies, potentially, and we are most certainly discussing that with the Government.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: That includes local authorities and other organisations that have an important role in this field?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Absolutely, yes.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: OK. You have said that you would like to do more work around Prevent. What is it that you would like the MPS to be doing more of, and how easily are you going to be able to deliver that, given the resource pressures you have described?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): We have been doing this for a long time and we have got better and better, but nationally there is still more to do. We have just implemented a new case management system. There is more to do to make sure that we are really tailoring the interventions to the individual and there is more to do to make sure that the partnerships across Prevent - which obviously involve a variety of bodies, not least the interest that is shown by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor - are really, really joined up, even further than we have been in the past.

In this new way of working, I think we will be dealing probably with more individuals. There is a greater focus on people who were once of interest to the agencies but do not appear to be now active five or ten years on. They may pop back up, but it may not be appropriate at all for them to be investigated. They just need some support. Likewise, I think we will be identifying more young people, potentially, or new people coming into the system, who need a multi-agency effort to try to safeguard and protect them. We are seeing more young people getting engaged. We have seen some of the trials recently involving young women. We are learning as we go.
We also learn as much as we can internationally. I have met myself, twice recently, chiefs from other countries to talk about, amongst other things, Prevent. I do not think there is a lot that we are not doing, that we should be doing, that other people are doing. It is a very difficult challenge.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you very much.

Andrew Dismore AM: Perhaps I could pick up just where you have left off, because what I am concerned about is the impact of Brexit on our counter-terrorism work. I think it was about a year ago that I asked [Sir] Craig [Mackey QPM] about this. I may be right about this, but I will have to check. I think, Craig, you indicated that you were concerned about our ability to access information-sharing across the piece, Frontex, Europol and so forth, the impact of perhaps not having the European arrest warrant anymore, which we know is useful, after the 21 July [2005] incidents. I was wondering if there had been any progress in terms of trying to achieve an agreement with our European Union (EU) partners on policing and security, because obviously, from what we can make out, from what is in the public domain, there has been very little progress on this.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Andrew, I am afraid you are not asking the right people. We are not involved in negotiations and we are obviously not part of the Government. What we have done is to lay out what we think is important, what we believe we need - and it is quite hard to plan for all the different scenarios - and might replace in some way or some form the current measures if they are not available to us after the withdrawal. We have begun to try to understand more about how those would work and at what cost.

My colleague, Richard Martin [Deputy Assistant Commissioner (DAC), MPS], has been very clear that in terms of crime we are big users of a lot of the instruments. We are big contributors to Europol. We have, of course, this wonderful, diverse population in London, including lots of assistance from other European countries, and it is likely that if we are unable to access the same things in the same way as we do now, any replacement system will be, to coin a phrase, clunkier, clumsier and more expensive. It is important for us, we believe, in keeping London safe to be able to have these accesses. We fully understand that this has, it appears, become an important part of negotiating between the various parties, which is nothing to do with us.

Andrew Dismore AM: Could I ask about those three things you mentioned, just to finish this first? Less safe would be another thing, from what you have just said as well, should there not be an agreement on these things? You gave a list of some of the things you have put forward to Government. Perhaps you could indicate what some of those things are that you think we need.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I think we have covered this before probably, Chairman, but you have mentioned some of them already. We are very big users of what used to be the Joint Investigation Teams. We use them more than any other country. We in London use them hugely. We have enjoyed sitting on the board of Europol and helping to take it forward into the future, and we have 40-something United Kingdom (UK) subject matter experts at Europol at the moment. We use the arrest warrant - I could give you the figures - a huge amount. All these things are reciprocal. We believe that other European countries have very much benefited from our involvement, not least of course in terms of countering terrorism. Although the agencies deal in slightly different legal frameworks and with slightly different ways of working, they do depend on the police often, and I know - you saw probably what Jeremy [Fleming, Director] from Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) said recently - that they obviously have concerns about the future. They would want us to have as much as possible the same sort of access as we do now, whatever the frameworks in the future. We have I think been very good and productive and capable users of these instruments. We will work with whatever we get in the future. Of course we will.
Andrew Dismore AM: Sophie, you wanted to come in.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes. The thought of not being able to use the information-sharing or being in Europol, the European arrest warrant, is incredibly worrying. The Mayor has, as you know, set out the ‘six red lines’ around Brexit, around the information-sharing, Prüm, and the European arrest warrant. The Mayor and I have been to see [The Rt Hon] David Davis (MP, Secretary of State for Exiting the EU) to lobby him and to really express our concerns around the negotiations, that it does feel that they are getting very far at the moment because it seems to be a real issue in terms of Europe. They are using that. It is incredibly concerning.

When the Commissioner talks about it being a little bit clunkier, what that will mean, at the moment, rightly, officers can interrogate databases when they come across individuals. It will mean they have to ring up, one by one. That is a lot clunkier when you think about the thousands of times it is being used. Security is really at threat around Brexit unless they really get to the point of making a deal and keeping us in all these arrangements.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): OK, thank you. Obviously, it is absolutely right that the Committee, whichever one deals with Brexit, takes an interest in this to ensure that Londoners are safe, and we will be watching this as it evolves.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I should probably say, Chairman - sorry, I know you want to move on - meanwhile, we are still engaged probably more than ever in excellent bilateral engagements with all our European colleagues. I myself have met with many recently, and they are in no doubt that whatever the structures afterwards, we of course need legal frameworks, we of course from our point of view want as much as possible, and they would as well, but whatever happens, the collaborative co-working between our agencies will continue.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Thank you for that reassurance. I think that is most helpful.

The next set of questions are around BCUs, Borough Operational Command Unit (BOCU) mergers, which obviously we have been very exercised about, and we will continue to be so. It talks about the roll-out being live by 2019, but for those of us that are out there on the ground it feels like an organic roll-out already, and I think we know that. However, we have some questions around the latest BOCU roll-out. Andrew, I think this is you.

Andrew Dismore AM: Thank you, yes. Roll-outs are going on, and obviously I am from the Pathfinders in Camden and Islington, and now we have the Barnet, Brent and Harrow one coming through as well. One of the things I am concerned about is the use of response officers to do so-called low-level crime. The sanction detection rate in the merged boroughs seems to be significantly down compared to the rest of the MPS. Is that as a consequence of the response officers being in charge of these investigations?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I do not think you can say it as clearly as that in terms of doing it. If I look at the two boroughs that have just recently gone live, one sanction detection rate has gone slightly up and one has gone slightly down. There are a couple of bits across sanction detection rates on it, but it has had a change going to My Investigation. It is worth remembering why we did My Investigation. It is absolutely clear that it is a long-term thing about skilling up the front-line workforce to carry out investigations, and also, particularly from the public’s point of view, reducing handovers. You will remember one of the issues when we looked at this was quite strong feedback, also internally in the organisation but particularly from the public, around an officer coming and then someone else does the next
day, someone else does the next day, so this keeps ownership where it sits in terms of the front line. We have spoken before here about sanction detections. There is a whole range of work around lifting detections and sanction detection rates across the piece. We are absolutely alive to that. It is part of the dashboard as we go live that we monitor. In the second tranche of boroughs that have gone out, that is absolutely one of the points we are looking at.

Andrew Dismore AM: You mentioned the fact that they need to train up the response officers to do this work. Is it a bit “cart before the horse”? Are you putting the mergers in place before the officers have been trained?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): No. The training has been rolled out in a number of boroughs, and a number have gone live before they go to the new BCUs. If you look at a number of the boroughs, the My Investigation piece has been coming for about the last two years. A number of the boroughs have already done this before they go to the new BCU models.

Andrew Dismore AM: Public confidence rates in the merged boroughs seem to be dropping below what they were before. How do you explain that?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): You will remember from the first wave of boroughs that one of the issues we looked at was response times in terms of doing it, and particularly in the east area. You will remember early on we had some challenges around response times. We have kept a very close eye on what is happening with response times.

To some extent, the confidence rates are also a factor of the culmination of changes that are taking place at one time. We are very alive to it. We are doing quite a bit of work around this at the moment, and it is not uniform across the BCUs as they go live.

Andrew Dismore AM: The victim satisfaction rate in the pathfinders has dropped 12%, compared to 6% across the MPS as a whole.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Sorry, I thought you were asking me about confidence rates.

Andrew Dismore AM: I was, and now I am moving on to this.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): You have gone on to victim satisfaction. You have to be really clear: satisfaction and confidence are two very, very different things and they are being driven in quite different ways. There is a whole --

Andrew Dismore AM: I am going to come to victim confidence.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): There is a completely different range of work going on around victim confidence. Some of the work is going on with the Victims’ Commissioner and elsewhere in terms of the work we do around victim confidence, and some of that will be around things like detections and outcomes at court, but it will also be wider things like follow-up, clarity of messages and information, and clarity around outcomes. I am just being quite pedantic but they are two very, very different things being driven by quite different activities.
Andrew Dismore AM: They were two different questions, and I am sorry if I did not make it clear that I was asking a separate question. When do you think public satisfaction on the one hand and victim satisfaction on the other will improve?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I think public satisfaction will start to move, and you are starting to see that in some of the boroughs. It feeds into some of the earlier questions that you asked around this wider stretch on policing. If the constant debate around policing is that policing is under stretch and it is under pressure, and the expectation of other partners who step off the field, then you could see further impact on satisfaction around policing as people’s expectations of services rise and our ability to deliver them becomes limited. I think you will start to see some of the stuff around victim confidence move as both My Investigation beds in and these changes bed in.

Andrew Dismore AM: Is part of this the availability of the senior officers to the public as well? I can contrast that with what is going on in Barnet, Brent and Harrow in that the new Borough Commander, who is from Barnet, has been very good about communicating all the change, all the time, with the numbers and everything, with the very wide circulation, and I think that helps compared to Camden and Islington, where that is not happening. In fact, I have still not met the new BCU Commander in Camden and Islington, months and months on. I think we have finally got a meeting organised for later this month. We do not seem to get much contact.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): It is interesting. I spend most weekends with someone telling me they do not get contact with the Borough Commander, and usually, when I look back at the list, very many people from local partners, local MPs, have had some contact. They might miss people. They might not catch everyone. If you look in terms of the roll-outs - let us take the south west, somewhere like that, in terms of doing it - the relative noise we saw internally and externally with the roll-out of this second wave has been far less than we had for the first one.

On the lessons learned, we were really clear. We said a number of times here that we would take the lessons from Camden and Islington and the lessons from east area and we would transfer them into these. The noise in sessions internally is much, much different in terms of people understanding, aside from one or two technical glitches. Some people said, “Internally, so what has changed?” It was that smooth in terms of some of the things that it has done. Those are the lessons learned in terms of doing it. There is a real message around how people manage stakeholders and how people do things.

When critical incidents and difficult incidents happen, I absolutely get the clamour for everybody to want information from Government Ministers all the way down to the person on the street corner, and we do not always get that right.

Andrew Dismore AM: It is not necessarily critical incidents. It is just generally knowing what is going on in terms of the change programme.

Could I also ask about abstractions? In Camden there was - I think this may have stopped now - a move to abstract from the Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) for the [London] Knife Crime Strategy, and they were taken off the wards to join in that effort. We obviously have to do the [London] Knife Crime Strategy, but my understanding was that the DWOs were going to be abstracted for very specific purposes.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Camden’s Central North (CN) abstraction rate for May was 7.6%. All the abstraction rates across the DWOs are coming down, and I know - I think it is 16 or 18 July [2018] - you have a session with Mark Simmons [DAC, MPS] looking in detail at some of this. The
expectation has been quite clear. For some of the big events that the Commissioner covered at the start for the next week coming up, DWOs will be abstracted to support some of those.

Andrew Dismore AM: That is what I was going to come on to next, which is the “important overseas politician”, as the Commissioner described it, [United States (US)] President [Donald] Trump. I am just going to ask a little bit about that, not so much what you are going to do about it, but my understanding is, as you say, DWOs are going to be abstracted for that. The rest of the MPS are going on 12-hour shifts. Is that right?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Andrew Dismore AM: For how long will those continue, the 12-hour shifts?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): As long as we need that level of resilience, depending on the final plans of the operation. Those things will always be fluid right up to it. Quite frankly, I would expect DWOs --. We were always very clear that there will always be exceptions. If a visiting head of state is not one of those exceptions, I genuinely do not --

Andrew Dismore AM: I think I can see that in relation to President Trump. Following on from that, what mutual aid are we getting from other forces towards the Trump visit?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): We are not asking for anything at the moment. We are working very closely with other forces. The plans remain extremely fluid, and we are working closely with Sara Thornton, the National Police Chiefs’ Council lead, and her team. If Mr Trump goes outside London, you will be aware that the MPS has responsibility for protection of such a visiting dignitary, but local forces will be dealing with other matters, including wider security and potentially - who knows - protest. We are working really close with others, but, to answer your question, at the moment we are not asking for any assistance.

Andrew Dismore AM: OK. As we are responsible for President Trump wherever he happens to go, are we going to get any more funding in the National, International and Capital City (NICC) grant towards the cost of this operation? I understand from news reports that Scotland is going to be paid for by the Government insofar as policing the Trump visit - should he end up in Scotland - is concerned. Are we going to get the same?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I do not think we should comment on Scotland. I do not know what is happening with Scotland, and I would not, but what I can say is we are in very co-operative conversations with the Home Office about the requirements so they understand why we are doing what we are doing, what we think we may have to do, and indeed what that will cost. I anticipate that we will be able to put in a very sensible bid, and I look forward to the result.

Andrew Dismore AM: What do you estimate the cost of it is going to be?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Do you know what? I am not going to say off the top of my head today. This is not unique to this President. You may remember that when Mr [Barack] Obama [former President of the US] came once, he arrived 14 hours early because of the cloud over Iceland. It is a very dynamic operation. It always is. We do our best to place well ahead, to have all the contingencies, but it can be a great deal more or usually a great deal less than we our original estimates, so I am not going to give a figure.
Andrew Dismore AM: I do not recall many protests about President Obama coming. I expect there will be --

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): It is a different set of challenges, yes. Each person brings different challenges. Mr [Narendra] Modi [President of India], Mr [Recep Tayyip] Erdoğan [President of Turkey], all sorts of people bring different challenges.

Andrew Dismore AM: Sophie, can you add to anything about what is going on in relation to financing it?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The process is that we would put in a process of special grant, and you would expect that to be honoured by the Home Office. That is in cooperation with the MPS, which is how much they actually spend after the event. Those discussions are ongoing. We are having discussions with the Home Office as well about it. We expect to have the special grant application, and we would want that to be honoured.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): We have a very good working relationship with the Home Office on these sorts of things. You will have seen the way that the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) thing was dealt with. Our finance people and MOPAC and the Home Office have a very, very co-operative understanding about how we cost what. I do not expect this to be a difficult process.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): I will bring in a couple of people just now. Now the Trumpian Pandora’s box has been opened by Andrew, there are a couple of people who want to ask questions around that. My contribution would be that I think it would be absolutely right for Government to support the MPS in policing any such event. If needs be, I would be minded to write to Government along those lines. It is different from Obama because no doubt many thousands of enlightened people will be going out on the streets on that day, but I do not include myself in that description.

Andrew Dismore AM: I will include myself, though.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Of course, yes.

Tony Arbour AM: When we have had previous visits from American presidents there has been lots of controversy about the armed entourage which the American President brings with him and the demands that they make over the measures that they take for protecting their own head of state. Can I ask what discussions have taken place in relation to this? In other words, for example, is President Trump expected to bring -- I nearly said “a small army with him”. Is he expected to bring very many more people in relation to what is said to be an increased security risk to the President here compared with previous presidents? Have we any idea of the quantum of American security armed people who presumably will have some powers, who are going to accompany the President?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): You are right, Tony, to say there is always controversy. Frankly, all the controversy in my view, historically, has been by commentators having arguments who do not know what they are talking about, because we do not comment on the details.

Tony Arbour AM: That is a very nice way of putting me down.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Nor will we. We will never comment on the details of how any visiting head of state is protected, how many people they bring, how many people we bring, what the tactics are, for the most obvious of reasons. You will also be aware that when an
American president comes it is always a larger entourage of various different sorts and a large security operation, and that is of course the way of it this time as well. We have an excellent working relationship with our American colleagues in the various agencies, not least the Secret Service, who we have been talking to for a long time, and of course everybody from the embassy.

Tony Arbour AM: As I recall, the principal controversy the last time was who actually had the last word. Was it you, ie the MPS, or was it the security detail who brought the President, who were accompanying the President, who would decide what would happen? Who is in charge, in other words?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I am baffled by this. We have protected so many heads of state in my time, I cannot tell you. We have excellent working relationships. We work our way through different approaches, different ideas, different tactics and different scenarios. We are very open with our colleagues wherever they may come from and always are. We work closely with the Foreign Office and the Home Office on this because there are certain rules about people’s entitlements. For example, for a visiting head of state, of course, we have a duty under the Vienna Convention and for other people we do not in the same way. It is a perfectly good working relationship. At the end of the day, the President is here and we are protecting him. I am very comfortable that my people are in charge of what we need to be in charge of.

Len Duvall AM: In terms of lessons learned and the roll-out of this programme, do you think we sufficiently have, in terms of inside the MPS, an understanding that it is not bolt-on but new ways of working within the resources you have?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Can you just explain?

Len Duvall AM: Is it bolt-on or is it new ways of working - do you know what I mean - that we are trying to develop in terms of the overall reform of a BCU?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): It is a completely new way of working --

Len Duvall AM: It is. Do you need to understand that inside the MPS, do you think, at every level?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Gosh, I could not give you that 100%. Absolutely, it is one of the challenges. You and I have spoken about this a number of times. People look at these things sometimes as structural and the real challenge is actually business change, for want of a better term. You are right. We are getting better at that and you see that with these two that went live in the last four or five weeks. People are getting that this is quite a different way of working and we are starting to see that. We are also starting to see some excitement when people realise, “Actually, I can do this a bit differently”, particularly in some of the areas around the protection world, and by that I mean child protection and those things. People do see that as quite an exciting way of doing it.

Does everybody get that yet? No, of course they do not, but there are different stages in the roll-out of the pilot. There is a lot of talk and a lot of conversation in the organisation. A lot of those meetings with senior leaders are all about how this is a completely different way of working.

What has helped with it are some of the technology changes that come with it because they make it clear that this is not just business-as-usual and we are just redrawing the lines on the maps. That will become even more apparent when later on, at the tail end of this year and the beginning of next year, we start to roll out the
replacements of the core business system. Intelligence, custody and crime reporting will all change over the next 12 to 18 months.

**Len Duvall AM:** Custody will revert back to BCU management?

**Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS):** No, custody as in the basic system they book you in. That is a very old system, yes.

**Len Duvall AM:** OK. My colleague is going to talk about safeguarding and so I do not want to take any thunder away from her when she raises that, but you raised a very important issue. One of the potential benefits that could be realised in terms of this new way of working is about some of those crimes that are investigated by the various units that we have. On domestic violence, can you give us some examples of how this is working? Say robberies that are not with the independent response officer; presumably, if they are cluster robberies, I presume they get pushed up if more than one police officer is dealing with it.

How does that work? Is that working across the BCU or is that working in an area? I will not refer to “boroughs” because I do not want to go back to the terminology about that. How is that particular aspect shaping up?

**Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS):** Robberies are a really good example. Some quite straightforward robberies could stay as an investigation by an individual officer. However, you will remember one of the things - and we have spoken about it a lot - is the pressure that were on what we used to call borough criminal investigation departments (CIDs) or general CID office departments. We spoke about how in the previous world they were swamped. You could not get people to go in there. Workloads were very high.

One of the things that the work around my investigation and the redesigning of that whole process has done is to try to create some headroom and space to allow the CID, the investigative strand of the new model, to actually have the time and space to do those investigations. Those more complex ones, those ones where there is a series, would go into a CID. It may be the CID is in the same building that you used to call a borough or it may not be depending on the geography and layout, but that is why we put the strands in that way.

**Len Duvall AM:** Who is holding the ring, then? If I am a police officer dealing with a robbery, I might not see the wider picture of a number of robberies going on. We do not have any crime analysts or are you going to tell me we have now? Who is going to pick that up and where is that picked up and how quickly is that picked up for the CID capacity to say, “Actually, there is something wider here going on. This is not just for the response to deal with. I need a different strategy or tactic”? Who is holding that ring?

**Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS):** There is a daily rhythm as to how the BCU runs where there is a meeting - that often when we are out in the BCU we will go to and look at - that looks at all the crimes reported that day and what the intelligence is. That is how those links are made through that process. There is a whole range of other processes with an intelligence function, and we can talk a little bit if you want to about some of the investment that is going into looking at what we need for analysts there. There is a meeting next Tuesday in relation to that and to look at that. That daily function meets a number of times a day and looks at what is going on and whether it is linked up. It has all the assets in the room: the Detective Inspector from the CID is there, the person leading on missing people is there, the person who is dealing with a public order or violent crime tasking is there. That is where that very live focus takes place at a BCU level. That is then replicated - and you would have seen some of it at Lambeth if you were there at the time - through calls that take place across the MPS to ensure that that is replicated across the system and we know what the load is on the system.
Len Duvall AM: Finally, and bringing this back to probably new technology, predictive pilots --

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Policing, yes.

Len Duvall AM: -- policing, you had a number of pilots in the MPS of different schemes?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Len Duvall AM: Have we come down on one particular scheme now? Is that tool now available for these new BCUs? Are they using it? Is it delivering results or is it too early on that? Where has it got to?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We have not bought a particular predictive product at the moment. We do have all the predictive mapping from the work we have done on that. If you go on to an intranet page, a briefing page for a BCU at random, you can look at it and you can work out the predictive policing areas. All the mapping is there for a very small area of the geography that will work around burglary, robbery, etc. You will remember some of the work we did with the predictive policing pilots. They are better with property crime and there is a much stronger correlation between patrolling particular areas with property crime than there is per se with violent crime. One of the debates we are having is whether we look in the future at one of those products.

One of the spin-offs, just to continue on the technology theme, we have spoken a lot around this new joint system - we call it the Met Integrated Policing System (MiPS) - that is coming. That has a lot of predictive technology and the ability to do self-analysis as part of the package.

Len Duvall AM: Just to be clear, in terms of the focus on the CID capacity, we know the problems and we are trying to deal with the issues of shortages and where it is and using those. How do we guard against the drivers of crime without taking our eye off others? If I have a whole spate of robberies, do I bung the entire CID capacity to deal with that, including taking people off issues dealing with domestic violence or hate crimes, because I need to focus on that because you guys at the centre are telling me to focus on that or what? Where do we get some common-sense policing around priorities and issues?

One of the things that you could have said about the MPS is that it is great, but when we get focused in on one issue, we chuck everything at that issue at the expense of other issues. How do you manage that? What assurances can we give to our leaders at the local level that they are managing it across the piece that they have to do?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): That is a fair observation. I would have said in the past there have been challenges with that. We would call it running to one side of the ship then the other. That is actually quite an easy way for an organisation to solve problems. It is not a very long-term way of doing it.

Part of this is - and you and I have spoken about this a number of times - how your performance management process works right across the organisation. We are very clear in the analysis that we talked to about BCUs that we do not ever talk about just one thing. There might be a focus for that meeting or that day in terms of doing it. Of course, your performance management focus meets with what I call the daily rhythm of how the organisation runs. There might be a day where it is entirely appropriate. If you have a BCU that has gone way out of kilter on a series of robberies overnight, then of course that will affect the tasking that day. However,
over the week, over the month, over the longer term, they are going to be asked about a whole range of things that sit in their priorities that are both local priorities for them and also force-wide ones around violence.

Len Duvall AM: Thank you.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I just wanted to pick up the Redbridge area pilot on borough mergers. I have had some concerns raised about safeguarding and people slipping through the gaps between the new structures. Really, I wanted to get an update on that pathfinder as to how safeguarding is performing in that particular borough merger and also what assessment you have made of the west and south west borough mergers in terms of the area of safeguarding.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I think that is old information. You were right: that was a challenge. I cannot give you facts and figures. My understanding is that things have moved on a long way there and that partners are very comfortable and the BCU as well are very comfortable with the way the safeguarding is going on both the original pathfinders.

It is very early days for the south west to be looking at any kind of results, but [Sir] Craig [Mackey QPM] was answering questions earlier on. I have to say that I am absolutely delighted with the way the next tranche has landed, if you like, in every aspect. Yes, there are things we have had to tighten up and, yes, there are things we have had to change slightly, but overall the effort and the learning from the other pathfinders and the effort in the planning before the delivery and then going live has gone really well, with great leadership from the two BCU Commanders.

I am expecting safeguarding in south west to be in the same basket, but I will come back to you, Caroline.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It would be helpful if we could just get something in further correspondence on that.

Could I just ask the Deputy Mayor? The Mayor has said he remains concerned about the pace of progress in improving child protection investigation cases. The borough mergers is a big change in this process. What assessment are you making, whether it is through your London Child Protection Oversight Group, on the rate of progress with this impact of borough mergers?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I chair the monthly Oversight Group for Child Protection and one of the things I have asked to come back to the next meeting is - we have the overall rates and the overall figures - to look at, for example, the case reviews and what they are showing. At the last meeting I asked for that to be analysed further to look at what that shows for the pathfinder areas and whether we can see impact because of the changes in safeguarding in the pathfinder areas and can see that improvement. The next meeting I have is probably next week and so I am expecting that to come back because - you are right - the change in structures around the BCUs is one of the things that should be making an improvement in the delivery of the improvements and the need for an HMICFRS report.

Just on the east pathfinder, I spoke to the Chair of Safeguarding in Redbridge at the time and it must have been over a year ago now that there were real, genuine concerns. Rightly, they were concerned because Redbridge at that time had an extremely good Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (Ofsted) report and they were concerned. Actually, some of the learnings that came out of the evaluation were about making sure that we included the safeguarding boards and had that preparation. That is why the changes for south west and west have been a lot smoother, but it is something that we are continually monitoring as well.
Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: It was still coming up earlier this year from councillors in the borough. There was a feeling that that was one of the weaknesses.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Hopefully, you will be able to take some external comfort. HMICFRS will publish soon the Crime Data Integrity Inspection and the MPS has done well. The MPS has a “good”, which is extraordinary for an organisation of our size, given the complexity.

However, one of the comments in there that the inspectors picked up is that officers are spotting the safeguarding issues and they are identifying and flagging them. In the nicest way, that is not us saying it; that is someone else saying it. There has been some real progress in that space.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: We will get a further HMICFRS report on child protection later this year.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: The information you talked about, would you be able to share that with the Committee? That would be very interesting if you have an analysis there of the impact of borough mergers.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, we can. It is also one of the areas that I look at, as was discussed when we met with DAC Mark Simmons, in that regular monthly meeting that I have with [Assistant Commissioner] Martin Hewitt QPM and [DAC] Mark Simmons, who are in charge and are operationally much closer to the detail. Safeguarding is one of the areas that I look at in relation to whether they are attending the meetings within 24 hours, which was one of the concerns and the criticisms in the HMIC report. It is certainly something not just for the pathfinders but across that we are looking at.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): We will add that to the exchange of correspondence about that. The Committee will continue to return to it. The only point I will make, [Sir] Craig [Mackey QPM], is about the visibility of senior leaders. It was touched upon earlier. With the reduction of Chief Superintendents across the boroughs at this time of reassurance, it is important that the communities and partners are seeing those senior leaders that remain, shall we say, on their patch. All right.

The next item is tackling violent crime, which is the subject of the report that the Committee is formulating at the moment, and this is partly to reflect on the Commissioner’s comments about seeing some stabilisation. Tony, you are leading on this.

Tony Arbour AM: It is precisely that, Commissioner. Is there indeed some stabilisation and does stabilisation actually mean reduction?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): “Stabilisation” is still the right word. If you go back to 2012, you will see the U curve came down and then, in 2014, it started to come up in many categories of violent crime. You will remember also of course that the increases in the MPS are less than countrywide in the main. However, recently, if you saw that chart, you would see it beginning to plateau over the last few months. I will run through a couple of categories to say what has happened most recently.

For example, knife injury victims under 25, which is something that we track very carefully, has had a reduction. June was 22% less than May [2018]. Of course, they do float about quite a bit, but it is a 27%
reduction on June 2017 and so that is a reduction. Frankly, when I see that in the context of everything else and of course the real concern -- I would not want to say that that is the way it is now going. We are seeing a stabilisation over the last 12 months as a whole in that category. We have seen a tiny increase overall year-on-year of 1%. Knife crime overall is also stable. That is the best way to describe it. There was a tiny reduction between May and June and again less than in June last year.

You will be aware of, probably, the homicide figures, broadly speaking, where we had considerable concern of course earlier in the year about the numbers, in particular February and March [2018]. These are always small numbers relatively speaking and so they can fluctuate for all sorts of reasons, but in January [2018] we had ten including some ghastly homicides with high-profile young people killed, 18 in February, 16 in March, 14 in April, 13 in May and 8 in June [2018]. I hope that that figure is continuing to come down, but of course it is small numbers and I cannot say that we are doing more than stabilising.

I did lay out, as I said, that this was a very high priority, all of violent crime. When I arrived, I highlighted street crime - knife crime and gun crime within that - and it remains so. We have had a very challenging year, as you know. What is very encouraging to me is the fact that now we have shown, for example, in moped crime how we can really, as of July last year, make significant reductions in the volume and, secondly, the fact - more important strategically - that so many people are now prioritising this as an issue. It is obviously very high up the new Home Secretary’s agenda, as it was the last’s, and the Mayor, local authority chief executives and leaders. I could go on. Sophie [Linden] can say more about this, but this is very important because we, the police, alone cannot solve this problem. Thank you for coming to see some of the great work that is going on and the fantastic focus and effort and innovation of the officers that are engaged, who are terribly tremendously concerned to stop young people being stabbed and shot in particular. We cannot do this by ourselves and so it is great that other people are coming behind and talking about the longer-term measures and what they can do to assist.

Tony Arbour AM: You have talked about not being able to do it on your own, but, on the assumption that it is stabilising, to what do you attribute that?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): It is always hard to be definitive, of course, but throughout last year we were upping and upping the amount of both uniformed overt and covert effort against this challenge. We upped that again very considerably in February and March [2017] last year and of course we now have the extra funding from the Mayor to allow us to invest further in that.

The Violent Crime Task Force itself has been extraordinarily active. You have seen some of this, but in April to June [2018] alone over 7,000 weapon sweeps, over 6,000 stop-and-searches, over 100 firearms recovered, many hundreds of knives recovered. I could go on. The presence, the activity, the focusing on the most dangerous and more help from the public has contributed to this.

Tony Arbour AM: In effect, you are saying that because you have put in more effort and more resources, you are stabilising the problem. Are you therefore saying, to extend the proposition that you are making, that if you put even more police personnel into dealing with violent crime, it would reduce the amount of violent crime?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Again, I cannot be definitive, Tony, because the causes are many and varied and complex and there are all sorts of social trends going on here which are not within the purview even, let alone the control, of the police, but --
Tony Arbour AM: I asked this particularly. I do not know if you have read the minutes of the last meeting, but I had a small spat with the Deputy Mayor over this.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I am afraid I missed that.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I have forgotten, Tony.

Tony Arbour AM: She quoted you as saying - and it was for the first time that it had ever been said - that there was a link between cutting the expenditure and the increase in violent crime. I am saying the Deputy Mayor quoted you as saying that, but I did note that in your response when I asked you to what you attributed this, you did say, “It is because more money is being spent on tackling the matter”.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I said we have put more resources in, absolutely, and more focus. Individuals who were working only an eight-hour day are now working a 12-hour day. Individuals who were working on one thing are now totally focused or even more focused on violent crime. Absolutely, there is a resource change and we have had to rob Peter to pay Paul to put people into the Violent Crime Task Force. My comment in the past was that one would be naïve, looking across the country, to say that funding - and I meant across all our systems, including policing - has not had an impact. It is just very complex, of course.

Tony Arbour AM: Of course it is very complex. I was at the meeting, as was the Deputy Mayor, last week in the Friends House in Euston, where Assistant Commissioner [Martin] Hewitt QPM talked about violent crime becoming feral. I was pleased to hear him say that because a lot of people believe that to be so. Firstly, do you agree with him?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): It is a very strong word.

Tony Arbour AM: That is why I repeat it.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Some of the behaviours that we see on occasion by young people - who appear to be, if you like, in the moment completely out of control and enjoying, it appears, extraordinary levels of violence and taking excitement and joy out of that - many people would describe as ‘feral’. I do not want, however, to suggest that there are hundreds and hundreds of wild gangs of young children running around London like some ghastly science-fiction film. It is not like that, but the behaviours in the moment are wild, and that is what ‘feral’ means.

Tony Arbour AM: Can that possibly be affected by the amount of resources which the police receive, this growth in feral crime?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Yes, it could.

Tony Arbour AM: Really? Would you explain why? The example which Mr Hewitt gave was, for example, with stabbings and the way you put it - the actions of the moment - people are being stabbed a dozen times and they might have been stabbed only once before or something that like. They are getting pleasure out of that. How can that possibly be linked with public expenditure?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): That is not exactly the question you just asked me and we may agree violently here, but in essence we are seeing different behaviours from some young people in certain circumstances. We absolutely are. It is very worrying because we are seeing
more extreme violence when, in other circumstances, other times, other days, other people, it would appear more likely to be just a quick slash. It is now lots and lots of ghastly stabbing actions, which are incredibly dangerous and result in horrendous injuries, frequently. That is what we are seeing. That of itself as a phenomenon is not encouraged, of course, by policing in any way or affected directly by funding, but policing, intervening with young people, arresting young people and getting them into other agencies is an important part of deterrence, potentially education and all sorts of other things in terms of young people. We have a part to play in stopping young people becoming like that and getting people into safeguarding. There is an indirect link, but I am obviously not suggesting that is the reason somebody takes it into their heads that that is a good idea is because there is not a police officer around or there is not money to have a police officer around, no. Effective policing can affect the behaviours. Of course it can.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): We have pursued that debate as far as it will probably take us at the moment.

Tony Arbour AM: OK.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Well done.

Peter Whittle AM: Thank you very much, Chairman. Hello, Commissioner. Carrying on with the subject of violent crime, it is extremely alarming that there is been something like a 20% rise in rape in London. This was something we discussed as far back as February [2018] when your colleagues were here. A 20% rise means, basically, up from 6,392 to 7,600-odd. In any other circumstances, if we did not have, for example, the knife crime thing we have at the moment, this would be and should be a phenomenal statistic at 20%. When we discussed it in February, your colleagues said they were unsure and did not know what was happening or why. The quote I have here is:

“There is something going on with sexual offending but, no, we do not really have any idea as to why. We do not understand it.”

What do you think is behind it, Commissioner?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Firstly, it is not a 20% rise in the last year whereas the other --

Peter Whittle AM: This is 20%. We were meeting in February and so it was 20% from the 12 months to the end of January this year. This rather slipped under the net or, rather, it was not really taken up. To me, it is horrifying.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Sorry, can I just be helpful? The latest figures on the report, which is to May year-on-year, is actually 19% and so it is close to what you were saying previously.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Thank you. It was Craig who answered the question last time.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes, and for the sake of clarity in terms of how we answered it, it was to lead into the piece of research that has been commissioned. We do not know all of the reasons why and we cannot give you an empirical answer as to why that has gone up. Are we concerned about it? We have spoken a number of times. We are absolutely concerned about it because, if it was just 19% in
the abstract that is bad enough, but, as we have talked about over the last five years, there has been a continuing increase in reporting of rape.

**Peter Whittle AM:** What is the research that you have commissioned?

**Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime):** It is research that is being undertaken by MOPAC. We discussed it last time - in February in fact - and I am expecting the result of it in the summer. What it is doing is getting beneath the presumptions. Is it about confidence in coming forward and reporting, or is it about an increase in actual incidents, or is it a combination of the two? That is a piece of research that is being undertaken and, as I said, I am expecting it to come to me by the end of August [2018].

**Peter Whittle AM:** As I understood it, you said that this could not just be about an increase in reporting. If you say something like, “There is something going on with sexual offending in London”, that is horribly ominous and very vague. What are the terms of the research exactly? What actually are you looking at?

**Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime):** What we are looking at is trying to get underneath the increase in reports and to understand whether it is an increase in confidence and how much of it is historical or how much of its relatively new and whether it is about confidence or whether it is actually about an increase in incidents or a combination of the two. That is what we are trying to get beneath and that is what the research will get beneath. I am expecting that report and the research to come to a conclusion in the summer. We would be very happy to share it with you and it will be published anyway.

**Peter Whittle AM:** Yes, of course.

**Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman):** You might like to write to us after this meeting about your terms of reference and some detail. You would like that, probably.

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

**Peter Whittle AM:** This is the point, really. I am just surprised, Deputy Commissioner, just purely in terms of everyday experience that you do not have any idea as to why this might be happening. If it requires a piece of research, it just seems a bit odd to me, really.

**Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS):** This is an area a bit like many other types of crime where we already know there is massive under-reporting. I responded to the question: it would be wrong for us to say, “It is all right. This is all just an increase in reporting. People have more confidence in us”. We genuinely do not have the empirical evidence and that is why it is right and proper that this piece of research is done. Collectively, we have lots of ideas. My colleague has sat in front of you before and talked about this. [Assistant Commissioner] Martin Hewitt QPM leads nationally on some of these issues and this is something that is happening across the country.

**Peter Whittle AM:** It is phenomenal, yes.

**Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS):** It is important we do this piece of research to understand this. It would be awfully complacent of me to say, “Do not worry. This is all about a rise in confidence. Move on”. That is absolutely not what I am saying now and it is not what I said then. We can look at some quite easy parts of the data for how much of this rise is offences where the offence occurred sometime before it was reported. With timelines we can do that, but until we complete this research we will not be able to say empirically that this is what we do because that informs the policy response.
Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): That is a fair response.

Peter Whittle AM: OK. It is a little bit like with knife crime. You say that there is great concern, but these figures in any other context – if you like, in one where we did not have something like knife crime going on – would be headline figures. A 20% rise in rape would be a headline figure. It is extraordinary that there is not more made –

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We do not disagree with you. They are headline figures.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): There is no disagreement. There may well now be a headline figure, Peter, as a result of this conversation.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Peter, I completely agree with you. The amount of violence against women and girls in London is shocking. Also, it is not just the actual reported incidents that are really concerning. We published a Sexual Violence Needs Assessment a year ago which showed that in every one of the 32 boroughs in London, every week, a woman or girl is raped. That is shocking, absolutely. We have published the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. It is one of the priorities and it is getting equal attention from us and from the MPS in terms of delivery. This piece of research is an important piece of evidence. I am really happy for the Evidence and Insight Team to come and talk to you about that piece of research if that would be helpful or to the Police and Crime Committee to brief you on that.

Peter Whittle AM: That would be very good. Thank you.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): OK. I am sure Peter will take that offer up. We will look forward to conclusions over the summer.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Deputy Mayor, if I can ask you a couple of questions, please, you chair the Knife Crime Executive Board, which, as I understand things, is focused on short, sharp actions. Can you give us an example of such actions?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, I am chairing a regular board which brings together the partners through the criminal justice system, as well as local authorities and health, to look at what short-term actions need to be taken in order to support the police in their enforcement actions and to make sure that the system is working properly. With the courts around the table as well, we are looking to make sure that there is the capacity for what we expect to be – and it is happening – an increase in arrests.

For example, one of the things that we have done through that is to look at the community engagement. A piece of work has been undertaken around community engagement from the MPS with the local authorities, a really good piece of work, bringing together that community engagement, not just after critical incidents but also, for example, when the Violent Crime Task Force goes in. The MPS has very good engagement processes around that, but it is how that is being worked through with stakeholders as well. That is a piece of work that has come forward.

We have health around the table. We are looking to see whether the liaison and diversion in custody can be prioritised around those hotspot areas. That is a piece of work that has been kicked off with the London NHS as well.
Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Last month, there was an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime meeting that a couple of us attended at the House of Commons. You talked about a Serious Violence Strategy being developed. What can we expect to receive from that and when?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): We have the [London] Knife Crime Strategy, which we published last June [2017], which is very much focused on that element of violence. What we have been working on is looking at developing that into a longer-term strategy and whether that needs to develop into a much more overarching Serious Violence Strategy. That is a piece of work we are working on. The foundations and the bedrock of that are already in place in terms of enforcement and in terms of the early intervention that comes from the [London] Knife Crime Strategy, but that is a piece of work that we are working on. It is in train at the moment. I would not like to put a date on that.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Finally, in terms of MOPAC, what actions is MOPAC taking to end this depressing cycle of violence that we are seeing, apart from all the various initiatives that have been announced?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): One of the things that we are doing is the partnership work, the executive board and the work through our governance structures in terms of the London Crime Reduction Board, which meets regularly under the chairmanship of the Mayor. That has always looked at knife crime and bringing the partners together.

The summit last week was an absolute example of the role that MOPAC has done extremely well, which is to convene the leadership of London and to ensure that they are supported in the way that they are prioritising knife crime and violence. In really practical terms, that meant analysing and assessing with the MPS the action plans in every borough and then looking to see what evidence there is of what works and bringing forward a template for those action plans for every borough so that there are consistent standards.

This is not just MOPAC. This is working with London Councils and they have agreed and that is what we have agreed to do and that is going forward. That is a real step forward in terms of partnership work, convening of partners and real practical steps coming out of it.

Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair): Thank you. Commissioner, if I could now ask you a couple of questions so as we approach the height of summer, do you have any specific worries about the levels of violence starting to move in the wrong direction again?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): These crime types are subject to seasonal trends, as you know. Longer days, hot weather, drink and that sort of thing on occasion can contribute.

We have a comprehensive plan for the Task Force both on the overt uniform side and also the detectives, investigators and those working covertly, which takes us right through the summer. It is planned around the big events like the visits next week that we were talking about. As the Deputy Mayor has pointed out, this is a twin-track approach in which we are looking to continuously learn, improve our tactics, make sure that we are identifying young people and safeguarding them, targeting the most dangerous, doing all the things we know work, and upping our presence and our enforcement activity, at the same time as engaging, explaining, advocating and having our DWOs and our Schools Officers at every meeting we can think of telling people why we are here, what we are doing, what we are trying to do and how they can help. I have a lot of confidence that this effort has borne fruit and will continue to bear fruit through the summer.
However, this is a huge city and things do happen sometimes. Things that we all would rather did not happen have happened last year. We need to be prepared for that. There could be - of course there could be - a ghastly homicide of a young person in difficult circumstances or whatever. I have no specific concerns, but I have a very good team and I have a very experienced and capable senior team who will lead the MPS and London through the summer.

**Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair):** I must say that, going with what the Chairman said earlier, on our visit to the Violent Crime Task Force, we were very impressed. I think I speak on behalf of the whole Committee.

**Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman):** Yes.

**Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair):** We went out with the night patrol and saw the way that they worked and all that. I must commend you for that.

**Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis):** Thank you.

**Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair):** However, I am going to put this to you. There is a view, which I do not share, which was expressed at this Committee meeting last month that the reason that there is an increase in violent crime is a belief that the people who are committing this violent crime think that they are going to get away with it. I do not share that view, but I would ask you.

At last week’s State of London debate - and I know that you cannot comment on specifics of a case - a member of the audience did give an example of how her 14-year-old brother was chased by a group of people with knives and was saved by a passer-by. The Deputy Mayor was there as well at the meeting. The police attended. The suspects were identified to the police. They were shown the house party that the young men carrying the knives were attending. Despite all this, we heard that the police did not attend the party despite it taking place only 15 doors down the road. Five days later, so we are told, the woman had still not received a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) number. Is this an example of people thinking that they can get away with such actions?

**Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis):** You are right to say that I will not comment on individual cases. It will suffice to say that I know that the matter was referred through the Mayor’s Office to my office and there has now been further follow-up.

It is also true that all the research would show that one aspect of deterrence is people’s feeling of the likelihood of them being caught. Severity of punishment is important, but also the likelihood of being caught is important in stopping people thinking they might do something that is criminal. It holds loads of other things as well which are probably even more important like social norms and what mum has said and all that kind of stuff, but the notion that you are likely to get caught is an important deterrent factor.

It is important to me as a police leader that people know that the MPS does see itself absolutely in the business of being out there and arresting people and bringing them to justice and investigating crimes if they do happen, serious crimes like this, to a high standard. I want serious offenders locked up and I want them locked up quickly. I know we can get even better at this.

I am not going to comment on the specifics of that. We do not always get it right for a variety of different reasons, but this is something we are absolutely determined to continue to improve and improve.

**Unmesh Desai AM (Deputy Chair):** Thank you for that message.
Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): I have a couple more questions. We are entering into the third hour and we have two more areas to cover and so if we could pick up the pace a bit?

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: I have, since I was even on the [Metropolitan] Police Authority, been stressing the importance of the Cardiff model, where hospitals share anonymised data in accidents and emergencies (A&Es) with the police so that you are able to shape your resourcing. We have seen last week the architect of the model, Jonathan Shepherd [Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Cardiff University], told the [London Evening] Standard that London needs a Violence Prevention Board to properly analyse the data. At the moment, you look at it and you send it out to the local partnerships and it is not properly being strategically dealt with.

I am wondering. What is the point of collecting this data if you are not actively using it? This is a tool that is shown to work and so what is the MPS doing around that to properly use that data linked to MOPAC?

Furthermore, we have gradually got all the A&Es doing this, but Chelsea and Westminster [we were told] in a recent Mayor’s Question collect the data but they do not share it yet. That was a recent answer I have had from the Mayor. What are you doing to make sure that they share the data? It seems basic. It is a tool that works.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): It is a tool that works and everyone knows the fantastic work that Cardiff has done. I am not sure that he [Professor Jonathan Shepherd] was fully aware of the governance structures that we have within City Hall and how we do have a London Crime Reduction Board chaired by the Mayor, which absolutely is what he was calling for.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Does that Board analyse this data every time it meets?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): The Board does not analyse that data. We have people analysing that data and it is shared. I will pick up the Chelsea and Westminster point because I must admit I was not aware of that.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Last month. That is a question he answered in the last month.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, I will pick that up. I spoke at a conference of all the A&Es and local authorities and police a couple of months ago, which was absolutely about ensuring that that information sharing to tackle violence is embedded and that the analysis was shared.

I am not entirely convinced he knew all the ways in which it is being shared and all the ways in which that governance structure around violence reduction is working not just from City Hall but with the MPS as well. If there are incidences like Chelsea and Westminster, I will take that up and I will look into why, if it is the case, that is not being shared. We now have 28 of the 29 A&Es sharing that information.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: We have one that is not.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I am not sure. The 29th, I was told, was not fully signed up because their information technology (IT) systems were not enabled. It was not an issue of lack of will; it was a lack of technological capability to do that and that is being sorted.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Your latest mayoral answer sounds different to the information you have there.
Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I will double-check that.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Could I also just pick up another issue? It may be for the Commissioner. At the weekend, four people were stabbed at a festival, Garage Nation, not one I am particularly familiar with, with complaints from festivalgoers that security was not rigorous enough at that event. Given that these types of festivals [that happen] over the summer are licensed by authorities, what do you do to work with the licensing authorities and also the security firms to make sure that these places are safe when people want to go out and enjoy themselves?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): We do work very closely with licensing authorities. Of course, with big events of any sort, the responsibilities for who does what are very clear, but we have a role to support people who are organising events and their understanding of what their responsibilities are and how they should be doing that.

In relation to the Hainault events, they were horrible stabbings and of huge concern. As you know, it is not a new festival. It is one that has been running for a number of years. There is a very significant debrief going on, I know, by the organisers and their security firm and indeed the local officers, and the local authority will be taking a huge interest in that, I am sure.

My sketchy initial understanding is that they had measures in place which they felt were very sufficient; however, there came a moment when the sheer volume of people arriving and wanting to get in meant that they reduced some of their standards, and that is their explanation for how the weapons were available in there. Nobody should underestimate the lengths to which some people - and I cannot say about this case - will go to conceal weapons or drugs or other things to get them into an environment if they want to do something. We are all very familiar with that.

However, it is vital, as you say, that we go forward through the summer with these big events and that organisers and security firms understand their responsibilities, the risks there may be and the information and intelligence there is around about what could happen, and that we work really closely with them on the day if we have any concerns or any information. We discussed this on Monday morning and, absolutely, my officers will be doing this over the summer in the way that you would expect, Caroline.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM: Thank you very much.

Keith Prince AM: Do you think it is right, Cressida, that as the [constituency] Assembly Member the first I get to hear about this is on the news?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): It is not in the modern age unlikely, I am afraid. I cannot speak of exactly what happened there. I do not know when you were watching the news and how long later, but I am afraid, on the one hand, it is perfectly plausible that any of us in the room could hear about a stabbing or even a homicide from the news before we hear it through other channels. That is the nature of the modern world.

That said, I am concerned that we do ensure that in our current and future structures we have effective ways of keeping all our partners at senior levels and political leaders of various different sorts informed of the things that they should be informed of. You will understand, as [Sir] Craig [Mackey QPM] has said, that on occasion we have people who say - and I am not suggesting this about you at all, Keith - “I did not know anything about that”, and then we discover four messages were left and their office did not contact them. It is a
complicated set of people, all with slightly different thresholds, different understandings, different interests, that we are trying to keep informed.

I have been talking to [DAC] Mark Simmons, whom you will be seeing soon, about the need, particularly in the new structures, to ensure that Assembly Members and others are informed of critical incidents appropriately.

**Keith Prince AM:** You see, Cressida, my worry is with the advent of the area BCUs and the tri-borough arrangements we have. Unmesh Desai [AM] and I met with someone at the BCU a few weeks ago and we were promised that we would be kept informed of these sorts of things, but it has not happened. We have not even been told about the abstractions that are going to be taking place in relation to [President] Donald Trump, whereas other Assembly Members have all been told. Can you ensure, please, that something is put in place?

**Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis):** I will take your comments back. Of course, I will. If you put yourselves in the shoes of my people, who do have an enormous amount to think about, we of course want consistency. I am afraid our stakeholders do not all have the same thresholds or the same interests. Some people could not care less about DWOs and whether they are on Trump or not. They would see it as quite a small tactical issue, “Why on earth are you bothering me?” Other people would see it as very important, “Why does he know and I do not?”

**Keith Prince AM:** First of all, a couple of things there, and I do appreciate that the police probably have better things to do than tell us what they are doing. However, in relation to the DWOs, that is breaking the mayoral promise of two DWOs per ward --

**Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS):** No, it is not. It is absolutely not.

**Keith Prince AM:** -- and his promise to not have them abstracted. Having said that, I absolutely understand there are exceptions to that --

**Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis):** We have always said there would be.

**Keith Prince AM:** -- and that is why it is important that we know about that. I am not criticising that move because I have always said that Borough Commanders should have more flexibility around DWOs anyway and so that is that point. However, the point I am making is that other boroughs have a list of people who are informed of incidents. For instance, on that list, you may have the chair of the local Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB); you may have the local MP and usually the local ward councillor. All I am asking is to be put on that list and that is all that I believe Assembly Member Desai is asking for. Yes, I understand that being a tri-borough it is different, but there must be a primary list for notifying MPs. We just need to be on that list.

**Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis):** That seems entirely reasonable, of course. If there is a list, then Assembly Members should be on the list. We should have a reasonable level of expectation that is consistent across London about who might be informed in what circumstances about what. That is exactly what I am talking to [Deputy Assistant Commissioner] Mark [Simmons] about. We will not keep everybody happy all of the time even then and there will be occasions on which people will hear things from the news and not from the police.

**Keith Prince AM:** I get that. I will just make the point, though. I can understand it might take a bit of time to find out who the particular ward councillor is in a particular incident, but I cover two thirds of that new BCU and so it is really easy. I do not mind if I get information about being Barking and Dagenham (B&D) and I do
not mind if my colleague Unmesh [Desai AM] gets information about Havering and Redbridge. Just let us know what is happening in that whole BCU so that we are just on the list and do not have to worry about it.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Point taken.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): It is an opportunity with the new BCUs to refresh the arrangements. It is an opportunity, is it not, really?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Exactly, it is, for sure. It is absolutely, and that is what I will be talking to Mark about.

Sian Berry AM: I have a very quick question about the summer. What are you tasking the Safer Schools Officers with doing during the school holidays and how many of them do you have at the moment?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Goodness.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): There are 319.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I have 319 from my right. We have about 300.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I thought 300 but it is 319.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): There are 319. I cannot give you the specific taskings, of course, but we have a whole series of different summer holiday activities going on in local areas, many of which we have upped because of the violent crime background, in which we are engaging the Schools Officers. Some of them will use some of that time for leave and some of them will use some of that time also for training and development of one sort or another. However, if they are not developing themselves in some particular way, we try to keep them in their core activity, working with young people, in the various different events, some organised by the MPS, some by other people, that are going on in local areas across the summer period.

Sian Berry AM: Are there any details you can give us of that? Do you have a summary?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I probably do not have a summary without going out and seeking it because it will vary. For schools, it will vary very much depending on the schools. If there is something to hand, I will share it with you.

Sian Berry AM: OK. I was asking councils the same question.

Len Duvall AM: We were fortunate to have [Assistant Commissioner] Helen Ball in front of us talking about the Violent Crime Task Force, but it had become apparent during the meeting and I just want to match up between what you said is the deterrent because I am on with you on that about how it is one aspect of it.

One issue that you had mentioned last week at the [London] Knife Crime Summit is the problem of the ‘wall of silence’ that is met within the community and I thought that was a bit taken. My line of questioning to Helen Ball was that when the Violent Crime Task Force goes into an area, there is a good opportunity for a wider engagement on doing the right thing and coming forward with information that you may come forward to the police on concerning criminal activities in the area or you might go to Crimestoppers. I just thought we
were missing the point. I know it is early days and the Violent Task Force is working there. Do you not think we need to refresh and revive these pathways of where people can give us information that could be important to all sorts of investigations but particularly about violence and their worries and concerns? What worries me is whether we have the capacity to deal with it. Of course, some of it might not be as important as the person thinks, but they think they are doing the right thing and want the police to bring it to their attention.

Where are we on that? It just seems a no-brainer. We have fewer resources and are wanting people to engage and it is not just the police that need to be engaged on it; the wider community does.

**Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis):** I am sure there is further to go. I would acknowledge that, Len, as we go forward, but we are doing a great deal of that, really. We do face this challenge, particularly after some of the most serious crimes, that all people present and their families for whatever reason are not prepared to give us information which is evidential. Many people will give us information for intelligence but they are not prepared to make a statement and they are concerned about that. Sometimes it is a struggle even to get the information and the intelligence.

We started the questioning on confidence. People’s confidence in the criminal justice system and their police service to be able to investigate effectively, to bring people to justice and to keep them safe is absolutely fundamental to this. It is a massive challenge at the moment in certain areas and in certain parts of some of our communities. As I said, I have appointed Helen [Ball] within her professionalism role to lead on inclusion, diversity and engagement. She has Commander Mark McEwan, whom some of you will have met, who is absolutely at the forefront of our enforcement operations in terms of dealing with how we explain ourselves, how we engage, how we encourage and how we get more information in from the public before and about and after offences.

We are seeing a lot of public involvement, which is great. We are getting lots of information about where weapons are stashed and about who may have done what. Every day we get lots and we are able to action that. A lot of the results that you see come from the public saying to us, “I do not want to be on your weapon sweep, but I can tell you if you just look there”, or whatever. We need to have a massive cross-party campaign about this - I agree - and really publicise the fact that we are interested and we will respond. We cannot always tell you the immediate answer, but everything you want to tell us may well be helpful and we will do our absolute best to protect people who do come forward.

We do need to do that through, for example, the borough plans that Sophie [Linden] was talking about before. Partners have a massive part to play in encouraging Crimestoppers or other hotlines or, indeed, talking directly to your Schools Officer or your DWO.

**Len Duvall AM:** Thank you.

**Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman):** Thank you. All right. Moving on to the next set of questions, we have talked at length quite rightly about serious violence, knife violence, terrorism, etc. However, I would like to turn to two headings that are connected, which are the borough priorities that were set within the borough plans and also what is often called low-level, high-volume crime, which particularly affects neighbourhoods, what I will call neighbourhood crime. They may be the same as the borough priorities or they may not be. I want to talk about those for a while and ask some questions around that.

My first observation: talking about those crimes, for example, burglary, robbery, motor vehicle crime, they have risen. Those figures have risen considerably and I have them in the latest MOPAC report, Craig, and this is of concern.
You will know that these kinds of crimes were in the lamented – or not lamented – MOPAC 7 and they were reduced then, and these are crimes that actually disproportionately do affect neighbourhoods. A burglary in a street will affect the confidence and the fears of that street. From the figures that we have, we have seen those crimes rising considerably, Craig. Would you like to comment on that?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes, by all means. Thank you, Chairman. If you look at the local priorities overall, some that you mentioned --

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Some are and some are not, yes.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): -- are local priorities. Against local priorities at moment, 38 priorities are showing reductions and 29 are showing increases, and so we are ahead of the curve in terms of the reductions and local priorities. I know you are short of time. There is a long list of them and if Members have not seen them --

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): To be helpful, we have them here, Craig. What I do not want to do is to conflate the neighbourhood crimes completely with local priorities. As you say, within the local priorities, most boroughs have chosen burglary, and burglary is tending to go in the wrong direction, whereas violence with injury - again, a local priority - is tending, pleasingly, to go in the right direction. It is more on the neighbourhood crimes I wanted you to comment on.

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes. There are a number of national trends particularly around property crimes that are worth doing. We have spoken here before about when the uptick happened around things like burglary. We did see an uptick both in London and across the country.

You also mentioned vehicle crime and it is important - and we have spoken about this a number of times before - to disaggregate vehicle crime. Some of the vehicle crime we are seeing is the theft of powered two-wheeled motorcycles, which we spoke about early last year a number of us. That has shown substantial falls. We have spoken a lot publicly about the new area of vehicle crime that worries us: keyless car thefts and keyless van thefts as well. We know that the focus on vehicle crime has moved quite a lot and that is where the activity and focus is in terms of doing that. Now --

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): I will cut across you. When you say “focus”, clearly, we talked about, yes, limited resources and they are being moved towards certain areas that are absolutely key priorities. Are you sensing that, with that shift, the eye is being taken off the ball on the neighbourhood crimes?

Sir Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I have a number of examples we could go through of operations across the MPS, particularly around burglary, where there is real work going on and real arrests being made. Look at things like some of the work in the East Area BCU around burglary. There has been some real progress and some real success in terms of that.

The reality is, as always, if you have a priority, you are going to focus on that priority. That is the purpose of setting priorities.

The other bit is very much around these local crimes and impact and local priorities. As we look to refresh them - and at the moment the work is ongoing in terms of refreshing very much those local priorities for the next operational year - it is really important that the work going on is properly informed to understand what the current threat picture is going forward.
One of the ones that we have not talked about there but one of the ones that I am focusing on pushing around - as in the MPS is focusing on pushing around - is the robbery issue. I want to see robbery starting to come down as part of the work we are doing in relation to that. Absolutely, that burglary work is going on across the MPS and there are some real examples of where it is coming down across those boroughs.

**Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman):** Indeed, the robbery figures are very high year-on-year around the 25% figure, which is unacceptable. As a comment, it is a great shame about burglary because we have been talking about this for a long time. To the degree that there was a dramatic decrease in burglary a couple of years ago, it is a shame to see it going back in the wrong direction.

**Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS):** Yes, and that is why we are talking about the work we are doing around it. As you know - and we discussed it probably two years ago - we hit historic lows not just in London for burglary but in this country for burglary. We have spoken about things like MetTrace and the industrialisation of those burglary processes. That is a lot of the work that is going on.

The other thing that is going on here is good old-fashioned detective work. There are people being arrested and locked up for burglaries as we speak. That is what is driving some of these reductions in some of the key areas. What we have to do on the burglary one - and there is some sign of the trend plateauing around burglary - is to keep that momentum going.

Around vehicle crime, as we discussed earlier on, it is really about being fleet of foot. That is changing quite a lot. I am sure, as we work with the industry and suppliers, some of these new opportunities around vehicle crime we will be able to reduce collectively.

**Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman):** A comment again is that this is why the importance of the local teams and the importance that they do the prevention work around there.

A question I really have for the Deputy Mayor, if I may, is moving directly onto the borough priorities. You spent some time - 18 months or so - visiting boroughs to varying degrees and thank you for that. I joined you in Croydon, of course. I hear that you are in the process of refreshing those priorities. Do you want to just talk briefly about that refresh?

**Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime):** Yes, we have refreshed those priorities. We went through an exercise of that earlier in the year. As before, it is very much data-driven and looking at what is happening in the boroughs, having those discussions with the chief executive, the leader and the borough commander as to whether this data bears out their understanding and their priorities in the area. Those priorities are influenced by the Community Safety Partnership, the ward panels and the community. We have done that exercise and they have all been refreshed and agreed. You should be able to find them on the MOPAC website. We have done that. I continue to visit boroughs and, as part of the exercise, I did have those conversations - not with all boroughs but with some boroughs - around those priorities.

Can I just pick up on this issue - you know what I am going to say - about the MOPAC 7 and crime falling and now we no longer have the MOPAC 7 and crime going up? Crime is going up throughout the country --

**Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman):** You took the words out of my mouth, Deputy Mayor.

**Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime):** This is what your supposition was. Craig did touch on this but it is important to really highlight this. Crime is going up in England and Wales faster than it
is going up within London. Overall it has increased by 15.3% across England and Wales and 7.1% in London. That does not mean it is not concerning and is not an issue and is not something that absolutely has to be tackled, but we have to really place it in that national context. This is not about the MOPAC 7 or not the MOPAC 7. This is about trends and crime rising. We can go back to the drivers of that and the causes of that.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): I understand. You have been unusually sensitive in putting words in my mouth. I referred to the fact that burglary the figures are going in the wrong direction. I commented that they did exist under the MOPAC 7 and that is in the past. We need to think about the present, of course.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Just to reassure you on one of the things, looking at longer trends, I am not one to say that one swallow makes a summer, far from it, but look at total notifiable offences. I have been watching those over three years. At the end of February, they have started to level off this year. Those rises in crime that we saw across that whole bucket of total notifiable offences have started to level off across London. It is going to be interesting to watch what lies in the detail in the buckets below that.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Before we move on to the last set of questions, which Florence [Eshalomi AM] is leading on, the resetting of the priorities will inform the bidding for the two-year financial settlements with boroughs. Are you getting to that stage? The borough deals are two years, are they not, for the funding? We are getting into that next stage of the next two years, are we not, or am I getting that wrong?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes. You are talking about the London Crime Prevention Fund?

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Indeed, yes.

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): Yes, we are in discussions with London Councils about that at the moment. It is up to the boroughs. They have an allocation from the London Crime Prevention Fund. Those boroughs can decide what they wish to spend that on as long as it is prioritised in the Police and Crime Plan. It may well be one of their local priorities; it may be one of the London-wide priorities around violence or domestic abuse or sexual violence. It is for them to decide that. They are not inextricably linked in terms of funding following the priorities.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): I understand the suite of priorities does include overarching pan-London priorities, but there is – as I fondly call it - the MOPAC 6 now, which is across London plus the local priorities. The funding will be driven by those borough priorities as a whole, will they not, generally?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): I would expect local authorities to pick what they want to spend their money on depending on what their priorities are, absolutely --

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): It makes sense, does it not?

Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime): -- but it is for them to decide that and put that to MOPAC rather than for us to tell them what they should be spending that money on.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Indeed. Thank you very much.

Florence Eshalomi AM: Thank you. Good afternoon to you all. One of the things that we have been looking at is around inclusion and diversity, which I know is a big priority for you, Commissioner. You stated
that by 2020, essentially, you want the MPS to have a very ambitious target of 40% of recruits from the black and minority ethnic (BAME) community and 50% to be women.

If we look at the figures from April 2018, the snapshot is not quite positive. Only 14% of MPS officers are from a BAME background. Look at that in comparison to London’s population, which is hovering around 43% or 44%. We have seen some really good initiatives coming forward from the MPS and so I very much welcome the new proposal on positive discrimination where you are saying that training costs for new recruits and women will be paid for. That is really great.

However, the reality is that if we are looking through the ranks of the police, the higher up you go in rank, the lower the diversity is. I just wanted to get a sense of what more you think that the MPS can do, looking at some of the improvements you have made over the last year to address this important issue?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Perhaps I can start by saying: forgive me. I do not actually remember the 40% to 50% figure and so I need to double-check that. I do not remember saying that, but I am ambitious for the MPS in this sphere. As I have mentioned, that is why, amongst other things, I have appointed [Assistant Commissioner] Helen Ball to oversee and [Commander] Mark McEwan to lead on inclusion, diversity and community engagement. I chair our board and I am pushing very hard on this issue.

We can be proud of - nothing to do with me - the improvements that have been made over the last few years in terms of the proportion of BAME recruits coming in. There has been a very dramatic increase but against a very large organisation and, as you say, we are a long way off from reflecting London’s communities.

We have the opportunity at the moment to recruit at reasonably high levels. I want to get a message out everywhere to say that we are recruiting. Often the rhetoric of public service cuts and policing cuts has meant that people do not realise that we are open for business, but we absolutely are in the recruiting business. We have a good campaign running right now with lots of interest being shown, particularly from people in our BAME communities. We will have further campaigns in the autumn. We are about to start celebrating 100 years of women in the MPS and we have a big push on bringing more women in. We have a series of campaigns around recruitment.

You make the point about progression and you are absolutely right, particularly, again, in relation to BAME representation. The Constable rank is very different from the Superintendent rank, let us say. We have a whole series of different things going on there to identify talent and to take positive action as opposed to discrimination from before the point of entry, as you have described, right through to try to ensure that we get the best of our people and that all of them are able to feel that they can be themselves and thrive and progress in whatever way they want to. That might be vertical progression; it might be specialisation.

There is a whole series of activities going on at the moment. There is a lot of buzz about it. If you were to speak to us our staff associations, they are quite excited about what we are doing. This linking of the external with the internal in a very clear way all the time is very important because this is all about providing the best possible policing service to our public. We cannot detach the inside from the outside.

I know that we are not going to be able to wave a magic wand. We have a very low churn rate of officers. We still have a very low churn rate of officers, whatever you might read elsewhere. Although we are using all sorts of imaginative techniques to bring people in in different ways at different levels as police officers and staff, this is not going to change the face of the map overnight.
Florence Eshalomi AM: I will not mention any names but, again, there have been examples, some very high-profile, of senior BAME officers and some of the issues they face with the MPS and that being exposed and them coming out to speak about it once they are close to retirement or once they have left. Do you think there is still a problem with, in inverted commas, ‘institutional racism’ and the way BAME officers are treated, and do you think that the MPS has a problem in terms of retaining those officers?

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): We are not seeing a problem with retention at the moment. I take every one of those comments seriously. Of course, I do. Often, they reflect somebody’s experience over a 30-year lifetime with the organisation. We have taken very seriously our latest staff survey and drilled right down into any disparities there may be about how different people are feeling within the organisation about the way they are treated.

We have identified and I have been talking with our Black Police Association and others. We are not the only organisation that has this, but there seems to be still a difference in the way black women feel about being in the MPS overall, a small proportion who are feeling less confident and comfortable than black men or other colleagues. That is an issue we are drilling right down into at the moment. I am having lots of focus groups and a real desire to make sure that if there is any lingering unfairness or clumsiness or inappropriate conduct or lack of support for somebody who feels different, we actually deal with that.

It is for others to judge your question about institutional racism, but I have set out for the MPS to be the most trusted police service in the world and I want our staff to feel absolutely at ease, whoever they are.

Florence Eshalomi AM: Something that is linked to diversity and inclusion is around interactions of police officers with different specific communities across London, London being very diverse and culturally mixed. Especially in the run-up to the summer when we will see more officers out in the streets, rightly so, as the schools break up, I just wanted to draw your attention to an incident which was widely reported on social media last week and which I am sure you have probably watched as well. I appreciate you may not be able to comment because you were not there. Maybe your senior officers were not there. I was not there, either, and we are going by what we see.

Do you think that a lot more needs to be done in terms of the training and that deep working with different communities? It does not necessarily just mean we need more BAME officers, which can help in addressing some of these situations, but actually in some of that training maybe white and other officers need to get.

I am referring to the issue with George Mpanga [British spoken word artist], who was arrested. He is a famous guy, a poet, from a really bright background, but it went from a stop around vehicle insurance to a strip-search and quickly escalated within minutes. Again, there is that sense of certain communities feeling that they cannot trust the police because the police do not know how to interact with them.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): I talked earlier and indeed when I first became Commissioner I talked about this confidence gap and this trust gap that we are aware of. I hope this does not sound grandiose but I suspect one of the reasons I might have been appointed as Commissioner is because I have worked in the city for a very long time and I have worked on diversity and inclusion issues for much of that time. I fully understand that we have further to go in some parts of London and in some parts of some of our communities for people to feel that this is their service which can be trusted to act fairly in every way. I believe it can be trusted and should be trusted to act fairly, but that does not count. It is a trustworthy police service that does act fairly. I am completely convinced of that, but that does not count if you are the young person on the street in Stockwell or Hackney. Of course, we have more to do to ensure that.
I believe my officers in relation to stop-and-search are very highly trained and are very professional. They are supported now by their body-worn video and they are very thoughtful about the work they are doing. As we have been going into places like, for example, Haringey, with the Violent Crime Task Force officers who do not necessarily always work there, we have ensured that the Borough Commander or her deputy has been briefing them personally. We have ensured that they have local officers with them and community members while they go out doing their patrols. We have ensured that they fully understand that this is an area which they need to think about perhaps slightly differently from the one that they normally work in in terms of how they interact with people. We are working really hard at this.

In relation to the specific incident that you mention, as you say, none of us were there. What I can say is that there was a considerable amount of body-worn video in relation to that. I can say that my senior officers have reviewed what has gone on. I can say that, in that review, it is clear that the gentleman was not subject to a strip-search and it is also clear, however, that he was not happy with how it all went. We have reached out to contact him. [Chief Superintendent] Ade Adelekan, whom some of you know, will be meeting with him soon. I am quite content that from the information that has been written down and by the body-worn video the officers acted professionally and courteously. If there are lessons to be learned, then we will first of all learn the lessons and, secondly, if Mr Mpanga wishes to make a complaint, that will be investigated. My sense is that when he views the body-worn video and we have that conversation with him, there may be a different feeling all around. That is the strength of body-worn video.

Florence Eshalomi AM: It is something that we have definitely pushed for on this Committee and I have been pushing for it before I became an Assembly Member. Thank you.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Thank you for the clarity around that incident, as much as you can. Guests, thank you very much for attending today.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Chairman, can I just go back to one issue, just to clarify an answer for you?

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Please do.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I am very conscious, Assembly Member Dismore, that when we were talking about DWO abstractions for next week’s visit, we talked about 12-hour shifts. The core MPS is not going on 12-hour shifts.

The DWO abstractions, which I have just got through, literally, were 265 for each of those two days.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Apologies for texting. I heard the exchange and thought that actually we have not been entirely accurate there.

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We needed to clarify that.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Can you just amplify that 265 for two days? What do you mean?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): There were 265 on one day and 265 on the next day.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): That would be the requirement?
Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): No, sorry. You asked me specifically about the DWO abstractions.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): Yes, the DWO abstractions.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): The more substantive point is that the MPS is not on 12-hour shifts.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): All right. We have that.

Cressida Dick CBE QPM (Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis): Some officers will work extended shifts, as they do very frequently, on public order operations.

Andrew Dismore AM: Is that the BCU officers who are left behind?

Craig Mackey QPM (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes. In Central North, they are not going on 12-hour shifts.

Steve O’Connell AM (Chairman): OK. We have that. We will just take that as a given and then pursue it at another time. Thank you for that.